



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

Learning How to talk about The Fraternity

Members of our Great Fraternity are very good at talking about Freemasonry and its appendant bodies - but only with each other. Once we get out in public, we have a tendency to clam up and become unsure of ourselves.

We have explored some of the reasons we are afraid to talk about. We have explored various myths and concerns. Now has come the time to learn to talk about it.

Every day, we have many opportunities to talk about Freemasonry and what it means to us. It may come in the form of a question by a stranger, a co-worker or a friend. The question of membership will often be initiated by someone else, giving you a wonderful opportunity to share an organization that has been important to your life.

Most people's questions are not hostile, although sometimes we respond as if it is. If we interpret questions as curiosity, we can deal with them in a rational and friendly manner.

I remember once a lady commented "Oh you must be one of those Mason guys" after seeing an emblem on my van. It led to many years of discussion about the Fraternity, and has helped many fellow (and non-Masonic) pastors have a greater understanding about what Freemasonry is all about.

Now is the time for you to add to our discourse. At the end of this exercise, you will find six (6) questions. Spend some time writing your answers. At the very end of this section, you will be able to write a short statement (25 words or less) defining Freemasonry, OES or any other appendant body.

Why such a short statement? Because when people ask questions, they are not necessarily looking for long, drawn out explanations. Time is valuable, and most want to get as much information as possible. When they are interested in learning more, you can go into more detail.

This exercise will allow you to be more direct and open, and feel comfortable expressing your feeling and knowledge about the Fraternity.

1. Why did you join the Fraternity?
2. What has Masonry (or an Appendant Body) done for you?
3. What benefits have you derived from your membership?
4. In what ways has it made you a better person?

5. What has the ritual taught you?
6. Why should a person consider joining the Fraternity?

The Fall festivals are over and, we are now preparing for the Spring festivals. The success of our festivals has been excellent in that we knighted 136 new knights, this year. WE have had the best year in several years, with a total of 135 or 35 over last year. Now we need to put them to work and keep them. Great job!

We can then begin planning for our Spring festivals. Let's continue our efforts and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. Allow them to take a seat and participate in the leadership of the body. If all seats are filled, encourage them to get involved in the ritual work as part of a degree team, but let them know that they are needed.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, Short of Time or Slow Classes, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, for the Spring of 2020 and I will put it in the January newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

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	4	6	Cocoa	3
	Fort Lauderdale	4		Melbourne	2
	Miami	18		Fort Pierce	10
	Florida Keys				
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	1	7	Jacksonville	12
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	11		Fernandina	3
	Everglades			St Augustine	
	Fort Myers			Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	6	8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	3		Middleburg	2
	Clearwater (Springtime)	6		Gainesville	5
				Inverness (Ocala)	
4	Lakeland	2	9	Tallahassee	3
	Plant City	1		Marianna	3
	Sebring (Highlands)	1		Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	3	10	Fort Walton Beach	2
	Lake Sumter	5		Crestview	8
	Sanford	2		Pensacola	3
	Orlando	18			

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 235: Retention of Rank

One who has filled by installation and term of office, the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General or Department Commander in the Grand Encampment: Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General in a Grand Commandery; or Commander in a Commandery; shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him in the Grand Encampment, Grand Commandery and Commandery, with the word "Past" immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the offices

named in this section, and may include the Administrative Offices as authorized in Section 43 and 55 of the Constitution provided that the provisions of this section shall apply to all Department Commanders who have served their terms of office "prior to the 49th Triennial Conclave. Provided that an officer who is installed and thereafter dies during his term of office shall be entitled to be considered as having filled his term of office. (1964, p.6 & 334-338 & 340-341)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

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

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	9/28/10	Tampa, Melbourne (2), Sarasota (6), Tampa (6), Clearwater (6), St Petersburg (3)	23
4	3/30/19	Ft Pierce, Sebring (1)	1
5	3/16/19	Orlando (4), Lake Sumter (1)	5
	7/28/19	Orlando (14), Daytona (3), Lake Sumter (4), Sanford (2), Lakeland (2), Plant City (1), Cocoa (3), Gainesville (3), Miami (1), Bradenton (1)	34
6	3/30/19	Ft Pierce (3), Ft Laud. (2), Miami (3), Sarasota (5)	13
	5/19/19	Ft Pierce, Ft Pierce (7), Ft Lauderdale (2), Miami (14), Palm Beach (2)	25
7	9/21/19	Jacksonville (12), Fernandino Beach (3), Middleburg (2), Lake City (1), Gainesville (2), Tallahassee (1)	21
8		SEE DISTRICT 7	
9	9/14/19	Crestview(4), Pensacola (2), Tallahassee (2)	8
10	3/23/19	Ft Walton Beach (2), Pensacola (1), Marianna (3)	6

TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS	136
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, Beaderstadt, Jon L. " Learning how to Talk About our Fraternity". 2005, pg 73 to 75, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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