



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting

15 May 2022

Building Active Members

PART THREE

Companions and Sir Knights,

This will be Part 3 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.

Initially, you may be doing almost everything by yourself (depending on the health of your York Rite Body) but you need to expand the workload over a wider base. Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 was trying to do it all, but it was overwhelming him. Moses was initially burning out from doing everything for the children of Israel. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law advised him to pick some competent elders who could assist him, thereby spreading the workload over a greater number of people.

Remember, you can only do so much. You will also burn out if you try to do it all. If you want to build an effective York Rite bring others on board.

1. **HOLD REGULAR OFFICER MEETINGS** - Your officers are the key to building a successful York Rite Body. Informal meetings held on a night other than your regular meeting night helps to build camaraderie. If possible, meet anyplace other than the lodge hall. This can help to make a more relaxed atmosphere. Remember, these times together should be fun as well as productive.

2. **LEARN YOUR RITUAL** - The ritual is what defines who and what your organization is. It is what teaches the philosophy of your organization. Learn your part first. This will inspire others to learn their parts as well. While good ritualistic work does not always equal an active York Rite or Lodge, it is sure hard to find a Lodge or York Rite Body that is active that does not have good ritualists as its officers. Good ritualists produce pride and activity.

3. **BE POSITIVE IN YOUR ATTITUDE** - Negative attitudes only inspire people who go elsewhere.

4. **SHARE THE WORKLOAD** - Don't do it all. As noted above, you will burn out, and if you are burned out, then all the work you did was probably in vain. Share the workload. Find jobs for all your officers. Utilize their talents, and match up jobs to their skills. People will return when they are doing things they enjoy.

Part 4, will discuss Increase Activity .

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

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

Article II, Jurisdiction and Powers

Section I, Jurisdiction Generally

This Grand Chapter is a legal, independent body and has jurisdiction and supreme authority over Capitular Masonry within the boundaries of the State of Florida.

Section 2, Powers Generally.

The Grand Chapter may enact and enforce laws and regulations for the government of the Craft and its constituent Chapters, and alter, amend or repeal the same; it may constitute new Chapters by Dispensation and Charters, and may suspend, amend, or recall the same; it may establish and preserve a uniform Code of Work; it may assess and collect from its constituent Chapters annually, such sums of money as it may find necessary for the maintenance and support; it may hear and determine all disputes between constituent Chapters and all appeals from charges against any of its officers and members; inflict punishment on the guilty; and generally exercise all such power and perform all such acts as are usually exercised and performed by the Grand Chapter within the landmarks and customs of the Craft.

Section 3. Concurrent Jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter freely concedes to Chapters in States adjoining it the privilege of receiving petitions and the conferring of the Capitular Degrees upon citizens of Florida whose residence shall be nearer to such Chapters than to any other Chapter of Florida; provided said Chapters in the States adjoining Florida are Chartered by a Grand Chapter with whom it is in fraternal correspondence: and further provided that the same privileges are extended to the Chapters of Florida by said Grand Jurisdictions.

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	13
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	1
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Fort Myers	1		St Augustine	2
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	3	8	Palatka	5
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	2		Lake City	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Middleburg	
4	Lakeland	1	9	Gainesville	2
	Plant City			Tallahassee	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Marianna	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	1	10	Panama City	
	Lake Sumter	2		Fort Walton Beach	
	Sanford	1		Crestview	
	Orlando	6		Pensacola	

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
	1 & 8 Oct	Tampa:	
4			
5	17-24 Sep	Orlando	
6	1-2 April	Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (13), WPB (2), Melbourne (2), Cocoa (1), Miami (2), Orlando (1)	21
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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