



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 March 2022

PUTTING LIFE INTO YOUR YORK RITE BODY

(Part 1)

Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 1 of a 4 part series. Finance may be an important part of the operation of any lodge or York Rite Body, but if you don't have someone coming to the meetings, you don't last long. So how do you get your members to attend.

Most of your members don't attend because they don't think anything worthwhile is happening. Once a member begins to think this, it's hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

PART ONE- Building Attendance at Meetings

No one wants to come to a dead organization. People are drawn to organizations that are doing something. The first thing you have to do is to have some activities.

Your Regular Meetings -Your regular meetings are something that happens monthly. Think of them as an event rather than simply a monthly meeting. Some things you can do include:

1. **Have an Agenda** - Know what is going to happen each meeting. Confer with your secretary/recorder to find out what should be on the agenda. Know what action needs to take place in order to move the meeting along. A well organized meeting will help to keep members coming, as well as attracting others to come out and attend. When the word gets out that the meetings are well done, people will start to attend. It will help to build up a positive image about your lodge and York Rite Body.
2. **Plan some kind of activity for each meeting** - Do something at each meeting that will be of interest. One activity is a five minute educational talk. The members want to know more about the organization they belong to. There are many sources that you can get from for an education program. Possibly you could use a jeopardy style quiz with the winner receiving a simple prize. You would be surprised how much they might look forward to this kind of program. Whatever you do, give your members something to look forward to that promotes your Body and/or freemasonry.

3. **Use food to build attendance** - Every has to eat. Why not use food to bring them out? A good meal is often a good draw. It does not have to be expensive. In fact, the members could even do the meals themselves. There are also opportunities to find low-cost caterers. Pot lucks are also popular and can work well.

4. **Always make sure the coffee pot is brewing before the meeting** - The coffee pot is a way to get people to sit or stand around and talk to one another. Remember, it is the fellowship that brings people back to meeting.

5. **Open the doors early** - If your meetings start at 7:30, don't lock the doors at 7:29. Open up an hour before the meetings. Encourage the members to come down and socialize. Get the coffee brewing early. If you decide to have a meal before the meeting, be sure to invite the members to come and have fellowship and fun.

6. **Come early, stay late** - Lodge/ York Rite night should be an event. If anything revolves around a meeting, arriving just before it starts and leaving immediately after closing, most will not return. Yes, you have to have a meeting, but Grand Lodge and Grand York Rite laws does not say anywhere that you can't have fun at it. Make the night an event. It will draw people out, and keep your new members coming.

Companions and Sir Knights, we must bring our members back and encourage to stay and participate in all our activities. To do this, a well planned, well executed program needs to be developed. Lets' bring them back.

Membership growth and retention is a slow process. At first it may look hopeless. But persevere, and you will find it easier to build. Remember, success does breed success. Start small, publicize, be positive, and you will reap the harvest.

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:

Section 144-Before the Installing Officer administers the Vow of Office in a Constituent or Subordinate Commandery he shall see that the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, if the same be a Constituent Commandery, the Rituals of the Red Cross, and the Orders of Malta and Knights Templar are in possession of the incoming Commander or properly accounted for.

Section 145- A Constituent or Subordinate Commandery may hold a public installation in its own Asylum, but not elsewhere without a dispensation from the Grand Commander or the Grand Master, respectively

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

The installation of an officer of the Grand Commandery must take place in the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of 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. Currently, we only have three Districts that have committed to a Spring Festival. Please advise if you are planning to conduct one.

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	1		Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	3	8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	2		Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	
4	Lakeland	1	9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City			Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	2		Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando	5			

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	5 & 12 Mar	Tampa, Ft Myers (1), Sunshine (2), Tampa (3), Highlands (2), Lakeland (1), Lake Sumter (2), Orlando (5)	16
4			
5			
6	1-2 April	Ft Pierce	
7	18/19 & 26 Mar	Palatka	
8			
9			
10	FALL		
TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS			16
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, KYGCH

"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

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

Email: hadams1@aol.com



The York Rite of Freemasonry

Fort Pierce York Rite Bodies

Joppa Chapter No. 28, Royal Arch Masons
Tyrian Council No. 36, Royal & Select Masters
St. Lucie Commandery No. 17, Knights Templar

Paul W. Friend, KYGCH
P. O. Box 1766 Stuart, FL
Secretary-Recorder (772) 260-6404



THE M·W· RICHARD LYNN, PGM CLASS

Dear Companions and Sir Knights:

The Ft. Pierce York Rite Bodies are pleased to announce that we will host the 1st and 6th York Rite District Festival. This Festival will be held in honor of Most Worshipful Richard Lynn Past Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

The class will be held on Friday Evening April 1st & Saturday April 2nd, 2022 at the Acacia Lodge No. 163 F&AM, 20 SE Osceola Street, Stuart, Florida 34994.

This is the First of four Festivals to beheld, in M·W·: Richard E. Lynn's, honor. The other three will be held after Grand Lodge.

Friday Night	
Roll Call	6:00pm
Mark Master Degree	7:00pm
Past Master Degree	8:15pm
Most Excellent Master Degree	9:00pm
Saturday Morning	
Picture	7:30am
Royal Arch Degree	8:00am
Royal Master Degree	10:00am
Select Master Degree	11:00am
Lunch	12:00pm
Order of Red Cross	1:00pm
Order of Malta	2:00pm
Order of the Temple	3:00pm

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and assistance in helping us to make this Class a truly memorable one.

Sincerely,
Paul W. Friend, KYGCH
Secretary-Recorder