



# RITE NOTES

## Putting Life into your York Rite Body

### Part 2

15 June 2025

#### Companions and Sir Knights

This will be Part 2 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.

Communication in dying organizations are usually close to non-existent. Open the lines of communication so your members know you are alive and active again. Even if a majority don't come back to active status, if they know the Body is active, they will be more inclined to pay their dues each year. After all, who wants to throw money down a rat hole. If they see your organization is dead, they will probably be more inclined to quit paying their dues.

1. **Personal Contact Works the Best** - Phone calls and personal contact works. It is especially effective when you call to see how your non-active members are doing. When your non-active realize that you care about them as people (versus just wanting their time and money), the more inclined they are to be supportive with their time and money. Make an invitation. Show them that you care.
2. **Publish a Newsletter** - It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. A simple sheet of 8 1/2x11 inch paper, front and back, with a place to put the mailing label will work. It should be pleasant to look at, and with today's computers, that's not difficult anymore. *Keep it light and upbeat.* (Don't whine) Tell your members what is happening at your YR Body. It will give your members the impression that things are on the upswing again. Positive attitudes bring positive results.
3. **Use High Tech to Promote** - More and more of your members are using technology these days. The growth of computer use and e-mail are growing even amongst your older members. Use e-mail with those who have it. E-mail is free. You can create e-mail groups using Microsoft Outlook, to create small groups. You can also set them up on line using [YahooGroups.com](http://YahooGroups.com). These are all effective ways to reach your members. Even if all your members are not computer literate. Don't overlook the segment that is.

**4. Use the Local Media to Promote** - Community newspapers, Cable TV systems, local radio stations and more offer free space to promote community activities. Contact each of your local media to find out their local rules, meet the people in charge, and learn their deadlines. Make friends with the local media. Using it to promote your organization will give your community an awareness that your organization not only exists, but is alive and well.

**5. Make Sure that you have Good Signage in Front of Your Building-** How your building looks make a statement about your organization. Does it look kept up? Is it attractive, or is it an eyesore. Maybe as a tenant, in a lodge, you can (as a project) assist the lodge in keeping the building attractive. Is there a sign out front telling the world who you are and when you meet? Is there a telephone number for a contact person? Good signage can be effective in building your lodge and YR Body.

Remember, create an image of life and success and it will be contagious.

**Part 3, will discuss Building Active Members.**

**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 TWENTY: HIGHPRIEST**

#### **20.01 COMMITTEES.**

The High Priest of a Chapter shall appoint such committees as may be required by the laws of this Grand Chapter, the Bylaws of his Chapter, and as he may otherwise deem necessary to the business of his Chapter.

### **CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: KING AND SCRIBE**

#### **21.01 Powers and Duties.**

The King and Scribe of a constituent Chapter shall, together with the High Priest, constitute the Council of that Chapter; they shall have such other powers and duties as provided and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Chapter, the Bylaws of the Chapter, and Ancient Usage.

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

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

**Membership by Chapter for 2025:**

<b>DIST</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>DIST</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>#</b>
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:

DIS T	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			
<b>TOTAL 2025 KNIGHTINGS</b>			<b>61</b>
<b>TOTAL 2024 KNIGHTINGS</b>			<b>76</b>

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

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