

Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 January 2009

**A Campaign Membership Team
Is Vital to Success**

The Chairman should possess executive and salesmanship ability and have such standing amongst his peers that he can lead the membership team to success. It should be considered a position of honor to serve as Chairman and he should be willing to give sufficient time to do a good job.. His selection as well as his acceptance should be based upon this single question: Can he lead us to success in this membership campaign?

1. The Commander should make this selection of the Chairman of the membership campaign only after conferring with his officers and past commanders, and it must have **Top Priority**. The Chairman should be the best equipped man in the whole Commandery for such a job, without reference to Commandery rank, attendance or any other consideration.

2. If his Campaign is large in scale, the Chairman should be authorized to appoint others members to the Campaign to assist him. These Sir Knights should have a sense of drive and dedication to the cause.

3. Next comes the selection of those who are to participate as team members. A small team is often more effective than one which is too large.

4. Every Officer and Past Commander should be willing to make himself available for appointment to any place on the membership team.

5. If a drill corps exists in the Commandery, its members are usually well equipped to serve, and should be considered along with every other member of the Commandery.

6. There should be complete cooperation with other Masonic Bodies, especially Blue Lodges. Regular planned and scheduled visits should be made to each of the Blue Lodges in the District. We must remember that this is where our candidates come from. We should not forget the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, since their membership committees can work hand-in-hand with us on a reciprocal relationship.

7. Before a Campaign begins, a membership team should make a careful survey of every qualified Christian Mason in the community, that might become a candidate for the

Chapter, Council degrees or the Orders of Knighthood. Any helpful information about each prospect will assist those who call upon him. This prospect information should be continually updated to be part of a permanent membership solicitation record to be used by succeeding membership committees.

8. The campaign member in charge of a Blue Lodge should always obtain the names of Master Masons as they are raised, either by being in attendance himself or delegating another to be present..

In my travels to various Commanderies around the state, I find a substantial problem in our membership efforts. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance. One or two Sir 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 an neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we loose 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.

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.

Feb 5	Mark Master & Past Master	7:00 pm Eola Lodge
Feb 12	Most Excellent Master	7:00 pm “
Feb 19	Royal Arch	7:00 pm “
Mar 7	Council Degrees	9:00 am “
Mar 28	Commandery Orders	7:00 am “
Feb 14	Chap and Council Degrees	8:00 am Tallahassee YRB
Feb 28	Commandery Orders	8:00 am “
March 6-7(Outdoor)	Box Ranch, Stuart	Paul Friend, 772-266-6404
Mar 14 & 28	Pensecola York Rite Center	

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

**some excerpts , from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and Grand Commandery of Florida. And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers.