



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



## Building Active Members

### Part 4

#### 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.

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

Initially, you may be doing almost everything yourself (depending on the health of your York Rite Body) but you need to expand the workload over a larger base. Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 was trying to do it all but it was overwhelming him. Moses was literally burning out from doing everything for the children of Israel. Jethro Moses father-in-law advised him to pick some competent elders who could assist him, thereby spreading the workload over a greater number of people.

Remember, you can only do so much. You will also burn out if you try to do it all. If you want to build an effective YRB, bring others on board.

1. *Hold Regular Officer Meetings* - Your officers are the key to building a successful YRB. Informal meetings held on a night other than your regular meeting night helps to build camaraderie. If possible, meet anyplace other than the lodge hall. This can help to make for a more relaxed atmosphere. Remember, these times together should be fun as well as productive.

2. *Learn Your Ritual* - The ritual is what defines who and what your organization is. It is what teaches the philosophy of your organization. Learn your part first. This will inspire others to learn their parts as well. While good ritualistic work does not always equal an active YRB, it is sure hard to find an active YRB that doesn't have good ritual from its officers. Good ritual produces pride and activity.

3. *Be positive in your attitude* - Negative attitudes only inspire people to go elsewhere.

4. *Share the Workload* - Don't do it all. As noted above, you will burn out, and if you are burned out, then all of the work you did was probably in vain. Share the workload. Find jobs for all your officers. Utilize their talents, and match up jobs to their skills. People will return and get active when they are doing things they enjoy.

**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.**

| <b>DISTRICT</b>       | <b>DATE</b>                               | <b>LOCATION</b>                              | <b>KNIGHTED</b> |
|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1                     | 5 & 6 April<br>25 & 26 Oct                | Miami<br>Miami                               | 14              |
| 2                     | 11 May                                    | Ft Myers                                     | 8               |
| 3                     | 2, 9 Mar<br>5, 12 Oct                     | Tampa  | 14              |
| 4                     | 2 3 Feb, 23 Mar                           |  |                 |
| 5                     | 22 Feb, 9 & 23 Mar<br>24 Aug, 7 & 21 Sept | Sanford/Sanford/Eola<br>Sanford/Sanford/Eola |                 |
| 6                     | 12 & 13 Apr<br>11 & 12 Oct                | Melbourne<br>Ft Pierce                       |                 |
| 7                     | 19,20 & 26,27 April<br>13,14 & 20,21 Sep  | Jacksonville<br>Jacksonville                 |                 |
| 8                     | 5,9,19 Feb                                | Gainesville                                  | 2               |
| 9                     | Mar<br>Jan (slow class)                   | Mariana<br>Panama City                       |                 |
| 10                    | 2 Mar, 30 Mar<br>14 Sep, 26 Sep           | Pensacola                                    | 9               |
| Total 2012 Knightings |   |  | 152             |
| Total 2013 Knightings |   |  | 47              |

**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**  
**Right Eminent Grand Commander**

### **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 79-80, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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