



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



Open House Program

Companions and Sir Knights,

An “Open House” is a planned opportunity for your lodge brethren to learn about your Chapter, Council and Commandery, and for you to spark interest in your York Rite Body among your Brethren. This program will be most successful as a joint program with other York Rite organizations.

Key elements for a successful “Open House” Program include:

- Planning in advance (3-4 months minimum)
- Explanation of Program to Companions and Sir Knights of your York Rite Body.
- Providing your Companions with written invitations and explanations, for them to provide in turn, to Brethren of the Craft Lodges who they would be willing to recommend for membership in your York Rite Body.
- Follow-up on such invitations when they are issued, by telephone or by person, to ensure that potential Companions know you look forward to their attendance, (and attendance of their ladies).
- Careful planning and execution of the “Open House” event itself, to ensure it is informative and impressive.
- Follow-up with these Brethren who attend the “Open House”, to encourage their applications for membership.

It is recommended the “Open House” program itself consists of:

- A dinner, complementary to invited guests (potential members) and their ladies.
- A speaker on the three bodies of the York Rite (history, lessons of the degrees, requirements for membership, etc.).

It is recommended that the speaker’s after dinner presentation be made in a Royal Arch Chapter room, set up as if ready for opening of the Chapter, and officers of the Chapter in aprons, jewels and seated at their stations. This provides interesting visual images for the invited Brethren and their ladies, and can assist in explaining the purposes and lessons of the Chapters programs.

An example of a letter that can be used, which can be modified to meet your York Rite Bodies needs will be included at the end of this newsletter.

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.

West Palm Beach	13	Cocoa	1
Fort Lauderdale	21	Melbourne	3
Miami	7	Fort Pierce	11
Florida Keys	0	Jacksonville	11
Sarasota (Manatee)	0	Fernandina	3
Sarasota (Trinity)	6	St Augustine	5
Everglades	0	Palatka	1
Fort Myers	0	Lake City	2
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	8	Lawtey	4
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	3	Gainesville	4
Clearwater (Springtime)	1	Ocala	2
Lakeland	3	Tallahassee	16
Plant City	5	Marianna	2
Sebring (Highlands)	1	Panama City	1
Daytona (Halifax)	2	Fort Walton Beach	4
Lake Sumter	4	Crestview	2
Sanford	5	Pensacola	12
Orlando	17		

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
	Oct 11	Ft Lauderdale (6), W Palm Beach (3)	9
	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
	Oct 11	Tampa-Ivanhoe (3), St Pete (2), Sarasota (1)	6

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 (10), Sanford (4), Lake Sumter (4), Cocoa (1)	19
6	Apr 4-5	Fort Pierce (8), Melbourne (2)	10
	Oct 3-4	Fort Pierce (3), Melbourne (1)	4
7	Mar 8, 28, Apr 2	Jacksonville (8), Bradford (3), Crusader (1)	12
	Oct 10-11	Jacksonville (2), Crusader (2), St Augustine (4), Palatka (1)	9
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
	Sept 5	Gainesville (1)	1
	Oct 11	Lake City (1), Lawtey (1), Ft Walton (3), Tallahassee (2)	7
9	Jan 23 (Orders)	Tallahassee (6), Panama City (1)	7
	Jun 27-28	Tallahassee (8), Marianna (2)	10
10	Mar 29, Apr 12	Pensacola (6), Fort Walton (1)	7
	Sep 5-6	Pensacola (5), Crestview (2), Panama City (1)	8

TOTAL 2013 KNIGHTINGS	128
TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	181

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

**HENRY A. ADAMS, REPGC
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., Baderstadt, 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

Information in organizing an open house program:

- A two-page sample letter to Companions of the York Rite Body, to be mailed by the High Priest, Illustrious Master or Eminent Commander, assistance in inviting Lodge Brethren to an “Open House” program.
- A two-page sample invitation to be presented by Companions of the York Rite Body to Lodge Brethren, inviting them to an “Open House” program.
- A single page report to the High Priest, Illustrious Master or Eminent Commander, from a Companion of the York Rite Body, reporting the name of a Lodge Brother invited to an “Open House”.

Note: the second and third items in the above list are designed to be enclosures with the first item, when it is mailed to Companions of the York Rite Body.

- A one-page recommended planning Time-line for an “Open House”.

HEADER

(Date)

Dear Companion:

This letter is being sent to members of our York Rite Body who live in or near (city where you meet).

_____, 20___, will be an important date for our York Rite Body. On that evening we will host an "Open House", to introduce Brethren of our Blue lodges to our York Rite Body and invite them to consider membership.

Your careful consideration of this letter is very important to the success of this program, which, in turn, can be very important to the future of our York Rite Body.

I am asking you to do two things, to help make this program a success:

1. **Present the enclosed invitation to this "Open House" to a Blue Lodge Brother** whose application for membership in our York Rite Body you would be pleased to recommend. Please insert the name of the Brother and your name in the two blank spaces.

Please do this no later than _____, 20___,

(Note to York Rite Body: The date entered on the line above should be about 5 weeks from the mailing date of this letter.)

2. **Also, return the enclosed form to me**, completed to indicate the name, address and telephone number of the Brother to whom you have given the enclosed invitation.

Please return the form to me at _____, _____, FL
_____, by _____, _____, 20___.

(Note to York Rite Body: This date should be the same as the date in item #1 above.)

Shortly after you return the name and address of your invited guest, an officer of the York Rite Body will follow up with a telephone call to this Brother, to encourage the brother to attend our "Open House".

At our "Open House" we will serve dinner, which will be complimentary for guests and their ladies. After dinner, a speaker will explain the York Rite Body to our guest, covering its history, purpose and teachings. And, of course, guests will be welcome to ask questions.

Whether or not the Brother you invite decides to attend, I certainly hope you and perhaps your lady

will be able to attend our "Open House", to help us greet and welcome our invited guests in the spirit of fraternal friendship.

Please give this request your serious consideration, and complete the two actions requested above, by the dates indicated. If you are able to do this, you will have rendered our York Rite Body a great service, and may have done a Blue Lodge Brother a great favor.

Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to call me. My telephone is () - _____.

Fraternally yours,

YORK RITE BODY

P.S. If you wish additional copies of the invitation letter, to present to additional Brothers, please call me and they will be in the mail to you immediately.

HEADER

(Date)

To: _____

An invitation from _____

Dear Brother:

This is an invitation for you and your wife (Or other guest) to attend an “Open House” hosted by The York Rite Body, at the (name) _____ Masonic Center, _____ (address) _____ on the evening of (day of week) _____, _____ (date) _____, 20____.

The purpose of this invitation is to provide an opportunity to learn more about the York Rite Body, with the possible result that you may be interested in applying for membership in the local York Rite Body. It is being extended to a number of Brethren in our community.

Whether or not you accept this invitation, please consider it a compliment. The Brother who has presented it to you has done so because he values your friendship, considers you a Brother of outstanding moral character, and would be proud to recommend you for membership – should you decide later to apply for it.

Our “Open House” will be held at our regular meeting place, _____ (name) _____ Masonic Center, beginning at _____ p.m. on _____ (date) _____. You and your wife (Or other guest) will be our guests for dinner. After dinner, a speaker will explain the history, purposes and teachings of York Rite Body, as well as more practical matters, such as meeting dates, activities, membership fees, etc. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions. The program will conclude about _____ p.m.

You may expect an officer of our York Rite Body to contact you by telephone, in the near future, to extend a more personal invitation to attend this event.

Whatever your decision may be, because you have been suggested for membership in our York Rite Body by one of our valued members, I look forward to personally meeting you on _____ (date) ____.

Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me by telephone at () _____ - _____.

Sincerely yours,

YORK RITE BODY

REPORT TO THE YORK RITE BODY, ANY YORK RITE BODY

I have issued an invitation letter for our York Rite Body “Open House” to the following Brother:

