



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 January 2019

IDEAS TO IMPROVE INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE

Companions and Sir Knights,

The following is a sampling of ideas that we can use to improve interest and attendance:

1. Stress the importance of fellowship. Encourage those who attend regularly to share their ideas about improving fellowship.
2. Give someone the job of greeting all members as they enter the asylum. Make sure that this person knows that it is his job to make members feel welcome when they enter.
3. NEVER allow a new member to sit alone in the asylum.
4. Make sure the High Priest, Ill. Master or Commander circulates among the members before the meeting.
5. Hold introductions to a minimum. Long introductions are a waste of time. Make all introductions with sincerity. They should be warm and personal.
6. Use the time after closing to reinforce fellowship. Thank the members for coming, and ask for feedback. How satisfied were the members and guests of the quality of fellowship that they received. Follow up with a personal note to a new member or guest thanking him for being with you.
7. Include the names of new members in your newsletter with a brief summary of their interests and the names of their wives and children.
8. Place a suggestion box in a prominent place in the asylum.
9. Give members a questionnaire they can use to evaluate the level of fellowship and activities.

10. Do not waste time. The leading cause of dissatisfaction among members is that meetings were boring and that too much time was wasted. Many of our Senior members come to our York Rite Body for relaxation, fellowship and fun. Spend less time with business and more time with fellowship. Adding some excitement and interest to the meetings will help bring members back.

11. Limit remarks at the end of the conclave. Do not allow (personal agendas) to mar an otherwise efficient meeting.

12. When planning meetings, consider the interests of the youthful and mature members equally. The older member may want things to remain unchanged; the youthful member may expect variety and excitement. Remember that newer members are determining whether they did the right thing in joining. They will evaluate your plan for the evening on their terms.

13. Focus on Quality! No matter what you do, do it well. Nothing works as well as high quality to achieve member satisfaction.

14. Make something special happen at least six times a year. Force yourself to plan in detail for the meeting; this forces you to consider the desires of the members. Plan at least six months in advance and involve your members in the planning.

a. Call on individuals in your community to provide excellent programs.

b. The principle of a local school can speak about the scholarship needs of students or ways the Commandery can help improve the school.

c. A financial planner can help members discover important financial or retirement services available to them and answer their questions.

d. A travel agent can speak about trips that are available to individuals or groups and how to save money.

e. Show any number of videotapes that will interest the members. They can be educational, fraternally related or just plain entertaining.

f. Invite a strategic planning expert or futurist from a local college or consulting firm to meet with the Commandery about how the needs of men have changed and will continue to change.

g. Ask every member to be involved by accepting an assigned date to lead a discussion on a relevant topic to Templary or Masonry. The Masonic Service Association of North America publishes a monthly "Short Talk Bulletin", a great source of relevant information. Ph. (315) 735-2217

15. Constantly focus on communications up, down and across the entire organization. Dress up and spruce up your existing publications and communications to members.

16. Consider at least a quarterly publication mailed to the member and his family.

17. Develop a list of men who have been raised to Master Mason in the past three years and ask the officers or volunteers in the Commandery to contact each by phone and invite him to a special meeting, a dinner, or a "Friends Night".

18. Mail remembrances to members and their wives on behalf of the Commandery on significant holidays, birthdays or anniversaries. Remember, every time a communication comes into the home from the Commandery, it raises the awareness of the member.

19. Maintain an attractive bulletin board and keep it current with member related news and information.

20. Improve the quality of the photographs and graphic images you use. Find a member who may be a designer or graphic artist with computer desktop publishing experience and let him review all communications, then listen to his recommendations.

21. Assign every new Sir Knight a "Buddy". This can be the top line signer of his petition or a fellow Sir Knight about the same age who agrees to be at each stated and special meeting for at least six months. This "Buddy" keeps close personal tabs on his new charge and assists him with his assimilation. He also introduces this new member to other members at every opportunity.

22. Watch for any loss of interest of a member. If attendance starts to lag, get in touch with him immediately and determine the cause. Don't let more than a few meetings to pass before contacting him. Nothing works as well with members as personal contact. Try to meet face-to-face.

23. Contact all new members who have joined over the last five years, but have been absent from the Commandery. Listen to them tell you the reasons why they have lost interest. Share the exciting new things that are happening in the Commandery. Agree to assist them with the proper signs and words if they have forgotten.

24. Identify the skills, talents and interests of each of your members, especially new members. A man joins an organization with the expectation that he will somehow be involved with the members, involved in the leadership, and involved with the community. Understand that involvement means using a man's talents. Match their involvement with their gifts and talents.

25. Reward real performance and real contributions in some meaningful way.

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 2019:

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 218: The Dispensation or Charter of a Commandery must be in the Asylum throughout the Conclave.

SECTION 219: If the Charter of a Commandery is lost, mutilated or destroyed, the Grand Master as to Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander as to Constituent Commanderies, upon satisfactory proof shall direct the respective Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy thereof under Seal.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

It is permissible for a Grand Commandery to have a law that requires the Charter or dispensation to be present throughout a Conclave. (1937, p.40 & 343, No.2, part 1, Norris)

A true copy of a Commandery Charter rather than the original Charter will satisfy the requirements of Section 218 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, subject to the following stipulations:

1. That the decision to copy and store the original Charter shall have been made by the Commander of stated Conclave.
2. That the true copy to be substituted shall carry in a margin or on the reverse side a certification by the Commander and Recorder that it is such.
3. That the Commandery records shall show in whose personal custody and in what safe place the original Charter is currently stored. (1970, p. 142 & 538. No.7, Crofts, 1988 digest 48.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2019:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS	
TOTAL 2018 KNIGHTINGS	101

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, Baderstadt, 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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