

# York Rite Sovereign College

Of North America

- Masonic Temple -

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D. Allen Surratt  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Date: August 31, 2010

To: Grand Governors and Constituent College Secretaries

From: Governor General, Joe R. Manning, Jr.  
Secretary General, D. Allen Surratt

Re: New Policy of the Sovereign College – “Suggestion Package”

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At the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania a package of information was developed by two committees; the Study of the Condition of the York Rite and Education. The two committees were directed by the Board to help colleges whose membership has fallen below the constitutional minimum of 25. However, after reviewing the information the Board decided that this information would be of great help for all colleges. The Board ratified that the information be made policy of the Sovereign College and directed the Sovereign College office to send the information to all College Secretaries with directions that the colleges must use the included forms and information.

Included in this mailing you will find **“Letter of Invitation”** this letter is directed to the proposed member and tells of the Purposes of the Sovereign College and other information needed by the proposed member. This letter would accompany the Acceptance form when you notify the brother of his invitation to join your college. **“Purposes of the Sovereign College”** this presentational form of our Purposes can be given to new members when they receive the Order Knight of York, along with his membership certificate, pin and a copy of the Articles and Points of the Sovereign College. **“Survey”** this form is a great starting point to see where your membership sees itself and where possibly help is needed. Your College should use this for completing a membership analysis. **“Suggestions to strengthen York Rite Colleges”** this is a listing of suggestions that will help any college whether there are issues at hand or not. For colleges who are experiencing problems, this package was put together with you in mind; other colleges have followed these suggestions and are now very viable and active. For those who are not experiencing any problems, these suggestions can only strengthen your programs now in place and possibly give you different ideas for new programs.

These forms are available from the Sovereign College Office they can be emailed to you if you choose. They will also be available on the website shortly.

The Board of Directors would like to have your comments on this new package and also have your experiences in using these forms. Did they help your college? Were they easy to use? Please refer all comments to the Sovereign College Office so a report will be ready for the Board for their review at the 54<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee.

We appreciate all your efforts in this matter.

Fraternally,

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Joe R. Manning, Jr., KG CY  
Governor General

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D. Allen Surratt, KCPC  
Secretary General

Dear Brother

Greetings: As an active member of your Lodge, Chapter, Council/Preceptory, you have been proposed for membership in \_\_\_\_\_ York Rite College No. \_\_\_\_\_, of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America. On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ College, I am pleased to extend an Invitation to Membership to you.

The purposes of the York Rite Sovereign College are: To foster a spirit of co-operation and coordination among all bodies of York Rite Masonry; to assist in worthy efforts to improve the ritualistic and dramatic presentation of York Rite work; to conduct an educational program in order to inculcate greater appreciation of the principles, ideals and programs of York Rite Masonry; to strengthen York Rite Masonry in every way possible; to build up a love of country and to aid and support genuine Patriotism; and to reward outstanding service to York Rite Masonry by awards, honors and other methods of proper recognition.

\_\_\_\_\_ College No. \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ times a year: in \_\_\_\_\_ the months of \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
At \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_ at . \_\_\_\_\_ The joining Fee for \_\_\_\_\_ College  
is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and Life Membership is available for a fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Enclosed find an 'Acceptance of Invitation' form to be completed and signed by you, then returned to me. I would appreciate your early response. Our Preeminent Governor, \_\_\_\_\_ has arranged for the "Order Knight of York" to next be conferred at our \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally,

Secretary

# York Rite Sovereign College of North America

## ~ Purposes ~

**Taken from the Constitution & By-laws of  
the Sovereign College - Article II**



The purposes of the YORK RITE SOVEREIGN COLLEGE OF NORTH AMERICA are as follows:

- (a) To foster a spirit of cooperation and coordination among all the bodies of York Rite Masonry.
- (b) To assist in worthy efforts to improve the ritualistic and dramatic presentation of York Rite work.
- (c) To conduct an educational program in order to inculcate a greater appreciation of the principles, ideals and programs of York Rite.
- (d) To strengthen York Rite Masonry in every proper manner.
- (e) To build a love of country and to aid and support genuine patriotism.
- (f) To reward outstanding service to York Rite Masonry by awards, honors and other methods of proper recognition.
- (g) To support Charitable and Benevolent endeavors of Freemasonry.



**Survey for York Rite College No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Located in the State/Province of \_\_\_\_\_**

Membership analysis: What is the age of your membership? How many members are:  
\_\_\_\_ under 50, \_\_\_\_ 50 – 60, \_\_\_\_ 60 – 70, \_\_\_\_ 70 – 80, \_\_\_\_ over 80  
\_\_\_\_ unable to attend due to age or infirmity. What is your average attendance \_\_\_\_ %

What is geographical sphere of influence? (*Halfway to neighboring State/Province Colleges or to geographical barrier?*) Indicate as radius in miles/kilometers \_\_\_\_\_

How many Commanderies/Preceptories exist in this sphere of influence? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you characterize their strength? \_\_\_\_\_

How many members do these Commanderies/Preceptories have? \_\_\_\_\_

How many Lodges exist in this sphere of influence? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you characterize their strength? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times does your College meet each year? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you explored changing the location and/or date and time of your Assemblies to accommodate members and/or potential members? If so what were your conclusions?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you explored piggy backing your Assemblies with other popular York Rite functions on the same day? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If no, are there functions in your jurisdiction where joint meetings might be possible? (AMD, RCC, SRICF, Knight Masons, etc.). Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If requested, could you get an annual list of newly knighted Templars from your Grand Secretary/Recorder? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you encourage your Companion Knights to propose knights to be invited to join the York Rite College? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ .

Does your College have a degree team to confer the Knight of York? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If no, do you think it is possible that a team could be organized from your membership? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ .

If you are presently conferring the Order Knight of York, do the team members read their parts, or is the language given by rote? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ .

Other relevant comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# York Rite Sovereign College of North America

## ~ Suggestions to strengthen York Rite Colleges ~

1. Start by reviewing, studying and reinforcing with all officers and members, the purposes of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America as found in Article II of the Constitution.
2. Do a membership Analysis (Survey)
  - a. Determine the age and mobility of your members
  - b. Determine the geographical area from which your membership travels.
  - c. Catalogue the availability of members from your geographical area i.e. How many Lodges, Chapter, Councils and Commanderies or Preceptories exist in your area? What is their relative strengths and weakness? Can your College provide assistance to help them?
3. Determine if a change of date or place of meeting could improve attendance and availability. It can often be advantageous to schedule meetings of the College to coincide on a date and place when another Masonic body is meeting. Saves travel and reduces a day out of members' busy schedules.
4. Should your College provide more opportunities for the members to get together? Seventy-seven percent of Colleges meet four or more times per year. It may be difficult to instill a sense of fraternity amongst the Companion Knights with only two assemblies per year.
5. Research and agree upon a useful program that your College can participate in. We are all busy today, and members seldom are interested in supporting a body which merely goes through the motions, meeting for the sake of meeting. Any Masonic body worth supporting does something. What does your College do? Support a Charitable cause. Provide Ritualistic Assistance to local York Rite Bodies as a College. Recognize outstanding Masons with the Gold Honour Award. "We are known by our works." Focus on the "Purposes" as found in Article II of our Constitution.
6. An excellent starting point would be to look at the "Spencer Award" program (College Activity Report, included with the College's Annual Return) and find ways for the membership to improve their College's score. Setting a goal and striving together to achieve it will lead to esprit d'corps and a sense of accomplishment. This creates pride in membership visible to others who will want to be part of the success.
7. Be sure to plan interesting and informative programs for your meetings. Members or guests can provide interesting talks on any aspect of life, whether Masonic or community, whether historical or philosophical.
8. Colleges which provide or share some activity with their ladies are more successful. It might be going out to dinner or arranging a shopping experience or a tour or including them in "Open Installation".
9. When you do ritual work, make sure it is of the highest quality. Remember, ours is an invitational body. We invite highly qualified masons to accept the honor of members in our Order. They have a right to expect an exceptional experience. As members we have our reputation to uphold.
10. Do a Membership Survey to get the Companion Knight's thoughts on the foregoing.

