



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



Putting Life into your York Rite Body

Part 3

Increase Activity

Companions and Sir Knights

I look forward to working with our new Grand Line and the District Deputies and District Instructors. We are all in this membership effort together. No one individual can build our membership. It takes everyone. We must continue to grow or we will cease to exist. During this summer, we must work diligently on our plans to recruit new members as well as ways to keep our current members. As we do this, let us discuss Part 4 of our series on how to increase activities in our YR Bodies.

Unless there is some local prohibition (which there isn't) there is no law that says that you cannot meet more than once a month. Use that time for social activities, fun nights, banquets, festive boards and more. Choose some fun activities. Some things that can be done are:

1. **Festive Boards** - Traditional time for feasting, these Masonic events are common in most places in the world except the US, where the custom is slowly being revived. They include toasting, a good meal, some short Masonic talks and fellowship.
2. **Past Presiding Officers Night** - Whatever you call your past presiding officers, this night can honor those who have provided leadership over the years. It can also be a good way to bring out some of the older members, who have become inactive over time.
3. **Degree Nights** - Even if you don't have any candidates, you can still have degree nights with a pro-tem candidate. This keeps the lessons of the degrees in front of your members while keeping you ready for the days when you will have candidates. If you plan for candidates, you will have them.
4. **Awards Night** - Honor those who have served. There are numerous awards that can be given out. Inquire from your Grand Body, and then utilize them. Present them in ways that bring honor to individuals that deserve to be recognized for outstanding service.
5. **Golf Outings, Picnics, Campouts** - Summer and warm weather can bring opportunities for fellowship and fun. Use your imagination, Find out what outdoor activities your members enjoy, and build on it.
6. **Installations are an Event** - The annual change of command, should not be relegated to a regular meeting. If you can, open it to the public. Have at least the officers wear tuxedos. Serve a dinner, make it an event to attend. Invite in visiting officers to install. Make it a special night.

These ideas should whet the creative appetite. You can build from here. The opportunities are only limited to your imagination, and what your members are willing to do.

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.

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	5 & 6 April 25 & 26 Oct	Miami(10), Melita(4) Miami	14
2			
3	2, 9 Mar 5, 12 Oct	tampa(3),Ft Myers(2),Triangle(1) Plnt Cty(3),Springtime(2),Ocala(3)	14
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			
8	13,14 & 20,21 Sep 5,9,19 Feb	Jacksonville Gainesville	2
9	Mar Jan (slow class)	Mariana Panama City	
10	2 Mar, 30 Mar 14 Sep, 26 Sep	Pensacola	9
Total 2012 Knightings			152
Total 2013 Knightings			39

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 80-82, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006