



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting

15 December 2021

Learning How to Talk About Our Fraternity

Companions and Sir Knights,

I would like to wish each of you a glorious Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a fairly good year for membership but there is much to do. With increased effort, we can exceed our 2021 numbers, but it takes all of our members to do so. Many of our jurisdictions have done well in 2021, some not so well. Florida knighted 170 new knights. I am sure that some other jurisdictions have also done well. It is now our job to improve upon 2021 and exceed our numbers in 2022. The first step is the Chapter. If we do not go to the effort to talk about York Rite in our Blue Lodges, we will not be successful. We must be proactive in making Blue Lodge members York Rite members.

Members of our Great Fraternity are very good at talking about Freemasonry and its appendant. It has been a fairly good year for membership bodies - but only with each other. Once we get out in public, we have a tendency to clam up and become unsure of ourselves.

We have explored some of the reasons we are afraid to talk about. We have explored various myths and concerns. Now has come the time to learn to talk about it.

Every day, we have many opportunities to talk about Freemasonry and what it means to us. It may come in the form of a question by a stranger, a co-worker or a friend. The question of membership will often be initiated by someone else, giving you a wonderful opportunity to share an organization that has been important to your life.

Most people's questions are not hostile, although sometimes we respond as if it is. If we interpret questions as curiosity, we can deal with them in a rational and friendly manner.

I remember once a lady commented "Oh you must be one of those Mason guys" after seeing an emblem on my van. It led to many years of discussion about the Fraternity, and has helped many fellow (and non-Masonic) pastors have a greater understanding about what Freemasonry is all about.

Now is the time for you to add to our discourse. At the end of this exercise, you will find six (6) questions. Spend some time writing your answers. At the very end of this section, you will be able to write a short statement (25 words or less) defining Freemasonry, OES or any other appendant body.

Why such a short statement? Because when people ask questions, they are not necessarily looking for long, drawn out explanations. Time is valuable, and most want to get as much information as possible. When they are interested in learning more, you can go into more detail.

This exercise will allow you to be more direct and open, and feel comfortable expressing your feeling and knowledge about the Fraternity.

1. Why did you join the Fraternity?
2. What has Masonry (or an Appendant Body) done for you.?
3. What benefits have you derived from your membership?
4. In what ways has it made you a better person?
5. What has the ritual taught you?
6. Why should a person consider joining the Fraternity?

The Fall festivals are over and, we are now preparing for the Spring festivals. The success of our festivals has been excellent in that we knighted 170 new knights, this year. WE have had the best year in several years, with a total of 170 or 34 over last year. Now we need to put them to work and keep them. Great job.

We can now begin planning for our Spring festivals. Let's continue our efforts and began the process of bringing new brothers into our bodies. Allow them to take a seat and participate in the leadership of the body. If all seats are filled, encourage them to get involved in the ritual work as part of a degree team, but let them know that they are needed.

As you can see, most excuses are smoke screens. They're covering up the real issue, which is "I'm afraid to talk." Next month, we will show you how to gain the confidence you need to become a true Masonic Ambassador
There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 140 and 141, Installation of Officers

Section 140-The officers of the Grand Encampment may be installed by the Grand Master, or a Past Grand Master, or Past Grand Commander.

Section 141-The Officers of a Grand Commandery may be installed by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Generalissimo, or Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment, by a Grand Commander or Past Grand Commander, or in their absence by a Past Commander.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

The installation of an officer of a Grand Commandery must take place in the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery in which the officer is a member. (1913, p. 39, No. 2, Melish)

Finally, again we have completed our Fall Festivals. There is now time to receive petitions for membership for the Spring. Go to the Blue Lodges and speak to existing Masons about "further light" and greet newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

Remember, equipment, 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 | 2 | 6 | Cocoa | 4 |
| | Ft Lauderdale | 2 | | Melbourne | |
| | Miami | 12 | | Fort Pierce | 10 |
| 2 | Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity | 5 | 7 | Jacksonville | 5 |
| | Sarasota/Venice/Trinity | 14 | | Fernandina | 2 |
| | Everglades | | | St Augustine | 1 |
| | Fort Myers | 3 | | Palatka | 1 |
| 3 | Tampa (Ivanhoe) | 10 | 8 | Lake City | 1 |
| | St. Petersburg (Sunshine) | 4 | | Middleburg | 3 |
| | Clearwater (Springtime) | 4 | | 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 | 6 | | | 9 |

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 | Tampa (4), Clearwater (1), Orlando (3), Sarasota (14) | 22 |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 13 & 20 Mar | Orlando: Cancelled | |
| | 9 & 16 Oct | Orlando Cancelled (moved to Tampa) | |
| 6 | 11&12 Mar | Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (9), Cocoa (3), Palm Beach (1), Miami (20), Ft Lauderdale (5) | 38 |
| | 1-2 Oct | Ft Pierce (3), Miami (22), Ft Lauderdale (3), Cocoa(1), WPB(1) | 30 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|-----|
| 7 | 3 April | Jacksonville: Jacksonville (1), Fernandina Beach (2), Palatka (1), Gainesville (7), Lake City (1), Lake Sumter (2), St Augustine (1) | 15 |
| 8 | | Jacksonville (4), Middleburg (3) | 7 |
| 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 | | | 170 |
| TOTAL 2019 KNIGHTINGS | | | 134 |

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Spring Festival, **PLEASE** let me know so they may be included.

Fraternally,

Henry A. Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS, PGC

"Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"

Some excerpts, from the Grand Commanders Handbook, 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. "Making Members" pp 73-75, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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