



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

Establishing a Working Membership Committee

Companions and Sir Knights,

As the summer months are upon us and many of our York Rite Bodies will be dark, don't lose the opportunity to continue to prepare for our fall festivals. They will approach quickly and again we may use the excuse that we don't have enough time to seek candidates for the fall. It is still time to contact the local lodge secretaries and obtain names and addresses of possible candidates. As we go into the long summer we must also maintain contact with our own members. Try organizing a committee and have a picnic for the companions and families and invite the new brothers recommended by the lodge secretaries. This can be not only fun but will give you an opportunity to sell York Rite to the lodge brothers.

As we learn to deal with membership and growth, it becomes necessary to establish a membership committee. A committee can guide out Bodies in ways that we approach non-York Rite Masons, and how we can sell ourselves but it takes everyone to do the job. In effect, we are all on the membership committee, and we should all look for new members. The membership sometimes assumes that the committee's job is to get members, getting themselves off the hook for that responsibility. It is not the committee's job to get new membersB it is the committee's job to train the membership to get new members!

Responsibilities of the membership committee,

A membership committee deals with all aspects of getting and retaining members. Their duties include: - Training members to talk about the fraternity.

- Developing programs for outreach into the community to make people aware of its existence.

- Mentoring new members
- Membership Retention
- Delinquent Dues.

Training members to talk about the Fraternity; This is a real problem in Masonry. Most members do not know what to say when asked the question, What is Masonry. The first step is teaching our members how to talk about their membership. I will discuss ways of talking about our lodge and York Rite next month. This is a critical step, however, No one joins what they don't know exists!

Masonic Awareness is another job of the membership committee. Provide interesting programs and invite non-York Rite members in. Many complain that nothing different happens at a meeting. (Opening, business and closing) Bring in outside speakers. Every member should have petitions. Have an Open House, Table Chapter Council or Commandery and invite others in. Show them that YOUR YORK RITE BODY wants to inform them in what we believe. In future newsletters, I will discuss Mentoring and Retention.

Membership is extremely important, however, we as a Body must work on keeping the new members when they come in. Put them to work. If you don't use them, you lose them.

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	2		Melbourne	
	Miami	3		Fort Pierce	3
	Florida Keys				
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	5		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	2
	Lake Sumter			Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando				

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 233: Officers - Resignation - Filling - Vacancies - Retention of Rank

Any officer of the Grand Encampment may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Master. Also, any Grand Commandery Officer or a Constituent Commandery Officer may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the respective Grand Recorder or Recorder.

These filings shall not be effective until accepted by the specified Commanderies.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

A Commander has the right to resign, but doing so does not complete his term of office and therefore he does not become a Past Commander and is not entitled to be uniformed as such. (1916, page 121, No. 18 Smith)

AS YOU SEE ON THE TABLE BELOW, WE HAVE BROUGHT IN VERY FEW NEW KNIGHTS. THIS IS BECAUSE THE COMMANDERY RECORDER OR FESTIVAL COORDINATOR DOES NOT REPORT THE NUMBERS KNIGHTED. IF YOU WANT YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP TO COUNT, IT IS INCUMBANT OF YOU TO CONTACT SK HENRY ADAMS.

A REMINDER: GRAND ENCAMPMENT RULES STATE THAT NEW SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2019:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6	3/30/19	Ft Pierce 3, Ft Laud. 2, Miami 3, Sarasota 5	13
7			
8			
9			
10	3/23/19	Ft Walton Beach 2	2

TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS	15
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, Beaderstadt, Jon L. Establishing A Working Membership Committee, 2005, pg 48-49, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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