

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

Establishing a Working Membership Committee

As the summer months are upon us and many of our York Rite Bodies will be dark, don't lose the opportunity to continue to prepare for our fall festivals. They will approach quickly and again we may use the excuse that we don't have enough time to seek candidates for the fall. It is still time to contact the local lodge secretaries and obtain names and addresses of possible candidates. As we go into the long summer we must also maintain contact with our own members. Try organizing a committee and have a picnic for the companions and families and invite the new brothers recommended by the lodge secretaries. This can be not only fun but will give you an opportunity to sell York Rite to the lodge brothers.

As we learn to deal with membership and growth, it becomes necessary to establish a membership committee. A committee can guide out Bodies in ways that we approach non-York Rite Masons, and how we can sell ourselves but it takes everyone to do the job. In effect, we are all on the membership committee, and we should all look for new members. The membership sometimes assumes that the committee's job is to get members, getting themselves off the hook for that responsibility. It is not the committee's job to get new members—it is the committee's job to train the membership to get new members!

Responsibilities of the membership committee,

A membership committee deals with all aspects of getting and retaining members. Their duties include: - Training members to talk about the fraternity.

- Developing programs for outreach into the community to make people aware of its existence.

- Mentoring new members

- Membership Retention

- Delinquent Dues.

Training members to talk about the Fraternity; This is a real problem in Masonry. Most members do not know what to say when asked the question, What is Masonry. The first step is teaching our members how to talk about their membership. I will discuss ways of talking about our lodge and York Rite next month. This is a critical step, however, No one joins what they don't know exists!

Masonic Awareness is another job of the membership committee. Provide interesting programs and invite non-York Rite members in. Many complain that nothing different happens at a meeting. (Opening, business and closing) Bring in outside speakers. Every member should have petitions. Have an Open House, Table Chapter Council or Commandery and invite others in. Show them that YOUR YORK RITE BODY wants to inform them in what we believe. In future newsletters, I will discuss Mentoring and Retention.

Membership is extremely important, however, we as a Body must work on keeping the new members when they come in. Put the to work. If you don't use the, you loose the.

Our Spring festivals will be over soon. Iwe should be far ahead of where we were this time last year. As mentioned earlier, we now must began preparing for our Fall festavils. 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.

			<u>Knighted</u>
Dist 1	24 Apr	Miami/Ft Laud.YRB (Chap/Council) 25,Melita	
Dist 2	9 Feb,9 Mar, 13 Apr 11 May, 8 June 21 Sep, 12&26 Oct	Ft Myers YRB (Chap/Council) (Orders)	5
Dist 3	3 & 10 April 5 & 12 Oct	Tampa Tampa	3
Dist 4	Slow Class 13 Mar, 10 Apr, 8 May 12 June, 26 June 2010 27 Apr	Lakeland-Winter Haven YRB Highlands YRB(at Sebring) (Chap/Council) Bartow(Orders)	
Dist 5	4,11,18 Feb. 6,27 Mar 11 & 25 September	Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando	5
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010 October 1-2, 2010	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge	12
Dist 7	March 18-20, 2010 October 7-9 3,4 Apr 4, 5, 6 Nov	Jax YRB Jax York Rite Temple Palatka Palatka	15 6
Dist 8	2, 13, 16 Feb, 2,6 Mar 2010 3,6,9,10 July 18&16 June 2010	Gainesville Gainesville Ocala (3-Ocala-3 Eustis)	1

	Sep/Oct/Nov 2010	Ocala	
Dist 9	10 April 2010 14 & 21 Aug 2010	Tallahassee Tallahassee	4
Dist 1027	Mar. & 10 Apr 2010 3 & 10 October 2010	Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana	5
Spring 09, Knighted	76	Spring 2010, Knighted	56

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.

See results of a survey below taken April-May 2010 to determine reasons for NPD's

Henry A Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Captain General
Chairman, Membership Committee

*some excerpts, from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, p 37 and Grand Commandery of Florida., Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

Hm Ph: 321-726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com

REPORT OF SURVEY OF GRAND YORK RITE for THOSE COMPANIONS DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES, 6 June 2010

Henry A. Adams, EGCG, Chairman of Membership and Retention

On 20 April 2010, 300 letters, survey forms and petitions were mailed to companions and Sir Knights, who had been dropped from the rolls of Grand York Rite of Florida, for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) during the years 2007, 08, and 09.

Fifty (50) letters were returned with incorrect addresses, and were resent from addresses found in the internet White Pages. Ten (10) were returned a second and third time.

Of the 300 letters, 290 were now good addresses and the changes have been reported to the Grand Recorder.

Twenty one survey's were returned (average age 76.25 years) indicating the following reasons for dropping their membership: Many dropped due to age, illness (One had two heart attacks, and could no longer drive at night, 2 were in nursing homes), YRB's schedules conflicted with Blue Lodges, and dues were too high (Financial)

Another 18 Companions and Sir Knights dropped. Most had no idea why:

- 3 were deceased and not reported

- 3 were perpetual members

- 1 was an Emeritus member.

- 2 were paid up for the year 2010.

- 9 were dropped without much follow-up and will reinstate if called. They were surprised that they had been dropped. No notice received, no communication between Sec/Rec or head of the body was made prior to being dropped..

CONCLUSION:

In my monthly newsletter on membership and retention, I have mentioned several times that no one should be placed on the NPD list unless previously spoken to by the SEC/Rec and the Head of the Body. This could prevent the over sites above.

If a Companion or Sir Knight misses several meetings, they should be contacted. There is usually a legitimate reason.

I realize that many of our Sec/Rec are over-worked, but we are all on the membership team and we all have a responsibility for not only gaining membership but retaining our current Companions and Sir Knights.

The York Rite Bodies need to be more discriminating in determining who should or should not be dropped.

Companions and Sir Knights, don't let our members drift away and eventually dropped without intervention. They are too valuable to us.