



## **RITE NOTES**

Membership and Recruiting  
15 March 2021

### **Getting New Members**

As we trudge through the doldrums of winter and COVID-19, we must keep our goal of building our York Rite Bodies into a strong Masonic Order. We must utilize these winter months for planning our recruiting efforts and visiting our local lodges. Our spring festival period is now here.

It is possible to get new members. In fact, there will be no growth unless there are new members into your organization.

No matter how successful a group is, if they don't continue to bring in new members, it stands a generation away from death. But if your York Rite Body is knocking on death's door, how do you attract new members.

I once asked a real estate broker what his secret of success was. How did he improve his sales? His answer; Ask for the order, ask for the order, ask for the order. As the bible says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find and knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7 NIV). Companions and Sir Knights, if we do not ask, they may not come.

Some things you can do include the following:

**1. TALK POSITIVELY ABOUT YOUR YORK RITE BODY, AND YORK RITE IN GENERAL**

No one wants to join a dying group. Keep internal problems within your tiled Body. That's where problems belong,

**2. ALWAYS CARRY A PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP WITH YOU.**

Be prepared.

**3. BE AWARE OF SOJOURNING MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA**

If they are already members but belong to a York Rite Body in faraway places, encourage them to help out by affiliating with your YRB. They can either transfer, or if permitted by our jurisdiction, have a plural membership. If they are masons but not York Rite members, encourage them to join and participate.

4. SUGGEST MEMBERSHIP TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW

You may not be able to directly ask them to join, but you sure can plant the idea.

5. ENCOURAGE YOUR MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

This starts with your officer corps. The more people who are out promoting your York Rite Body in getting new members, the more success you will have. Once you get the first new member, the others will follow.

6. ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERS TO INVITE THEIR FRIENDS

New members have the highest percentage of non-member friends. Once they are excited about the degrees and ritual work, they will invite their friends to become members.

7. MENTOR NEW MEMBERS

New members take a lot of work to get. Don't let them slip away. Assign a member to be their mentor, teaching the new member about York Rite, and how to get the most out of it. The mentor will undoubtedly become the first friend they make in our York Rite. Choose your mentors well, matching personalities and interests up.

New members. There is not a problem in your York Rite Body that can't be solved by getting more new members.

**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 2021 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 2021:**

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach	1	6	Cocoa	4
	Ft Lauderdale	2		Melbourne	
	Miami	12		Fort Pierce	10
	Florida Keys				
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity	5	7	Jacksonville	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Everglades			St Augustine	
	Fort Myers	2		Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	6	8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	4		Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	3		Gainesville	

4	Lakeland	3	9	Tallahassee		
	Plant City	4		Marianna		
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City		
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	1	
	Lake Sumter	4		6	Crestview	5
	Sanford				Pensacola	4
	Orlando	3				

**REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT: CONCLAVES**

**SECTION 72. SUCCESSION TO OFFICE OF COMMANDER**

**Sec 72:** In case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act a Commander. In case of the disability of the Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act. In case of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Generalissimo or his advancement as above provided, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In the case of the like disability of the Captain General, or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant and the Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies, shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of like disability of all three officers, a Dispensation may issue for a special election to fill the vacancies and any others which may result there from, pending which the junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander. (1940, p 338)

The Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of Constituent Commanderies, may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient and may issue a Dispensation to fill the vacancy. (1940, p. 338)

**DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER**

Upon vacancy of the Generalissimo, the Captain General succeeds to the duties but not the office of Generalissimo. He remains Captain General and the office of Generalissimo remains vacant until filled by election. (1922, p. 22 & 269, No. 3, Orr)

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. (1931, p. 81 & 265, No. 7, Sharp)

The Commander-elect having died without installation, it was held the **old** Commander remains Commander since he retains the office until his successor is installed. As there therefore no vacancy there is not right of succession. A Dispensation should be obtained to elect a successor. (1937, pp 23 & 319, No 1, Agnew. 1988 digest - 346)

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

**New Membership by York Rite Body 2021:**

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2	1 May	Ft Myers	
3	12 & 13 Mar	Tampa (6), St Pete (4), Clearwater (3), Plant City (4), Manasota (5), Lakeland (3), Ft Myers (2), Orlando(3), Lake Sumter(6)	36
4			
5	13 & 20 Mar 21		
6	12 & 13 Mar	Ft Pierce Chap (9) Cocoa (3, Palm Beach (1), Miami (20), Ft Lauderdale (5),	38
7	3 April	Jacksonville	
8		Gainesville	
9			
10	10 Apr	Pensacola /Crestview	
<b>TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS</b>			74
<b>TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS</b>			134

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. "Getting New Members". 2004, pg 83-85, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

Email: hadams1@aol.com