



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



## Ideas to Improve Interest and Attendance

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we are in the last month of summer and are ready to go back to work, let us go back with a new fervor and desire to make our York Rite the best we can possibly make it. For those who have met all summer, I commend your diligence and hard work. For those who were dark for the summer, we have a little catch-up to do. Our festivals are coming fast and with your help NOW, we can have another successful Fall festival period. One way to get started rapidly is to make some phone calls. Contact each of your members by phone, show your concern about their health and well being. Ask about their families. Let them know the date of the next meeting and encourage them to attend. We are family. Now some suggestions on how we can improve interest and attendance:

1. Stress the importance of fellowship, Encourage those who attend regularly to share their ideas about improving fellowship.
2. Give someone the job of greeting all members as they enter the Asylum. Make sure this person knows that it is his job to make members feel welcome when they enter.
3. NEVER allow a new member to sit alone in the Asylum.
4. Make sure the Commander circulates among the members before all meetings.
5. Hold introductions to a minimum. Long introductions are a waste of time. Make all introductions with sincerity. They should be warm and personal.
6. Use the time after closing to reinforce fellowship. Thank the members for coming. Ask for feedback. How satisfied were the members and the guest with the quality of fellowship they received. Follow up with a personal note to a new member or guest thanking him for being with you.
7. Include the names of new members in Commandery communications with a brief summary of their interests and the names of their wives and children.
8. Place a suggestion box in a prominent place in the Asylum.
9. Give members a questionnaire they can use to evaluate the level of fellowship or Commandery activities.
10. Do not waste time. The leading cause of dissatisfaction among members is that meeting were boring and that too much time was wasted. Many of our senior members come to meetings for relaxation, fellowship and fun. Spend less time with the "business" of the Commandery and more time in "fellowship". Adding some excitement and interest to the meeting will help bring members back.
11. Limit remarks at the end of the Conclave. Do not allow 'personal agendas' to mar an otherwise efficient meeting.
12. When planning meetings, consider the interests of the youthful and mature members equally. The older member may want things to remain unchanged; the youthful member may expect variety and excitement. Remember that newer members are determining whether they did the right thing in joining. They will evaluate your plan for the evening on their terms.

I believe that these suggestions are enough to absorb in one setting. I will complete this thought in the September edition of Rite Notes.

**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(Canc)	14
2	Oct 12	Ft Myers	16
3	2, 9 Mar 5, 12 Oct	Tampa Tampa Ivanhoe(3),Trinity(7) Sunshine(2) Plant City(2)	14
4	23 Feb, 29 Mar	Lakeland(4),Plant City(2) Bartow(4)	10
5	22 Feb, 9 & 23 Mar (Canc) 24 Aug, 7 & 21 Sept	Sanford/Sanford/Eola Sanford/Sanford/Eola	5
6	12 & 13 Apr (Canc) 27 & 28 Sep	Melbourne Melbourne(3)Ft Pierce(2)Brev(11) Sunshine(1)	17
7	19, 20 & 26, 27 April (Canc) 13, 14 & 20, 21 Sep	Jacksonville Jacksonville(1), Palatka(3) Crusader (2)	6
8	5, 9, 19 Feb Jan 21, 25, Feb.4, 8, 18, 22	Gainesville Gainesville	2
9	Mar (Canc) Sep 12, 26 Oct 6, 10 ,20, 24 Nov14, Dec12, Jan 19, 23, Feb	Mariana Tallahassee	
10	2 Mar, 30 Mar 14 Sep, 28 Sep	Pensacola Pensacola (5), Ft Walton (2), Panama (1), Crestview(2)	9 10
Total 2012 Knightings			152
Total 2013 Knightings			117

**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 87-93, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006