



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 April 2018

THE THREE MINUTE DRILL

Companions and Sir Knights,

Do you know the Secrets of a Master Mason?

Well, do you?

Do you know the Master Mason's Word?

Do you know how to travel and work as a Master Mason?

Do you know how to receive your wages as a Master Mason?

Really?

Brother Senior Warden.

What induced you to become a Master Mason?

“In order that I might receive Master’s wages, and be the better enabled to support myself and family, and contribute to the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans.”

Brother Senior Warden.

Why are you in the West, Brother Senior Warden, what are your duties there?

“As the sun is in the West at the close of the day, so is the Senior Warden in the West, to assist the Worshipful Master in opening and closing his Lodge, to pay the Craft their wages if any be due, and see that none go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength and support of all societies, especially of ours.”

Thank you, Brother Senior Warden, please be seated.

Brother Senior Warden, have you ever paid wages?

Brother Junior Warden, have you ever received wages?

Do you know the Master Mason's Word?

Not the substitute word.

The word that was whispered in the West.

No?

You were given a substitute word, "until future ages find the right."

Now, let me get this straight.

You, yourself, represented our Grand Master, Hiram Abiff.

You were attacked three times, by three craftsmen, demanding the Secrets of a Master Mason.

They took your life.

You were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

And you still don't know the Secrets of a Master Mason?

What is this?

A bait and switch?

Does someone owe you a refund?

No.

What is it that enables your Lodge to confer the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason?

The document hanging over the Secretary's Desk.

That is the Charter.

Have you taken the time to read the Charter?

Your Lodge was chartered by "The Free & Accepted [York] Masons of Indiana."

You have already received the first 2-1/2 degrees of the York Rite.

Who stops reading a good book after two or three chapters?

Do you want to know how to travel and work as a Master Mason?

Do you want to know how to receive your wages as a Master Mason?

Do you want to know the Master Mason's Word?

Do you?

Would you like to see the Temple completed?

Would you like to know the obligation of a Past Master?

Would you like to walk with Hiram Abiff, as he explains how and why the Master's Word was lost, how it was preserved, and how it was found again?

Wouldn't you?

Have you seen the movie *National Treasure*?

"Grandpa, are we knights?"

"Do you want to be?"

I do.

And wouldn't you like to understand why men of every race, religion, color and creed, throughout the world, have for generations learned, and preserved, a ritual about a Temple in Jerusalem, that no longer exists, and all the remarkable things buried underneath it?

Wouldn't you?

I have good news.

I have a petition.

It is already signed.

And I will make you this Money Back Guarantee.

If you sign one of my petitions.

If you see the Degrees of Chapter and Council, and the Orders of Commandery, and come back to me and say, "I learned nothing, the York Rite has added nothing to my understanding of the Blue Lodge Degrees," I will give you your money back.

I can't see it happening.

I have signed over one hundred and fifty (150) York Rite petitions.

I haven't seen it happen yet.

Interested?

35% of all Indiana Masons are members of the Scottish Rite, while, on the other hand, less than 7% of all Indiana Masons are members of the York Rite.

What accounts for this vast difference in Total Membership?

I suspect the relative ease, or speed, with which one becomes a member of the Scottish Rite, versus the requirements of the York Rite, is a factor.

"I wanted to be a Shriner and, in my day, you had to go through the Scottish Rite, or the York Rite, and the Scottish Rite was the fastest way to get there."

The Scottish Rite confers the 4th, 14th and 32nd Degrees at a Weekend Convocation, while the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite may require six months to a year.

The degrees of the Scottish Rite can be received at random, but the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite must be conferred in order.

You can receive the York Rite Degrees and Orders in a One or Two Day Class, just like the Scottish Rite, or one at a time, according to your schedule, and according to your own personal preference.

There is so much more light available to you in the York Rite.

York Rite Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwdP2Cf_knA

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16
KJV

Courteously,

carson.c.smith@gmail.com

Sir Knight Carson C. Smith, KCT, KTCH

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	1
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	1
5	Daytona (Halifax)	2	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	1		Crestview	1
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	2
	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, ether 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 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 Apr	Jacksonville	
8			
9	Orders TBA	Tallahassee	
10	31 Mar & 14 Apr	Pensacola(2), Crestview (1),Marianna (1), Panama City (1)	5

TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS	18
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, Beaderstadt, 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

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