



RITE NOTES

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

Putting Life into Your York Rite Body-Part 3

Let your members know you are doing

Companions and Sir Knights,

Communication in dying organizations is usually close to non-existent. Open the lines of communication so You're members know you are alive and active again. Even is a majority don't come back to active status, if they know the Body is active, they will be more inclined to pay their dues each year. After all, who wants to throw money away. If they see your organization is dead, they will probably be more inclined to quit paying their dues.

1. **Personal Contact Works the Best** - Phone calls and personal contact works. It is especially effective when you call to see how your non-active members are doing. When your non-active realize that you care about them as people (versus just wanting their time and money), the more inclined they are to be supportive with their time and money. Make an invitation. Show them that you care.

2. **Publish a Newsletter** - It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. A simple sheet of 8 1/2x11 inch paper, front and back, with a place to put the mailing label will work. It should be pleasant to look at, and with today's computers, that's not difficult anymore. *Keep it light and upbeat.* (Don't whine) Tell your members what is happening at your YR Body. It will give your members the impression that things are on the upswing again. Positive attitudes bring positive results.

3. **Use High Tech to Promote** - More and more of your members are using technology these days. The growth of computer use and e-mail are growing even amongst your older members. Use e-mail with those who have it. E-mail is free. You can create e-mail groups using Microsoft Outlook, to create small groups. You can also set them up on line using YahooGroups.com. These are all effective ways to reach your members, even if all your members are not computer literate. Don't overlook the segment that is.

4. **Use the Local Media to Promote** - Community newspapers, Cable TV systems, local radio stations and more offer free space to promote community activities. Contact each of your local media to find out their local rules, meet the people in charge, and learn their deadlines. Make friends with the local media. Using it to promote your organization will give your community an awareness that your organization not only exists, but is alive and well.

5. **Make sure that you have Good Signage in Front of Your Building**- How your building looks make a statement about your organization. Does it look kept up? Is it attractive, or is it an eyesore. Maybe as a tenant, in a lodge, you can (as a project) assist the lodge in keeping the building attractive. Is there a sign out front telling the world who you are and when you meet? Is there a telephone number for a contact person? Good signage can be effective in building your lodge and YR Body.

Remember, create an image of life and success and it will be contagious.

Part 4, will discuss Building Active Members.

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 40. Each Grand Commandery shall determine whether or not proxy representation shall be permitted, and it shall be allowed, the Grand Commandery shall prescribe the rules governing the same.

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

A member can have but one vote on his own right. (1913, pp 45 and 47, No. 9, Mekish, 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).

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

We have had a great year in 2015 with 132 new Knightings, 146 new Companions in the Chapter and 142 in the Council. 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 with a Black and white ribbon to be sent to each new 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 (with a solid black ribbon, to differentiate from the new knights) may be purchased by the current knights, to replace their old jewel, from SK Henry Adams, SE Department Commander.

West Palm Beach	9	Cocoa	1
Fort Lauderdale	17	Melbourne	2
Miami	6	Fort Pierce	9
Florida Keys		Jacksonville	1
Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	1	Fernandina	2
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	2	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	2
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	6	Lake City	6
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	3	Lawtey	
Clearwater (Springtime)	4	Gainesville	1
Lakeland	4	Ocala	
Plant City	2	Tallahassee	3
Sebring (Highlands)	3	Marianna	1
Daytona (Halifax)		Panama City	
Lake Sumter	6	Fort Walton Beach	2
Sanford	12	Crestview	8
Orlando	4	Pensacola	12

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 132 new knights, but we also have 4 York Rite Bodies that have brought in zero (0) members in the 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 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR. We have two (2) Chapter/Council Bodies with no new members in the last two years.

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	See Below	
	3 Oct (Orders)	Miami (Cancelled)	
2	No date planned	Fort Myers (None planned)	
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa(1), Clearwater(3), Manatee/Trinity(1), St Petersburg(1), Sarasota/Trinity(1)	7
	3 & 10 Oct	Tampa(5), St. Petersburg(2), Clearwater(1), Lakeland(1), Manatee(1), Plant City(2), Ocala(1)	13
4	No date scheduled		
5	13-14 Mar	Orlando(Eola)(4), Sanford(3), Lake Sumter(3)(2)	12
	18-19 Sep	Sanford(7), Lake Sumter(1), Cocoa(1) Melbourne(2)	13
6	26-27 Aug, 19 Sep	Ft Pierce(3), Ft Lauderdale(5)	8
7	28 Mar	Jacksonville(1), Palatka(1), Fernandina(1)	3
	14-17 Oct	Jacksonville (Cancelled)	
8	7, 17, 27-28 Feb	Gainesville(1), Palatka(1)	2
	26 Sept	Lake City(6), Fernandina(1)	
9	12-13 Feb	Tallahassee(3), Mariana(1)	4
	25-26 Sep	Tallahassee (Cancelled)	
10	11 April	Pensacola	9
	3 & 10 Oct	Pensacola(3), Ft Walton Beach(2), Crestview(8)	13

	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	132

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

Tampa (1)	Pensacola (2)
Clearwater (1)	Fernandina Beach Chapter only
Tallahassee (2)	Ft Lauderdale (1) Chapter only
Miami (1)	Cocoa (1) Chapter only
St Petersburg (3), Chapter/Council	Lakeland (1), Chapter only

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 2016 Spring and Fall festivals, 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, Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also “New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg75-77, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006