

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

Looking to the Future
Membership 2009

As we end one year and begin a new year, our goals, have not changed. Our immediate Past Grand Commander stressed, in his goals for the year, to increase membership by 10% and retain those Companions and Sir Knights that we have. Our new Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Ideal Baldoni, has taken up the challenge and again will strive to increase and keep our members. In the past 10 months, we have discussed many things dealing with membership and retention. We have discussed the need for recruiting, how to speak to a Blue Lodge brother about York Rite, sample letters that can be used to introduce them to our Bodies, follow-up letters and sample phone scripts, reasons our members “disappear”, and how to set up a recruiting team (campaign).

To round out this year, I will include below, a guide to retain members. These are suggestions, a model so to speak, that can be adjusted to your own needs and requirements, but still a guide. As we enter this new York Rite year, membership and retention must be in the forefront of our activities and our outreach. Remember, each of us are part of the team.

1. A Commandery must have well planned and implemented programs for promoting attendance and participation in order to:
 - A. Retain its membership
 - B. Reinstate demitted and suspended members
 - C. Get new members

2. Well planned programs mean:
 - A. Planning and organizing
 - B. Leadership training - education
 - C. Motivation - Positive attitude
 - D. Unanimity - Working together
 - E. Implementation plans
 - F. Communication up and down
 - G. Review and follow-up

3. What do you want to do?
Plan and implement programs to promote attendance and participation in my Commandery.

4. Now What?
 - A. Assemble Officers and Committeemen to plan and implement a process to promote attendance and participation.
 - B. Do not take “No” for an answer
 - C. Attendance by the Commandery is mandatory

5. DO IT NOW!
 - A. Establish the enthusiasm, motivation and commitment
 - B. Select a convenient time and location
 - C. Prepare an agenda and assemble brochures, pamphlets, written instructions, teaching aids, etc
 - D. Give adequate notice, in writing, to all attendees. Include a brief description of the purpose of the meeting, the agenda, curriculum, and other pertinent material
 - E. Require, in writing, a positive commitment from the designated attendees to attend the meeting and implement the process

6. Implement the process
 - A. Communicate the plan(s) to the Commandery, then execute
 - B. Measure your progress to determine if progress is being made
 - C. Constantly “check your pulse” - get feedback from you members

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. 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.

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| Dist 3 | October April | Tampa Tampa |
| Dist 5 | Feb/Mar Sept 19 | Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando |
| Dist 6 | Mar 12-13, 2010 October 2-3, 2009 | Box Ranch, Stuart, (Outdoor) Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge |
| Dist 7 | October 2009 | Gainesville, Lake City, Jacksonville |

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| Dist 9 | February | Tallahassee |
| Dist 10 | September March | Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana |

If any of the above dates are incorrect or you have additional dates, please contact me ASAP.

HENRY A. ADAMS, EGSW
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. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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