



RITE NOTES

Stimulating Membership Interest and Attendance

15 September 2023

Companions and Sir Knights,

Leadership is vitally important in all York Rite activity but never more urgently needed than in the task of stimulating membership interest and attendance. The good leader finds ways of interesting men to work for the good of the Order. There are countless ways of challenging their interest. There is no rule of thumb that everyone must follow. A good leader will display initiative and will devise and invent ways to inspire the interest of the Chapter, Council and Commandery. The Companions and Sir Knights must be made to feel that they are APart of the Team@ - and not just spectators. The best way to get them to feel that way is to actually put them to work as part of the team. There are so many tasks to perform and so many jobs to do that no Sir Knight ought to be left out.

Here are some places to put men to work:

1. Membership on one of the many Regular or Standing Committees.
2. Membership on one of the Committees for Special Projects
3. Membership on a Drill Team
4. Membership on a Ritualistic Team
5. Membership on a York Rite Festival Committee.
6. Membership on the Property or Locker Room Committee.
7. Membership on one of the many, newly created committees.

A little ingenuity will reveal many more ways to put Companions and Sir Knights to work. Experience shows that men will respond and will begin making suggestions on their own part to improve the work. All it needs is a determined leader. It was Colonel John Glenn=s father who told his famous son when he was a boy: AThe world will stand aside for a man who knows where he is going.@

Attendance at a York Rite meeting is a by-product of arousing interest in York Rite activity. Attendance is most important to any Masonic organization - but particularly where we depend so largely upon manpower. Only by attendance of dedicated and devoted Companions and Templars can we progress and prosper. There are numerous ways to stimulate attendance, among which are the following:

1. Arrange a York Rite Festival
2. Hold ASpecial Nights@
 - a. Honoring some Companion or Sir Knight on his birthday
 - b. Awarding a pin on an membership anniversary (25th, 40th, 50th)
 - c. Honoring a Companion or Sir Knight upon some civic achievement
 - d. Honoring a Companion of Sir Knight who has performed outstanding service
 - e. Honoring Past Commanders, High Priests and Illustrious Masters
 - f. Receiving and honoring distinguished Masons, Grand Officers, etc.
 - g. Honoring an anniversary night of your Chapter, Council or Commandery

3. Publishing a York Rite Bulletin. This is of tremendous importance because it will be the means of telling the members of coming events. It will carry the York Rites orders, and directives, and will elaborate on social affairs, entertainment and speakers. The York Rite Bulletin is the Regular and continuous contact between those in the East and their members. The Bulletin does not need to be elaborate or expensive; however it should be attractive and informative. The use of the names of Companions and Sir Knights give it greater appeal. A story about York Rite projects will increase the readers interest. As for finding an Editor - the average York Rite Body will be pleasantly surprised to see how much talent it has along this line if they only look.

4. Organizing a York Rite stated meeting night. In many sections of the country, The Chapter, Council and Commandery (located in the same town) can meet on the same evening for their Stated Conclave. Short sequential meetings are critical to success. Their routine business is transacted in one evening instead of spending three separate nights. This speeds up business and leaves other nights for the conferral of degrees and Orders. It also tends to unify the three bodies of the York Rite and increases membership attendance and participation.

5. Organizing a Ladies Auxiliary or affiliation with the Social Order of the Beauceant, composed of Templar ladies. If the women attend a meeting at the Masonic Temple, it is surprising how attendance of the Sir Knights grows. Many women would welcome an organization of their own to assist York Rite or to perform some useful work for the community. A ladies organization, meeting on the same night and at the same place as the Chapter, Council and Commandery has frequently resulted in doubling the attendance at the meeting.

6. Designate a night to honor each of the Blue Lodges, Chapters, Councils , Scottish Rite, and Shrine of the Community.

7. Conduct all meetings on a business-like basis. After all is said and done. One of the best ways to secure attendance is for the High Priest, Ill Master and the Commander to conduct all meetings on a business-like basis and let it be known in advance that-

- a. Each meeting will be on time;
- b. Conferral of Degrees will be done with dignity and finish promptly;
- c. The East will plan ahead and follow the agenda.
- d. The meeting will adjourn at a reasonable hour; and
- e. Social events of general interest with outstanding speakers, excellent food, good music, or other exciting entertainment are scheduled throughout the year.

Finally, we are quickly approaching our Fall Festivals. There is still time to receive petitions for membership. Go to the Blue Lodges, speak to existing Masons about A further light@ and greet newly raised Masons with information about what we are all about.

We are have had a great year in 2023 with 87 new Knightings. Let us continue the good works, and in the next three months, our membership should swell. We must, however, keep our NPD=s as low as possible.

Bring them back and put them to work.

Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE XVI: Charter and Seal

Section 1. Designation and Custody.

Every Chartered Chapter shall have a Seal, which shall be in the custody of the secretary of the Chapter.

Section 2 Charter and Location.

The place for the Chapter Charter is in the Chapter room in custody of the High Priest. Chapters may have photostatic copies of the Charter and use said copies in the Chapter room instead of the original, placing the original in a safe place for preservation. Photostatic copies may also be placed in each Lodge Room in the jurisdiction of the Chapter.

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 2024 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	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	5
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity		7	Jacksonville	2
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity	8		Fernandina	4
				St Augustine	3
	Fort Myers	4		Palatka	1
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	4	8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	4		Gainesville	
4	Lakeland	4	9	Tallahassee	6
	Plant City	2		Marianna	1
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	2
5	Daytona (Halifax)	12	10	Fort Walton Beach	3
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	1
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	3
	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	30 Sep 23	Tampa	
3	4 & 11 Mar 23	Tampa(4), Trinity(8), Ft Myers(2), Clearwater(4), Lakeland(4), Plant City(2), Lake Sumter(4), Orlando(10), Palatka(1)	39
	7 & 14 Oct 23		
4			
5	15 & 16 Sep	Orlando	
6	31Mar-1 Apr 23	Ft Pierce(5), Melbourne(0), WPB(5), Ft Lauderdale(1)	11
	29-30 Sep 23	Ft Pierce	
7	4 & 18 Feb 23	Palatka, Lake City(1), Sanford(1), St Augustine(3), Daytona(12), Lake Sumter(4), Fernandina(1)	21
	21 Oct 23	Palatka	
8			
9			
10	14-15 Jul 23	Tallahassee(6), Panama City(2), Mariana(1), Crestview(1), Ft Walton Beach(3), Pensacola(3)	16
TOTAL 2023 KNIGHTINGS			87
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

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