

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

“Previous Drives – Lessons Learned”

Most York Rite Bodies will have festivals, short of time classes or long classes beginning in the February-March time frame. It is never too early to begin our planning. So far, we have had a very successful year this year, and it would be great if we could surpass this year and grow even larger next year. But we need to look back last year and previous years and determine what we did right and what we didn't do so well. There is always grounds for improvement.

- Start early - strong consensus
- Need greater engagement by Commanderies and Grand Commandery Officers.
 - Promotion
 - Recruiting
 - Information
- Keep program going - maintain the momentum
- Get support from Grand Chapter and Grand Council early
- Maintain continuity of program to maintain momentum
- Utilize Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery website more
- Personal one-on-one, contact is the only effective recruiting technique
- Provide clear definition of process on a broad scope - not well communicated
- Key man concept good - a ‘critical success factor’
 - Communications varied from good to bad
 - Execution of the process varied from good to bad
 - Changing of Grand Line officers could be detrimental to communication
- Need more effective presentation tools, e.g. eye-catching slide show
- York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine unity are essential. A win-win for everyone!

- Grass roots management is essential to:
 - Forecasting
- Recruiting
- Execution of process
- Video-tape - “Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar”
- Leverage sub-division leadership within the jurisdictions
- Need broader coverage of information and communications
- Don’t compete with other Masonic bodies; think win-win
- If the Most Worshipful Grand Master is not a York Rite Mason, make him one and name the class after him; if he is already a York Rite Mason, use him as a sponsor.

As of the 2 November, we have Knighted 230 (compared to 133 last year) new Companions and Sir Knights. Only a few months before our Feb/March festivals begin. Lets continue our work during this 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. As we begin to pay our per capita to Grand Commandery, make every effort to bring those lost companions and Sir Knights back into the fold so NPD’s cease to exist.

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 1

Dist 2	Slow Class		23
Dist 3	3&10 October	Tampa	17
	March	Tampa	17
Dist 4	Slow Class		17
Dist 5	4,11,18 Feb. 6,27 Mar 2010	Eola, Orlando	5
	September	Eola, Orlando	33
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010	Box Ranch, Stuart (Outdoor degree)	20
	October 2-3, 2009	Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge	35

Dist 7	March 09	Jax YRB	6
	October 29-30-31	Jax York Rite Temple	16
Dist 8	Feb 09	Gainesville	7
	March	Ocala	6
	Sep/Oct/Nov 09	Ocala	4
Dist 9	postponed	Tallahassee	
Dist 10	March 09	Pensacola	15
	3 & 10 October 09	Pensacola/Mariana	9

If any of the above dates or numbers knighted 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, p.9 and Grand Commandery of Florida,, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006