



RITE NOTES

A First Contact Letter to Newly Raised Masons

15 May 2023

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 York Rite Bodies (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 light”*. 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 and Brotherhood”.

In 1717 which is when the first Grand Lodge was formed, 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,

Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE XIII: Chapters

CONTINUATION FROM APRIL EDITION

Section 11. Certification or Demit Required.

The organization of a new Chartered Chapter terminates the connection of its members with their former Chapter or Chapters respectively (except as otherwise provided in Section 9, foregoing), hence the necessity of a Certificate from the Secretary of the Chapter or Chapters (to which the petitioner or petitioners for such Charter belong) that such petitioners are clear upon the records, or else a Demit must accompany the petition for Charter or Dispensation. Members of other jurisdictions than the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Florida may hold memberships in a Florida Chapter provided that the same procedure is followed when a Demit is filed.

Section 12. Convocations, Chapters.

Each Chapter should designate in its bylaws the time and place of its Regular Convocations, and shall report such designation to the Grand Secretary. All general business, including the reception of petitions and balloting for candidates shall be transacted at Regular Convocations except as otherwise provided by this Constitution. Special and Called Convocations may be held at any time upon the call of the High Priest; provided, that Chartered Chapters may hold Regular or Special Convocations in any Lodge room within its territorial jurisdiction for the purpose of creating interest in Capitular Masonry, and at such Convocations may transact such business as is Prescribed by its bylaws or by this Constitution.

Section 13, Bylaws, Chapters.

A Chapter has full power and authority to enact bylaws for its own government, in conformity to this Constitution and the regulations of the Grand Chapter, but any bylaws inconsistent therewith are void.

Section 14, Dues, Chapters.

A Chapter may make provisions in its bylaws regulating the payment of dues, which shall consist of a sum designated by the particular Chapter plus such sums as the Grand Chapter shall from time to time, prescribe, plus such per capita sum as the General Grand Chapter may prescribe, from its members. Whenever any member shall be six months or more in arrears for dues, the Secretary shall notify such delinquent by written notice by first class mail to last known address, stating therein the amount owing for said dues, and that -- unless the same shall be paid within thirty days after such notification or satisfactory reason given -- such delinquent may be suspended at the discretion of the Chapter. Thirty days after such notice has been given, and said dues remaining unpaid, the Secretary shall issue a Summons or notice to the delinquent to be present for hearing at a regular Convocation of said Chapter to answer the charge of delinquency or neglect and to show cause why he should not be suspended, such notice to be served at least ten days before the Convocation appointed for the hearing. If the delinquent Companion does not appear after service of the notice, a default shall be entered against him, the Secretary's account being a sufficient charge, and he shall be suspended by action of the Chapter. If a member so suspended pays all delinquent dues (together with dues for the current years) within one year after he has been suspended, he shall stand reinstated ipso facto. If the member fails to pay the delinquent dues within one year, he shall be required to file an application for reinstatement accompanied by the current and delinquent dues. The said application may be considered at any regular Convocation and shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present for reinstatement.

Section 15. Emeritus Members, Chapters.

When a Chapter shall, in its Annual Return, report an aged or infirm Companion as an Emeritus Member thereof, and exempt him from the payment of dues, such Chapter shall have credit therefore in the payment of dues to the Grand Chapter.

Section 16. Armed Services, Chapter Members.

When a Chapter shall, in its Annual Return, report and member thereof as being in the armed service of the United States of America and exempts such member or members from the payment of dues, such Chapter shall have credit therefore in the payment of dues to Grand Chapter.

CONTINUATION OF THE PROVISIONS WILL BE IN THE NEXT EDITION OF RITE NOTES

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 2023:

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

Palatka had one brother who completed Chapter and Council but due to COVID was unable to complete the Orders

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 2023:**

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	4 & 11 Mar 7 & 14 Oct 23	Tampa(4), Trinity(10), Ft Myers(2), Clearwater(4), Lakeland(4), Plant City(1), Lake Sumter(2), Orlando(10), Palatka(2)	39
4			
5			
6	31 Mar-1 Apr 23	Ft Pierce(4), Melbourne(1), WPB(5), Ft Lauderdale(1)	11
	29-30 Sep 23	Ft Pierce	
7	4 & 18 Feb 23	Palatka, Lake City(1), Sanford(1), St Augustine(4), Daytona(12), Lake Sumter(3), Fernando(4)	25
8			
9			
10	Nov	Pensacola	

TOTAL 2023 KNIGHTINGS	75
TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS	125

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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