



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 November 2015

**PUTTING LIFE INTO YOUR YORK RITE BODY-Part
4
Building Active Members**

Companions and Sir Knights,

Initially, you may be doing almost everything by yourself (depending on the health of your York Rite Body) but you need to expand the workload over a wider base. Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 was trying to do it all, but it was overwhelming him. Moses was initially burning out from doing everything for the children of Israel. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law advised him to pick some competent elders who could assist him, thereby spreading the workload over a greater number of people.

Remember, you can only do so much. You will also burn out if you try to do it all. If you want to build an effective York Rite bring others on board.

1. **HOLD REGULAR OFFICER MEETINGS** - Your officers are the key to building a successful York Rite Body. Informal meetings held on a night other than your regular meeting night helps to build camaraderie. If possible, meet anyplace other than the lodge hall. This can help to make a more relaxed atmosphere. Remember, these times together should be fun as well as productive.
2. **LEARN YOUR RITUAL** - The ritual is what defines who and what your organization is. It is what teaches the philosophy of your organization. Learn your part first. This will inspire others to learn their parts as well. While good ritualistic work does not always equal an active York Rite of Lodge, it is sure hard to find a lodge/ York Rite Body that is active that doesn't have good ritual from its officers. Good ritual produces pride and activity.
3. **BE POSITIVE IN YOUR ATTITUDE** - Negative attitudes only inspire people to go elsewhere.
4. **SHARE THE WORKLOAD** - Don't do it all. As noted above, you will burn out, and if you're burned out, then all the work you did was probably in vain. Share the workload. Find jobs for all your officers. Utilize their talents, and match up jobs to their skills. People will return when they are doing things they enjoy.

Part 5, will discuss Increase Activity and 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 41. Each Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives, but the enumeration shall not be construed as a limitation thereof:

- (a) It shall review at its annual conclave all reports of its officers and may review the proceedings of its constituent Commanderies.
- (b) It may adopt such Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulation as are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment and as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order.
- (c) It may create Commanderies under the terms specified in the constitution or statutes and set the fee for new Commanderies which shall not be less than \$100.00 paid in advance. It may also consolidate Constituent Commanderies under its jurisdiction. (1964, p. 343-345)(2012)
- (d) It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its Constituent Commanderies. (1964, p.343-345) (1967, 119-120)(2012)
- (e) It may require its several Constituent Commanderies to pay such portion as it may deem proper of the sums received by them for conferring the Orders, and in addition such sum annually from each member of such Commanderies as it may deem necessary for the support of the Grand Commandery.
- (f) It shall examine the accounts of its Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, supervise that state and condition of its finances and adopt such measures in relation thereof as it may deem necessary in increase, secure and preserve the same and to insure the utmost punctuality on the part of every accounting officer in the safe-keeping and delivery of the funds and property of the Grand Commandery.
- (g) It may settle all controversies that may arise among its Constituted Commanderies. (2012)
- (h) It shall, on or before July 1st of each year pay to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such an amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as dues for each member of its Constituent Commanderies, as shown by the returns of each Grand Commandery as of December 31st. (Amended 2009)
- (i) It may require each member of its Constituent Commandery to be provided with a Templar Uniform, and to that end may prescribe such Uniform and change the same from time to time. Such uniform prescribed by a Grand Commandery may be one adaptable to the climate, except that it must be a distinctly Templar uniform.

Notwithstanding the above, any uniform adopted must conform to Grand Encampment laws. These laws include but are limited to insignia of rank and the jewel of office.

When a Grand Commandery adopts a new type of uniform, Sir Knights who possess old style uniforms may retain them and not be required to purchase the new style; a Grand Commandery may sanction the continued use of a former type uniform, but it adopts only one as the dress uniform of the Grand Commandery.

(1940, p. 257-315) (1952, p.572-581) (1855, p. 463-470) (1979, p. 132-134) (1988 Pages 198-199) (2003 Pages 91-94) (2012)

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

Companions and Sir Knights, the decisions of the Grand Masters dealing with SECTION 41 are 4 full pages. Rather than including additional reading, please refer to GEKTUSA, click on Constitution, and scroll down to Section 41.

We are have had a great year in 2015 with 134 new Knightings. Let us continue the good works. 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 SK Henry Adams.

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	3
Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	2	St Augustine	
Everglades		Palatka	2
		Lake City	6
Tampa (Ivanhoe)	6	Lawtey	
St Petersburg (Sunshine)	4	Gainesville	1
Clearwater (Springtime)	4	Ocala	
Lakeland	4	Tallahassee	3
Plant City	2	Marianna	1
Sebring (Highlands)	3	Panama City	
Daytona (Halifax)		Fort Walton Beach	2
Lake Sumter	6	Crestview	8
Sanford	12	Pensacola	12
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 134 new knights for the membership year, 2015. We also have 5 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 NEXT MEMBERSHIP YEAR. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR ANTICIPATED DATE FOR 2016.**

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		Ft Myers- Nothing planned	
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa (1), Clearwater (3), Manatee/Trinity (1), St Petersburg (1), Sarasota/Trinity (1)	7
	3 & 10 Oct	Tampa (6), Clearwater (1), St Pete (4), Lakeland (1) Manatee (1), Plant City (2), Ocala (1)	14
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), Eola (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
		Lake City(6), Fernandina(1)	7
9	12-13 Feb 25-26 Sep	Tallahassee (3), Mariana (1) Tallahassee Cancelled	4
10	11 April	Pensacola	9
	5 & 19 Sep	Pensacola(3), Ft Walton Beach(2) Crestview(8)	13

6-7 March	STATEWIDE CLASS, BOX RANCH- Ft Pierce (6), Miami (6), Ft Lauderdale (12), Sanford (2), W Palm Beach (9), Sebring (3)	38
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TOTAL 2014 KNIGHTINGS	204
TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS	143

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

Tampa	(1)	Pensacola	(2)
Fernandina	(1) (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 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, 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

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