



RITE NOTES

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

First Contact Letter to Newly Raised Masons

Companions and Sir Knights,

A couple years ago, I sent the following letter written below, to you, in the hopes that you would put it on your own letterhead and give the letter to all Newly Raised Masons. You could also include: a petition and a copy of the book “York Rite of Freemasonry”. This can easily be revised to meet your needs and the needs of your York Rite Bodies. We are all in this together. If we do not get the new members into the Chapter and Council, then the Commandery can’t exist. Please consider utilizing this letter or a similar letter to personally hand to newly raised Masons. Your YRB should have a Lodge Representative that can make the presentation and answer any questions.

Dear Brother,

I congratulate you on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason! Masonry, as you know it, is full of rich teachings and enigmatic symbolism. It is nearly impossible to receive and understand it all. I encourage you to attend lodge and witness every degree as often as you can, to better your understanding of what Masonry is about. Each and every time you attend, you will pick up something “new”. The teachings and symbolism we call “Truth” or “Light” is the beginning of your education. A wise man will always have a desire for the “light”, as you did when you became an Entered Apprentice, then more “Light” as a Fellowcraft, and the further Light as a Master Mason.

In the Blue Lodge, the ancient secrets and basic moral principles are only partly revealed. Even when the Master Mason Degree is completed, you are left with only a substitute “word”. The plan for the solution of your fraternal and spiritual problems will continue as you progress. Remember, *“Behold the Temple is not yet completed”* and later the Master’s Word is lost and a substitute is given *“until future generations shall find out the right”*. This means that there must be further “Light” and it is my duty to inform you, there is! Join the York Rite Body today and discover continuing “Light”.

From 1717, it was almost a century before the various groups in England were consolidated and the powers and prerogatives of the Grand Lodge were acknowledged and accepted. Still, the tradition that Masonry existed “From Time Immemorial” persisted. Changes and innovations were vigorously resisted. After years of negotiations and the testing of innumerable degrees that

clamored for Masonic approval, the Masons of England formed the United Grand Lodge of England on December 27, 1813. The United Grand Lodge of England definitely defined the elements of Ancient Craft Masonry and the General Laws and Regulations as “Pure Ancient Masonry”. Thus, consisting of three degrees and no more: Entered Apprentice; the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason (including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch). The York Rite degrees are completed with the Knights Templar.

At that time only Past Masters of Blue Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch Degree. It was then deemed that the Royal Arch degree was so important to Master Masons, who having received the Mark Master Degree, were then able to become (Honorary) Past Masters. Thus making them eligible to witness completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple and receive the “long lost Masters Word” in the Royal Arch Degree. The Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master and the Most Excellent Master Degrees.

The Royal Master and Select Master Degree in the Council are expressed beautifully and tell why the “Word” was lost and the secret of its preservation is needed and able to be recovered.

The Commandery of Knights Templar offers the Chivalic Orders of Christian Knighthood through the Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. These Orders as they are called, are most impressive and explain the Christian interpretation of Freemasonry. Discover for yourself, “Why every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar”.

The York Rite provides, that further “Light” through the most beautiful Degrees and Orders of all Freemasonry be given by Royal Arch Chapters together with Council of Royal and Select Masters and Commanderies of Knights Templar.

You or any Master Mason, are entitled to petition a new member. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and welcome you as a Brother to our Fraternity. Please contact me at

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don=t wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

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

New Membership by District for 2018:

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
1	West Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	3
	Fort Lauderdale	6		Melbourne	
	Miami	4		Fort Pierce	8
	Florida Keys		7	Jacksonville	5
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	4		St. Augustine	2
	Everglades			Palatka	
	Fort Myers	3	8	Lake City	1
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)			Middleburg	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	3		Gainesville	1
	Clearwater (Springtime)	1		Inverness (Ocala)	1
4	Lakeland		9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	2		Marianna	4
	Sebring (Highlands)	4		Panama City	2
5	Daytona (Halifax)	2	10	Fort Walton Beach	1
	Lake Sumter	3		Crestview	2
	Sanford	2		Pensacola	4
	Orlando	12			

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:
SECTION 214 Commanderies, Appearance in Public**

SECTION 214. Commanderies or groups from Commanderies shall not appear in public without a Dispensation except upon funeral occasions or to attend religious services, or attend upon invitation the meetings of sponsored activities or other Masonic-related bodies.

A public appearance shall be an occasion where the function is not controlled by Templar authority and the Sir Knights present purport to represent the Commandery or Templary. An appearance, in or out of uniform by one or more individual Sir Knights is not a public appearance unless it is sanctioned or appears to be sanctioned by Templar authority. (1970, p. 329-330)(2012)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Where a Grand Commandery has changed its uniforms and not all Sir Knights have changed to conform, they may still appear in public as a group wearing the Maltese cross and may, at funeral, wear the old regalia. (1943, p. 27 & 358. No 3. Pollard)

raising money. The Grand Commander can pass laws to regulate the affairs of their Commanderies. It is not a public appearance unless the members appear in uniform. (1925, p. 93 412, No.35, Newby, 1988 digest-61-172)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	14 & 21 Apr	Tampa Cancelled	
	13 & 20 Oct	St. Pete(3),Clearwater(1),Trinity(4),Ft Myers(2),Ocala(1),Plant City(2)	13
4			
5	10& 17 Mar	Eola, Orlando(7), Lake Sumter(1), Daytona(2), Sanford(1), Ft Myers(1), Brevard(1)	13
	5&6 Oct	Ft Pierce(1),Orlando(5),Cocoa(2),Sanford(1),Daytona(1)	10
6	13-14 Apr	Ft Pierce(4), Ft Lauderdale(3), Miami(3), Highlands(4), Sebring(4), Ft Myers(1)	19
	5 & 6 Oct	Ft Pierce(5),Miami(1),Ft Laud.(3)Ocala(1)	10
7	18-21 Apr	Jacksonville(5), St Augustine(2), Middleburg(1), Lake City(3)	11
8	28 July	Gainesville (1), Lake City (1)	2
9	Orders TBA	Tallahassee	
10	31 Mar &14 Apr	Pensacola(2), Panama City(1), Crestview(1), Marianna(1)	5
	29 Sep	Marianna(3),Ft Walton(1),Panama City(1),Crestview(1),Pensacola(2)	8
TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS			91
TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2017)			109

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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