



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



Successful Recruiting Results in Securing Petitions Leadership Needed

As I begin this, I have some great news on the membership front. As we complete our Spring festivals, we are now 8 new members over the same time last year, and last year was a good year for us. We must continue to seek out Masons that wish to acquire further light and Masons that will get involved. This is the time that we need to prepare for our fall festivals and short term classes. Don't let this summer period go to waste.

Experience has shown that in most cases it is wise to have teams members go in pairs to interview each prospective candidate. Each member of the team should know the answer as to fees. The solicitation should be kept on a professional level and with dignity at all times. It must be remembered that some prospective members are quick to respond, while others need time to think it over. Of course it is much better to obtain a petition on the first call, but patience is a virtue that may be required to get results.

Our invitation should come to a prospect in a very personal, face-to-face basis. As a matter of fact, the whole approach must be based upon seeking out the Christian Mason as an individual, and not as part of a mass-production effort.

Of course, if the prospective candidate inquires as to what good deeds we are doing, each Templar must be familiar with the great philanthropies of Templary. Obtain and familiarize yourself with up to date brochures on Knight Templar Educational Foundation, The Knight Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage. Take copies with you to present to the prospective member. Also, any local or state Templar Project should be mentioned to the prospective member. While Templars never boast of their numerous charities, it is of prime importance in "selling" Templary. Prospects are entitled to know that Templars are daily **practicing what they profess.**

As I speak of Knights Templar, never forget that we are a family. If we do not strive to build our Chapters, and Councils, we will not build Templary. This is an all-out effort to build York Rite. We must, at the same time, be able to speak of the many charities of York Rite.

It is not difficult to sell Templary! When we are really inspired, do you think for a moment we would doubt our ability to "sell" our magnificent Orders of Knighthood, in a world that needs everything we stand for? To any timid soul who shrinks from the task, let us insure him that the prospective candidate will thank him over and over again for his perseverance. After being knighted, he will acknowledge it as an inspiration of a lifetime. Careful attention to election of

qualified leaders all along the line in our great Order could result in excellent improvements in our performance. The Eminent Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, should be the type of leader who will see to it that Membership Committees function! To much time is demanded from an executive of a local Body upon ritualistic and tactical matters, whereas if a cast of specially trained and expert ritualist is on hand to confer the Orders, the officer can devote more time to “running the show”.

The number one duty of the Commander, High Priest or Ill. Master is to do everything possible to increase membership and build the manpower of his York Rite Body. Equally important is maintaining those valuable members we already have. He should make this his **first** duty - and follow it up **constantly!** Just to appoint a Membership Committee isn't enough - they must work hard and bring in petitions! **Leadership is the number one quality** to be looked for in any new executive officer, and the “ leader” must devote the major part of his time to the executive functions for which he is best qualified.

Each time I visit a Blue Lodge, I will always carry with me several envelopes which contain a letter (following) a petition and the York Rite brochure. This will give a prospective information that may not be covered when you speak to him. I will also follow-up with a phone call. You are from to use the letter, adjusted to your situation, local lodges and your York Rite Body.

MELBOURNE YORK RITE BODIES
HARBOR CITY LODGE
1715 AVOCADO AVENUE
MELBOURNE, FL 32935

7 July 2010

Dear Brother Richard,

A wise man will always have a quest for further light. Through each step along the Lodge degrees - Entered Apprentice, Fellowship, Master Mason - additional light is sought and expected. But once a frater is Raised a Master Mason, is that all the light he can receive? Masonry is so full of teachings and symbolism that it is impossible to receive and understand it all. Most of it is not found in the Blue Lodge degrees.

In some grand Lodges we are told that “the Temple is not yet completed.” Later we learn the Master’s word is lost and a substitute is given. This is the foundation from which we learn that there must be further light and much more to learn of ancient Craft Masonry.

Some 200 years ago, most of our brethren were known as “Ancient York Masons.” When the two Grand Lodges of England united in 1813, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the articles of union to guide all Masons: “Pure ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, vis., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the supreme order of the Holy Royal Arch. But this article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding a meeting in any of the degrees of the Orders of Chivalry, according to the constitutions of the Orders.”

At that time, only Past Masters of Symbolic Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch Degree. But it was deemed that this degree was so important that those Master Masons

having received the Mark Master Degree should be able to become Past Masters, thus making them eligible to witness the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple - and the Royal Arch Degree - where the long lost Master's word is found. These degrees were then taken from the Blue Lodges and established under separate bodies known as Chapters. Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

Royal Arch Chapters, together with Councils of Royal and Select Masters(Cryptic Masons), and Commanderies of Knights Templar, compose the York Rite.

The Royal Master and Select Master Degrees in the Council are two of the most beautiful degrees in Masonry and show why the "word" was lost and the secret of its preservation and recovery.

Templar is the Christian Body of Masonry comprised of the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. These degrees or Orders as they are called, are beautiful and most impressive and explain the Christian interpretation of Freemasonry. Every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar.

Further light by means of the most beautiful degrees and Orders is found in York Rite. After any necessary interval following your third degree, ask for a York Rite Petition. You can contact Mr Bill Hendrickson, our Melbourne York Rite Bodies, Recorder, at 321-773-0759, or one of the individuals below. The Melbourne York Rite Bodies meet on the second Thursday (Chapter and Council) and the Third Thursday (Commandery) each month at Harbor City Lodge.

This request is time sensitive as the York Rite festival is coming up on 1-2 October at Harbor City Lodge, and the Melbourne York Rite must vote on all prospective candidates on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of September.

A Outdoor degree festival (all degrees) will be held at Box Ranch, Stuart on Friday night, 4 March and Saturday (all day) 5 March, 2011.

We hope you will consider this invitation to obtain further light in Masonry.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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Our Spring festivals will be over soon. We should be far ahead of where we were this time last year. As mentioned earlier, we now must began preparing for our Fall festivals. 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 25,	Miami/Ft Laud.YRB (Chap/Council) Melita	13
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)	7
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 Sep/Oct/Nov 2010	Gainesville Gainesville Ocala (4-Ocala-3 Eustis) Ocala	1 7
Dist 9	10 April 2010 14 & 21 Aug 2010	Tallahassee Tallahassee	4

Dist 10 27 Mar. & 10 Apr 2010 Pensacola 5
 3 & 10 October 2010 Pensacola/Mariana

Spring 09, Knighted 76 Spring 2010, Knighted 83

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

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

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