

Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 November 2008

Successful leaders experience goal attainment for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they have challenged and elevated their Officer team thinking and prepared a plan that emphasizes effectiveness more than efficiency. The following ideas, if implemented will help each Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, ensure that his plan will increase in effectiveness.

Have you considered any of these things?

1. Send a letter on your Commandery stationary to each Officer expressing your support for the membership Crusade, and enlist his support. Tell him you are proud of him. Add a sense of urgency to your request.
2. During your next Officers Meeting secure a commitment from each of your elected and appointed Officers to get at least one petition. This sets a good example for other members. Encourage them to do the same. It also displays commitment to a common purpose among the leadership.
3. Write regular personal endorsements of the Crusade in your monthly newsletter. Request the chapter and council leaders do the same.
4. Consider establishing a unique Award for the Crusade, i.e., Most Knightings in Home Commandery, Highest Membership Gain, Most Restorations, etc. Offer special incentives, like free meals for two. Be creative.
5. Get more Committees involved! Review your Committee list, and get some inactive committees active. This spreads the leadership around and offers a chance for other Officers to show what they are made of.
6. Consider writing a letter to all of your Past Commanders. Share your plans with them, and enlist their support, and participation. They will assist you.
7. Meet regularly with your Chapter and Council leadership. Working together within the “Family of Masonry” increases cooperation exponentially.
8. Call or meet with the Deputy or Actives of the Scottish Rite, and seek their support. They might be willing to support a direct mail campaign for the Crusade, and encourage “Non-York Rite” Scottish Rite Masons to join. Perhaps you could arrange a York Rite conferral at their next Convocation in their auditorium?

9. Call or meet with the leadership of the Shrine Temples in your state. Request consideration for a joint “Cold Sands” event with your York Rite Crusade Festivals. Request the Shrine help to sell the benefits of York Rite just as the York Rite should sell the benefits of Shrine membership.

10. Consider a York Rite Festival to honor the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Perhaps his junior Officers would join too if they were Non-York Rite Masons.

11. Assign each of your elected and appointed Officers of the Commandery, to become a “Crusade Speakers Bureau”. Request that they arrange invitations to Blue Lodges to present “York Rite Overview Programs” to promote our Christian Masonry heritage. Suggest three programs per month each.

In the last newsletter, I included the Grand High Priest’s, Executive Order #1, which stated that those members who had been dropped in the last 5 years could be readmitted by paying ONLY this years dues. This may be an incentive for those lost Companions and Sir Knights. In these hard economic times this may be just the thing we need. Following is a letter that can be used , with your modifications, for those that have been dropped because of Non-Payment of Dues.

SAMPLE

Dear Companion and Sir Knight:

Never in the history of this great country of ours has it been so important for men who believe in the things that have made America the greatest country in the world, to remain bonded together in a Fraternity such as our Masonic Order. The principles and teachings of Masonry are a mighty bulwark against those who would destroy this great country of ours.

You are a very important member of our Fraternity, and even though you may not be able to attend or give the time you wish, the fact that you buy your dues have contributed to our Masonic charities make you very important to Masonry.

We find that you have been dropped from our rolls. This may just be an oversight. We hope that it is. The Grand High Priest has signed an Executive Order #1, to allow those Companions who have been dropped for the York Rite Rolls to return by only paying the **current years dues**. We hope that you will reconsider and rejoin our fraternity. It would be great to see you return. If for reason of age, illness or financial difficulty you feel that you are unable to pay your dues, we still want you as a member.

Our York Rite Bodies meet on.....

May our Heavenly Father bless and keep you and yours for many years to come.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Be creative Companions and Sir Knights and let's work hard on rebuilding our membership.

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.

March 6-7(Outdoor)

Box Ranch, Stuart

Paul Friend, 772-266-6404

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Chairman, Membership Committee

**some excerpts from the book, Making Members, with permission, by Rev. Jan L. Baderstadt, OPC, KYGCH, and from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

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