



The Grand Council Of Royal And Select Masters Of Texas



2020 First Report of District Deputy Grand Master

Official visit on **02 / 06 /2020** to **Southside** Council № **315** , District № **26** , located at **7700 Crowley Road** in **Fort Worth, TX 76134** (PO Box: **---**):

Installed Officers Present: TIM ☒ RIDM ☐ IPC ☐ TRS ☐ REC ☐ CHP ☐ CG ☐ COC ☒ ST ☒ SEN ☐
PTIMs Serving as Officers: TIM ☒ RIDM ☒ IPC ☒ TRS ☒ REC ☒ CHP ☒ CG ☒ COC ☒ ST ☒ SEN ☒

Important: Answer ALL questions. Discuss the report with the Council Officers. List additional comments on a separate form if necessary. Mail and distribute copies according to directions. File this report within five (5) days.

- YES ☐ NO ☒ 1. Has your Council utilized the District Instructor this year?
a. If not, state why: **TIM states that Council has not been active enough with degrees to need it.**
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 2. Did the Council have more than one ritual book opened during the ritualistic opening and closing?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 3. Is your Council capable of conferring its own degrees with its own members?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 4. Has your Council had a gain in members over the last 5 years?
a. Including Deaths ☐ Excluding Deaths ☐
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 5. Does your Council plan to participate in the Annual 2020 School of Instruction?
a. If not, state why:
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 6. Does your Council plan to participate in a local, district, or area School of Instruction?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 7. Is your Council interested in holding a local School of Instruction?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 8. Does your Council contribute to the Texas Masonic Retirement Center?
a. If not, state why:
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 9. Were all the minutes signed and up to date?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 10. Does your Council own or maintain a website, Facebook page, or other social media?
a. If so, is it up to date? YES ☐ NO ☐
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 11. Would the Council be interested in a Cryptic statewide training program similar to the Grand Lodge of Texas Officer Leadership Training program?
a. If not, does the Council do any type of formal planning YES ☐ NO ☐
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 12. Does your Council have a budget?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 13. Does your Council have sufficient funds to operate?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ 14. Does your Council have any special meetings (i.e. awards, family, or honor nights, etc.)?
Historically, the Council holds honor nights, and has an upcoming honor night planned for Companion BJ Young, who will be receiving his 50-year award in all four York Rite bodies soon.

15. What does the Council do to give it a separate identity from the other York Rite Bodies?

TIM and Pro-Tem Recorder stated that they do not do anything to give Council a separate identity and seemed rather embarrassed by the question. However, they seemed to take some inspiration from the question, and stated that they were interested in (and are now planning on) doing something to distinguish Council.



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If the Council desires to make additional comments, please submit them on a separate page, make the necessary copies of the same, and submit them with this report.

Please notate all remarks regarding the condition of this Council that Trustees of the Grand Council need to be made aware of at this time (If necessary, continue on a separate page and submit):

OBSERVATIONS:

Council was scheduled to open at 7 PM and opened at about 7:15 PM. They had to open with five. Only the TIM did not have to read from the script when receiving the DDGM. I was the designated prompter during opening and closing. According to pro-tem Recorder Micah Frost, their Recorder, Jason Lesikar, is "trying to catch up with the minutes." Lesikar was not present at the meeting and will not be pursuing reelection as Recorder. Apparently, he has been struggling with work/life balance due to running multiple businesses at once. There was a presentation by Gary Blair on behalf of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center to the companions of Southside Council due to their contributions to the No Mason Left Behind fund. He presented them with a small glass trophy that has "Southside Polytechnic" on it instead of the correct "Southside." They don't know how much money they have as their are currently locked out of their treasurer's account. This is being fixed. No announcements were made. No program was held. Bills were paid. Council closed at about 7:45 PM after about 30 mins of ritual and business.

ASSESSMENT:

The guys at Southside are working hard. They are in much better shape than a couple of other councils in Cryptic District No. 26, but they are still very much struggling. All of their officers are PTIMs and they only have two companions who are active and not PTIMs - they are brand new. Half their officers were missing due to either Masonic Week conflicts or unexplained absences. However, their fellowship at dinner was very good, and I know from personal experiences that they make stellar ritualists. Southside is not doing great, but they're far from dead, and there's definitely hope for them if a council consolidates into them, or they get better at recruiting.

I have a minor objection to their claim that they have a budget. The explanation I was given was that the only bill they ever have is rent, so their budget is simply whatever rent happens to be. I have marked it "YES" because that was the answer that I was provided with, but I would personally say "NO" because that just doesn't seem like an actual budget, and I'm sure they encounter other expenses.

I am very concerned by their statement that they don't use an instructor because they're not conferring degrees often enough to merit it. I am also very concerned by the fact that only three of their installed officers were in attendance, regardless of schedule conflicts.

Recommendations for District Deputy Grand Master:

Micah Frost

Signed,

Gabriel Allen Jagush

District Deputy Grand Master, Cryptic District № 26