



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 May 2018

Getting New Members

As we trudge through the doldrums of summer, we must keep our goal of building our York Rite Bodies into a strong Masonic Order. We must utilize these summer months for planning our recruiting efforts and visiting our local lodges. Our fall festival period is getting close.

It is possible to get new members. In fact, there will be no growth unless there are new members into your organization.

No matter how successful a group is, if they don't continue to bring in new members, it stands a generation away from death. But if your York Rite Body is knocking on death's door, how do you attract new members.

I once asked a real estate broker what his secret of success was. How did he improve his sales? His answer; Ask for the order, ask for the order, ask for the order. As the bible says, Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find and knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7 NIV). Companions and Sir Knights, if we do not ask, they may not come.

Some things you can do include the following:

1. TALK POSITIVELY ABOUT YOUR YORK RITE BODY, AND YORK RITE IN GENERAL

No one wants to join a dying group. Keep internal problems within your tiled Body. That's where problems belong,

2. ALWAYS CARRY A PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP WITH YOU.

Be prepared.

3. BE AWARE OF SOJOURNING MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA

If they are already members but belong to a York Rite Body in faraway places, encourage them to help out by affiliating with your YRB. They can either transfer, or if permitted by our jurisdiction, have a plural membership. If they are masons but not York Rite members, encourage them to join and participate.

4. SUGGEST MEMBERSHIP TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW

You may not be able to directly ask them to join, but you sure can plant the idea.

5. ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

This starts with your officer corps. The more people who are out promoting your York Rite Body in getting new members, the more success you will have. Once you get the first new member, the others will follow.

6. ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERS TO INVITE THEIR FRIENDS

New members have the highest percentage of non-member friends. Once they are excited about the degrees and ritual work, they will invite their friends to become members.

7. MENTOR NEW MEMBERS

New members take a lot of work to get. Don't let them slip away. Assign a member to be their mentor, teaching the new member about York Rite, and how to get the most out of it. The mentor will undoubtedly become the first friend they make in our York Rite. Choose your mentors well, matching personalities and interests up.

New members. There isn't a problem in your York Rite Body that can't be solved by getting more new members.

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.

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

New Membership by District for 2017:

| DISTRICT | LOCATION | # | DISTRICT | LOCATION | # | |
|----------|---------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | West Palm Beach | | 6 | Cocoa | 1 | |
| | Fort Lauderdale | 3 | | Melbourne | | |
| | Miami | 3 | | Fort Pierce | 4 | |
| | Florida Keys | | 7 | Jacksonville | 5 | |
| 2 | Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity | | | Fernandina | | |
| | Sarasota/Venice/Trinity | | | St. Augustine | 2 | |
| | Everglades | | | Palatka | | |
| | Fort Myers | 1 | 8 | Lake City | | |
| 3 | Tampa (Ivanhoe) | | | Middleburg | 1 | |
| | St. Petersburg (Sunshine) | | | Gainesville | | |
| | Clearwater (Springtime) | | | Inverness (Ocala) | | |
| 4 | Lakeland | | | 9 | Tallahassee | |
| | Plant City | | | | Marianna | 1 |
| | Sebring (Highlands) | 4 | Panama City | | 1 | |
| 5 | Daytona (Halifax) | 2 | 10 | Fort Walton Beach | | |
| | Lake Sumter | 1 | | Crestview | 1 | |
| | Sanford | 1 | | Pensacola | 2 | |
| | Orlando | 7 | | | | |

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:
SECTION 207 NONPAYMENT OF DUES**

SECTION 207. The Eminent Commander shall supervise and determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity, or financial inability, and shall recommend to his Commandery the remission of dues whenever he deems the same justified. If the Eminent Commander does not see fit to recommend the remission of dues of a delinquent member, he shall appoint a Committee of at least two members to make a personal call, if possible, upon such delinquent member with reference thereto. The report of such Committee shall be reviewed by the Eminent Commander, and shall be reported to the Commandery. The process of suspension shall be undertaken only after the foregoing preliminary requirements have been met.

Thereupon, the Eminent Commander shall see to it that the Recorder send either a certified or registered letter to the delinquent member at his last known address, giving official notice of intention to suspend such member, including the date and hour when the suspension proceedings will be brought before the Commandery for action. At the time when such suspension proceedings are brought before the Commandery, the Eminent Commander shall first inform the Commandery of all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding such delinquent member and shall exhibit the return receipt of the certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, or the unclaimed certified or registered letter, before any action shall be taken by the Commandery. (1967, p. 83)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A Commandery may not inflict a penalty upon a member for non-payment of dues without a proper hearing. It also does not exempt members over a certain age from the payment of dues. (1910, p.108 & 248, No. 17, Rugg)

In a case where proper notice was given to the delinquent members and the meeting in question was not held due to a lack of a quorum, the question of suspension can be taken up at the next meeting without new notices since the members accused of non-payment had not appeared at the originally scheduled meetings. (1928, p.55 & 309, No. 6, Vallery)

When a member holding dual membership loses the same in one Commandery, he loses it in both, and the Grand Recorder of one jurisdiction where the sentence was imposed should notify the Grand Recorder of the other jurisdiction of the results of the trial. Provided he may demit from one Commandery without affecting his membership in the other Commandery. (1967, p.154, No.14 part 4, Brucker, 1988 digest -119)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

| DISTRICT | DATE | LOCATION | KNIGHTED |
|----------|----------------------------|---|----------|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | 14 & 21 Apr 13 & 20 Oct | Tampa Cancelled | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 10& 17 Mar | Eola, Orlando(7), Lake Sumter(1), Daytona(2), Sanford(1), Ft Myers(1), Brevard(1) | 13 |
| 6 | 13-14 Apr | Ft Pierce(4), Ft Lauderdale(3), Miami(3), Highlands(4) | 14 |
| 7 | 18-21 Apr | Jacksonville(5), St Augustine(2), Middleburg(1) | 8 |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | Orders TBA | Tallahassee | |
| 10 | 31 Mar & 14 Apr | Pensacola(2), Panama City(1), Crestview(1), Marianna(1) | |

| | |
|---|-----|
| TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS | 48 |
| TOTAL 2017 KNIGHTINGS (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2017) | 109 |

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 will not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

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

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.

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.

Fraternally,

Henry A Adams

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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 A New Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg 31-43, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006