



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



Suggestions on Membership

Membership recruitment and retention is an all encompassing, never ending process that can be successful if the members want it to be. It takes effort and a will, to be successful. It is the future of our individual York Rite Bodies and indirectly the future of our Grand Body and Masonry in general. We have developed a great relationship with our Grand Lodge and with this relationship let us grow our numbers with quality Masons.

Recruiting and Membership:

Our festivals will again begin in the Spring. That is not far away, and we can't let it creep up on us. It is now, that we must get to work.

A. We should seek quality masons. Those that want to get involved and continue their Masonic education.

B. Each District should development a program (power point, film, DVD) that can be presented to all lodges in that district. As many of our York Rite Bodies have district-wide festivals or slow classes beginning in about 3 months, a plan for showing who we are and what we are all about is essential.

C. Contact each lodge secretary and Worshipful master and get permission to present Masonic Education at the lodge.

D. Have a Table Chapter, Council and/or Commandery and make it a "Companion Bring a Brother" night, and provide a York Rite Presentation. Let them know that we have a message to bring.

E. Have other social activities such as a picnic, a dinner before a regular meeting, and invite the lodge brothers or other presentations that would also include their wives.

F. Develop your membership committee and have a report every meeting. As in many organizations, the bulk of the work is done but just a few members. Lets make the non-participants, participants in our membership objectives. They will feel better about themselves and the Body will grow.

G. All of our Companions and Sir Knights should be active members of their lodges.
Never forget whence you came.

H. Always have a petition or petition packet with you when you attend lodge.

Remember, we are seeking quality Masons who seek further light and are willing to assist in our ritual work and/or a leadership role. **If we do not use them, we lose them.**

We are fast approaching our Spring festival time. Began working now, don't wait.

The second concern that we have, is the loss of our Companions and Sir Knights. Some have gone to be with the Great Architect of the Universe. Others have just gone. For some it is they lost interest, there is nothing of interest for them to come back to. Some just came to get their ticket punched and be able to say they are a York Rite Mason. These are the Companions and Sir Knights who will be eventually dropped for Non-Payment of Dues. These are the Companions that personal contact needs to be made. Many can be saved with personal attention given to each.

As we near the end of this calendar and membership year, each secretary/recorder will prepare a report to the Grand Secretary/Recorder and the heads of each Grand Body, indicating , new members, deaths, and NPD's.

Each York Rite Body should immediately development a committee, preferable made up of the heads of the three bodies and personally contact each person being considered for the NPD list before this report goes in. Encourage them to pay their dues, come back to our meetings and get involved if possible. By showing that we care about them, they may return and contribute to our fraternity.

For our future, lets cut our NPD's to "0" and begin to grow our fraternity.

Our Fall festivals are over. As mentioned earlier, we now are now preparing for our Spring 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. Let me know the 2011 dates for future inclusion.

			<u>Knighted</u>
Dist 1	24 Apr	Miami/Ft Laud.YRB	
		(Chap/Council) 25,Melita	13
	Jan 2011	Ft Myers, Slow class One degree per mo)	
Dist 2	9 Feb,9 Mar, 13 Apr	Ft Myers YRB	
	11 May, 8 June	(Chap/Council)	5
	21 Sep, 12&26 Oct	(Orders)	4
Dist 3	3 & 10 April	Tampa	3
	5 & 12 Oct	Tampa	18
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
	Feb 12,Mar12,Apr30, 2011	Bartow, Lakeland-Winter Haven YRB	
Dist 5	4,11,18 Feb. 6,27 Mar 11 & 25 September	Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando	5
			10
	12 March 2011 19 March, 2011	Sanford, (Chapter and Council) Eola, Orlando, (Orders)	
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010 October 1-2, 2010	Fort Pierce YRB Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge	12 16
	April 1 & 2, 2011 October 7 & 8, 2011	Ft Pierce, YRB Melbourne YRB	
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 11 6 6
Dist 8	2, 13, 16 Feb, 2,6 Mar 2010 3,6,9,10 July 18&16 June 2010	Gainesville Gainesville Ocala (4-Ocala-3 Eustis)	1 4 7
Dist 9	10 April 2010	Tallahassee	4
Dist 10	27 Mar. & 10 Apr 2010 18 & 25 September 2010	Pensacola Pensacola/Mariana	5
			13
	2 & 30 April 2011 17 & 24 Sept 2011	Pensacola Pensacola	

Year ending 09, Knighted 232

Year ending 2010, Knighted 165

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

“Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar”

*some excerpts, from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, p20-21 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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