



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 October 2022

The Necessity of Action to Strengthen Templar Manpower

Companions and Sir Knights,

Our membership campaign has done well for the membership year 2022. As of now, we have knighted 125 new knights, an increase of 57 new knights at the Ft Pierce Festival last weekend. A reminder that the Membership year for the Grand Commandery is 1 January to 31 December, while the membership for the Chapter and Council runs from Grand Session to Grand Session. This means that the Grand Chapter and grand Council can still count the new companions that will come in during the Spring festivals. Let us continue to work and have a great Spring Recruiting campaign. To bring to light some suggestions on the importance of membership and the importance of having all our Sir Knights and Companions participate in the campaign, let us review some suggestions. Even if we have not completed the festival season, it is not too early to begin organizing for the next. The Grand York Rite believes that manpower is our greatest asset. Membership and Retention are the key indices by which the progress of our Great Order is judged. A growing membership shows a healthy condition. It means that men are being attracted to becoming Companions and Knights Templar, and that our present members are anxious to retain their membership.

No York Rite Body can rest on its laurels or past accomplishments. We are living in a different era that demands modern techniques. **Unless a York Rite Body is alert and anxious to succeed. It will not attract new members.**

The purpose of this newsletter is to suggest a definite plan:

- a. Recruit Christian Masons to become Knights Templar
- b. Re-activate the interest of our present members, and
- c. Restore and reinstate former members

No institution in all Christendom has any more vital mission than our loyal cadre of Knights Templar, Founded upon the Christian religion and the practices of Christian values, Templary should attract all Christian Masons to join our ranks. To often York Rite members take for granted that we do very little to attract new members or hold the interest of present members. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is imperative that every York Rite member takes a personal responsibility for growth and retention. We have a place for Masons and their best interest lie with us.

The invitation to Blue Lodge Masons should come from York Rite Masons. Ye should not be smug or stand idly by and assume that Blue Lodge Masons will storm our doors to join, simply because our cause is noble, even though we have something they need. We should be the ones to initiate to selective process, by extending an individual invitation to each Mason. If he becomes sufficiently interested, he will find a way to accomplish it.

The objectives of York Rite Masonry are the same as they have always been, but times have changed. Our whole approach to the problem of membership must be reviewed to keep abreast of the times. Old cliches such as “we have always done it that way” must yield to up-to-date methods of the 21st Century in which we live. Our whole scheme of life has changed, and we must adapt ourselves to the fast-paced age in which we live. We need not sacrifice any of our principles, but we do need to alter our methods if we would attract new recruits and grow.

This necessitates a sense of urgency and a realistic approach to the whole manpower problem. In these times of boundless choice and world-class quality products and services, men need to be continuously “sold” on the most essential things in life, and York Rite is no exception. We need to create new ways to win men to our banner. We need not become undignified; we do need to adopt an “approach” that will get successful results. In short, it is vital that we modernize our thinking in recruiting members for York Rite. It is also absolutely necessary that we readjust our attitude with respect to holding the interest of our present members.

We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don’t wait for somebody 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 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.

I hope these suggestions are helpful for you to begin revitalizing your York Rite Bodies, and remember, recruiting is a must.

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.

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

Article VIII, Qualified Voters

Section I, Chapters

- a. It shall be the duty of the Excellent High Priest, and the privilege of the King and Scribe, of each Chartered Chapter to attend all the Convocations of the Grand Chapter, and they shall be the legal representatives of their Chapters. In all elections, and on all questions coming before Grand Chapter, each Chapter represented shall be entitled to three votes to be cast as follows:
- b. If the three legal representatives are present, each shall cast one vote. If only two representatives are present, the ranking representative shall have two votes and the other representative one vote. The acting Grand High Priest shall be entitled to one vote in case of an equal division when voting upon any question, which is determined by the usual voting sign of a Mason.

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 2022 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	
				St Augustine	2
	Fort Myers	2		Palatka	5
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	3	8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	2		Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	2
4	Lakeland	1	9	Tallahassee	4
	Plant City	1		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Panama City	7
5	Daytona (Halifax)	1	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	2		Crestview	
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	5
	Orlando	9			

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 (16), WPB (6), Orlando (3), Miami (26), Plant City (1), Ft Lauderdale (4), Palatka (1)	57

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	
8			
9		Crestview: Pensacola (5), Panama City (7), Tallahassee (4), Ft Myers (1)	17
10	26-27 Aug	Pensacola/Crestview	

TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS	125
TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS	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, Beaderstadt, 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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