

Rite Notes
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 February 2010

Ideas For Membership

As we approach our Spring Degree festivals, let us look at ways that we can not only perform our different degrees in a manner in which the candidates will return to their Blue Lodges and speak to others about what their impressions and experiences were, but in a way that we may draw others into our way of thinking and our belief that York Rite is the way to continue our Masonic education.

Do “fresh ideas” relative to membership programs ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in our Commandery? Do you need some fresh ideas?

Ideas for membership; Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

1. Name a class in honor of a well-liked or influential local lodge member.
2. Perform at least one of the Degrees or Orders in special costumes that are not normally used..
3. Do one of the Degrees or Orders in a special or historical location.
4. Confer some of the work in a Temple that may not have a York Rite Body established there. Bring the mountain to Mohammed.
5. Everyone likes a deal—Consider reducing or eliminating the fee, or include one years dues free of charge.
6. Honor the “first line signers” locally! Have a dinner for them or give them free dues for a year also.
7. Establish a joint one-day class with the Shrine, and work to establish new members for each organization.
8. Exchange mailing lists with a nearby Scottish Rite Valley, and work to establish new members for each organization.
9. Provide good speakers for Blue Lodges, but send someone not from the local area.
10. Provide a Knights Templar program for an Eastern Star Chapter dresses in Templar uniform. Let the ladies talk Templary to their husbands.

11. Establish purely social events for the Commandery. The list is endless of possible social functions. The point is to build camaraderie and the family of Templary without the “business” of the Order directing the agenda. Dinners, picnics, going to a dinner theater etc. It’s all up to your imagination.

Companions and Sir Knights, the ideas are endless, but they must be put into practice.

Our Feb/March festivals will begin by the time you receive this. Lets continue our work during this period and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. Allow them to take a seat in the leadership of the body. If all seats are filled, encourage them to get involved in the ritual work as part of a degree team, but let them know that they are needed.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, Short of Time or Slow Classes, 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 9 Feb,9 Mar, 13 Apr Ft Myers YRB
 11 May, 8 June

Dist 3 3&10 October Tampa
 3 & 10 April Tampa

Dist 4 Slow Class
 13 Mar, 10 Apr, 8 May Lakeland-Winter Haven YRB
 12 June, 26 June 2010

Dist 5 4,11,18 Feb. 6,27 Mar Eola, Orlando
 September Eola, Orlando

Dist 6 March 12-13, 2010 Box Ranch, Stuart (Outdoor degree)
 October 1-2, 2010 Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge

Dist 7 March 18-20, 2010 Jax YRB
 October 29-30-31 Jax York Rite Temple

Dist 8	2, 13, 16 Feb, 2,6 Mar 2010 March Sep/Oct/Nov 2010	Gainesville Ocala Ocala
Dist 9	10 April 2010	Tallahassee
Dist 10	27 Mar. & 10 Apr 2010 3 & 10 October 2010	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, p 43 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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