



RITE NOTES

Taking Inventory

15 May 2024

Companions and Sir Knights,

In Rite Notes, two months ago, you had the opportunity to see what motivates people to join a fraternity. Last month you learned what drives people. Any of those sound familiar?

Undoubtedly you have seen yourself or someone you know in those articles. It is those things that draw people into fellowship. In order to seek membership, they must feel that they will get something out of it. That isn't selfish by any means.

Pleasure and satisfaction are our "pay" for being a member. That is why we pay dues, go to meetings, devote long hours and endure even the unpleasant times. Ultimately, we are "rewarded" for our good works. That too, is not a negative. It is our motivator.

The positive experiences must outweigh the bad (and there will be negative experiences). In our lodges and York Rite Bodies, we must work to limit negative experiences while offering opportunities for members to feel useful.

How does your York Rite Body fair next to these ideals? Get out a legal pad and divide it into three columns.

Points

Notes

Items

First write down the items from your York Rite Body in the middle column. These items include:

- Security
- Feeling of Worth
- Feeling of Accomplishment
- Acceptance
- Giving something back to the communities
- Prestige
- Education

In the righthand column write down what kinds of things your York Rite Body does in these categories. Be specific. Now look over the notes for each category and award York Rite points for each category. If you do a good job at it, give yourself a "10". If its mediocre, maybe a "5". If you don't offer it, then it's a "0".

The maximum number of points is 70. If your York Rite Body is doing really well in all areas, then maybe you're a 70. You have a dynamic Body. If your score is less than 20, you have a major problem. The areas with the lowest scores are areas that need improvement.

Now ask some of your fellow members to take the test and compare answers. This will help you to begin to plot a course for improvement. How can you improve in these target areas mentioned above. Most are surprisingly simple to do, and many are not that costly.

Here are some suggestions:

Security -- Improve the lighting inside and outside the building.

Be sure to investigate new members thoroughly before admitting them. Your investigating committee is supposed to be a safeguard against unsavory types. Just because they breath doesn't mean that they will be a good member. Don't underestimate the power of personal security.

Feeling of Worth--A little praise can go a long way to making a person an active member. We all seek praise; it is part of the human psyche. We accomplish more when we feel like we're worth something.

Have annual awards dinners, give out framed certificates. Say thank you often. Let people know their efforts mean something to you and the Body.

Feeling of Accomplishment--Celebrate the completion of a degree, project, etc. Shower praise, give congratulations. Do projects that mean something.

Even if the project didn't turn out like you had hoped, or the degree didn't go as smoothly as you would have liked, find something to praise. Everyone wants to feel that what they are working toward is a worthy goal. Celebrate the victories instead of focusing on the defeats.

Acceptance--How accepting is your York Rite Body of new members? If new members feel like outsiders, they will not return.

How often do make people feel accepted? Welcome them. Shake their hand. Look them in the eye. Call them by name. Find a way to draw a person into the conversation. Be sure someone is assigned to keep an eye for the "wall-flowers" who just sit there by themselves and say nothing. These people are undoubtedly introverts who are probably shy in crowds.

Giving back to the Community--How well does your York Rite Body relate to the community? Do people know about you. Would it make any difference to your town if your group ceased to exist.?

Community projects vary from community to community. Each one should meet the individual needs of your town. You can't solve all of your communities' problems, but you can make a dent in them. If each citizen does their share, your city will become a good place to live.

How can you find out what project would be good for your community. Most likely from your new members! They have the freshest perspective.

Prestige-- Does it mean anything to belong to your Body besides paying dues? Is there a bit of pride in wearing your pin or ring? Belonging should have a sense of honor to it.

Education-- Our members want to improve themselves in Masonry. They want to know more about what it means to be a member of the order.

Get others to sit down over a cup of coffee with a legal pad and brainstorm. Discuss your ideas and you will be on your way to finding solutions to your membership problem.

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

CHAPTER 1,

1.01 Supreme Capitular Law

The Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida, as set forth and contained in this document are hereby adopted, ratified, confirmed and declared to be the Supreme Capitular Law of this Grand Jurisdiction.

1.02 Traditions and Landmarks.

The Traditions and Landmarks of Ancient York Masonry, as set forth in the Regius Manuscript, and as evolved therefrom through the ages by necessity, are adopted by this Grand chapter. Provided, however, that the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the enactments of this Grand Chapter shall govern were in conflict therewith.

1.03 Rulings and Decisions.

The Rulings and Decisions of the Grand High Priests of this Grand Chapter, when approved by the Grand Chapter in Grand Convocation convened, and as printed in its Proceedings, are declared to be in full force and effect, and binding unless contrary to later-enacted Laws of this Grand Chapter or further Rulings and Decisions of a Grand High Priest.

1.04 grand Lodge Laws-Effect.

Wherever not in direct conflict with the spirit and plain intent of the Constitution Laws, Regulations, and Landmarks of this Grand Chapter, the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge—as published from time to time in its Digest of Masonic Law—shall govern in all matters of Capitular Law. Provided however, that nothing herein-contained shall imply that this Grand Chapter presumes any control or jurisdiction over any element of Ancient Craft Masonry, save that part of the Master Mason Degree now contained in the Royal Arch Degree and over which the Grand Lodge asserts no jurisdiction.

1.05 Grand Lodge Defined.

Wherever reference is made herein to the “Grand Lodge”, such term shall signify “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida”, as incorporated by Chapter 4281, Laws of Florida Acts of 1893; in reference to any Grand Lodge outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Lodge of Freemasons in fraternal accord with—and recognized by—the forenamed Grand Lodge.

1.06 Non-Profit Policy.

The declared policy of this Grand Chapter is that it is not a profitmaking business nor a profit-making organization, and should not—and will not—engage in a profitmaking activity neither for itself nor for its membership/ No solicitations of a non-Masonic nor non-charitable character shall be made, except upon authority of this Grand Chapter and by specific vote of the members thereof in Grand Convocation convened. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent support of programs of a generally charitable and benevolent nature, such as the Royal Arch Research Assistance.

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

Membership by District for 2024:

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

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 2024:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	8 & 16 Mar 5 & 12 Oct	Tampa	5
4			
5			
6	8-9 Mar	Ft Pierce (3), Ft Lauderdale (2), Orlando (1), WPB (3)	9
7	10 & 17 Feb 3-4 May 24	Palatka (1), Sanford (9), Daytona (2) Sanford (3), Miami (8), Highlands (1) Plant City (2), Palatka (1), Melbourne (3), Clearwater (1), Brevard (1), Orlando (1), Daytona (1), Pensacola (2)	12 24
8			
9			
10	22 June, 6 Jul, Aug 17	Pensacola	
TOTAL 2024 KNIGHTINGS			50

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