



# RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting  
15 August 2022

## Surveying Strengths and Weaknesses

Companions and Sir Knights,

In surveying the strengths and weaknesses of your York Rite Body, you have probably already seen the problems but failed to recognize them. You go into Chapter, Council or Commandery, and you are lucky if you have enough to open. Your bills get paid, there is probably a little bit of coffee in the pot afterward. A few stand talking while everyone else beats it out of the door. It is not a late night and not much happens. Sometime on the way home you wonder, Why did I even bother to show up? Maybe you are the High Priest, Ill. Master or the Eminent Commander, and you really wonder why showed up, and why you are doing this. In fact, you may have been the Em. Commander several times, which is quite common in dying organizations because there is a lack of others willing to be involved. Don't despair, in this report. We will attempt to identify some of your problems.

The first thing is to understand the history of your York Rite Body. When was it founded? Where did it start? Who were the founders? How did the membership grow? Where were their struggles? How did they overcome and strive? These same stories can be used to excite members of your Body, as they begin to realize the rich history of your organization. Sometimes, it is in these early years when they were building the Body, other times it is in a period where things are slowing down. That is when it took the courage of one or two men to keep the York Rite Body alive and to still move forward. Their inspiration to you is that they have been there before. Look at those glory years where they were taking in so many candidates a year they could hardly keep up with the work. With the dinners that filled the entire dining room. The sidelines were always full.

### Emphasize the Positive

We have sat in many meetings where the AEast@ proclaims, AWe sent out the letters, we called everybody and looked for who showed up. That is the wrong approach. Always be thankful for who comes out because that means that they care. Those who come on their own volition are the ones who truly care. They form the nucleus. Each person contributes a part of their personality to the group. Some are natural leaders, some are good in the kitchen, some are natural followers: they are willing to help do anything if there is somebody to provide the leadership.

In identifying the strengths of each person, you have a better idea how to best utilize them. This makes them happier, and your York Rite Body stronger. Even if you only have six people coming out to your meeting, that is a core to start with. In that small group, there is strength.

### Community Awareness

What kind of community do you live in? Is it agriculture? Urban? Growing suburb, or a dying small town? These external factors will have a strong impact on your organization. If the pool of people available to join is getting smaller, that could be a problem, and a much closer relationship with the surrounding Blue Lodges needs to be cultivated. Many small communities have thriving lodges and York Rite Bodies, where some of the larger cities have difficulty in opening their Bodies.

## Identifying Problems

What are the problems that exist in your Lodge or York Rite Body? They usually fall into one of the four categories as follows:

**Finance**  
**Membership**  
**Lack of Vision**  
**Lack of Activities**

A healthy organization is positive in all four of these areas. Finance is good. They may have to struggle to make ends meet but they are accomplishing it. They have a strong active membership that is supportive and cares about one another. They have a plan and they have a vision. All of this is fundamental for a strong organization.

When one or more of these areas is weak, the organization begins to wobble and eventually it falls apart. If there is a lack of finances, there is a lack of activities. If the membership has strong willed with internal bickering and separating of new members into factions, others will begin to leave.

If there is no vision and no plan, nothing is going to happen. If there are no activities, interest begins to die. No one feels that it is worth their time to show up except for a handful and the dedicated ones.

I hope these suggestions are helpful for you to begin revitalizing your York Rite Bodies, and remember, recruiting is a must.

**Remember, equip, 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 of 2020 and I will put it in the January newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.**

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## EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

### Article VI, Elections

#### Section I, Balloting

- a. The Elective Officers of this Grand Chapter shall be chosen at each Annual Grand Convocation by written ballot, by a majority of all votes cast at said Annual Grand Convocation, except as hereinafter provided.
- b. Only one office shall be balloted at a time. A nomination may be made from the floor for each office and where there is no objection, the rules may be waived, and a member designated to cast the unanimous ballot of the Grand Chapter for the member nominated for each office.
- c. In balloting for Grand Officers, each Chapter represented is entitled to three votes, and each Grand Officer to one vote, Each Past Grand High Priest, and each Past High Priest of Chartered Chapters of this Grand Jurisdiction present, holding either an office in this Grand Chapter or proxy from his Chapter, is entitled to one vote in his own right.
- d. All eligible balloting Companions are allowed no more than one vote in addition to any proxy from their Chapter.

**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	
				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
	1 & 8 Oct	Tampa: Cancelled	
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
	30 Sep-1 Oct		
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	
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8			
9			
10	26-27 Aug	Pensacola/Crestview	
<b>TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS</b>			51
<b>TOTAL 2021 KNIGHTINGS</b>			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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