



Visibility

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



Companions and Sir Knights

As we look to the future, we must be reminded of the past. We discussed last month, the excuses we constantly hear, and may use ourselves, for not recruiting new members to our beloved York Rite. This month, we will look at ways to improve our efforts and bring new members into York Rite.

Now that you have thought about why our fraternity is important to you and why men are seeking fraternal membership, let us look at ways we can sell our story. Remember, everything can't be fixed with "duct tape". We must have the tools to get the job done. Following are a few ways in which we may gain membership for our York Rite Bodies.

1. **Wear some kind of visible emblem.** They make great conversation starters, plus it advertises the fraternity.
2. **Put an emblem on your car.** Of course, if you do, be sure you act in the character of a member of the fraternity.
3. **Carry a petition with you.** You can't give them if you don't have them. Ask your secretary for several.
4. **Have brochures on the Fraternity.** All of our Grand Bodies produce some kind of brochure on the fraternity. They don't do any good lying around on a shelf.
5. **Carry a pin.** How can one fill out a petition if they don't have a pin to write with.
6. **Know your initiation fees.** You should collect a fee with the petition, so know how much to ask for.
7. **Provide brochures and petitions to members.** It is a good idea to send out a brochure and a petition with each dues notice. You are already paying the postage, adding two pieces won't cost you anymore.
8. **Publish the fees for joining annually.** Send that information out with your dues notice, and publish it in your newsletter.
9. **Talk about how to get new members at your meetings.** Show your members how it's done. It would make a good educational program for a regular meeting.
10. **Make your Masonic Center more visible.** Get permission from the Worshipful Master if you meet in a Blue Lodge, to place a brochure rack and place York Rite Brochures there, where they can be seen and picked up by the brothers.
11. **Make York Rite presentations at your local Blue Lodges.** Present the book, The York Rite of Freemasonry, to every newly raised mason.
12. **Get ready for new members by sharpening your ritualistic work.** The ritual teaches the lessons of the Fraternity. If the candidate is not impressed, they won't come back. If you can't do the work, enlist

outside help.

Our target area for membership is the Blue Lodge. We should always be in a position to recruit. We can do this by obtaining a mailing list from the local Blue lodges that are geographically located around your York Rite Bodies. The sample letter below can be used for Blue Lodge members who are not York Rite members but may be interested. If you get 10% return on you effort and send out only 10 letters, that may bring in only one new petition and member. What is you send out 100 letters. It's worth the effort.

Next month, we will address those companions who have stopped attending and who will be dropped for Non Payment of Dues NPD.

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	5 & 6 April 25 & 26 Oct	Miami Miami	14
2	May	Ft Myers	8
3	2, 9 Mar 5, 12 Oct	Tampa	14
4	23 Feb, 23 Mar		
5	22 Feb, 9 & 23 Mar (Canc) 24 Aug, 7 & 21 Sept	Sanford/Sanford/Eola Sanford/Sanford/Eola	
6	12 & 13 Apr (Canc) 27 & 28 Sep	Melbourne Melbourne	
7	19, 20 & 26, 27 April 13, 14 & 20, 21 Sep	Jacksonville Jacksonville	
8	5, 9, 19 Feb	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			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,, Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also “New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 83-85, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Brother,

A wise man will always have a quest for further light. Through each step along the Lodge degrees - Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason - additional light is sought and expected. But once a frater is Raised a Master Mason, is this all the light he can receive? Masonry is so full of teachings and symbolism that it is impossible to receive and understand it all. Most of it is not found in the Blue Lodge Degrees.

In some Grand Lodges we are told that “the Temple is not yet completed.” Later we learn the Master’s word is lost and a substitute is given. This is the foundation from which we learn that there must be further light and much more to learn of ancient Craft Masonry.

Some 200 years ago, most of our brethren were known as “Ancient York Masons.” When the two Grand Lodges of England united in 1813, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the articles of union to guide all Masons. “Pure ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, vis., Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the supreme order of the Holy Royal Arch. But this article is not intended to prevent any Lodge of Chapter from holding a meeting in any of the degrees of the Orders of Chivalry, according to the constitutions of said Orders.”

At that time, only Past Masters of Symbolic Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch Degree. But it was deemed that this degree was so important that those Master Masons having received the Mark Master Degree should be able to become Past Masters, thus making them eligible to witness the completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple - and the Royal Arch Degree - where the long lost Master’s word is found. These degrees were then taken from the Blue Lodges and established under separate bodies known as Chapters. Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

Royal Arch Chapters, together with Councils of Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic Masons) and Commanderies of Knights Templar, compose the York Rite.

The Royal Master and Select Master Degrees in the Council are two of the most beautiful degrees in Masonry and show why the “word” was lost and the secret of its preservation and recovery.

Templary is the Christian Body of Masonry composed of the Order of the Red Cross, The Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. These degrees or Orders as they are called, are beautiful and most impressive and explain the Christian interpretation of Freemasonry. Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

Further light by means of the most beautiful degrees and Orders is found in the York Rite. After any necessary interval following your third degree, ask for a York Rite petition.

Sincerely and fraternally,