



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 December 2022

Putting Life into Your York Rite Body

Companions and Sir Knights,

Finance may be an important part of the operations of any York Rite Body, but if you don't have any members coming to your meetings, you won't last long. So how do you get people to come out to the meetings?

Once a member starts to think this, it is hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

Step 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.

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

1. **Have an Agenda** - Know what is going to happen at each meeting. Confer with your secretary 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. It will help you build a positive image about your York Rite Body.
2. **Plan Some Kind of Activity for Each Meeting** - Do something at each meeting, one activity is a five minute educational talk to your members that will be of interest. Your members want more light. There are many sources that you can get information from, for an educational program. The members generally look forward to this time. Whatever you do, give the members something to look forward to that promotes your York Rite Body.
3. **Use Food to Build Attendance** - Everyone has to eat. Why not use food to bring people out? It doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, the members can 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 talk to one another. Remember, it is the fellowship that brings people back to the meetings.
5. **Open the Doors Early** - If your meeting starts at 7:30, don't open the doors at 7:29. Open up an hour before the meeting. Encourage the members to come down and work on ritual or floor work but remember to 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 and Stay Late** - A meeting night should be an event. If anything resolves 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 or Grand York Rite Law doesn't say anything where you can't have fun at it. It will draw people out, and keep your new members coming.

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 2023 and I will put it in the January newsletter, and on the website. Remember: Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

Article XI, Vacancy.

Section I. Occurrence of Vacancy.

Vacancies in the Elective Offices of this Grand Chapter can occur only by:

- a. Death;
- b. Demit (remaining unaffiliated in either Blue Lodge or Chapter
- c. Permanent removal from this Grand Jurisdiction;
- d. Promotion at an election to fill vacancies;
- e. Suspension;
- f. Expulsion; or
- g. Incapacity to perform the duties of the office.

Section 2. Succession in Office.

In case of the absence of the Grand High Priest, or his inability to perform the duties of his office, the powers, prerogatives, and duties of the office shall devolve upon the Grand King or the Grand Scribe, in that order named. In the event that death or permanent removal from the State precludes the performance of the duties of this office, or the permanent disability of the Grand High Priest, the Grand King shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed therein. The Grand Scribe shall succeed to the officer of Grand King and be installed therein, and the office of Grand Scribe shall remain vacant until the next annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter. In the absence, for any cause, of all the members of the Grand Council, the Junior Past Grand High Priest willing to act shall succeed to the office of Grand High Priest and be installed therein by the next junior Past Grand High Priest.

SECTION 3. Cessation of Membership.

Any Grand Officer who shall, during the term of office for which he was elected, cease to be a member of a particular lodge or of a Chartered Chapter of this State thereby vacates his office, unless the charter of such particular Lodge or Chartered Chapter has been arrested--in which case the officer may be permitted to hold office not longer than six months from the date of such arrest of Charter or Chapters.

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 | 8 | 6 | Cocoa | 1 |
| | Ft Lauderdale | 4 | | Melbourne | 2 |
| | Miami | 30 | | Fort Pierce | 31 |

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

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 2022 | Tampa: Ft Myers (2), Sunshine (2), Tampa (3), Highlands (2), Lakeland (1), Lake Sumter (2), Orlando (5) | 17 |
| | 1 & 8 Oct 2022 | Tampa: Cancelled | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 17-24 Sep 2022 | Orlando: Cancelled | |
| 6 | 1-2 April 2022 | Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (13), WPB (2), Melbourne (2), Cocoa (1), Miami (2), Orlando (1) | 21 |
| | 30 Sep-1 Oct 2022 | Ft Pierce: Ft Pierce (16), WPB (6), Orlando (3), Miami (26), Plant City (1), Ft Lauderdale (4), Palatka (1) | 57 |
| | 31 Mar-1 Apr 2023 29-30 Sep 2023 | | |
| 7 | 18/19 & 26 Mar 2022 | Palatka: Palatka (5), Sanford (1), Daytona (1), Miami (2), St Augustine (2), Jacksonville (1), Gainesville (2) | 14 |
| | 21-22 Oct 2022 4 & 18 Feb 2023 | Jacksonville: Palatka Cancelled | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | 3-4 Sep 2022 | Crestview: Pensacola (5), Panama City (7), Tallahassee (4), Ft Myers (1), Crestview (1) | 18 |
| 10 | 26-27 Aug 2022 | Pensacola/Crestview: Cancelled | |

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|------------------------------|-----|
| TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS | 127 |
| 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

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