



Rite Notes  
Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida  
15 March 2013



## Putting Life into your York Rite Body

### Part 1

#### Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 1 of a 4 part series. Finance may be an important part of the operation of any lodge or York Rite Body, but if you don't have someone coming to the meetings, you don't last long. So how do you get your members to attend.

Most of your members don't attend because they don't think anything worthwhile is hapening. Once a member begins to think this, it's hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

#### PART ONE- Building Attendance at Meetings

No one wants to come to a dead organization. People are drawn to organizations that are doing something. The first thing you have to do is to have some activities.

**Your Regular Meetings** -Your regular meetings are something that happens monthly. Think of them as an event rather than simply a monthly meeting. Some things you can do include:

1. **Have an Agenda** - Know what is going to happen each meeting. Confer with your secretary/recorder to find out what should be on the agenda. Know what action needs to take place in order to move the meeting along. A well organized meeting will help to keep members coming, as well as attracting others to come out and attend. When the word gets out that the meetings are well done, people will start to attend. It will help to build up a positive image about your lodge and York Rite Body.
2. **Plan some kind of activity for each meeting** - Do something at each meeting that will be of interest. One activity is a five minute educational talk. The members want to know more about the organization they belong to. There are many sources that you can get from for an education program. Possibly you could use a jeopardy style quiz with the winner receiving a simple prize. You would be surprised how much they might look forward to this kind of program. What ever you do, give your members something to look forward to that promotes your Body and/or freemasonry.
3. **Use food to build attendance** - Every has to eat. Why not use food to bring them out? A good meal is often a good draw. It doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, the members could even do the meals themselves. There are also opportunities to find low-cost caterers. Pot lucks are also popular and can work well.
4. **Always make sure the coffee pot is brewing before the meeting** - The coffee pot is a way to get people to sit or stand around and talk to one another. Remember, it is the fellowship that brings people back to meetings.
5. **Open the doors early** - If your meetings start at 7:30, don't lock the doors at 7:29. Open up an hour before the meetings. Encourage the members to come down and socialize. Get the coffee brewing early. If you decide to have a meal before the meeting, be sure to invite the members to come and have fellowship andfun.
6. **Come early, stay late** - Lodge/ York Rite night should be an event. If anything revolves around a

meeting, arriving just before it starts and leaving immediately after closing, most will not return. Yes, you have to have a meeting, but Grand Lodge and Grand York Rite laws doesn't say anywhere that you can't have fun at it. Make the night an event. It will draw people out, and keep your new members coming.

Companions and Sir Knights, we must bring our members back and encourage to stay and participate in all our activities. To do this, a well planned, well executed program needs to be developed. Lets bring them back.

**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.**

Request dates for Districts 2 and 7 for next addition.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>KNIGHTED</u>
1	5 & 6 April 25 & 26 Oct	Miami Miami	
2			
3	2, 9 Mar 5, 12 Oct		
4	2 3 Feb, 23 Mar		
5	22 Feb, 9 & 23 Mar 24 Aug, 7 & 21 Sept	Sanford/Sanford/Eola Sanford/Sanford/Eola	
6	12 & 13 Apr 11 & 12 Oct	Melbourne Ft Pierce	
7	19, 20 & 26,27 Apr 11, 12 & 18,19 Oct	Jacksonville Jacksonville	
8	5,9,19 Feb	Gainesville	
9	Mar Jan (slow class)	Mariana Panama City	
10	2 Mar, 30 Mar 14 Sep, 26 Sep	Pensacola	
Total 2012 Knightings			152
Total 2013 Knightings			

**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,, Beaderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also “New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 71-74, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006