



RITE NOTES

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

Obtaining Restorations and Affiliations

Companions and Sir Knights,

Companions and Sir Knights, last month we spoke about our successes in recruiting new members, however, our other concern is how many we are losing. Each of our York Rite Bodies have worked hard over the past four years bringing in 400 new Companions and Sir Knights but our NPD=s are still our biggest concern.

When a member is suspended for non-payment of dues, there is still a chance that they may someday be restored to the York Rite fold. Most often his status is traceable to financial difficult(which is today understandable) and not to any dissatisfaction on his part. Accordingly, each York Rite Body should be alert to prevent such occurrences if possible. Additionally, they should regularly review those inactive members to determine whether they have made a financial comeback and are able to afford to become dues paying members again. If it is determined that a former member is indeed financially secure, he should be contacted immediately so that no time is lost in signing an application for Restoration.

When a York Rite member takes a demit and withdraws, with his dues paid to date, there is likewise no reason to ignore the fact that he too may be ready, willing and able to come back to Templary someday. The Commandery must be alert to the reasons for the demit. There may have been financial difficulties, or it may have been dissatisfaction to some aspect of the York Rite Body. It is extremely important that the three Bodies reviews the rolls of its former members at least annually to determine whether anyone is ready, willing and able to petition for Active membership.

All over the country, the York Rite officers are suffering from a mistaken belief that when a Templar takes a demit or is suspended for Non-payment of dues he is forever lost from York Rite. It is time to open our eyes to the fact that financial status for some former members may have changed for the better and they would be anxious to come back. We should take the initiative and interview those prospects for Restoration and Affiliation. There is no good reason to feel that it is inappropriate to discuss matters of Restoration or Affiliation with any one of our former members. Our York Rite Bodies should look forward to the day when these former members may be restored or affiliated.

No one knows just how many of our lost members, possessing attractive personalities, keen minds, strong bodies and Christian spirits, could be restored or affiliated. If we would only light a candle of love and search for them. How many of our demitted and suspended former members might be led back into the fold by a kind word or deed? We must show that we care enough to seek them out.

Wouldn=t it be wonderful if each YR Body, at least annually, would declare a period for seeking

Restorations and Affiliations, and set as its goal at least FIVE RESTORED AND/OR AFFILIATED members. Do you realize that this could amount to hundreds added to our rolls in Florida , and thousands added to our national rolls. This in itself would be a cause for celebration. The rewards would be far-reaching in every asylum, for if we are able to do the work that we have been called to do, we must be concerned with the Alost@.

Do Afresh ideas@ relative to reinstatement programs ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in your York Rite Body? Do you need some Afresh ideas@.

1. Each YR Body appoint a Companion and Sir Knight to handle this special project. Not the Membership Chairman.
2. The appointed members and the Recorder work together in a spirit of cooperation.
3. Compile a list of those members who have been suspended or have demitted from the Body in the past 2-12 months.
4. The Commandery, Chapter and Council must be willing to jointly consider amnesty to all former members before contacting them. (This would be easier in the Chapter and Council than in the Commandery).
5. If all the York Rite Bodies cooperate (item #4 above), then the chairman and an informed team of Companions and Sir Knights must make a PERSONAL CONTACT with him, preferably in person. (Telephone contact is the second choice).
6. If personal finances are the problem, ask him if he can pay the per capita only.
7. If he agrees to be reinstated, make him feel welcome, and keep in contact with him.

So what=s the point on Restoration Ideas? Avoid knocking your head against the wall on restoration strategies. We willing to compromise. Try something new. Perhaps a new Apersonal@ approach will yield better results.

Finally, we are quickly approaching our Spring Festivals. There is still time to receive petitions for membership. Go to the Blue Lodges, speak to existing Masons about Afurther light@ and great newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

We are have had a great year in 2018 with 101 new Knightings. Let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD=s as low as possible.

Bring them back and put them to work.

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				

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	5
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	4		Fernandina	
	Everglades			St. Augustine	2
	Fort Myers	3		Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	3		Middleburg	1
	Clearwater (Springtime)	1		Gainesville	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 216; No Commandery or Grand Commandery shall hold a Grand Conclave or perform any Templar work on Sunday, except for the purpose of conducting funerals, attending religious services, or conducting practice or other tactical or other drills for instruction. (1952, p. 548)(1970, p. 331-332)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

The conferring of the Order of the Temple should not be undertaken on Sunday. (1919, p. 299, No. 22, Smith, 1988 digest - 348)

A Commandery must be opened in form to perform the Templar Funeral ceremony. (1925, p. 59 & 39 No. 8, Newby)

An installation should not be held on a Sunday.(1940, p. 69 & 290, No. 32, Norris)

An installation of officers is a phase of "Templar work" and is therefore not permitted on Sunday despite being held in connection with a religious service. (1955, p. 91 & 239, No.17-A, Gordon)

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. (1967, p. 153, No. 12, Brucker, 1988 digest - 212 & 351) It was noted by the committee that this is in conflict with Gordon decision No.11-B in 1955.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2		Ft Lauderdale 6, Miami 4	10
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	101
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

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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