



RITE NOTES

Membership and Recruiting
15 March 2023

BEGIN PLANNING NOW

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we begin our new period of growth within the Florida Grand York Rite, I look forward to having the best year ever. This goal is achievable if the Officers of each York Rite Body begin to plan now for developing interest in what we do and what we stand for. We cannot achieve this goal if members in all three Bodies do not participate. Yes, many Officers and Sir Knights possess good leadership and planning skills to methodically organize and coordinate the conferral of our degrees and Orders on single and multiple candidates. What can we learn from them, and how do they effectively organize their activities.

A Positive Attitude

Many are in agreement that the success of any project begins with a positive attitude. Some refer to this as a “Can do” spirit. Leaders in any organization possess this trait, and display it frequently. It is a contagious spirit, and usually becomes a virtue of the entire leadership team.

If the Officers or members of a York Rite Body believe they may not be able to contribute to the goal then a reminder of an age-old quote might be appropriate:

*“If you keep on doing the things that you have been doing,
Then you will continue to get exactly what you’ve been getting.”*

Take Advantage of the Skills Available

We know that each YRB has Companions and Sir Knights possessing great skills and talents. Ask them to become part of this great Crusade even if they may not have attended a Stated Conclave recently. The use of their talents will make a significant difference. Don’t forget to include the ladies in the event planning, as they too will contribute to the overall success. In particular, the Chapters of the Social Order of the Beauceant have always supported the Knight Templars, and can always be counted on. Invite the Companions of local Chapters and Councils as the entire York Rite benefits from the effort.

An Effective Implementation Plan

Develop a new list of all the activities that will be needed to make the event a success. Start with reserving the Asylum for the event. A suggested “Check List” is included as a reminder, but please remember that this will be a “big event” requiring “Big Planning”.

Successful leaders experience goal attainment for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they have challenged and elevated their Officer team thinking and prepared a plan that emphasizes effectiveness more than efficiency. The following ideas, if implemented will help each Commander, High Priest and Ill. Master, ensure that his plan will increase in effectiveness.

Have you considered any of these things?

1. Send a letter on your Commandery stationary to each Officer expressing your support for the membership Crusade, and enlist his support. Tell him you are proud of him. Add a sense of urgency to your request.
2. During your next Officers Meeting secure a commitment from each of your elected and appointed Officers to get at least one petition. This sets a good example for other members. Encourage them to do the same. It also displays commitment to a common purpose among the leadership.
3. Write regular personal endorsements of the Crusade in your monthly newsletter. Request the chapter and council leaders do the same.
4. Consider establishing a unique Award for the Crusade, i.e., Most Knightings in Home Commandery, Highest Membership Gain, Most Restorations, etc. Offer special incentives, like free meals for two. Be creative.
5. Get more Committees involved! Review your Committee list, and get some inactive committees active. This spreads the leadership around and offers a chance for other Officers to show what they are made of.
6. Consider writing a letter to all of your Past Commanders. Share your plans with them, and enlist their support, and participation. They will assist you.
7. Meet regularly with your Chapter and Council leadership. Working together within the “Family of Masonry” increases cooperation exponentially.
8. Call or meet with the Deputy or Actives of the Scottish Rite, and seek their support. They might be willing to support a direct mail campaign for the Crusade, and encourage “Non-York Rite” Scottish Rite Masons to join. Perhaps you could arrange a York Rite conferral at their next Convocation in their auditorium?
9. Call or meet with the leadership of the Shrine Temples in your state and request consideration for a joint “Cold Sands” event with your York Rite Crusade Festivals. Request the Shrine help to sell the benefits of York Rite just as the York Rite should sell the benefits of Shrine membership.
10. Consider a York Rite Festival to honor the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Perhaps his junior Officers would join too if they were Non-York Rite Masons.
11. Assign each of your elected and appointed Officers of the Commandery, to become a “Crusade Speakers Bureau”. Request that they arrange invitations to Blue Lodges to present “York Rite Overview Programs” to promote our Christian Masonry heritage. Suggest three programs per month each.

Begin to Target New Members and Restorations

The “Crusade” targets both new Members and restorations. We know that the Symbolic Lodges provide us with the primary source for new Christian Masons. Templar membership committees should consider targeting Masons with current brochures that summarize Templary and its philanthropies.

Acquire a list of non-York Rite Masons from the Symbolic Lodge or even better (as a couple Districts have already done) Contact Grand Lodge, and in particular, MW Richard Lynn, Grand Secretary, and request a list of address labels for your Masonic District. I sent out 342 letters last week to all Masons raised in the last 3 years in our District (that were not York Rite). This will work. Ask for volunteers from the Chapters and Councils to assist, and try to include Masons that you personally know on your list.

Selling York Rite

family involvement, community projects, and the benefits of joining our Christian Masonic Order. Know something about our philanthropies. What were the benefits that inspired you to join? Share them. Also, provide recognition to the Sir Knights that are successful in gaining new members and restorations.

Today's Relevance

A nationally known religious leader once said that if you God first, everything else falls into place. How simple, and yet how profound. This is the spirit of Knight Templars put today! There are many Masons that will enjoy and appreciate membership in this great Order. All you have to do is tell them what we stand for and ask them to join. Let's show everyone that we are as good as we say we are!

The "One-on-One" sales technique has historically been the most effective. Prepare an updated membership roster, a description of its activities,

Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICAL XII

Continuation from February

SECTION 13, Committee on Work

The Committee on Work is charged with holding schools of Instruction, each year in each district; one school to be held before the close of the calendar year, and one school to be held after the new officers of the Constituent Chapters have been installed, but before the first day of April each year. The schools shall be conducted by one or more members of the committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall authorize the dates and places and approve his expense for holding such Schools.

SECTION 14, Grand Officers Jewels

The Jewels of all Grand Officers remain the property of the Grand Chapter, Possession of the Jewels shall be delivered to the various officers for the term of their office; at the expiration of the term of office, possession of these Jewels shall be surrendered to the Grand Secretary.

SECTION 15, Southeastern Area Meetings

The Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Secretary are encouraged to attend, in their official capacities, all southeastern area meetings; an allocation shall be made in each annual budget toward defraying the expense of each officer attending. (1990)

SECTION 16, Convention Board

The Grand High Priest shall cause a member from the delegation to be elected to a York Rite Convention Board; the duties and term of each member shall be established by regulation. (1991)

SECTION 17, General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International, Triennial Convocations.

Triennial Convocations Expenses: The Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe and Grand Secretary and Past Grand High Priests shall be allowed travel expense computed on airfare at the economy rate, including limousine service to and from the airport, registration fee, banquet ticket, room based on the single rate computed one day prior to and the days in attendance at the official program and actual cost of meals. Funds for such expense shall be appropriated by the Budget and Finance Committee each Triennial year from the Special Triennial Convocation Fund and included in the Budget for each Triennial year. No expense shall be allowed for a wife or family member. Request shall be made no later than 1 December of said Triennial year to be honored. Expenses to a maximum of Seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) for each Companion covered by this section shall be allowed. (1990, May, 2019)

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 2023 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 2023:

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	4
				St Augustine	4
	Fort Myers			Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	
4	Lakeland		9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City			Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	12	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	3		Crestview	
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	
	Orlando				

Palatka had one brother who completed Chapter and Council but due to COVID was unable to complete the Orders

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 2023:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	4 & 11 Mar	Tampa	
4			
5			
6	31 Mar-1 Apr 23	Ft Pierce	
	29-30 Sep 23	Ft Pierce	
7	4 & 18 Feb 23	Palatka: Lake City(1), Sanford(1), St Augustine(4), Daytona(12), Lake Sumter(3), Fernando(4)	25
8			
9			
10			

TOTAL 2023 KNIGHTINGS	25
TOTAL 2022 KNIGHTINGS	125

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