



RITE NOTES

Putting Life into your York Rite Body

Part 1

15 May 2025

Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 1 of a 4-part series. Finance may be an important part of the operation of any lodge or York Rite Body, but if you don't have someone coming to the meetings, you don't last long. So how do you get your members to attend.

Most of your members don't attend because they don't think anything worthwhile is happening. Once a member begins to think this, it's hard to get them to change their mind. While you may have an uphill battle, it can be overcome.

PART ONE- Building Attendance at Meetings

No one wants to come to a dead organization. People are drawn to organizations that are doing something. The first thing you have to do is to have some activities.

Your Regular Meetings -Your regular meetings are something that happens monthly. Think of them as an event rather than simply a monthly meeting. Some things you can do include:

1. **Have an Agenda** - Know what is going to happen each meeting. Confer with your secretary/recorder to find out what should be on the agenda. Know what action needs to take place in order to move the meeting along. A well-organized meeting will help to keep members coming, as well as attracting others to come out and attend. When the word gets out that the meetings are well done, people will start to attend. It will help to build up a positive image about your lodge and York Rite Body.

2. **Plan some kind of activity for each meeting** - Do something at each meeting that will be of interest. One activity is a five minute educational talk. The members want to know more about the organization they belong to. There are many sources that you can get from for an education program. Possibly you could use a jeopardy style quiz with the winner receiving a simple prize. You would be surprised how much they might look forward to this kind of program. Whatever you do, give your members something to look forward to that promotes your Body and/or freemasonry.

3. **Use food to build attendance** - Every has to eat. Why not use food to bring them out? A good meal is often a good draw. The meal doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, the members could even do the meals themselves. There are also opportunities to find low-cost caterers. Pot lucks are also popular and can work well.

4. **Always make sure the coffee pot is brewing before the meeting** - The coffee pot is a way to get people to sit or stand around and talk to one another. Remember, it is the fellowship that brings people back to meetings.

5. Open the doors early - If your meetings start at 7:30, don't lock the doors at 7:29. Open up an hour before the meetings. Encourage the members to come down and socialize. Get the coffee brewing early. If you decide to have a meal before the meeting, be sure to invite the members to come and have fellowship and fun.

6. Come early, stay late - Lodge/ York Rite night should be an event. If anything revolves around a meeting, arriving just before it starts and leaving immediately after closing, most will not return. Yes, you have to have a meeting, but Grand Lodge and Grand York Rite laws does not say anywhere that you can't have fun at it. Make the night an event. It will draw people out, and keep your new members coming.

Companions and Sir Knights, we must bring our members back and encourage them to stay and participate in all of the activities. To get them to participate you must keep interest and participation going, and have a well-planned agenda to have a well-executed program that needs to be developed. Let's bring them back!

Membership growth and retention is a slow process. At first it may look hopeless. But persevere, and you will find it easier to build. Remember, success does breed success. Start small, publicize, be positive, and you will reap the harvest.

Remember, equip, 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 Fall of 2020 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 and Retention is everyone's business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA CHAPTER NIGHTEEN- SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, JURISDICTION

19.01. Chapter Officers.

Each subordinate Chapter shall have such elected and appointed Officers as provided by the Constitution of this Grand Chapter, the powers and duties of such Officers being as provided by said Constitution and these Regulations.

19.02 Work Commenced by Defunct Chapter.

The annual election of the Officers of all subordinate Chapters shall be held without nomination and by secret written ballot except that, by unanimous consent, the rules may be waived.

19.03 Public Installations.

In case of Public Installation, the Officers shall collectively assume the View of Office. The High Priest-Elect shall answer the twelve questions; at the proper time he shall be presented to his Companions but will not be tendered private Grand Honors in public, however, will be given public Grand Honors.

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

Companions, our recruiting efforts are paying off. With two festivals completed for the fall, and two to go, we have already knighted 49 new knights. With Ft Pierce and Tallahassee, we should go well beyond our numbers for last year. Great work.

Membership by Chapter for 2025:

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach (Boca-Delray)	7	6	Cocoa	1
	Ft Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami	1		Fort Pierce	3
2	Manatee/ Bradenton/ Trinity	4	7	Jacksonville	3
	Sarasota/ Venice/ Fort Myers	6		Fernandina	2
				Palatka	6
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)	2	8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)	1		Middleburg	1
	Clearwater (Springtime)	1		Gainesville	1
4	Lakeland	1	9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City	5		Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)	2		Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	5	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	6		Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	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 District 2025:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	1 & 8 Mar 25 Oct 25	Tampa (2), Plant City (5), Lakeland (1), Sebring (2), Orlando (2), Lake Sumter (2), Manatee (4), Ft Myers (6), St Petersburg (1), Clearwater (1)	26
4			
5			
6	28-29 Mar 14-15 Sep 25	Ft Pierce (3), Tallahassee (1), WPB(Boca-Delray) (6), Palatka (1)	12
7	8 & 15 Feb	Palatka (5), Jacksonville (3), Gainesville (1), Miami (1), Lake Sumter (4), Daytona (5), Middleburg (1), Fernandina Beach (2), Cocoa (1)	23
8			
9	Mar 25	Tallahassee	
10			
TOTAL 2025 KNIGHTINGS			61

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Fall 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

Hm Ph: 321 726-6971

Cell: 321-795-8316

Fax: 321-951-9680

Email: hadams1@aol.com