



RITE NOTES
 Membership and Recruiting
 Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
 15 January 2020

Companions and Sir Knights,

As 2019 has come to a end, we can look back as our membership programs being very successful. Combining of the districts may have been a reason, extraordinary efforts on the parts of many of our members in bring in new members could be the reason, our lodge representative program was a big help. Whatever the reason, our York Rite Bodies achieved success. I encourage to continue you efforts in membership development. Just as important, however, is the retention of our members. We need to do a better job in keeping our members and not just placing them on the NPD list. It is our responsibility to grow our York Rite Bodies.

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday and Christmas with family and friends.

The Fall festivals are over and, we are now preparing for the Spring festivals. The success of our festivals has been excellent in that we knighted 136 new knights, this year. WE have had the best year in several years, with a total of 136 or 35 over last year. Now we need to put them to work and keep them. Great job.

We can then begin planning for our Spring festivals. Let's continue our efforts and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. Allow them to take a seat and participate in the leadership of the body. If all seats are filled, encourage them to get involved in the ritual work as part of a degree team, but let them know that they are needed.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, Short of Time or Slow Classes, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, for the Spring of 2020 and I will put it in the January newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

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

New Membership by District for 2020:

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

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 237(a): Honorary Titles

Honorary titles may be conferred upon Sir Knights who have rendered long, outstanding and distinguished service in the cause of Templary in conformity with the provisions hereof. No titles of office, whether active or honorary, shall be conferred by any Grand Commandery, or any Constituent or Subordinate Commandery, except the title of active officers named in, or authorized by, the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, or honorary titles as authorized in this section. Each Grand Commandery, each Constituent Commandery and such Subordinate Commandery, shall have the right, in conformity to the provisions of this section to confer honorary titles as follows:

- (a) Grand Commanderies may confer the honorary titles of Honorary Past Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer Emeritus, Grand Recorder Emeritus, and Grand Prelate Emeritus upon written approval of the Grand Master.
- (b) Commanderies, whether Constituent or Subordinate, may confer the honorary titles of Honorary Past Commander, Captain General Emeritus, Treasurer Emeritus, Recorder Emeritus, and Prelate Emeritus upon written approval of the Grand Master in the case of Subordinate Commanderies and written approval of the Grand Commander of the respective of the respective jurisdiction in the case of Constituent Commanderies.
- (c) The holder of such honorary title shall have no right, by virtue of such honorary title, to exercise any of the functions or powers of the office as to which he holds an honorary title, nor shall he by virtue of such honorary title were the jewel of the office to which such title pertains. The holder of such honorary title, however, shall be privileged to wear the uniform and shoulder straps of the office to which such honorary titles applies, and there may be conferred upon him a jewel and shoulder straps appropriate to his honorary title, provided that such jewel and shoulder straps must bear a specific notation that the title which it represents is honorary only.
- (d) Such honorary titles shall not be conferred upon any Sir Knight other than a member of the respective Commandery or Grand Commandery by which the honorary title in conferred.
- (e) The precedence of rank for holders of such honorary titles shall be in the order of seniority appropriate to the office for which the honorary title is applicable except that
 - (1) The holder of the title of a past officer by virtue of service shall take precedence over the holder of an honorary title, and provided further
 - (2) In any Grand Commandery the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander and all Past Grand Commanders shall take precedence over all holders of honorary title, and
 - (3) In any Commandery, whether Constituent or Subordinate, the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and all Past Commanders shall take precedence over all holders of honorary titles. (1952, p.262 & 567)(1967, p. 94-95)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A Grand Commandery may not create the office of Honorary Grand Commander. (1946, p. 75-79, No. 9 Orr, 1988 Digest - 168, 290, 291 & 360)

A REMINDER: GRAND ENCAMPMENT RULES STATE THAT NEW SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2020:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5	28 March	Sanford	
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS			0

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Spring Festival, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Fraternally,

Henry A. Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC, KYGCH, KCT
Chairman, Grand Chapter Membership Program
Chairman, Grand Encampment Membership Committee

"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. " Learning how to Talk About our Fraternity". 2005, pg 73 to 75, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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