



RITE NOTES

A Guide to Membership Retention

15 July 2023

Companions and Sir Knights,

Dear Brother,

A York Rite Body must have well planned and implemented program for promoting attendance and participation in order to:

- Retain its membership
- Reinstate demitted and suspended members
- Get new members

Well planned programs mean:

- Planning and organizing
- Leadership training--education
- Motivation - Positive attitude
- Unanimity - Working together
- Implementation plans
- Communication up and down
- Review and follow-up

What do you want to do:

- Plan and implement programs to promote attendance and participation in our York Rite Bodies

Now what:

- Assemble Officers and Committeemen to plan and implement a process to promote attendance and participation
- Do not take "NO" for an answer
- Attendance by Officers is mandatory

DO IT NOW!

- Establish the enthusiasm, motivation and commitment
- Select a convenient time and location
- Prepare an agenda and assemble brochures, pamphlets, written instructions, teaching aids, etc
- Give adequate notice in writing, to all attendees. Include a brief description of the purpose of the meeting, the agenda, curriculum and other pertinent material
- Require in writing, a positive commitment from the designated attendees to attend the meeting and implement the process

Implement the process

- Communicate the plan(S) to the body, then execute
- Measure your progress to determine if progress is being made
- Constantly "check your pulse" - get feedback from your members

Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE XIV: Officers of Chapters

Section 1. Chapter Officers

The Officers of each subordinate Chapter, whether Chartered or under Dispensation, shall consist of the following:

High Priest (titled Excellent)

King

Scribe

Treasurer

Secretary Chaplain

Captain of the Host

Principal Sojourner

Royal Arch Captain

Master of the Third Veil

Master of the Second Veil

Master of the First Veil

Sentinel

Organist (optional)

Section 2. Election and Appointment.

The first five named in the last proceeding section shall be elected annually by ballot without nomination, by a majority of the votes cast at the first regular Convocation of the Chapter in December (except those Chapters whose monthly Convocation is in the third and fourth week in the month, such Chapters may hold their election at the November Convocation): except that by unanimous consent, the rules may be waived, nomination made, and a member designated to cast the unanimous vote of the Chapter for the nominee.

Section 3. Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office,

Every member of a Chapter, in good standing, is entitled to one vote; but only High Priests, and Past High Priests, Kings and Past Kings, Scribes and Past Scribes are election to the office of High Priest, Provided, however, when there are none such, a member competent and willing to serve may be elected. The Chapter is the sole judge of the competency of its members.

Section 4. Installation.

The installation of Chapter Officers shall take place on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (27th of December) or as soon thereafter as is expedient. Installation cannot be denied on the ground that the Officer-elect is in arrears for dues. his Masonic standing not being affected by any delinquency upon which action has not been taken.

Section 5. Vacancies in Office.

Vacancies in elective offices of Chapter can occur only by death, re4signation, Demit, or removal after election beyond the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, promotion to fill vacancies, and by suspension or expulsion; but the first three elective officers cannot be vacated by resignation except for reason of infirmities of health acceptable to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

Section 6. Filling Vacancies.

A Chapter may fill vacancies in any of the elective offices, except that of High Priest, by ballot at any regular Convocation, but in the case of vacancy in the office of High Priest, an election can be held only at a Regular Convocation, the members being duly notified for that purpose, and by virtue of authority from the Grand High Priest -- which authority must be applied for by the King and Scribe and a vote of two thirds of the membership present at a regular Convocation, and thereafter certified by the Secretary under the seal if the 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 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:

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach	5	6	Cocoa	
	Ft Lauderdale	1		Melbourne	1
	Miami			Fort Pierce	4
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	10		Fernandina	4
				St Augustine	4
	Fort Myers	2		Palatka	2
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	4	8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	4		Gainesville	
4	Lakeland	4	9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	1		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	12	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	5		Crestview	
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	
	Orlando	10			

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 7 & 14 Oct 23	Tampa(4), Trinity(10), Ft Myers(2), Clearwater(4), Lakeland(4), Plant City(1), Lake Sumter(2), Orlando(10), Palatka(2)	39
4			
5			
6	31Mar-1 Apr 23 29-30 Sep 23	Ft Pierce(4), Melbourne(1), WPB(5), Ft Lauderdale(1) Ft Pierce	11
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	Nov	Pensacola	
TOTAL 2023 KNIGHTINGS			75
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, 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