



RITE NOTE

Membership and Recruiting
15 May 2021

Finding Resources to Revitalize your York Rite Body

Companions and Sir Knights,

Companions and Sir Knights, I would like to commend each of you for the concerted effort you have made in your recruiting efforts you have made this year. With the Pandemic almost over, you have done a great job in bringing in those candidates to the Chapter and Council and in particular to the Commandery. We, in Florida, knighted 102 new knights, in our Spring Festivals, and are hoping for a big fall festival programs. Congratulations.

It takes a spark to get a fire going. To rejuvenate any organization, there needs to be a spark of life. Once you have that spark it has to be fanned into a vision which gets other people on board, dreaming the same things. If you are not all working toward the same goal, things will fall apart again.

Dying organizations often suffer from multiple visions of dreams that are in conflict with one another. Each member has his own idea and no one is willing to bend or share to achieve a common goal.

Once you realize that a dream or vision is put together then you need to put together the resources that will help you renew your organization. You do not have to reinvent the wheel to be successful. There is nothing wrong with borrowing ideas from other organizations and applying what will work in your particular setting.

There are many resources you can utilize. Books are very useful as a resource, Your Grand Lodge and Grand Bodies can be a wealth of information. Many times, they have materials all ready for you to use. If you don't know how to contact a secretary in the groups, the internet is a great source or contact me or the Grand Sec-Recorder. . Ask for information, and names of committees that can help. They often have materials that can help in support of your efforts.

Years ago, it was not uncommon to find appealing to a grand body less than appealing. The philosophy has changed in recent years. Our Grand Lodge and Grand York Rite are very receptive to inquiries of this type. The Masonic Service Association of North America began creating resources in the 1920's. Many of the ideas are still in use today.

Speak to the secretary of your Blue Lodge and your local York Rite Body and ask what materials they may have received on membership. You may be surprised that they may have materials that have never been passed out because maybe, no one was interested. Often, the material that can be most helpful in revitalizing a group is kept in the hands of one or two people. They may have thought that no one was interested in reading it. In some cases, they felt that people did not really appreciate the material, or might misuse it, so they kept it hidden.

You may want to go through some of the back rooms of your Masonic Center and see what is sitting there. I understand that one Worshipful master was going through some drawers and filling cabinets and was stunned to find material that had been hidden away for years. The secretary, who had died a few years before, had hidden it in fear that the members were too dumb to read it, so they would probably lose it. Some members knew that the material existed, but do not know where to find it. He pulled it out, dusted it off and started making use of it.

Another good way of getting information is to go to other lodges and York Rite Bodies. Visit both large and small ones. Ask who is doing well and go talk to their officers. Pay a visit and began developing a relationship.

This will do two things for your organization. It will provide you with contact for additional manpower when you need it. It will also give you a chance to see new ideas. Not everything that you see will work for you, but many of them can.

When you see other organizations growing and discover how they are successful, it will give you new hope and encouragement. Sure, there are those out there struggling, but some have broken through the barriers and are going against the grain. They are growing, they are prospering and you can do the same.

Another source of information is the business section of your local library or book stores like Barns and Noble or Borders. There are all kinds of inspirational books written that are applicable to many organizations. Many deal with the business world, but can be applied to fraternal organizations.

You may find information at your place of worship that can be helpful. Churches have been looking at ways to be relevant in the community and have invested lots of money in research and plans. You may find information they have already researched that can help you. Certainly churches focus of spiritual needs; we are all dealing with emotional needs. This may be a good source.

Have you ever wondered what makes Amway so successful? Most of us have been approached about going to an Amway presentation. When people get involve with Amway, even if they are not making money at it, keep going back to seminars. The weekends held all over the country bring members together and build excitement. People come out of these sessions feeling they can walk on water. You leave thing that you have really accomplished something.

How does that apply to us?

Bring masons to your York Rite meetings. Plan a short five to ten minute program where members leave feeling encouraged. The world is a hard place. People want to feel that their life is worthwhile.

Sure, the first time you bring someone in, people may squawk and say A well that is really great but it can=t work here@. Over time the most negative individual can be brought on board. Don=t be afraid to try and help develop a vision. Resources to do this work are numerous. A little hunting, even on the internet, is a beginning to new ideas. Not everything will work; you may have to do some digging to find the perfect idea for your situation. Remember, when they drill for oil wells, many turn out to be dry, but there are the few gushers that really pay off. Look for the gushers and don=t worry about the dry holes. Let the dividend s pay off in the long run.

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	3		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
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	5
	Sanford			Pensacola	4
	Orlando	3			

REGARDING THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT: CONCLAVES

SECTION 82. SOJOURNERS

No Commandery may confer the Orders, or any one of them, upon any Sojourner unless the consent of the Commandery having territorial jurisdiction is first obtained, provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any Commandery to receive the Petition of and confer the Orders upon any person belonging to the Active Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey and the National Aeronautical Space Agency of the United States of America who shall have been stationed within its territorial Jurisdiction for at least six months prior to the presentation of his Petition. In the event of a violation of this section the Commandery offending shall pay to the Commandery having Territorial Jurisdiction the received for such admission and be subject to such other penalties as may be provided by law.

REMEMINDER: 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 CHROME

New Membership by York Rite Body 2021:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2	1 May	Ft Myers:	1
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			102
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. "Finding Resources to revitalize your Chapter or Commandery pg 87-93, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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