



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 February 2015

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin a new membership year, we have a big challenge, to do better than we did in 2014. Last membership year, we achieved 204 knightings. In addition to this, we had 3 additional members who completed the Chapter and Council degrees but not the Commandery. Our festivals will begin about the end of February through mid April. Now is the time to begin to seek qualified Master Masons who would make good York Rite Masons. It's up to each of us to attend Blue Lodge meetings and when convenient, to speak to these new masons. We also need to provide activities that will not only bring in new members but keep those members that we have. **Our biggest problem is NPD's. It should be easier to keep those that we have, than to constantly seek out and train new members.**

I need the dates of your district festivals for the spring period so they may be included below. With new leadership coming in May, the fall dates may change, but tentative dates for the Fall would also be very helpful. Please send the dates as soon as possible.

Ideas to Improve Interest and Attendance

As we are in the new year and are ready to go back to work, with a new fervor and desire to make our York Rite the best we can possibly make it. For those who have worked hard in the fall festivals, I commend your diligence and hard work. Our festivals are coming fast and with your help NOW, we can have another successful spring festival period. One way to get started rapidly is to make some phone calls. Contact each of your members by phone and 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 being members back.

11. Limit remarks at the end of the Conclave. Do not allow ‘personal agendas’ to alter and 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 March edition of Rite Notes.

West Palm Beach		Cocoa	
Fort Lauderdale		Melbourne	
Miami		Fort Pierce	
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity		Fernandina	
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	
		Lake City	
Tampa (Ivanhoe)		Lawtey	
St Petersburg (Sunshine)		Gainesville	
Clearwater (Springtime)		Ocala	
Lakeland		Tallahassee	5
Plant City		Marianna	1
Sebring (Highlands)		Panama City	
Daytona (Halifax)		Fort Walton Beach	
Lake Sumter		Crestview	
Sanford		Pensacola	
Orlando			

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. Remember, if your new members are not in Y.R.I.S., they do not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in line of OCCUPATION (Commandery).

As of this issue, we have knighted 0 new knights, but we also have 3 York Rite Bodies that brought in zero (0) members in last year. If there is no interest in helping your Body grow, how do you expect to survive. LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINNING 1 FEB, 2015

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			
2			
3	7& 14 March		
	3& 10 Oct		
4	7& 21 Feb		
	21 Mar		
5	13-14 Mar	Orlando (Eola)	
6	3-4 Apr		
	2-3 Oct	Melbourne	
7			
8	7, 17, 27, 28 Feb	Gainesville	
9	12-13 Feb	Tallahassee (5), Marianna (1)	6
10	28 Mar, 11 Apr	Pensacola	
	6-7 Mar	STATEWIDE CLASS, BOX RANCH	

TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS	6

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, PGC
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