



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 September 2021

IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Companions and Sir Knights,

We are starting our Fall festivals with a great start. Last weekend Pensacola York Right Knighted nine (9) new Knights, with five more festivals on the horizon. I congratulate all who participated from Ft Walton Beach, Crestview, Marianna, and Pensacola. Great job companions and Sir Knights.

The following is a sampling of ideas that we can use to improve interest and attendance:

1. Stress the importance of fellowship. Encourage those who attend regularly to share their ideas about improving fellowship.
2. Give someone the job of greeting all members as they enter the asylum. Make sure that this person knows that it is his job to make members feel welcome when they enter.
3. NEVER allow a new member to sit alone in the asylum.
4. Make sure the High Priest, Ill. Master or Commander circulates among the members before the meeting.
5. Hold introductions to a minimum. Long introductions are a waste of time. Make all introductions with sincerity. They should be warm and personal.
6. Use the time after closing to reinforce fellowship. Thank the members for coming, and ask for feedback. How satisfied were the members and guests of the quality of fellowship that they received. Follow up with a personal note to a new member or guest thanking him for being with you.
7. Include the names of new members in your newsletter with a brief summary of their interests and the names of their wives and children.
8. Place a suggestion box in a prominent place in the asylum.
9. Give members a questionnaire they can use to evaluate the level of fellowship and activities.
10. Do not waste time. The leading cause of dissatisfaction among members is that meetings were boring and that too much time was wasted. Many of our Senior members come to our York Rite Body for relaxation, fellowship and fun. Spend less time with business and more time with fellowship. Adding some excitement and interest to the meetings will help bring members back.
11. Limit remarks at the end of the conclave. Do not allow (personal agendas) to mar an otherwise efficient meeting.

12. When planning meetings, consider the interests of the youthful and mature members equally. The older member may want things to remain unchanged; the youthful member may expect variety and excitement. Remember that newer members are determining whether they did the right thing in joining. They will evaluate your plan for the evening on their terms.

13. Focus on Quality! No matter what you do, do it well. Nothing works as well as high quality to achieve member satisfaction.

14. Make something special happen at least six times a year. Force yourself to plan in detail for the meeting; this forces you to consider the desires of the members. Plan at least six months in advance and involve your members in the planning.

a. Call on individuals in your community to provide excellent programs.

b. The principle of a local school can speak about the scholarship needs of students or ways the Commandery can help improve the school.

c. A financial planner can help members discover important financial or retirement services available to them and answer their questions.

d. A travel agent can speak about trips that are available to individuals or groups and how to save money.

e. Show any number of videotapes that will interest the members. They can be educational, fraternally related or just plain entertaining.

f. Invite a strategic planning expert or futurist from a local college or consulting firm to meet with the Commandery about how the needs of men have changed and will continue to change.

g. Ask every member to be involved by accepting an assigned date to lead a discussion on a relevant topic to Templary or Masonry. The Masonic Service Association of North America publishes a monthly "Short Talk Bulletin", a great source of relevant information. Ph. (315) 735-2217

15. Constantly focus on communications up, down and across the entire organization. Dress up and spruce up your existing publications and communications to members.

16. Consider at least a quarterly publication mailed to the member and his family.

17. Develop a list of men who have been raised to Master Mason in the past three years and ask the officers or volunteers in the Commandery to contact each by phone and invite him to a special meeting, a dinner, or a "Friends Night".

18. Mail remembrances to members and their wives on behalf of the Commandery on significant holidays, birthdays or anniversaries. Remember, every time a communication comes into the home from the Commandery, it raises the awareness of the member.

19. Maintain an attractive bulletin board and keep it current with member related news and information.

20. Improve the quality of the photographs and graphic images you use. Find a member who may be a designer or graphic artist with computer desktop publishing experience and let him review all communications, then listen to his recommendations.

21. Assign every new Sir Knight a "Buddy". This can be the top line signer of his petition or a fellow Sir Knight about the same age who agrees to be at each stated and special meeting for at least six months. This "Buddy" keeps close personal tabs on his new charge and assists him with his assimilation. He also introduces this new member to other members at every opportunity.

22. Watch for any loss of interest of a member. If attendance starts to lag, get in touch with him immediately and determine the cause. Don't let more than a few meetings to pass before contacting him. Nothing works as well with members as personal contact. Try to meet face-to-face.

23. Contact all new members who have joined over the last five years, but have been absent from the Commandery. Listen to them tell you the reasons why they have lost interest. Share the exciting new things that are happening in the Commandery. Agree to assist them with the proper signs and words if they have forgotten.

24. Identify the skills, talents and interests of each of your members, especially new members. A man joins an organization with the expectation that he will somehow be involved with the members, involved in the leadership, and involved with the community. Understand that involvement means using a man's talents. Match their involvement with their gifts and talents.

25. Reward real performance and real contributions in some meaningful

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 137, Election of Officers

A majority of all votes cast is necessary to an election.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Where 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 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 to make such nomination. 1961, p.51, No. 25, Weiber, 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 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.

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	1
	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	Pensacola(3), Ft Walton Beach(1)Crestview(4)Marianna(1)	9
TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS			111
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

"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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