



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 July 2021

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IS IMPORTANT

Companions and Sir Knights,

We had a good Spring Festival period this year with 102 new knightings. Let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD=s as low as possible. Bring them back and put them to work. I had the honor of attending a degree this week with 15 candidates in Sarasota. Sanford expects 4 candidates in September. With a good showing, in Tampa, Pensacola, Ft Pierce Orlando and Jacksonville, we should have a great Fall Festival period. Now is the time to get to your Blue Lodges and provide them with the greater light of the York Rite.

Many Companions and Sir Knights throughout our jurisdiction are experiencing an Aadrenaline rush@ associated with the enthusiasm of the recent membership Crusade. What a thrill it is to be part of such a magnanimous order and to participate is such a noble cause.

New suggestions for membership. Our Grand York Rite has sent out to each York Rite Body a short video. The video will include (Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine) and can be used by the Blue Lodge to familiarize the newly raised Masons with other Bodies associated with Masonry. These were developed by SK Richard Wolfe of Brevard York Rite Bodies. These thumb drives should be of great assistance in growing our membership. To go along with the thumb drives, there should be a lodge representative for each lodge that feeds into your Bodies. This video can now be downloaded to your phone, so you can always have it and demonstrate it to prospects **At the time a newly raised Master Mason completes his degree, a York Rite Representative should be present to present him with information pertaining to our York Rite. Just ask.**

This is Not your Father=s Commandery Anymore. This is because new members are joining of all ages, new programs are being added to include family activities, guest speakers, and community involvement. New members bring new ideas, and this results in a healthy growth for the Order. Become a part of this new energy transformation.

Membership Value is Critically Important. Non-York Rite Masons are busy people, and need to be convinced that committing time and talent to a new Masonic Organization has value. Be sure to tell the total attributes of your York Rite Body. Be sure to emphasize the new activities and involvement in your Body, and promote the positive. Increases in our membership base are critical to sustaining both our future, and our glorious heritage. You can do it!

Migrating To A ADot.Com@ Fraternity. We continue to be impressed with the many Knights Templar that are connected to the Internet. Many York Rite Bodies are now getting connected to the Anet@, and building impressive Web Sites to promote their Commandery activities such as festivals, membership programs and activities. The Internet improves communications, and saves postage cost among other things. Being a ADot.com@ fraternity might be a differentiating factor in selling this great fraternity to Non-York Rite Masons.

Green Carrots. Many Commanderies have instituted incentives to reward ATop-Line Signers@. Membership development is hard work, and those that contribute more than their fair share should be rewarded. Examples of incentives include: **Dues reimbursement, cash, gift certificates, Knight Templar Eye Foundation Life Memberships, and Templar Uniform credits** are incentive programs that have value, and are worth testing in all jurisdictions. Give it a try for both restorations and new members.

Happier Troops. A Crusade is both an event, and a renewed emphasis on membership development. It is an opportunity for all Sir Knights regardless of rank to become engaged in a program that assures success if each Sir Knight contributes. The excitement of Crusade participation continues to grow. Please get involved. Ask a Masonic friend to join, and do it now.

Promote Your Good Works. Write articles, take pictures, and publish your Crusade program activities. Promote your activities. No one can purchase a product they are unaware of.

We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don't wait for somebody else to do what you can do **now**.

In my travels to various York Rite Bodies throughout the South East, I find that by advertising the degree festivals outside of our district, it becomes easier for a candidate to receive the degrees. We cannot hope to build our membership if we cannot provide weekend degree programs within a reasonable time period and distance.

One or two Companions should visit the other Bodies within your District and discuss ways in which this can be accomplished. Each Body should provide the teams for two or three different degrees. If this cannot be accomplished within the district, pursue an neighboring district, until all degrees are filled. No candidate should have to drive 100 miles to attend the degrees. This is how we lose candidates. Finally, a set date and location each year should be established well in advance so candidates can properly plan. If Scottish Rite and the Shrine can do it, and they are successful, we should also.

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 84, Assessments

A Commandery has the right to levy and collect such annual dues and per capita assessments as it may deem necessary to defray its expenses. Dues and assessments have the same standing and authority but apply only to members, other than honorary members, of that Commandery. The Commandery may choose to include or exclude Life Members from an assessment subject to the requirement set forth by the Grand Commandery. Otherwise, dues and assessment must apply equally to all members and may not discriminate relative to Lodge or Chapter membership, profession, honors or past officers, age or years of membership.

Assessments may only be made for the good of the Commandery, Grand Commandery or Grand Encampment and not for any program or expense of any other person or group such as a Lodge building program. Only the Grand Encampment may levy an assessment for charitable purposes.

Dues apply to a member during the period of membership and not to any period while suspended or expelled.

Grand Commandery per Capita or special assessments are subject to the same requirements and prohibitions.
(2012)

Finally, we have already begun our Fall Festivals. There is still time to receive petitions for membership. Go to the Blue Lodges and speak to existing Masons about “further light” and great newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

We have had a great Spring recruiting effort in 2021 with new Knightings, let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD’s as low as possible. Bring them back and put them to work. We are now looking for a good Fall festival period.

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 2021 and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

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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			

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 CROME

New Membership by York Rite Body 2021:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2	1 May	Ft Myers: Ft Myers (1)	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
	2 & 9 Oct		
4			
5	13 & 20 Mar	Orlando: Cancelled	
	9 & 16 Oct		
6	11&12 Mar	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (9), Cocoa (3), Palm Beach (1), Miami (20), Ft Lauderdale (5)	38
	1-2 Oct		
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
	28 Aug/4 Sep		
TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS			102
TOTAL 2019 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, Beaderstadt, 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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