



# RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting  
15 November 2022

## "Who" Is On First

Companions and Sir Knights,

Many of us recall the famous comedy team of "Abbott and Costello", and their infamous baseball related skit entitled "Who's On First?" It was simple entertainment and brought laughter to all of us. Perhaps you may recall that the entire problem presented was simply a lack of effective communication.

### The "Who" is You

Yes, the "who" is you, and you are needed to assist in our membership development efforts. If you think that our desired goals will be accomplished by the dedication of Commandery, Council, or Chapter Officers and Membership Committee alone, then think again.

We have structured a comprehensive membership campaign and have attempted to communicate it effectively through the Grand Encampment Membership Manuel, the Templar magazine, the Royal Arch Mason, various newsletters, Department Conferences and numerous memos to our leadership team. But it can only produce the desired results if each of us makes a singular contribution. We need to maximize participation.

Each of us can drive a game-winning run by hitting "singles"... just one York Rite petition. Please play your part, get involved, and become a Top Line signer to a friend.

### Restorations Are Important Too!

Please remember that restorations goals need to be established for any "**Crusade**" as they too are important in our membership development effort. Work with your local Recorders, and develop a list of those Companions and Sir Knights that need to be restored to active membership. Tell them that they are missed, and welcome them back.

### New Member Packet

The Grand Encampment Committee on Membership distributed a New Member Packet some time ago. A packet can be made up by the Grand Body and/or the local Body utilizing more personal information about the local Constituent Commandery, and distributed to all new Sir Knights. The implementation of this "Packet" will require some work, but future dividends will be returned in the new members that may become future York Right leaders. Begin to use this now in your York Rite Bodies as the new Companions and Sir Knights will appreciate and benefit from it while reflecting favorably on both Templary and the local leadership. Please reminder to invite the new Companions and Sir Knights back!

## Nothing But Success

A "Crusade" will be successful because of you, and only you. Remember the "**Who**", is **You**, and not another Companion or Sir Knight. The future of this Christian Order is in each of our hands. Thank you for being a part of this great endeavor.

**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.**

In my travels to various York Rite Bodies throughout the South East, I find that by advertising the degree festivals outside of our district, it becomes easier for a candidate to receive the degrees. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance.

One or two Sir Knights should visit the other Commanderies within your District and discuss ways in which this can be accomplished. Each Commandery should provide the teams for two or three different degrees. If this cannot be accomplished within the drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we lose candidates. Finally, a set date and location each year should be also successful, we should established well in advance so candidates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, in their district, pursue a neighboring district, until all degrees are filled.

**Remember, equip, train and send out the troops, and they will come back with results!**

**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.**

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## **EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA**

### **Article IX, Proxies**

#### **Section I, Preferences**

When it is impossible for the High Priest, King, and Scribe, or any one of these to attend the Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter, or any of the Special Convocations thereof, their proxy or proxies shall be given to the Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, or Royal Arch Captain in the Order or other member of the Chapter when said officer or officers cannot attend the Grand Convocation.

#### **Section 2, Contingencies.**

In case of the death, absence, or inability of a constitutional representative of a Chapter, or when anyone of the said Chapter shall refuse to issue his proxy, said Chapter shall authorize one of its other members to represent said officer of the Chapter in Grand Chapter by a resolution reciting such death, absence, inability, or refusal, certifies by the Secretary and under the Seal of the Chapter,

**Remember, equipment, train and send out the troops, and they will come back with results!**

**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 and Fall of 2023 and I will put it in the next 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.**

**Membership by District for 2022:**

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach	8	6	Cocoa	1
	Ft Lauderdale	4		Melbourne	2
	Miami	30		Fort Pierce	31
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	1
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Fort Myers	2		St Augustine	2
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	3	8	Palatka	5
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	2		Lake City	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Middleburg	
4	Lakeland	1	9	Gainesville	2
	Plant City	1		Tallahassee	4
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Marianna	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	1	10	Panama City	7
	Lake Sumter	2		Fort Walton Beach	
	Sanford	1		Crestview	
	Orlando	9		Pensacola	5

**REMINDER: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SOLUTIONS (MMS) RULES STATE THAT NEW COMPANIONS AND SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS. If this is not done, the magazine will not be sent automatically. The Secretary will have to contact Grand Encampment.**

**MMS IS NOW ON GOOGLE CHROME**

**New Membership by York Rite Body 2022:**

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	5 & 12 Mar	Tampa: Ft Myers (1), Sunshine (2), Tampa (3), Highlands (2), Lakeland (1), Lake Sumter (2), Orlando (5)	16
	1 & 8 Oct	Tampa: Cancelled	
4			
5	17-24 Sep	Orlando: Cancelled	
6	1-2 April	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (13), WPB (2), Melbourne (2), Cocoa (1), Miami (2), Orlando (1)	21
	30 Sep-1 Oct	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (16), WPB (6), Orlando (3), Miami (26), Plant City (1), Ft Lauderdale (4), Palatka (1)	57
	31 Mar-1 Apr 23 29-30 Sep 23		

7	18/19 & 26 Mar	Palatka: Palatka (5), Sanford (1), Daytona (1), Miami (2), St Augustine (2), Jacksonville (1), Gainesville (2)	14
	21-22 Oct	Jacksonville, Cancelled	
8			
9	3-4 Sep	Crestview: Pensacola (5), Panama City (7), Tallahassee (4), Ft Myers (1)	17
10	26-27 Aug	Pensacola/Crestview Cancelled	

<b>TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS</b>	125
<b>TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS</b>	170

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, KYGCH

**"Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"**

Some excerpts, from the Grand Commanders Handbook, 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" pp 73-75, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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