



RITE NOTE

Membership and Recruiting
15 April 2021

Began Planning Now

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin our new period of growth within the Florida Grand York Rite, I look forward to having the best year ever. This goal is achievable if the Officers of each York Rite Body begin to plan now for developing interest in what we do and what we stand for. We cannot achieve this goal if members in all three Bodies do not participate. Yes, many Officers and Sir Knights possess good leadership and planning skills to methodically organize and coordinate the conferral of our degrees and Orders on single and multiple candidates. What can we learn from them, and how do they effectively organize their activities.

A Positive Attitude

Many are in agreement that the success of any project begins with a positive attitude. Some refer to this as a “Can do” spirit. Leaders in any organization possess this trait, and display it frequently. It is a contagious spirit, and usually becomes a virtue of the entire leadership team.

If the Officers or members of a York Rite Body believe they may not be able to contribute to the goal then a reminder of an age-old quote might be appropriate:

*“If you keep on doing the things that you have been doing,
Then you will continue to get exactly what you’ve been getting.”*

Take Advantage of the Skills Available

We know that each YRB has Companions and Sir Knights possessing great skills and talents. Ask them to become part of this great Crusade even if they may not have attended a Stated Conclave recently. The use of their talents will make a significant difference. Don’t forget to include the ladies in the event planning, as they too will contribute to the overall success. In particular, the Chapters of the Social Order of the Beauceant have always supported the Knight Templars, and can always be counted on. Invite the Companions of local Chapters and Councils as the entire York Rite benefits from the effort.

An Effective Implementation Plan

Develop a new list of all the activities that will be needed to make the event a success. Start with reserving the Asylum for the event. A suggested “Check List” is included as a reminder, but please remember that this will be a “big event” requiring “Big Planning”.

Successful leaders experience goal attainment for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they have challenged and elevated their Officer team thinking and prepared a plan that emphasizes effectiveness more than efficiency. The following ideas, if implemented will help each Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, ensure that his plan will increase in effectiveness.

Have you considered any of these things?

1. Send a letter on your York Rite stationary to each Officer expressing your support for the membership Crusade, and enlist his support. Tell him you are proud of him. Add a sense of urgency to your request.
2. During your next Officers Meeting secure a commitment from each of your elected and appointed Officers to get at least one petition. This sets a good example for other members. Encourage them to do the same. It also displays commitment to a common purpose among the leadership.
3. Write regular personal endorsements of the Crusade in your monthly newsletter. Request the chapter and council leaders do the same.
4. Consider establishing a unique Award for the Crusade, i.e., Most Knightings in your home Commandery, Highest Membership Gain, Most Restorations, etc. Offer special incentives, like free meals for two. Be creative.
5. Get more Committees involved! Review your Committee list, and get some inactive committees active. This spreads the leadership around and offers a chance for other Officers to show what they are made of.
6. Consider writing a letter to all of your Past leaders. Share your plans with them, and enlist their support, and participation. They will assist you.
7. Meet regularly with your Chapter, Council and Commandery leadership. Working together within the “Family of Masonry” increases cooperation exponentially.
8. Call or meet with the Deputy or Actives of the Scottish Rite, and seek their support. They might be willing to support a direct mail campaign for the Crusade, and encourage “Non-York Rite” Scottish Rite Masons to join. Perhaps you could arrange a York Rite conferral at their next Convocation in their auditorium?
9. Call or meet with the leadership of the Shrine Temples in your state and request consideration for a joint “Cold Sands” event with your York Rite Crusade Festivals. Request the Shrine help to sell the benefits of York Rite just as the York Rite should sell the benefits of Shrine membership.
10. Consider a York Rite Festival to honor the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Perhaps his junior Officers would join too if they were Non-York Rite Masons.
11. Assign each of your elected and appointed Officers of the York Rite Body, to become a “Crusade Speakers Bureau”. Request that they arrange invitations to Blue Lodges to present “York Rite Overview Programs” to promote our Christian Masonry heritage. Suggest three programs per month each.

Begin to Target New Members and Restorations

The “Crusade” targets both new Members and restorations. We know that the Symbolic Lodges provide us with the primary source for new Christian Masons. York Rite membership committees should consider targeting Masons with current brochures that summarize York Rite and its philanthropies.

Acquire a list of non-York Rite Masons from the Symbolic Lodge or even better (as a couple Districts have already done) Contact Grand Lodge, and in particular the Grand Secretary, and request a list of address labels for your Masonic District. I sent out 342 letters last week to all Masons raised in the last 3 years in our District (that were not York Rite). This will work. Ask for volunteers from the Chapters and Councils to assist, and try to include Masons that you personally know on your list.

Selling York Rite

The “One-on-One” sales technique has historically been the most effective. Prepare an updated membership roster, a description of its activities, family involvement, community projects, and the benefits of joining our Christian Masonic Order. Know something about our philanthropies. What were the benefits that inspired you to join? Share them. Also, provide recognition to the Sir Knights that are successful in gaining new members and restorations.

Today’s Relevance

A nationally known religious leader once said that if you put God first, everything else falls into place. How simple, and yet how profound. This is the spirit of York Rite today! There are many Masons that will enjoy and appreciate membership in this great Order. All you have to do is tell them what we stand for and ask them to join. Let’s show everyone that we are as good as we say we are!

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	1
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	2
	Everglades			St Augustine	1
	Fort Myers	2		Palatka	1

3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	6	8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	4		Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	3		Gainesville	7
4	Lakeland	3	9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	4		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	1 1
	Lake Sumter	4 8		Crestview	5 5
	Sanford			Pensacola	4 6
	Orlando	3			

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT: CONCLAVES

SECTION 79. QUALIFICATIONS NOT TO CHANGED

The Orders of Knighthood shall be conferred only upon candidates who possess the qualifications for members fixed by the statutes of the Grand Encampment. Such qualifications, when defined, shall not be changed by Grand Commanderies or Commanderies; provided, that any Grand Commandery may, by proper enactment and, by at least two-thirds vote, require the Cryptic Degrees as prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood in its Constituent Commanderies. (1958, p.313-319)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER

When the word "ballot" is used in Templar law it means a secret ballot, when the language of the statute is by "vote", a show of hands is the proper procedure. 1937, p. 39 & 339 No. 23 Agnew, 1988 digest - 30 & 407)

If the council prerequisite did not apply to the Knight Templar when he petitioned for the Orders, it can never be applied to him individually, and no resolution can be adopted under the authority of Section 79 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, which would apply such prerequisite to a Knight Templar, neither can it be required that he continue to be an active member of a Council of Royal and Select Masters if he becomes a member after becoming a Knight Templar.

If Council membership was prerequisite to Knight Templar membership in the individual case, good standing in the Council as well as in the Lodge and Chapter must support Templar membership. (1970, p. 142 & 543, No. 9, Crofts, 1988 digest - 87)

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: Tampa (6), St Petersburg (4), Clearwater (3), Plant City (4), Manasota (5), Lakeland (3), Ft Myers (2), Orlando(3), Lake Sumter(6)	36
4			
5	13 & 20 Mar	Orlando: Cancelled	
	9 & 16 Oct 21		
6	12 & 13 Mar	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (9) Cocoa (3, Palm Beach (1), Miami (20), Ft Lauderdale (5),	38
7	3 April	Jacksonville: Jacksonville (1), Fernandina Beach (2), Palatka (1), Gainesville (7), Lake City (1), Lake Sumter (2), St Augustine (1)	15
8		Gainesville:	
9			
10	10 Apr	Crestview/Pensacola: Pensacola(6), Ft Walton(1), Crestview(5)	12
TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS			101
TOTAL 2020 KNIGHTINGS			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

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