



RITE NOTES

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

Putting Life into Your York Rite Body

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.

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 208 DISCIPLINARY RULES**

SECTION 208. When a member of a Commandery is summoned to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues and fails to appear, the Commander cannot declare him suspended until the Commandery has voted.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A Commandery may not inflict a penalty upon a member for non-payment of dues with a proper hearing. It also, may not exempt members over a certain age from the payment of dues. (1910, p. 108 & 248, No.17, Rugg)

Where the word "ballot" is used in Templar law, it means a secret ballot; when the language of the statute is by "vote", a show of hands is the proper procedure. (1939, p.39 & 339, No. 23, Agnew, 1988 Digest - 30 & 407)

New Membership by York Rite Body 2018:

| DISTRICT | DATE | LOCATION | KNIGHTED |
|----------|-----------------|---|----------|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | 14 & 21 Apr | Tampa Cancelled | |
| | 13 & 20 Oct | | |
| 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) | 5 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS | 53 |
| 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

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 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

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