



RITE NOTES

and Recruiting 15 October 2020

Membership

Let Your Members Know What You're Doing PART TWO

Communication in dying organizations are usually close to non-existent. Open the lines of communication so your members know you are alive and active again. Even is a majority don't come back to active status, if they know the Body is active, they will be more inclined to pay their dues each year. After all, who wants to throw money down a rat hole. If they see your organization is dead, they will probably be more inclined to quit paying their dues.

1. **Personal Contact Works the Best** - Phone calls and personal contact works. It is especially effective when you call to see how your non-active members are doing. When your non-active realize that you care about them as people (versus just wanting their time and money), the more inclined they are to be supportive with their time and money. Make an invitation. Show them that you care.
2. **Publish a Newsletter** - It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. A simple sheet of 8 1/2x11 inch paper, front and back, with a place to put the mailing label will work. It should be pleasant to look at, and with today's computers, that's not difficult anymore. *Keep it light and upbeat.* (Don't whine) Tell your members what is happening at your YR Body. It will give your members the impression that things are on the upswing again. Positive attitudes bring positive results.
3. **Use High Tech to Promote** - More and more of your members are using technology these days. The growth of computer use and e-mail are growing even amongst your older members. Use e-mail with those who have it. E-mail is free. You can create e-mail groups using Microsoft Outlook, to create small groups. You can also set them up on line using YahooGroups.com. These are all effective ways to reach your members. Even if all your members are not computer literate. Don't overlook the segment that is.
4. **Use the Local Media to Promote** - Community newspapers, Cable TV systems, local radio stations and more offer free space to promote community activities. Contact each of your local media to find out their local rules, meet the people in charge, and learn their deadlines. Make friends with the local media. Using it to promote your organization will give your community an awareness that your organization not only exists, but is alive and well.
5. **Make Sure that you have Good Signage in Front of Your Building-** How your building looks make a statement about your organization. Does it look kept up? Is it attractive, or is it an eyesore. Maybe as a tenant, in a lodge, you can (as a project) assist the lodge in keeping the building attractive. Is there a sign out front telling the world who you are and when you meet? Is there a telephone number for a contact person? Good signage can be effective in building your lodge and YR Body.

Remember, create an image of life and success and it will be contagious.

Part 3, will discuss Building Active Members.

Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 2 of a 4 part series. Communication may be an important part of the operation of any lodge or York Rite Body, but if you don't have someone coming to the meetings, you don't last long. So how do you get your members to attend.

Most of your members don't attend because they don't think anything worthwhile is happening or they don't have a job. Once a member begins to think this, it's hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

Companions and Sir Knights, we must bring our members back and encourage them to stay and participate in all our activities. To do this, a well planned, well executed program needs to be developed. Lets' bring them back.

Membership growth and retention is a slow process. At first it may look hopeless. But persevere, and you will find it easier to build. Remember, success does breed success. Start small, publicize, be positive, and you will reap the harvest.

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 Fall of 2020 and I will put it in the next 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	2
	Ft Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami	12		Fort Pierce	12
	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	

4	Lakeland	1	11	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	4		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando				

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT: CONCLAVES

SECTION 67. Officers Duty to Attend Grand Conclaves

It is the duty of the Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General of Subordinate Commanderies within the continental limits of the United States to attend the conclaves of the Grand Encampment, and the duties of such officers of Constituent Commanderies to attend the conclaves of their respective Grand Commanderies. The Grand Master, in the case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commandery, in the case of Constituent Commanderies, shall have power and authority to take such action as he or it may deem appropriate to enforce the provisions of this section. The Grand Master shall report any such action at the next conclave of the Grand Encampment. (1967, p. 97-101)

SECTION 68.

No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander. When the decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, and Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Constitution Commandery, but pending the decision of an appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Inquiry regarding the construction of legislation of a Grand Commandery should be to the Grand Commander. After the Grand Commander has ruled a member may appeal to the Grand Master. (1910, p. 105 & 245, No. 9, Rugg)

Appeals from Commanderies under Grand Jurisdiction go to the Grand Commandery and those under the Grand Encampment to that body. (1919, p. 49 & 293, No. 11, Smith, 1988 digest -8 and 60, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or the By-Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by a Constituent Commandery, or to the Grand Encampment by the Subordinate

A REMINDER: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SOLUTIONS (MMS) RULES STATE THAT NEW COMPANIONS AND SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS.

New Membership by York Rite Body 2020:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1	12 Sept	Miami	
2			
3	7 & 14 Mar	Tampa (1), St Pete (2), Clearwater (1), Plant City (4), Manasota (2), Lakeland (1), Ft Myers (1), Highlands (2)	14
4	3 Oct	Lakeland	
5	5 Aug 13 & 20 Mar 21	Eola: Mark Master, Past Master	
6	2-3 Oct	Ft Pierce Chap/Council: 12, Cocoa 2, Lake Sumter 3, Miami 12, 29	
	3 Oct	Gainesville	
8	3 Oct	Gainesville	
9	6 & 7 Nov	Crestview	
10	4 April & 2 May 6 & 7 Nov	Pensacola (Postponed) Crestview	
TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS			14
TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS			136

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Fall Festival, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Fraternally,

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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. "New Life in Dying Lodges". 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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