



RITE NOTES

Ideas for Membership

15 October 2023

Companions and Sir Knights,

As we approach our Spring Degree festivals, let us look at ways that we can not only perform our different degrees but also in which the candidates will return to their Blue Lodges and speak to others about what their impressions and experiences were. This is a way that we may draw others into learning, bonding with the members of York Rite and a way to continue our Masonic education for the members and candidates. Our Fall Festivals were a huge success. Let us continue to seek knowledgeable masons that would be a great asset to our York Rite.

Do Afresh ideas@, relative to membership programs, ever become transformed into a working plan with a defined objective in our York Rite Bodies? Do you need some fresh ideas?

Ideas for Membership: Never underestimate the value and power of the ordinary being implemented with extraordinary zeal and diligence.

1. Name a class in honor of a well-liked or influential local lodge member.
2. Perform at least one of the Degrees or Orders in special costumes that are not normally used.
3. Do one of the Degrees or Orders in a special or historical location.
4. Confer some of the work in a Lodge that may not have a York Rite Body established there. Bring the mountain to Mohammed.
5. Everyone likes a deal- Consider reducing or eliminating the fee, or include one year dues free of charge.
6. Honor the Afirst line signers@ locally! Have a dinner for them or give them free dues for a year also.
7. Establish a joint one-day class with the Shrine, and work to establish new members for each organization.
8. Exchange mailing lists with a nearby Scottish Rite Valley, and work to establish new members for each organization.

9. Provide good speakers for Blue Lodges, but send someone not from the local area.
10. Provide a York Rite program for an Eastern Star Chapter dressed in our colors.
Let the ladies talk York Rite to their husbands.
11. Establish purely social events for the Bodies. The list is endless of possible social functions.
The point is to build comradery and the family of York Rite without the Abusiness@ of the Order directing the agenda. Dinners, picnics, going to a dinner theater etc. It=s all up to your imagination.
12. Ask a Worshipful Master if you could provide some Masonic Education to them in the form of Fervency and/or Zeal , Circumambulation, or simply a short talk on York Rite.

Companions and Sir Knights, the ideas are endless, but they must be put into practice.
There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.
Bring them back and put them to work.

Membership and Retention is everyone=s business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE XVII: Ritual

Section 1. Designation.

The ritual to be used by Chapters Chartered by the Grand Chapter of Florida or any other Grand Chapter of their jurisdiction shall be the ritual adopted, published and distributed by General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International, together with the instructions and guidelines contained in Appendix D to this Constitution, a book of Essentials and a key lecture shall constitute the adopted ritual for this Grand Jurisdiction. (1997-Effective May 20, 1997.)

Section 2. Amendment.

Proposed changes to the Ritual may be made by any member of the Grand Chapter, but all proposed changes must be made in accordance with Article XXI of this Constitution.

Section 3. Conferrals, Called Meetings.

The high Priest may call meetings of the lodges respectively to confer the lodge Degree upon duly elected candidates, and do the work with the working quorum: Lodge of Mark Masters (5), Lodge of Past Masters (3), Lodge of Most Excellent Masters (2); all of whom shall be Royal Arch Masons; for such purpose the Chapter need to be opened on the Royal Arch Degree.

Section 4. Aprons, How Worn.

All Companions shall wear their aprons where they can be seen at all times, by all present except those in Robes, when working in the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch Degree. The presiding Officer must be covered unless appropriate to remove same.

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	10		Fernandina	4
	Fort Myers	7		St Augustine	3
				Palatka	1
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	13	8	Lake City	1
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	
	Clearwater (Springtime)	6		Gainesville	
4	Lakeland	4	9	Tallahassee	6
	Plant City	3		Marianna	1
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	2
5	Daytona (Halifax)	12	10	Fort Walton Beach	3
	Lake Sumter	5		Crestview	1
	Sanford	1		Pensacola	3
	Orlando	11			

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	Tampa(7), Ft Myers(3), Manasota(2), Clearwater(2), Orlando(1), Plant City(1), Lake Sumter(1)	17
4			
5	15 & 16 Sep	Orlando cancelled	
6	31Mar-1Apr 23	Ft Pierce(5), Melbourne(0), WPB(5), Ft Lauderdale(1)	11
	29-30 Sep 23	Ft Pierce cancelled	
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			106
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