



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 March 2020

"Tools Needed to Get Members"

Companions and Sir Knights,

Now that you have learned to talk about why the Fraternity is important to you, and know how what people are seeking in fraternal membership in the 21st Century, you need a few tools to carry with you. Remember, you can only fix so much with duct tape! Sometimes you need a wrench and screwdriver, too. (Put on a tool belt and you really look like an expert!). Here are some tools you need to carry with you.

Things for Members to do:

1. **Wear some kind of visible emblem.** They make great conversation starters, plus it advertises the Fraternity.
2. **Put an emblem on your car.** Of course, if you do, be sure you act in the character of a member of the Fraternity.
3. **Carry a petition with you.** Many states are now producing a "pocket petition" that can easily be carried in a wallet to give to someone. You can't get petitions if you don't have any. Ask your secretary for several. They're usually provided free from your Grand Body.
4. **Have brochures on the Fraternity.** All of our Grand Bodies produce some kind of brochures on the Fraternity. They don't do any good lying around on a shelf. There are even pocket size brochures available from Coffee Time Press that are very inexpensive.
5. **Carry a pen.** How can one fill out a petition if they don't have a pen to write with?
6. **Know your initiation fees.** You should collect a fee with the petition, so know how much to ask for.

Some Things for Lodges and Chapters to do:

1. **Provide brochures and petitions for members.** It is a good idea to send out a brochure and a petition with each dues notice at the very minimum. You're already paying for the postage, adding two pieces won't cost you any more money.
2. **Publish the fees for joining annually.** Send that information out with the dues notices, and publish it in your newsletter.
3. **Talk about how to get members at your meetings.** Show your members how it's done. It would make a good educational program for a regular meeting.
4. **Order some mini-brochures from Coffee Time Press.** Yeah, I know it's a plug for us, but people keep telling us its pretty good stuff. Besides, if we don't tell you, how will you know where to get them?
5. **Contact your Grand Body for brochures and petitions.** Order them in bulk. Don't be shy, the Grand Secretary is usually happy to send them out to lodges and chapters that want to bring in new members.
6. **Make your Masonic Center more visible.** If people don't know you exist, they will simply drive on by.
7. **Get ready for new members by sharpening your ritualistic work.** The Ritual teaches the lessons of the Fraternity. If the candidate is not impressed, they won't come back. If you can't do the work, enlist outside help. It's available. Know ahead of time where you can get the help.

Remember, equip, train and send out the troops, and they will come back with results!

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 2020:

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	
	Ft Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	
	Florida Keys				
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	2	7	Jacksonville	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Everglades			St Augustine	
	Fort Myers	1		Palatka	

3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	1	8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	2		Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	1		Gainesville	
				Inverness (Ocala)	
4	Lakeland	1	9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	4		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter			Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando				

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

SECTION 36: CONCLAVES

The Conclaves of the Grand Commandery shall be:

- (a) Stated; which shall be held at least once each year.
- (b) Special; which may be called by the Grand Commander, and he shall call such conclave upon the written request of a majority of the Commanderies.

No business shall be transacted at such conclaves, save that specified by the Grand Commander, or set out in the request.

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER:

There is no requirement for a charter to be physically present or a Grand Conclave to be held. (1916,p. 50 & 294, No. 22, MacArthur)

A quorum being present, a Grand Commander may, without ceremony declare the Grand Commandery open. He may adopt and use any form of ceremony (not consistent with the laws and purposes of the order) incident to the opening of the conclave. He may select some Commandery to perform the ceremonies of opening. The legal opening is by the Grand Commander or other presiding officer calling the meeting to order and declaring it open. It is permissible to provide entertainment for families and guest. (1925, p. 88 & 410, No. 30, Newby,

There is no precise ritualistic procedure to be used in convening the Grand Commandery (1955, p. 75- & 196, Np. 2, Gordon, 1988 digest-176)

It would be improper and illegal to proceed on a matter of such importance as incorporating the Grand Commandery as a non-profit organization, based solely on the decision of the line officers, but it should be submitted to a special conclave or to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. (1955. p.104 & 275, No. 26, Gordon, 1988 digest - 177)

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 2020:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa(1),St Pete (2), Clearwater (1),Plant City(4), Manasota(2)Lakeland(1), Ft Myers(1)	12
4			
5	27-28 March	Cancelled until the Fall	
6	27-28 March	Ft Pierce, Postponed	
7	19-20-21 March	Jacksonville, Postponed	
8			
9			
10	4 April & 2 May	Pensacola	
TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS			12
TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS			136

I would like to commend the Grand Chapter of Florida, for having a net 51 in membership for 2019. By bringing in more members than we lose, we can grow.

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Spring 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. " Tools Needed to Get Members". 2005, pg 83 to 86, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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