



RITE NOTES

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

Follow up 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 (YRB). 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,

By now, you should be comfortable in Lodge and gaining experience as a Master Mason. As the Commandery Mentor to our lodge, feel free to ask me for any help you may need. I know that it is not always easy being the "new guy". The only conciliation I can offer is that we have all been in your situation.

As beautiful and impressive as the lodge ritual and degrees are, they are far from being everything Masonry has to offer. While the first three degrees teach the cardinal virtues upon which the entire structure of Freemasonry is based, there is more light in Masonry beyond the degree of Master Mason.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to remind you of the opportunities waiting for you in _____ Commandery No. _____, and the rest of the York Rite. The Commandery meets on _____ at _____ p.m. in the _____ Masonic Temple. Royal Arch Chapter _____ meets on _____ at _____ p.m. in the Masonic Temple and _____ Council of Royal and Select masters meets on _____ at _____ p.m. in the _____ Masonic Temple.

Each of the York Rite degrees has its own special character and teaches important lessons an Masonry. However, the Commandery Orders are something set apart from the Orders of the Red Cross. It takes place in the time of the Babylonian captivity before the building of the Second Temple. At the end of the evening, a new Order of Knighthood has been created, dedicated to truth. At this point, the stage is set for everything that is to follow in the next Orders. Before you are created a Knight of Malta, you will be invested with the Mediterranean Pass and learn the history of this Knighthood. Finally, the Order of the Temple is conferred; the only true "Christian" Order. This Order is the longest, most impressive and involving work in Masonry. It ask the candidate to examine his life in the light of his call to a life of integrity, honor and service.

The Commandery actively supports three national philanthropies: The Knight Templar Eye Foundation, The Knight Templar Educational Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers.

I hope that you will consider the York Rite and specifically the Knight Templar. I am sure that our work will interest you and we would like you to join with us. We have a lot of good work left to do and would welcome your help.

I would like to invite you and your lady to be our guests at _____. This will be a good opportunity to meet some of the Commandery members informally and have a great time in the bargain. As you are our guests, there will be no cost to you other than your time, which I hope will be richly rewarded with fellowship.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at: _____

With Highest Fraternal Regard,

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 - 215 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)

SECTION 215. Such dispensations being entirely within the discretion of the Grand Master or Grand Commander may be for specific events, occasions or for selected types of events or occasions. (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)

The Grand Encampment has no prohibition on a Commandery giving a public entertainment to raise money. The Grand Commander has no authority to interfere with unless the event is in violation of some regulation or principle of propriety. The Grand Commander also cannot bar 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)

Sir Knights drilling in Malta costume could do so as a Malta Corps team but not as a Knights Templar Drill Team. (1958, p.251 & 293, No. 31, DeLamater, 1988 digest - 24)

It falls fully within the discretion of the Grand Commander to decide whether a public, joint installation is to be permitted on a Sunday. The installation is a ceremony and not Templar work and therefore section 216 does not apply. (1867, p. 153, No.12, Brucker, 1988 digest 212 & 351) It was noted by the committee that this was in conflict with Gordon decision No. 11-B in 1955)

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	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 Lauderdale (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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