

Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 January 2012



Membership Development

Companions and Sir Knights,

We are had a great year in 2011 with 199 new knightings. Let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD's as low as possible. Bring them back and put them to work.

Many Sir Knights through our jurisdiction are experiencing an "adrenaline rush" associated with the enthusiasm of the recent membership Crusade. What a thrill it is to be part of such a magnanimous order and to participate is such a noble cause.

New suggestions for membership. In January, Our Grand Lodge will be sending out to each Lodge and York Rite Body a series of short videos. There will be four of them (Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine) and will be used by the Blue Lodge to familiarize the newly raised Masons with other Bodies associated with Masonry. These were developed by SK Richard Wolfe of Brevard York Rite Bodies. These CD's should be of great assistance in growing our membership. To go along with the CD's, there should be a lodge representative for each lodge that feeds into your Bodies. **At the time a newly raised Master Mason completes his degree, a York Rite Representative should be present to present him with information pertaining to our York Rite. I have a package used in District 6, for the use of any Commandery that could use it. Just ask.** Finally, dates of your District festivals should be established so it could be included in your package.

This is Not your Father's Commandery Anymore. This is because new members are joining of all ages, new programs are being added to include family activities, guest speakers, and community involvement. New members bring new ideas, and this results in a healthy growth for the Order. Become a part of this new energy transformation.

Membership Value is Critically Important. Non-York Rite Masons are busy people, and need to be convinced that committing time and talent to a new Masonic Organization has value. Be sure to tell the total attributes of your Commandery. Be sure to emphasize the new activities and involvement in your Commandery, and promote the positive. Increases in our membership base are critical to sustaining both our future, and our glorious heritage. You can do it!

Migrating To A "Dot.Com" Fraternity. We continue to be impressed with the many Knights Templar that are connected to the Internet. Many Commanderies are now getting connected to the "net", and building impressive Web Sites to promote their Commandery activities such as festivals, membership programs and activities. The Internet improves communications, and saves postage cost among other things. Being a "dot.com" fraternity might be a differentiating factor in selling this great fraternity to Non-York Rite Masons.

Green Carrots. Many Commanderies have instituted incentives to reward “Top-Line Signers”. Membership development is hard work, and those that contribute more than their fair share should be rewarded. Examples of incentives include: **Dues reimbursement, cash, gift certificates, Knight Templar Eye Foundation Life Memberships, and Templar Uniform credits** are incentive programs that have value, and are worth testing in all jurisdictions. Give it a try for both restorations and new members.

Happier Troops. A Crusade is both an event, and a renewed emphasis on membership development. It is an opportunity for all Sir Knights regardless of rank to become engaged in a program that assures success if each Sir Knight contributes. The excitement of Crusade participation continues to grow. Please get involved. Ask a Masonic friend to join, and do it now.

Promote Your Good Works. Write articles, take pictures, and publish your Crusade program activities. Promote your activities. No one can purchase a product they are unaware of.

As of the end of May, we have Knighted 90 new Companions and Sir Knights. Seven districts will have festivals in August, September and October. Lets continue our work during this dark period and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. However, of more importance, we must keep those members that we currently have.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone’s business.

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.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
1	7 Apr, 14 Apr 15 Sept, 29 Sept	Miami Chapter/Council Chapter/Council	
2			
3			
4			
5	3 Mar 10 Mar 8 Sept 22 Oct	Chapter/Council Orders Chapter/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola)	
6	30 & 31 Mar 5 & 6 Oct	Ft Pierce Melbourne	
7	Mar Oct	Jacksonville Jacksonville	
8	2,7,11,21,24 & 25 Feb	Gainesville	
9			

10	31 Mar	Pensacola (Chap/Council)	
	14 Apr	Pensacola (Commandery)	
Total 2011 Knightings			199
Total 2012 Knightings			0

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 determine the dates for the Spring and Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Henry A Adams
 HENRY A. ADAMS
 Eminent Grand Generalissimo
 Chairman, Membership Committee

“Every 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, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006