



RITE NOTES

Putting Life into your York Rite Body

Part 3

15 July 2025

Companions and Sir Knights,

This will be Part 3 of a 4-part series. Communication may be an important part of the operation of any lodge or York Rite Body, but if you do not 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 do not think anything worthwhile is happening or they don't have a job. 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.

We must bring our members back and encourage them to stay and participate in all our activities. To do this, a well-planned, well executed program 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.

Initially, you may be doing almost everything by yourself (depending on the health of your York Rite Body) but you need to expand the workload over a wider base. Moses in Exodus 18:13-27 was trying to do it all, but it was overwhelming him. Moses was initially burning out from doing everything for the children of Israel. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law advised him to pick some competent elders who could assist him, thereby spreading the workload over a greater number of people.

Remember, you can only do so much. You will also burn out if you try to do it all. If you want to build an effective York Rite organization bring others on board.

1. **HOLD REGULAR OFFICER MEETINGS** - Your officers are the key to building a successful York Rite Body. Informal meetings held on a night other than your regular meeting night helps to build comradery. If possible, meet anyplace other than the lodge hall. This can help to make a more relaxed atmosphere. Remember, these times together should be fun as well as productive.
2. **LEARN YOUR RITUAL** - The ritual is what defines who and what your organization is. It is what teaches the philosophy of your organization. Learn your part first. This will inspire others to learn their parts as well. While good ritualistic work does not always equal an active York Rite or Lodge, it is sure hard to find a Lodge or York Rite Body that is active that does not have good ritualists as its officers. Good ritualists produce pride and activity.

3. BE POSITIVE IN YOUR ATTITUDE - Negative attitudes only inspire people who go elsewhere.
4. SHARE THE WORKLOAD - Don't do it all. As noted above, you will burn out, and if you are burned out, then all the work you did was probably in vain. Share the workload. Find jobs for all your officers. Utilize their talents, and match up jobs to their skills. People will return when they are doing things they enjoy.

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

Part 4, will discuss Increase Activity, 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.

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EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: TREASURER AND SECRETARY

22.01 TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary all the moneys collected by him on account of the Chapter. He shall keep a correct amount of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by authority of the Chapter. He shall make regular entries both of receipts and disbursements, and have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose. He shall also report to the Chapter the state of the funds yearly and oftener if required. He shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Chapter and the Bylaws of his Chapter.

22.02 SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a regular list of the members, and record the transactions of the Chapter, which are proper to be converted to writing. He shall receive all moneys paid into the Chapter and shall properly pay the same over to the Treasurer. He shall give due notice when directed by advertising or otherwise, of the time of holding each Convocation. He shall make an annual report to the Chapter, at the Regular Annual Convocation, of the state of the funds of the Chapter, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, for the preceding year up to and including the Regular Convocation preceding the 27th of December, and oftener if required. He shall have such other powers

and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Chapter and the Bylaws of his Chapter.

22.03 LIST OF MEMBERS NOT SUPPLIED.

It is improper for the Secretary of a Chapter or any member thereof to furnish a list of names of the members of the Chapter to any person for commercial purposes or to any civic or fraternal organization other than Regular Masonic Bodies.

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 61 new knights. With Ft Pierce and Tampa, 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
TOTAL 2024 KNIGHTINGS			76

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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