



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



Ideas to Improve Interest and Attendance

(Continued)

By the time you receive this some Districts and York Rite Bodies will have already conducted the first portions of your fall festivals. I commend each of you in this effort. The only way we can grow as a Body is to increase membership and decrease NPD's. Let us all work to bring new Companions and Sir Knights into our Bodies, put them to work in the bonds of fellowship and brotherly love. Once you get them through the degrees, don't let them slip through the cracks. With that, let us continue to suggest ways in which you can improve interest and attendance.

13. **Focus on Quality:** No matter what you do, do it well. Nothing works as well as high quality to achieve member satisfaction.

14. Make something special happen at least six times a year. Force yourself to plan in detail for the meeting; this forces you to consider the desires of the members. Plan at least six months in advance and involve members in the planning.

A. Call on individuals in your community to provide excellent programs.

B. The principal of a local school can speak about the scholarship needs of students or ways your Bodies can improve the school.

C. A financial planner can help members discover important financial or retirement services available to them and answer their questions.

D. A travel agent can speak about trips that are available to individuals or groups and how to save money.

E. Show any number of videotapes that will interest the members. They can be educational, fraternally related or just plain entertaining.

F. Invite a strategic planning expert or futurist from a local college or consulting firm to meet with the Commandery about how the needs of men have changed and will continue to change.

G. Ask every member to be involved by accepting an assigned date to lead a discussion on a relevant topic to Templary or Masonry. The Masonic Service Association of North America publishes a monthly "Short Talk Bulletin", a great source of relevant information. Ph. (315) 735-2217

15. Constantly focus on communications up, down and across the entire organization. Dress-up and spruce up your existing publications and communications to members.

16. Consider at least a quarterly publication mailed to the member and his family.

17. Develop a list of men who have been raised to Master Mason in the past three years and ask

the officers or volunteers in the Commandery to contact each by phone and invite him to a special meeting, a dinner, or a "Friends Night".

18. Mail remembrances to members and their wives on behalf of the Commandery on significant holidays, birthdays or anniversaries. Remember, every time a communication comes into the home from the Commandery, it raises the awareness of the member.

19. Maintain an attractive bulletin board and keep it current with member related news and information.

20. Improve the quality of the photographs and graphic images you use. Find a member who may be a designer or graphic artist with computer desktop publishing experience and let him review all communications, then listen to his recommendations.

21. Assign every new Sir Knight a "Buddy". This can be the top line signer of his petition or a fellow Sir Knight about the same age who agrees to be at each stated and special meeting for at least six months. This "Buddy" keeps close personal tabs on his new charge and assists him with his assimilation. He also introduces this new member to other members at every opportunity.

22. Watch for any loss of interest of a member. If attendance starts to lag, get in touch with him immediately and determine the cause. Don't let more than a few meetings to pass before contacting him. Nothing works as well with members as personal contact. Try to meet face-to-face.

23. Contact all new members who have joined over the last five years, but have been absent from the Commandery. Listen to them tell you the reasons why they have lost interest. Share the exciting new things that are happening in the Commandery. Agree to assist them with the proper signs and words if they have forgotten.

24. Identify the skills, talents and interests of each of your members, especially new members. A man joins an organization with the expectations that he will somehow be involved with the members, involved in the leadership, and involved with the community. Understand that involvement means using a man's talents. Match their involvement with their gifts and talents.

25. Reward real performance and real contributions in some meaningful way.

Our Fall festivals have begun and we are ahead of where we were this time last year. As mentioned earlier, we now are now preparing for our Fall festivals. Lets 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 3,4 Apr 4, 5, 13 Nov 11 Sep | Jax YRB Jax York Rite Temple Palatka Palatka Fernandina Beach(Chap degrees) | 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 4 7 |
| Dist 9 | 10 April 2010 14 & 21 Aug 2010 | Tallahassee Tallahassee | 4 |
| Dist 10 | 27 Mar. & 10 Apr 2010 18 & 25 September 2010 | Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana | 5 |

Year ending 09, Knighted 232

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, p45 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

Hm Ph: 321-726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

E-mail: hadams1@aol.com