



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 March 2018

The Silent Summons

Companions and Sir Knights,

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, had stopped going. After a few months, The Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door, the host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

-Author Unknown

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

New Membership by District for 2017:

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	West Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	1
	Fort Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	
	Florida Keys		7	Jacksonville	
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			St. Augustine	
	Everglades			Palatka	
	Fort Myers	1	8	Lake City	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)			Middleburg	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Gainesville	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Inverness (Ocala)	
4	Lakeland		9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City			Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	2	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	1		Crestview	
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	
	Orlando	7			

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:
SECTION 206 Restoration to Membership or Good Standing**

SECTION 206. When a Knight Templar has been suspended or expelled for unknighly conduct, he may be restored to membership on petition if the ballot is unanimous. (1973, p. 176-178)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A former member of a Commandery, suspended prior to the surrender of the Charter by the Commandery, is not entitled to a Demit, but can be reinstated to Good Standing by action of the Grand Commandery, governed by rules which would be applicable if his Commandery were still in existence; in such case, a majority vote of the Grand Commandery would be required. (1952, p. 93 & 249, No. 30, Graylord, 1988 digest - 354).

Section 206 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment provides that when a member is suspended or expelled for unknighly conduct, he may be restored to membership on petition if the ballot is unanimous. There is no such thing in Templar law as "automatic" restoration. The fact that the sentence of expulsion, was reduced by the Grand Master to a fixed term did not change the requirement that in order to be restored to membership, Section 206 would have to be complied with. (1967, p. 149, No. 2, Brucker, 1988 - 322)

Grand Encampment laws are silent concerning whether a voluntary unaffiliated (demitted) Knight Templar should be extended the privilege of visitation, although in his decision No. 3, Grand Master Rice expressed the opinion that such privilege should not be granted indefinitely. A demitted member may be extended such privilege, though any member may deny it by objecting in accordance with Section 224 (now Section 223) of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

Regarding a Knight Templar who is voluntarily unaffiliated by reason of disciplinary action, either by expulsion or suspension, it is my decision that he not only has no "right" to be admitted but also should not be admitted to any Templar assembly. Having been denied the privileges of membership by his Commandery, it seems obvious that these privileges should not be extended by any other Templar group. Further, it seems equally obvious that no Commandery may restore the privilege of active membership except the Commandery that imposed the discipline. Finally, having no membership, he may not propose any Templar action except his own restoration by regular petition to the Commandery of which he formally was a member. (1970, p. 142 & 537, No. 5, Crofts, 1988 digest - 77, 78 & 134)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	14 & 21 Apr	Tampa	
4			
5	10 & 17 Mar	Eola, Orlando (7), Lake Sumter (1), Daytona (2), Sanford(1), Ft Myers (1), Brevard (1)	13
6	13-14 Apr	Ft Pierce	
7	18,19,20,21 Mar	Jacksonville	
8			
9	Orders TBA	Tallahassee	
10	31 Mar & 14 Apr	Pensacola	

TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS	13
TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2017)	109

Finally, a reminder to each Secretary/Recorder, you must submit your changes in your MONTHLY REPORT to the Grand Secretary/Recorder and Recorders must report all changes to YRIS. Remember,

if your new members are not in Y.R.I.S., they will not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in the line of OCCUPATION (Commandery).

Please send me a roster or completed Data Sheets of each new member from your festival whether they were knighted or completed Chapter/Council. This includes all members, not just those belonging to your body.

We cannot excuse our declining membership and we must be individually accountable for growing our body. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know. Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Fall Festival, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Fraternally,

Henry A Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC, KYGCH, KCT
Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program

Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"

some excerpts, from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, reprint from Aug 2009, intro. and Grand Commandery of Florida, Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also A New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 31-43, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006
Hm Ph: 321 726-6971 Cell: 321-795-8316 Fax: 321-951-9680 email: hadams1@aol.com