



## RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting  
15 August 2021

### IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we approach our Fall Degree festivals, let us look at ways that we can not only perform our different degrees in a manner in which the candidates will return to their Blue Lodges and speak to others about what their impressions and experiences were, but in a way that we may draw others into our way of thinking and our belief that York Rite is the way to continue our Masonic education. Our Spring Festivals were a huge success. Let us continue to seek good masons that would be a great addition to our York Rite.

Do Afresh ideas@ relative to membership programs ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in our Commandery? Do you need some fresh ideas?

***Ideas for Membership; Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.***

1. Name a class in honor of a well-liked or influential local lodge member.
2. Perform at least one of the Degrees or Orders in special costumes that are not normally used.
3. Do one of the Degrees or Orders in a special or historical location.
4. Confer some of the work in a Lodge that may not have a York Rite Body established there. Bring the mountain to Mohammed.
5. Everyone likes a dealBConsider reducing or eliminating the fee, or include one year dues free of charge.
6. Honor the Afirst line signers@ locally! Have a dinner for them or give them free dues for a year.
7. Establish a joint one-day class with the Shrine, and work to establish new members for each organization.
8. Exchange mailing lists with a nearby Scottish Rite Valley, and work to establish new members for each organization.

9. Provide good speakers for Blue Lodges, but send someone not from the local area.
10. Provide a Knights Templar program for an Eastern Star Chapter dressed in Templar uniform. Let the ladies talk Templary to their husbands.
11. Establish purely social events for the Commandery. The list is endless of possible social functions. The point is to build camaraderie with the family of Templary without Abusiness@ being the main objective. Dinners, picnics, going to a function, etc... It's all in making it casual and fun.
12. Ask a Worshipful Master to provide some Masonic Education to the Blue Lodge in the form of Fervency and Zeal; Circumambulation, or simply a short talk on York Rite.

Companions and Sir Knights, the ideas are endless, but they must be put into practice.

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

#### **EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:**

##### **Section 136, Election of Officers**

Each Grand Commandery may determine whether nominations may be made at elections of its officers and at elections of its Officers by its Constituent Commanderies.

#### **DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:**

If the Grand Commandery regulations or laws prohibit nominations from the floor for officers of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander can prevent nominations from being made from the floor; but in the absence of such law prohibiting such nominations, nominations from the floor are permissible, and a member of the Grand Commandery has the right to request the privilege of the floor to make such nomination. (1961, p.51, No. 25, Wieber, 1988 digest - 130)

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 had a great Spring festival effort in 2021 with new Knightings. Let us continue the good work in the next three months which should grow our membership. However, we must keep our NPD's as low as possible by bringing our absent members back to participation and putting them to work. We are now looking for a good Fall festival period, to grow even more.

**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, Communication, 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
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		
<b>TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS</b>			102
<b>TOTAL 2019 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

"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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