



RITE NOTES

Follow up letter to Newly Raised Masons

15 June 2023

Companions and Sir Knights,

Dear Brother,

By now you should be comfortable in Lodge and gaining experience as a Master Mason. As a York Rite Mentor to your Lodge, feel free to ask me for any help you may need. I know that 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 can 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 awaiting you in _____
Commandery No. _____, and the other two bodies of the York Rite. The Royal Arch Chapter meets on _____ at
_____ Masonic Temple, The Council of Royal and Select Masters meets on _____
at _____ Masonic Temple, and the Commandery of Knights Templar meets on
_____ at _____ Masonic Temple.

Each of the York Rite degrees has its one special character and teaches important lessons in Masonry. However, the Commandery Orders are something set apart from anything you have ever experienced. They are very different in character. The first of the Orders is 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 Order of 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 York Rite actively supports five national philanthropies: The Royal Arch Research Assistance, The Cryptic Mason Medical Foundation , The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers.

I hope you will consider the York Rite. 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 York Rite members informally and have a great time in the bargain. As 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 do not hesitate to call me at _____.

With Highest Fraternal Regard,

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 MAY EDITION

Section 17. Duel Members, Chapters.

Any member of a constituent Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction may apply for, and be elected to, member in any other constituent Chapter or Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction or any Chapter in another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Chapter of Florida which permits Duel or Plural Membership. Involuntary termination of membership in any constituent Chapter will terminate membership in all constituent Chapters in this Grand Jurisdiction. A duel Member with primal membership in a Chapter in Florida may not hold office in more than one constituent Chapter at one in the same time.

Section 18. Duel and Plural Membership, Definition.

This Grand Chapter recognizes and defines both Dual Membership and Plural membership as follows:

- a. Dual Membership refers to belonging to a Chapter in Florida and a corresponding Body in another Grand Jurisdiction.
- b. Plural Membership refers to being a Member in two Chapters within the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida; a Chapter authorization such dual or Plural Membership must incorporate the same in its Bylaws.

Section 19, Quorum for Business.

Nine Royal Arch Masons are necessary to constitute a quorum to transact any business, but such quorum may be made up of five members of any Chartered Chapter of which a Council officer or Past High Priest must be one, together with four Companions of any other Chapter. A quorum so composed may open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the transaction of any business or for conferring any Degrees, but nothing shall be done unless by unanimous consent of the members of the Chapter so meeting.

Section 20. Florida Chapter of Research.

The Grand High Priest may in his discretion constitute one Chapter to be known and designated as the "Florida Chapter of Research."

The Grand High Priest, upon the petition of fifteen or more Royal Arch Masons in good standing, may form a Florida Chapter of Research for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting and fostering Masonic Research and study and for the purpose of spreading Masonic Light and Knowledge. This authority includes, but is not limited to the following: Publishing a volume containing Masonic articles and papers of interest; issuing newsletters or bulletins on a periodic basis; publishing or distributing books on Freemasonry and establishing a "Florida York Rite Academy of Philosophy" for the purpose of educating members in the meanings, teachings, and symbolism behind the various York Rite Degrees and Orders, more especially those belonging to the Chapter. A Charter may be issued to such Chapter of Research without compliance with the usual requirements prescribed for the forming and chartering of a regular subordinate Chapters within the Grand Chapters jurisdiction.

A Florida Chapter of Research chartered under the provisions of this Section shall not have power or authority to receive petitions for or to confer the Chapter Degrees. Its representatives as such, shall not have a vote in Grand Chapter, nor be entitled to receive mileage or per diem, as such, nor shall the Chapter be liable for or be required to pay per capita or assessments to the Grand Chapter.

Any Royal Arch Mason, who is a member in good standing of a Florida Chapter, or any Chapter chartered or warranted by a Grand Chapter which is in amity with this Grand A Chapter, shall be eligible for membership in and may petition for membership in the Florida of Resear5ch formed under the provisions of this section.

The Territorial Jurisdiction of such Chapter shall be coextensive with that of the Grand Chapter and it may hold annual stated or special Convocations at such times and places as it or its duty authorized officer or officers may determine. Active membership in such Chapter shall not continue unless regular membership in good standing is maintained by such member in a regular subordinate Chapter of this Jurisdiction, or such other jurisdiction with which this Grand Chapter is in amity.

Honorary, associate, corresponding and/or subscribing memberships in such Chapter may be had and maintained by individual Royal Arch Masons, Masonic libraries, Masonic bodies or organizations on such terms and conditions as the Florida Chapter of Research may prescribe. Individual Royal Arch Masons may be elected "Fellows" by the Florida Chapter of Research as recognition of outstanding accomplishment. Membership in such Chapter of Research shall not be considered as a Dual or Plural membership.

The Florida Chapter of Research shall promulgate a Code of By-Laws for its government which shall be effective upon its approval by the Grand High Priest. The Grand High Priest may promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems appropriate for the government of such Chapter.

The High Priest or Past High Priest of a Florida Chapter of Research is not eligible to receive the degree of "Holy Order of High Priesthood."

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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