



The Florida Knight

S.K. Ronald Parks

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2019
624 Wayne Avenue - Pensacola, FL 32507
Email: skraprl@cox.net
Phone: (850) 525-8881



State Supplement Editor

Gary R. Roane - 3632 6th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713 - grrroane123@gmail.com

Hello Fellow Fraters.

Where does time go? Seems like the New Year just rolled in and flew on by. Low and behold, we are in the month of February. Lots of good things happen or have happened in February, including Valentine's Day. I hope that all Sir Knights remember their loved ones this month with cards, calls and maybe some candy to show you appreciate them this Valentine's Day. Many important people were born in the month of February. We have had Presidents, Famous Americans and some not so famous Americans born in February. I know I am glad of one February birth I will let you guess who that might be.

My focus and message this month centers on membership. By now most York Rite Bodies should have already scheduled their spring festival. If you haven't done this it is time to get hot and get it on the schedule. Along with getting your festival on the schedule it is also time to find those Masons that are not yet members of our Bodies. I say our Bodies because all Blue Lodge Masons are already in the York Rite some just don't know it. Now is the time to recruit for your Spring Festival. If we all work really hard at recruiting, and it takes work, we can make 2020 a banner year for membership. So how are we going to make that banner year happen? As always, let me give you some history to foster this idea along.

While perusing the internet looking for information I stumbled on some very old Knights Templar Magazines. I choose one and started to read it. Lots of good reading in articles of past. If you have an idea I believe somewhere someone has written about it. Anyway, in one of them from 1956, I believe it was from 1956. I can't find the article again to validate the date. The date isn't important, but what I found is important. The title of the article was "Knight 103 in One Class." Wow 103 knighted in one class. Can you imagine one of our Commandries knighted over 100 in one class? It is possible.

This event occurred in Flushing, NY on Saturday, March 19, 1956. The Sir Knights of Trinity Commandery No. 68, Flushing, NY decided they wanted to do something for Templary and boy did they. Sir Knight H. Randall Kreger, Eminent Commander of Trinity Commandery stated: "We wish to Knight 100 Companions in our 46th Triennial Class." The results were both surprising and encouraging.

The mastermind behind this event was Sir Knight Joseph Cameron Dunn, a Past Grand Commander of New York. He asked for the assistance of five Chapter Secretaries. Have you noticed these candidates were companions? They supplied him a list of eligible members and from that list they fashioned a list of 540 prospects. To those 540 eligible Companions was sent a letter, a bulletin, a petition and a business reply envelope. Of those 540 Companions 45 sent back a favorable reply. From there the rest of those knights came from personal contact to the Companions. They endeavored to explain Templary in detail and many reasons were given for them to respond to the invitation which proved interesting and enlightening. The article gives a blow by blow of that historic day which at the end of it produced 103 Knights Templars.

This was not an easy task for these Knights. The Order of the Temple presented what seemed at first to be an almost insurmountable task full of problems. They went by the book, nothing was left out or added. They used five Chambers of Reflections and brought them in by groups of 25 to receive the first 4 libations. Then they retired as required, and as required at that time each participated individually in the fifth Libation. I am sure this statement will make Sir Knight Paul Friend jump with joy. At the end of the day they had Knighted 103 new Knights. What a feat to accomplish. Can you imagine such an undertaking like that today? I recall just getting the 43 candidates, I think it was 43, for the Order of the Temple we did down in Orlando and doing the Chamber of Reflection for that day. Now with that said, is it possible for us to bring in 100 Knights at a single festival? Yes it is even though we have smaller numbers then they did in 1956. Let's make the challenge easier and see if any one district can Knight 100 during a single combined festival or even willing to try. Who is willing to take the challenge? Any takers? You have to be prepared to put out an extraordinary effort. Is it worth the effort to try? I believe so.

This is not York Rite, but I have a dear departed Brother and Past Monarch of a Grotto, He set a goal of bringing 100 Masons into his Grotto during his year as Monarch. He and his team worked hard to accomplish this goal and was successful. I don't believe anyone since or before him has come close to achieving his record. Wayne didn't do this in the 1950's. He was Monarch in the 1990's. So a goal like this is possible in our Commandries. It just takes hard work. I just wish he would have been in the York Rite and I know we would have more Fraters today.

Sir Knight Henry Adams puts out a Monthly Newsletter with a listing of the number we Knight throughout the year with a listing of who is holding a Festival. In his newsletter he gives many Ideas on things we can do to help increase our numbers. If you aren't on his mailing list you need to be. Just write to him and he will add you I am sure.

Remember in order to get a Mason into our Commandery we must first get them into the Chapter and Council. Keep this in mind make sure when you talk to a Brother that we give ample time to talk up the Chapter and Council before we lay it on them why it is great to be a Knights Templar. Does your York Rite Body use Fervency and Zeal or Circumambulation as a recruiting tool in the Blue Lodges? If you don't you should. Are your Knights going to their Blue Lodges? If not, now is the time to start. Go spread the word about the York Rite and let them know we finish the Master Mason education for them.

I have been trying to visit Lodges in my District and talk about our York Rite Bodies. This past Monday I went to a Lodge that has very few York Rite Masons, but lots of Scottish Rite Members in it. Now don't get me wrong I am in the Scottish Rite and am not trying to knock on the Scottish Rite. I believe if you are in the Scottish Rite you should also belong the York Rite. Also, if you are in the York Rite you should be in the Scottish Rite. Anyway, I left there with 2 York Rite petitions handed out. My goal is to get everyone in that Lodge who belongs to the Scottish Rite in our York Rite and I will succeed.

I think I have talked enough on this subject and will give it a rest for now. So let's get busy and get to work. Each and every one of us are recruiters for the York Rite. Are you ready to be the leader in your York Rite? Will your York Rite be the one that brings our number of Sir Knights in the state back above 3000 Fraters? Start now!

Finally, Connie and I wish all a very Happy Valentine's Day and hope you receive many nice cards and have a wonderful day with those that you love. Don't forget to call those absent from our Meetings and wish them a Happy Valentine's Day. Please let them know we miss them.

Yours in Faith and Christ our Savior,
Ronald L. Parks, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander