



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 January 2022

Tools Needed To Get Members

Companions and Sir Knights,

Now that you have learned to talk about why the Fraternity is important to you, and know how what people are seeking in fraternal membership in the 21st Century, you need a few tools to carry with you. Remember, you can only fix so much with duct tape! Sometimes you need a wrench and screwdriver, too. (Put on a tool belt and you really look like an expert!). Here are some tools you need to carry with you.

Things for Members to do:

1. **Wear some kind of visible emblem.** They make great conversation starters, plus it advertises the Fraternity.
2. **Put an emblem on your car.** Of course, if you do, be sure you act in the character of a member of the Fraternity.
3. **Carry a petition with you.** Many states are now producing a "pocket petition" that can easily be carried in a wallet to give to someone. You can't get petitions if you don't have any. Ask your secretary for several. They're usually provided free from your Grand Body.
4. **Have brochures on the Fraternity.** All of our Grand Bodies produce some kind of brochures on the Fraternity. They don't do any good lying around on a shelf. There are even pocket size brochures available from Coffee Time Press that are very inexpensive.
5. **Carry a pen.** How can one fill out a petition if they don't have a pen to write with?
6. **Know your initiation fees.** You should collect a fee with the petition, so know how much to ask for.

Some Things for Lodges and Chapters to do:

1. **Provide brochures and petitions for members.** It is a good idea to send out a brochure and a petition with each dues notice at the very minimum. You're already paying for the postage, adding two pieces won't cost you any more money.
2. **Publish the fees for joining annually.** Send that information out with the dues notices, and publish it in your newsletter.
3. **Talk about how to get members at your meetings.** Show your members how it's done. It would make a good educational program for a regular meeting.
4. **Order some mini-brochures from Coffee Time Press.** Yeah, I know it's a plug for us, but people keep telling us its pretty good stuff. Besides, if we don't tell you, how will you know where to get them?
5. **Contact your Grand Body for brochures and petitions.** Order them in bulk. Don't be shy, the Grand Secretary is usually happy to send them out to lodges and chapters that want to bring in new members.
6. **Make your Masonic Center more visible.** If people don't know you exist, they will simply drive on by.
7. **Get ready for new members by sharpening your ritualistic work.** The Ritual teaches the lessons of the Fraternity. If the candidate is not impressed, they won't come back. If you can't do the work, enlist outside help. It's available. Know ahead of time where you can get the help.

Remember, equip, train and send out the troops, and they will come back with results!

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 142- Any Officer of the Grand Encampment, or of a Grand Commandery, who cannot be present at the regular installation may be installed by taking the oath of office in any Commandery, or in the case of emergency by taking such oath before any member of the Grand Encampment Officers, and before a Past Commander in case of Grand Commandery Officers. Such obligating shall be certified to the respective Grand Recorders.

Section 143-The Officers of a Constituent or Subordinate Commandery may be installed by a Permanent Member of the Grand Encampment, by the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Captain General of the Grand Commandery, by the Commander, or a Past Commander of any Commandery.

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

Officers of a Constituent Commandery who have been regularly elected may be installed at a regular conclave of their Commandery without dispensation. (1940, p.65 & 282, No. 13, Norris)

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 Spring and Fall of 2022 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.

Membership by District for 2021:

DISTRICT	LOCATION	#	DISTRICT	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	
	Ft Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Everglades			St Augustine	
	Fort Myers			Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	
4	Lakeland		9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City			Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter			Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando				

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 CHROME

New Membership by York Rite Body 2021:

DISTRICT	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6	1-2 April	Ft Pierce	
7			
8			
9			
10			
TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS			
TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS			170

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, Baderstadt, 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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