



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 September 2015

Putting Life into Your York Rite Body-Part 2

Companions and Sir Knights,

Finance may be an important part of the operations of any York Rite Body, but if you don't have any members coming to your meetings, you won't last long. So how do you get people to come out to meetings?

Once a member starts to think this, it is hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

Step One - Building Attendance at Meetings

No one wants to come to a dead organization. People are drawn to organizations that are doing something. The first thing you have to do is to have some activities.,

Regular Meetings - Your regular meetings are something that happens monthly. Think of them as an event rather than simply a monthly meeting. Some things that you can do include:

1. **Have an Agenda** - Know what is going to happen at each meeting. Confer with your secretary to find out what should be on the agenda. Know what action needs to take place in order to move the meeting along. A well organized meeting will help to keep members coming, as well as attracting others to come out and attend. It will help you build a positive image about your York Rite Body..

2. **Plan Some Kind of Activity for Each Meeting** - Do something at each meeting, one activity is a five minute educational talk to your members that will be of interest. Your members want more light. There are many sources that you can get information from, for an educational program. The members generally look forward to this time. Whatever you do, give the members something to look forward to that promotes you York Rite Body.

3. **Use Food to Build Attendance** - Everyone has to eat. Why not use food to bring people out? It doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, the members can even do the meals themselves. There are also opportunities to find low cost caterers. Pot lucks are also popular and can work well.

4. **Always Make Sure the Coffee Pot is Brewing before the Meeting** - The coffee pot is a way to get people to talk to one another. Remember, it is the fellowship that brings people back to the meetings.

5. Open the Doors Early - If your meeting starts at 7:30, don't open the doors at 7:29. Open up an hour before the meeting. Encourage the members to come down and work on ritual or floor work but remember to get the coffee brewing early. If you decide to have a meal before the meeting, be sure to invite the members to come and have fellowship and fun.

6. Come Early, and Stay Late - A meeting night should be an event. If anything resolves around a meeting, arriving just before it starts and leaving immediately after closing, most will not return. Yes you have to have a meeting but Grand Lodge or Grand York Rite Law doesn't say anything where you can't have fun at it. It will draw people out, and keep you new members coming.

PART THREE WILL CONTINUE IN OCTOBER

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 38, Conduct of Conclaves and Voting Therein

Each member of the Grand Commandery present or by proxy, if proxies are lawful, shall be entitled to one vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue.

Unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, all questions submitted shall be decided by a majority vote of those present.

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

A member can have but one vote in his own right. (1913, pp 45 and 47, No 9, Melish, 1988 **digest -281**)

Proxy voting in a Grand Commandery must be provided by law. Otherwise it does not exist. (1934, p. 206, No. 3, Agnew, 1988 digest - 280&406).

The statutes and regulations of a Grand Commandery cannot be revised by a majority vote at a Grand Conclave if the statutes and regulations require a resolution to lie over until the next annual. (1934, p. 207, No. 4, Agnew)

A Past Grand Commander is entitled to only one vote in the Grand Commandery. He may not vote as a Past Grand Commander and again in another capacity such as that of a Past Commander. (1958, p. 246 & 280, No.24, DaLamater, 1988 digest - 270 & 409)

Finally, we have already begun our Fall Festivals. There is still time to receive petitions for membership. Go to the Blue Lodges and speak to existing Masons about "further light" and great newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

We have had a great year in 2014 with 204 new Knightings, let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD's as low as possible. Bring them back and put them to work.

NEW ITEM: As an incentive to recruit new members, and as a way to honor all those who will be knighted during the Bicentennial year, the Grand Encampment will issue a new Bicentennial Order of Malta jewel to be sent to each new member knight (free of charge) between 15 August 2015 and 31 December 2016. This jewel will be issued with a membership card as soon as the knight is entered into YRIS. A duplicate jewel (slightly different) may be purchased by other knights from Grand Encampment.

West Palm Beach	9	Cocoa	
Fort Lauderdale	12	Melbourne	
Miami	6	Fort Pierce	6
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	1
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	1	Fernandina	1
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	1	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	2
Lake City		Tampa (Ivanhoe)	1
Lawtey		St Petersburg (Sunshine)	1
Gainesville	1	Clearwater (Springtime)	3
Ocala		Lakeland	
Tallahassee		Plant City	
Marianna	1	Sebring (Highlands)	3
Panama City		Daytona (Halifax)	
Fort Walton Beach		Lake Sumter	5
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 74 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 Mar	Miami	
	3 Oct (Orders)	Miami	
2		Fort Myers	
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa(1), Clearwater(3), Manatee/Trinity(1), St Petersburg(1), Sarasota/Trinity(1)	7
	3 & 10 Oct		
4	No date scheduled		
5	13-14 Mar	Orlando(Eola)(4), Sanford(3), Lake Sumter(3)(2)	12
	18-19 Sep	Sanford	
6	26-27 Aug, 19 Sep	Cocoa, Eola	
7	28 Mar	Jacksonville(1), Palatka(1), Fernandina(1)	3
	14-17 Oct	Jacksonville	
8	7, 17, 27-28 February	Gainesville(1), Palatka(1)	2
		Gainesville	
9	12-13 February	Tallahassee(3), Mariana(1)	4
	25-26 Sep	Tallahassee	
10	11 April	Pensacola	9
	5 & 19 Sep	Pensacola	

	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			74

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

Tampa (1)	Pensacola (2)
Clearwater (1)	Fernandina (Chapter only)
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, KYGCH, KCT
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, pg71-74, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006