

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

The Thrill of “Membership Development” is Back!

We are ahead in new knighting this year over 2008. 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 in such a noble cause.

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 8nvolved. 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.

Dist 3	October March	Tampa Tampa
Dist 5	Feb/Mar September 26	Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010 October 2-3, 2009	Box Ranch, Stuart (Outdoor degree) Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge
Dist 7	October 2009	Gainesville, Jacksonville
Dist 9	August 8 & 15, 2009	Tallahassee
Dist 10	September March	Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana

If any of the above dates are incorrect or if there are any additional dates please let me know, I will include them next time.

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Senior 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.p.3, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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