



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 May 2017

"Who" Is On First

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 Commanderies 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 district, pursue a neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we lose candidates. Finally, a set date and location each year should be established well in advance so candidates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, and they are successful, we should also.

**There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.
New Membership by District 2017:**

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 190(c) Membership

A petition for plural membership must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing issued by the Commandery of which the petitioner is a member. A plural member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in all Commanderies, except as in paragraph (a) (March Rite Notes) and is subject to all dues and assessments of all Commanderies. Loss of active membership by action of any Commandery shall cause

loss of membership in all Commanderies; provided, however, a plural member may demit from any Commandery. (1970, p. 192-195)(1991 pages 106-109)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

When a member holding dual membership loses the same in one Commandery, he losses it in both, and the Grand Recorder of one jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed should notify the Grand Recorder of the other jurisdiction of the results of the trial. Provided he may demit from one Commandery without affecting his membership in the other Commandery. (1967, p. 154, No. 14 part 4, Brucker, 1988 digest - 119)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2017:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Slow class		
2			
3	4-11 Mar	Tampa: Plant City(4), Ft Myers(3), St Pete(4), Trinity(3)	14
4			
5	11 & 18 Mar	Eola(Orlando) (6), Lake Sumter(4), Daytona(2) Sanford(1)	
		Slow Class	
6	3-4 Mar 17	Box Ranch: Melbourne(2), Cocoa(2), WPB(2), Ft Pierce(6), Miami(5), Ft Laud(6), Ft Myers(5)	28
	7 Oct	Ft Pierce (Chapter/Council)	
	13 Oct	Ft Pierce (Order of the Temple)	
7	21-24 Mar 17	Jacksonville(6), St Augustine(1), Palatka(2)	9
8	7,11,21 Feb, 3-4 Mar	Gainesville (Cancelled)	
9	28 Jan, 5 or 11 Feb	Tallahassee(1), Panama City(1)	2
10	25 Mar, 8 Apr	Pensacola(3)	3
TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS			69
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS (May 2015-May 2016)			85

Finally, a reminder to each Secretary/Recorder, you must submit your changes in your MONTHLY REPORT to the Grand Secretary/Recorder and Recorders must report all changes to YRIS. Remember, if your new members are not in Y.R.I.S., they will not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in the line of OCCUPATION (Commandery).

Please send me a roster or completed Data Sheets of each new member from your festival whether they were knighted or completed Chapter/Council. This includes all members, not just those belonging to your body.

We cannot excuse our declining membership and we must be individually accountable for growing our body. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

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

**HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC, KYGCH, KCT
Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program**

ÆEvery 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, Beaderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also ÆNew Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg75-77, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006