



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 July 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 committees' job is to get members, getting themselves off the hook for that responsibility. It is not the committee's job to get new members but 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	5
	Sebring (Highlands)	1		Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	2
	Lake Sumter	1		Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	1
	Orlando	4			

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 231: Ritual

The Rituals, as promulgated by the Grand Encampment, cannot be altered or abridged except by the action of the Grand Encampment.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

No Commander or Commandery has the authority to add or take away from any of the forms and ceremonies in the conferring of the orders. Either the full ceremonial or the short ceremonial without abridgement or change should be used in conferring the Order of Malta. (1910, p 244-245, No. 8, Rugg)

No Commandery has the right to omit any part of the rendition of the Ritual. (1913, p 47-48, No. 10, Melish)

In the case of Honorary titles the Constitution and not the ritual governs. (1913, p54-55, No. 17, Melish)

As to the question of wording in the Lord's Prayer only the Grand Encampment has the power to alter the ritual and the wording used in the ritual is therefore the proper wording. (1916, p 38, No. 8, MacArthur)

A Grand Commandery may prescribe a ceremony for its own opening so long as it does not conflict with the laws of the Grand Encampment. (1916, p 45, No. 17, MacArthur)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER: (Continued)

There is no authority for a Grand Commander to adopt an abbreviated form for the prescribed Full Form Opening.

Ritual directions that the short form be used only "in an extreme case" is required.

Tactics are under the control of the Grand Commandery but where tactics are prescribed by the ritual they must be observed.

No part of the ritual can be published by the Grand Commandery but tactics may refer to ritual page and line number.

(1952, p 66 & 159, No. 7, 1988 digest - 330)

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	3/30/19		
2	3/30/19		
3			
4	3/30/19	Ft Pierce, Sebring (1)	1
5	3/16/19	Orlando(4), Lake Sumter (1)	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), Pensacola (1), Marianna (3)	6
TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS			25
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

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 Chairman, Grand Encampment Membership Committee

"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. *The Mystery Visitor*, 2005, pg 41-46, and from the *Grand Commanders Handbook* given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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