



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida



15 April 2015

Successful Recruiting Results in Securing Petitions - Leadership Needed

Companions and Sir Knights,

Experience has shown that in most cases it is wise to have team members go in pairs to interview each prospective candidate. Each member of the team should know the answer as to fees. The solicitation should be kept on a professional level and with dignity at all times. It must be remembered that some prospective members are quick to respond, while others need time to think it over. Of course it is much better to obtain a petition on the first call, **but patience is a virtue that may be required to get results.**

Our invitation should come to the prospect in a very personal, face-to-face basis. As a matter of fact, the whole approach must be based upon seeking out the Mason as an individual, and not as part of a mass-production effort.

Of course, if the prospective candidate inquires as to what good deeds we are doing, each York Rite Member must be familiar with the great philanthropies of the York Rite. Obtain and familiarize yourself with up to date brochures on our charities, the Eye Foundation, Holy Land Pilgrimage, etc. Take copies with you to present to the prospective member. While most York Rite members never boast of the numerous charities, it is of prime importance in selling our Orders. Prospects are entitled to know that that we are daily **practicing what we profess.**

It is not difficult to sell the York Rite. When we are really inspired, do you think for a moment we would doubt our ability to “sell” our magnificent degrees and Orders of Knighthood a world that needs everything we stand for? To any timid soul who shrinks from the task, let us assure him that the prospective candidate will thank him over and over again for his perseverance. After being knighted, he will acknowledge it as an inspiration of a lifetime!

Careful attention to election of qualified leaders all along the line of our Chapters, Councils and Commanderies, could result in excellent improvements in our performance. The Grand East in each of the Bodies as well as the High Priest, Illustrious Master and the Eminent Commander should be the type of leader who will see to it that Membership Committees function. Too much time is demanded from an executive of a local body upon ritualistic and tactical matters, whereas if a cast of specially trained and expert ritualists is on hand to confer the degrees and Orders, the officers can devote more time to “running the show”.

The number one duty of a leader is to do everything possible to increase membership and build the manpower of his organization. He should make this his first duty - and follow it up **constantly!** Just to

appoint a Membership Committee isn't enough - they must work hard and bring in petitions! **Leadership is the number one quality** to be looked for in any new Executive officer, and the leader must devote the major part of his time to the executive functions for which he is qualified.

EMERGING LEADERSHIP TRAINING

As we look to the future in our York Rite Bodies, let us continue to think of ways to better ourselves and our York Rite. The Emerging Leadership Training Program is managed by the Grand Encampment and strongly supported by the General Grand Chapter and the General Grand Council as a program to train our new members who desire to learn the ropes of how the Chapter, Council and Commandery operate on a local and Grand level. It is designed to teach our new, young members who wish to make the next step in our leadership, the important functions of our York Rite. If you have any young tigers who may have a future in the leadership of our York Rite, who want to get ahead, this is the program for them. It is geared toward all three Bodies, and is supported by all three Bodies within our Jurisdiction, and throughout the nation.

The program is taught at the Region Conferences throughout the country. Our Conference will be in Tampa, 12-13 June. The Program consists of four (4) courses, Course 101, and 201 are taught at the Region Conference, the third course 301 will be regular attendance at the Conference itself, and the 401 program will be described during the 2nd and 3rd courses. All supplies are provided at no cost to the individual, however, the Conference registration fee is paid be all.

Anyone interested in this excellent program, should submit their names, phone number and address to their Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master or Grand Commander, and they will forward it to their respective General Grand Bodies.

This is an invaluable tool that can be used to better our York Rite Bodies and insure that you have the knowledge to better you to lead.

With new leadership coming in May, the Fall dates may change, but the tentative dates for the Fall are needed to set the schedule. Please send the dates soon as possible.

West Palm Beach	9	Cocoa	
Fort Lauderdale	12	Melbourne	
Miami	6	Fort Pierce	6
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity		Fernandina	
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	1	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	1
		Lake City	
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	1	Lawtey	
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	1	Gainesville	1
Clearwater (Springtime)	3	Ocala	
Lakeland		Tallahassee	3
Plant City		Marianna	1
Sebring (Highlands)	3	Panama City	
Daytona (Halifax)		Fort Walton Beach	
Lake Sumter	3	Crestview	
Sanford	5	Pensacola	9
Orlando	4		

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 60 new knights, but we also have 3 York Rite Bodies that have brought in zero (0) members in the last two (2) years. If there is no interest in helping your Body grow, how do you expect to survive? LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR.

Please send me a roster or completed Data Sheets of each new member from your festival whether they were knighted or completed Chapter/Council. This includes all members, not just those belonging to your body.

We cannot excuse our declining membership and we must be individually accountable for growing our body. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	6-7 March	See Below	
2		Fort Myers	
3	7 & 14 March	Tampa (1), Clearwater (3), Manatee/Trinity (1), St Petersburg (1), Sarasota/Trinity(1)	7
	3 & 10 October		
4	7 & 21March	Plant City	
5	13-14 March	Orlando (Eola) (4), Sanford (3), Lake Sumter (3)	10
6	2-3 October	Melbourne	
7	28 March	Jacksonville	
8	7, 17, 27-28 February	Gainesville (1), Palatka (1)	2
9	12-13 February	Tallahassee (3), Mariana (1)	4
10	11 April	Pensacola	9

	6-7 March	STATEWIDE CLASS, BOX RANCH- Ft Pierce (6), Miami (6), Fort Lauderdale (12), Sanford (2), W Palm Beach (9), Sebring (3)	38
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TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS	69

Additionally: the following have completed the Chapter/Council only:

Tampa (1)

Pensacola(2)

Clearwater (1)

Tallahassee (2)

Miami (1)

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 festival, 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, 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

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