



Rite Notes  
Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida  
15 May 2012



## A Campaign Membership Team Is Vital to Success

Companions and Sir Knights,

The Chairman should possess executive and salesmanship ability and have such standing amongst his peers that he can lead the membership team to success. It should be considered a position of honor to serve as Chairman and he should be willing to give sufficient time to do a good job.. His selection as well as his acceptance should be based upon this single question: Can he lead us to success in this membership campaign?

1. The Commander should make this selection of the Chairman of the membership campaign only after conferring with his officers and past commanders, and it must have **Top Priority**. The Chairman should be the best equipped man in the whole Commandery for such a job, without reference to Commandery rank, attendance or any other consideration.

2. If his Campaign is large in scale, the Chairman should be authorized to appoint other members to the Campaign to assist him. These Sir Knights should have a sense of drive and dedication to the cause.

3. Next comes the selection of those who are to participate as team members. A small team is often more effective than one which is too large.

4. Every Officer and Past Commander should be willing to make himself available for appointment to any place on the membership team.

5. If a drill corps exists in the Commandery, its members are usually well equipped to serve, and should be considered along with every other member of the Commandery.

6. There should be complete cooperation with other Masonic Bodies, especially Blue Lodges. Regular planned and scheduled visits should be made to each of the Blue Lodges in the District. We must remember that this is where our candidates come from. We should not forget the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, since their membership committees can work hand-in-hand with us on a reciprocal relationship.

7. Before a Campaign begins, a membership team should make a careful survey of every qualified Christian Mason in the community, that might become a candidate for the Chapter, Council degrees or the Orders of Knighthood. Any helpful information about each prospect will assist those who call upon him. This prospect information should be continually updated to be part of a permanent membership solicitation record to be used by succeeding membership committees.

8. The campaign member in charge of a Blue Lodge should always obtain the names of Master Masons as they are raised, either by being in attendance himself or delegating another to be present..

In my travels to various Commanderies around the state, I find that by advertising the degree festivals outside of our district it becomes easier for a candidate to receive the degrees. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance. One or two Sir Knights should visit the other Commanderies within your District and discuss ways in which this can be accomplished. Each Commandery should provide the teams for two or three different degrees. If this cannot be accomplished within the district, pursue an neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we loose candidates. Finally, a set date and

location each year should be established well in advance so candidates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, and they are successful, we should also.

**Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, 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.**

**We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.**

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
1	7 Apr, 5 May 15 Sept, 29 Sept	Miami Chapter/Council	
2	14 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 Apr 8 May, 8 Jun, 25 Sep, 23 Oct	Ft Myers	
3	3 & 10 March 6 & 13 Oct	Tampa-Ivanhoe Tampa-Ivanhoe	5
4	25 Feb/31 Mar	Chap/Council(25) Orders(31th) Lakeland 4, Plant City 3, C-water 1	9 (1 Knighted in Tampa)
5	3 Mar 10 Mar 8 Sept 22 Sep	Chapter/Council Orders Chapter/Council (Eola) Orders (Eola)	6 ( Knighted in Lakeland)
6	30 & 31 Mar 12-13 Oct	Ft Pierce 14, Melb 1, Cocoa 1, WPB 1 Ft Pierce	17
7	12, 14, 28 Apr 8-10 Nov	Jacksonville 5, Lawtey 1 Jacksonville	6
8	7,11,21, 24 & 25 Feb 21,27,28 July	Gainesville Gainesville	2
9	7 Apr & 12 Apr.	Tallahassee 7, Mariana 1	8
10	31 Mar 14 Apr	Pensacola 8, Crestview 1 Pensacola (Commandery)	9
Total 2011 Knightings			199
Total 2012 Knightings			62

**If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know. Also, as soon as your area determine the dates for the Spring and Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.**

*Henry A Adams*

HENRY A. ADAMS

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander  
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, reprint from Aug 2009, intro. 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