



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting

15 April 2022

Let Your Members Know What You're Doing PART TWO

Companions and Sir Knights

Our Spring Festivals are over. We got a good start for a bountiful year, with 51 new knighting. Although we only had 3 Festivals, we now have 18 York Rite Commanderies, having brought in at least 1 new knight. GOOD JOB overall! The down side is, we have 15 Commanderies that have brought 0 new knights in. Time to get to work for our Fall Festivals, so that we can have better numbers than last year.

Communication in dying organizations are usually close to non-existent. Open the lines of communication so your members know you are alive and active again. Even if a majority don't come back to active status, if they know the Body is active, they will be more inclined to pay their dues each year. After all, who wants to throw money down a rat hole. If they see your organization is dead, they will probably be more inclined to quit paying their dues.

1. Personal Contact Works the Best - Phone calls and personal contact works. It is especially effective when you call to see how your non-active members are doing. When your non-active realize that you care about them as people (versus just wanting their time and money), the more inclined they are to be supportive with their time and money. Make an invitation. Show them that you care.

2. Publish a Newsletter - It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. A simple sheet of 8 1/2x11 inch paper, front and back, with a place to put the mailing label will work. It should be pleasant to look at, and with today's computers, that's not difficult anymore. *Keep it light and upbeat.* (Don't whine) Tell your members what is happening at your YR Body. It will give your members the impression that things are on the upswing again. Positive attitudes bring positive results.

3. Use High Tech to Promote - More and more of your members are using technology these days. The growth of computer use and e-mail are growing even amongst your older members. Use e-mail with those who have it. E-mail is free. You can create e-mail groups using Microsoft Outlook, to create small groups. You can also set them up on line using YahooGroups.com. These are all effective ways to reach your members. Even if all your members are not computer literate. Don't overlook the segment that is.

4. Use the Local Media to Promote - Community newspapers, Cable TV systems, local radio stations and more offer free space to promote community activities. Contact each of your local media to find out their local rules, meet the people in charge, and learn their deadlines. Make friends with the local media. Using it to promote your organization will give your community an awareness that your organization not only exists, but is alive and well.

5. Make Sure that you have Good Signage in Front of Your Building- How your building looks make a statement about your organization. Does it look kept up? Is it attractive, or is it an eyesore. Maybe as a tenant, in a lodge, you can (as a project) assist the lodge in keeping the building attractive. Is there a sign out front telling the world who you are

and when you meet? Is there a telephone number for a contact person? Good signage can be effective in building your lodge and YR Body.

Remember, create an image of life and success and it will be contagious.

Part 3, will discuss Building Active Members.

This will be Part 2 of a 4 part series. Communication 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 or they don't have a job. 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.

Companions and Sir Knights, we must bring our members back and encourage them 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 147. COMMANDERIES- Territorial Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of a Commandery is determined by the authority that grants the charter or dispensation but in no case extends beyond the jurisdiction limits of such authority. Jurisdiction granted can be amended or revoked by the authority that granted it and such jurisdiction can be further confirmed, amended, or revoked by the Grand Encampment, in the case of the Grand Master or by a Grand Commandery in the case of a Grand Commander. Jurisdiction assigned by a Grand Commandery may not be changed by a Grand Commander unless such authority has been granted to the Grand Commandery by enactment of law or specific authorization. Jurisdiction assigned by the Grand Encampment may not be changed by the Grand Master.

The Grand Encampment or Grand Commandery may also assign concurrent jurisdiction between some or all Commanderies. This can include statewide jurisdiction within its overall territorial jurisdiction.

In absence of a specific jurisdiction, the Jurisdiction thereof over Petitioners for the Orders extends in all directions one-half of the distance on a direct line between its Asylum and the Asylums of Commanderies located in adjacent territory, not, however, beyond the limits of the state, county, or geographical region in which such Commandery is located unless the adjoining Grand Commandery waives its Jurisdiction over specific Territory. (2012)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER:

In the case of a seaman who may have no fixed residence he should designate one and if within the jurisdiction of the Commandery is eligible to petition it. If his designated residence is in another jurisdiction a waiver is required. (1919, p.52 & 297, No. 18, Smith

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 2022:

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

REMINDER: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SOLUTIONS (MMS) RULES STATE THAT NEW COMPANIONS AND SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS. If this is not done, the magazine will not be sent automatically. The Secretary will have to contact Grand Encampment.

MMS IS NOW ON GOOGLE CHROME

New Membership by York Rite Body 2022:

DIST	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	17-24 Sep	Orlando	
6	1-2 April	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (13), WPB (2), Melbourne (2),	21

	Cocoa (1), Miami (2), Orlando (1)	
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7	18/19 & 26 Mar	Palatka: Palatka (5), Sanford (1), Daytona (1), Miami (2), St Augustine (2), Jacksonville (1), Gainesville (2)	14
	21-22 Oct	Jacksonville	
8			
9			
10	26-27 Aug	Pensacola/Crestview	
TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS			51
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, 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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