



RITE NOTES

RETENTION IS CRITICALLY IMPORANT

15 February 2024

Companions and Sir Knights,

Just as important as obtaining a new member, is the retention of present members. In the past several years, we have witnessed an increase in demits and suspensions. This trend denotes a loosening of Knightly ties and should be a matter of serious concern to every Officer, Companion and Sir Knight in every York Rite Body in the state. An application for a demit is a storm signal. Should a demit application received by the Commandery, the Eminent Commander should move swiftly to determine the motive of the Companion and Templar submitting it.

The Companion or Sir Knight who moves to new location may be a former officer or a dedicated Companion of Sir Knight who is only awaiting a call from the York Rite Body in his new location. Personal interviews to determine the cause for the application are essential and may prevent further applications in the future. If the applicant intends to move to another city where a York Rite Body exists, encourage the applicant transfer rather than demit, and then facilitate his successful transfer. If there are no YR Bodies in his new location, encourage him to keep his membership in his home Commandery, as thousands have done before. Often, he will reconsider and council his application for demit. The responsibility rest solely on the Commanders of the Commanderies in the new as well as the old location. There is absolutely no need to lose any member when he moves to another location. It is our responsibility to see that this doesn't happen.

Let us remember that an application for a demit has taken the same vow we have taken, and we must treat him with the same dignity and respect that will effectively and firmly remind him of his allegiance to our Cause. If it is found that the Companion and Sir Knight is ill or financially unable to keep up his dues, then ways and means should be found by the Commandery to retain such member by remitting the dues, or even paying them out of a charitable fund for a reasonable time.

As for suspensions for non-payment of dues - this may originate in the Blue Lodge, Chapter or Council. Under Templar law, it is necessary to start suspension proceedings if a Sir Knight is suspended from other bodies. Of course, the member may become delinquent in his dues to the Commandery, which likewise entails similar proceedings.

However, long before any of the foregoing events occur, an alert Officer or member can learn about such impending difficulty. In the early stages, it is possible to do a great deal more than after written notices have been served by registered mail and embarrassment has occurred. The ingenuity of a good Secretary/Recorder is almost priceless in this field of suspensions for non-payment of dues.

No suspensions for non-payment of dues should become final until the Eminent Commander, Illustrious Master and High Priest is willing to take personal responsibility for certifying that everything humanly possible has been done to prevent such a suspension. Let us recall the phrase about "going the distance of forty miles, to relieve the distress of a worthy Companion and Sir Knight.

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.
Bring them back and put them to work.

Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE XXI Amendments

Section 1. Procedure.

Amendments to the Constitution. Laws and Regulations and changes in the ritual of the Grand Chapter shall be made in the following manner:

- a. Each proposed membership shall recite the Section Number and full title of the Section proposed be amended. This also applies to recommendations by the Grand High Priest in his report to the Grand Chapter.
- b. Each resolution shall include as a part of a proposed amendment an effective date for implementation. (1992)

Section 2. Filing.

Each proposed amendment shall be filed with the Grand Secretary so it will reach his office no later than February First of each year. The Grand Secretary will cause said amendment to be duplicated, and a copy of same shall be mailed, or emailed, by the Grand Secretary to all Past Grand High Priests, all Line Officers of grand Chapter, all District Deputies, and to each Secretary of each Chartered Chapter, so that said amendment shall reach said Secretary by March 1st of each year. The Secretary of each Chartered Chapter, upon receipt of said amendment, shall distribute copies as follows: One copy each to the High Priest, King, Scribe and retain one copy for the Secretary's file. [Feb. 1, 2020]

Section 3. Publication Chapters.

The High Priest of each Chartered Chapter shall cause the said Resolution or Recommendation to be read and discussed at the first Convocation of the Chapter after receipt of the same; the Chapter, after consideration, shall express its collective opinion on each subject and may instruct its Representatives on how to vote at the time the resolution or resolutions are presented at the Grand Chapter Annual Convocation. On the first day of such Annual Convocation, any proposed amendment so made shall be read and proposed and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence and lie over for one day when said committee shall report thereon. If carried by two-thirds vote of Grand Chapter, such amendment shall be declared adopted, provided that, in the event that a One D Session is held, the Committee on Jurisprudence may present its report regarding the amendments on the floor of Grand Chapter, which will require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Section 4. Exception to Notice Requirement.

That any Section or part thereof of the Regulation may be amended at any regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter, when properly presented without notice by two-thirds vote of those present and voting on the same day that said amendment or amendments are proposed.

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 2024 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 2024:

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

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 2024:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	8 & 16 Mar	Tampa	
4			
5			
6	8-9 Mar	Ft Pierce	
7	10 & 17 Feb	Palatka(1), Sanford(9), Daytona(2)	12
8			
9			
10	22 June, 6 Jul, Aug 17	Pensacola	
TOTAL 2024 KNIGHTINGS			12
TOTAL 2023 KNIGHTINGS			126

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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