



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 September 2014



Ideas to Improve Interest and Attendance

Companions and Sir Knights,

The following is a sampling of ideas that we can use to 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 that 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 High Priest, Ill. Master or Commander circulates among the members before the meeting.
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, and ask for feedback. How satisfied were the members and guests of the quality of fellowship that 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 your newsletter 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 and activities.
10. Do not waste time. The leading cause of dissatisfaction among members is that meetings were boring and that too much time was wasted. Many of our Senior members come to our York Rite Body for relaxation, fellowship and fun. Spend less time with business and more time with fellowship. Adding some excitement and interest to the meetings will help bring members back.
11. Limit remarks at the end of the meeting. 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.

West Palm Beach	10	Cocoa	1
Fort Lauderdale	15	Melbourne	2
Miami	8	Fort Pierce	8
Florida Keys	0	Jacksonville	8
Mantee	0	Fernandina	1
Sarasota (Trinity)	5	St Augustine	0
Everglades	0	Palatka	0
Fort Myers	0	Lake City	1
Tampa	6	Lawtey	3
St Petersburg	1	Gainesville	5
Clearwater	2	Ocala	2
Lakeland	3	Tallahassee	15
Plant City	5	Marianna	2
Highlands	1	Panama City	2
Daytona	2	Fort Walton Beach	1
Lake Sumter	2	Crestview	2
Sanford	5	Pensacola	12
Orlando	19		

As we see, many York Rite Bodies are doing very well in their efforts and some are not doing well at all. The goal of the Grand Commander is an increase of 250, of the Grand High Priest is 10% of our membership or 400. These numbers can be reached if you attend you Blue Lodge meetings and if you seek our worthy brothers that would make good York Rite Members.

Finally, a reminder to each Secretary/Recorder, you must submit your changes in your MONTHLY REPORT to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, and Recorders must report all changes to YRIS. First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report.

As of this issue, we have knighted 114 new knights (compared to 39 this time last year, but we also have 9 York Rite Bodies that brought in zero (0) members in this first half of the year. Eight(8) of these York Rite Bodies (YRB) brought in no new members last year as well. If there is no interest in helping your Body grow, how do you expect to survive.

Please send me a roster or Data Sheet on each new Sir Knight, knighted at your festival. This includes all Sir Knights, not just those belonging to your body.

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.

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	Feb, Apr 17, May	Miami (7), Ft Lauderdale (15), WPB (10)	32
	Nov 21-22	Fort Lauderdale	
2	Oct 12	Fort Myers	
	Nov 7-8	Venice	
3	Mar 1 & 8	Tampa (5), St Petersburg (1), Clearwater (1), Trinity (5)	12
	June 20-21	Tampa-Ivanhoe (1), Clearwater (1), Miami (1)	3
4	Mar 29 (Orders)	Lakeland (3), Lake City (1)	4
	Aug 15-16	Plant City	6

5	Mar 1, 15, 29	Sanford (1), Olivet (7)	8
	Sep 12-13	Eola	
6	Apr 4-5	Fort Pierce (8), Melbourne (2)	10
	Oct 3-4	Fort Pierce	
7	Mar 8, 28, Apr 2	Jacksonville (8), Bradford (3), Crusader (1)	12
	Oct 10-11	Jacksonville	
8	Jan 18, 21, 25 Feb 1, 4, 8, 18, 22	Pilgrim (1)- in Jacksonville	1
	Jul 25-26	Gainesville (3), Halifax (1), Ocala (2)	6
9	Jan 23 (Orders)	Tallahassee (6), Panama City (1)	7
	Jun 27-28	Tallahassee (9), Marianna (2)	11
10	Mar 29, Apr 12	Pensacola (7), Fort Walton (1)	8
	Sep 5-6	Pensacola (5), Crestview (2), Panama City (1)	8

TOTAL 2013 KNIGHTINGS	128
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	148

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 determines the dates for the Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Henry A Adams

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Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program**

“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