



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



Ideas to Improve Interest and Attendance

As we are in the last month of summer and are ready to go back to work, let us go back with a new fervor and desire to make our York Rite the best we can possibly make it. For those who have met all summer, I commend your diligence and hard work. For those who were dark for the summer, we have a little catch-up to do. Our festivals are coming fast and with your help NOW, we can have another successful Fall festival period. One way to get started rapidly is to make some phone calls. Contact each of your members by phone; show your concern about their health and well-being. Ask about their families. Let them know the date of the next meeting and encourage them to attend. We are family. Now some suggestions on how we can improve interest and attendance:

1. Stress the importance of fellowship. Encourage those who attend regularly to share their ideas about improving fellowship.
2. Give someone the job of greeting all members as they enter the Asylum. Make sure this person knows that it is his job to make members feel welcome when they enter.
3. NEVER allow a new member to sit alone in the Asylum.
4. Make sure the Commander circulates among the members before all meetings.
5. Hold introductions to a minimum. Long introductions are a waste of time. Make all introductions with sincerity. They should be warm and personal.
6. Use the time after closing to reinforce fellowship. Thank the members for coming. Ask for feedback. How satisfied were the members and the guest with the quality of fellowship they received. Follow up with a personal note to a new member or guest thanking him for being with you.
7. Include the names of new members in Commandery communications with a brief summary of their interests and the names of their wives and children.
8. Place a suggestion box in a prominent place in the Asylum.
9. Give members a questionnaire they can use to evaluate the level of fellowship or Commandery activities.
10. Do not waste time. The leading cause of dissatisfaction among members is that meetings were boring and that too much time was wasted. Many of our senior members come to meetings for relaxation, fellowship and fun. Spend less time with the “business” of the Commandery and more time in “fellowship”. Adding some excitement and interest to the meeting will help bring members back.
11. Limit remarks at the end of the Conclave. Do not allow ‘personal agendas’ to spoil an otherwise efficient meeting.
12. When planning meetings, consider the interests of the youthful and mature members equally. The older member may want things to remain unchanged; the youthful member may expect

variety and excitement. Remember that newer members are determining whether they did the right thing in joining. They will evaluate your plan for the evening on their terms.

I believe that these suggestions are enough to absorb in one setting. I will complete this thought in the September edition of Rite Notes.

Our Spring festivals have ended and we are ahead of where we were this time last year. As mentioned earlier, we now are now preparing for our Fall festivals. Let's continue our efforts 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	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	Jax YRB Jax York Rite Temple	15

	3,4 Apr	Palatka	6
	4, 5, 6 Nov	Palatka	
	11 Sep	Fernandina Beach(Chap degrees)	
Dist 8	2, 13, 16 Feb, 2,6 Mar 2010	Gainesville	1
	3,6,9,10 July	Gainesville	4
	18&16 June 2010	Ocala (4-Ocala-3 Eustis)	7
	Sep/Oct/Nov 2010	Ocala	
Dist 9	10 April 2010	Tallahassee	4
	14 & 21 Aug 2010	Tallahassee	
Dist 10	27 Mar. & 10 Apr 2010	Pensacola	5
	18 & 25 September 2010	Pensacola/Mariana	
Year ending 09, Knighted 76		Year ending 2010, Knighted 87	

If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know.

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, p44 and Grand Commandery of Florida, Beaderstadt, 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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