



Rite Notes

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 July 2012



Companions and Sir Knights

Let us talk about membership? First, Who's job is it to get new members in our York Rite Bodies? Is it the dias officers or is it the Grand Line officers? It's everyone's business to make our York Rite interesting enough where brothers in our Blue Lodge want to make that next step toward further light.

To many of us might be embarrassed to be rejected when talking about York Rite. Fortunately, when someone rejects York Rite, they are not rejecting us personally or even the fraternity, they have not heard the whole story about what we do and how we do it. Our long history is what brings the brothers through our doors.

Many reasons are apparent for not joining. "I'm too busy", "I am WM of my lodge and don't have time this year"; "Why should I join York Rite", "I belong to too many organizations", "I spend too much time with other bodies; Shrine or Scottish Rite". Whatever the reason, we must be able to tell and sell our story to those brothers in the Blue Lodge that seek further light.

Let's get back to the question of whose job it is to get and keep new members. Every Companion and Sir Knight of York Rite is a member of the membership committee. Every Companion and Sir Knight is a recruiter. Excitement about what we do can become contagious. Don't just assume it is everyone else's job to get new members. It's every ones job

As we look at membership, there are several excuses we hear everyday:

1. I don't have a petition. (Get one from your secretary)
2. I don't know what to say. (We will talk about this later)
3. It's the Grand Body's job. (You know far more brothers in the community than they do.
4. The only reason the Grand Bodies want new members is for the money. (Think about what the dues of new members can do for your York Rite Body, and the camaraderie you will gain with new members).
5. Not my job. This is pure apathy. It also shows how little you care about your own membership.
6. They might say no. Okay, talk to someone else.
7. Everyone in my area belongs to an anti-masonic church. Only about 50% go to church regularly and only 5% of those might have anti-masonic feelings. There are many men who want to know more about us. Tell them our story.
8. Young people don't want to join. Many prospective members work, have new families and don't really have the time. To them, we need a slower, long term effort on our part.

Their cable tow is just so long. However, I am beginning to see more and more younger men coming into masonry . Make them aware of York Rite the night they are raised as a master mason. They are hungry to continue their education.

Excuses are smoke screens.

You now have reasons why we cannot get new members into the fraternity. Next month (August) I will give you suggestions on how to get new members along with suggested correspondence with brothers of the Blue Lodge and how not to loose members to NPD.

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	Miami(7), Maleta(2)	9
	15 Sept, 29 Sept	Chapter/Council	
2	14 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 Apr	Ft Myers	
	8 May, 8 Jun, 25 Sep, 23 Oct		
3	3 & 10 March	Tampa-Ivanhoe	5
	6 & 13 Oct	Tampa-Ivanhoe	
4	25 Feb/31 Mar	Chap/Council(25) Orders(31th)	9 (1 Knighted in Tampa)
		Lakeland 4, Plant City 3, C-water 1	
5	3 Mar	Chapter/Council	
	10 Mar	Orders	6 (Knighted in Lakeland)
	25 Aug, 8 Sept	Chapter/Council (Sanford)	
	22 Sep	Orders (Eola)	
6	30 & 31 Mar	Ft Pierce 14, Melb 1, Cocoa 1, WPB 1	17
	12-13 Oct	Ft Pierce	
7	12, 14, 28 Apr	Jacksonville 5, Lawtey 1	6
	8-10 Nov	Jacksonville	
8	7, 11, 21, 24 & 25 Feb	Gainesville	2
	21, 27, 28 July	Gainesville	
9	7 Apr & 12 Apr.	Tallahassee 7, Mariana 1	8
10	31 Mar	Pensacola 8, Crestview 1	9
	14 Apr	Pensacola (Commandery)	
Total 2011 Knightings			199
Total 2012 Knightings			71

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