



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting

15 October 2020

Building Active Members

PART THREE

Companions and Sir Knights,

Initially, you may be doing almost everything by yourself (depending on the health of your York Rite Body) but you need to expand the workload over a wider base. Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 was trying to do it all, but it was overwhelming him. Moses was initially burning out from doing everything for the children of Israel. Jethro, Moses= father-in-law advised him to pick some competent elders who could assist him, thereby spreading the workload over a greater number of people.

Remember, you can only do so much. You will also burn out if you try to do it all. If you want to build an effective York Rite bring others on board.

1. **HOLD REGULAR OFFICER MEETINGS** - Your officers are the key to building a successful York Rite Body. Informal meetings held on a night other than your regular meeting night helps to build comradery. If possible, meet anyplace other than the lodge hall. This can help to make a more relaxed atmosphere. Remember, these times together should be fun as well as productive.

2. **LEARN YOUR RITUAL** - The ritual is what defines who and what your organization is. It is what teaches the philosophy of your organization. Learn your part first. This will inspire others to learn their parts as well. While good ritualistic work does not always equal an active York Rite or Lodge, it is sure hard to find a Lodge or York Rite Body that is active that does not have good ritualists as its officers. Good ritualists produce pride and activity.

3. **BE POSITIVE IN YOUR ATTITUDE** - Negative attitudes only inspire people who go elsewhere.

4. **SHARE THE WORKLOAD** - Don't do it all. As noted above, you will burn out, and if you are burned out, then all the work you did was probably in vain. Share the workload. Find jobs for all your officers. Utilize their talents, and match up jobs to their skills. People will return when they are doing things they enjoy.

Part 4, will discuss Increase Activity, Building Active Members.

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

Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 3 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	4
	Ft Lauderdale	2		Melbourne	
	Miami	12		Fort Pierce	10
	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	
4	Lakeland	1	11	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	4		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Panama City	

5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	1	
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	5	
	Sanford			Pensacola	4	
	Orlando					

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT: CONCLAVES

SECTION 69. Terms of Office

Officers of the Commanderies shall hold office and discharge the duties thereof for the term for which they are elected or appointed and until their successors are duly installed.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER

It is proper to issue a dispensation for a Commandery special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Generalissimo where the person elected was not present for the election and had never accepted or been installed. In such case the office had not been filled.

One having been elected to the office of Captain General of a Commandery and having died before installation, there is a vacancy in that office. A dispensation for a special election under such circumstance would be legal

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: 10, Cocoa 2, Lake Sumter 3, Miami 12, Ft Lauderdale 2, 29	
7		Jacksonville	
8	3 Oct	Gainesville	
9	6 & 7 Nov	Crestview, (5), Ft Walton (1), Pensacola (4) 10	
10	4 April & 2 May 6 & 7 Nov	Pensacola (Postponed) Crestview	
TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS			39
CHAPTER/COUNCIL			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,

Henry A. Adams
HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC, KYGCH, KCT, OPC
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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