



The Grand Council  
Of Royal And Select Masters  
Of Texas



2020 First Report of District Deputy Grand Master

Official visit on 02 / 05 /2020 to TARRANT Council № 349 , District № 26 , located at  
2115 BELLE AVENUE in FORT WORTH, TX 76106 (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: Council relies on Joe Orona (former Ch/Co CoW) to teach work.
- 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.)?  
Recorder stated that council holds special meetings "as needed" to present 50/60 year honors, but also mentioned that it has been some time since any of those honors were actually awarded at an actual council assembly.

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

Officers stated "Nothing, they're exactly the same."



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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):

### Meeting Notes:

Dinner was quiet and subdued with little conversation going on. We ate fried chicken and beans. I ate dinner with a fork and knife in order to handle DDGM paperwork without making a mess, but because they had no dinner knives (only forks and spoons) I had to use my pocket knife to cut my chicken. According to a frequent visitor, fried chicken and beans is the meal at every meeting, including called meetings, and the dinners are always this quiet, even when there are more people in attendance.

The council opened at approximately 7:20 PM with four officers and one sideline member making the five-man legal quorum, and five visitors assisting by acting as pro-tem officers in order to open with nine + chaplain. 4/5 of the Tarrant Council members needed books to open while most of the visitors did not. Every single member of the ritual grading team ended up playing a pro-tem role. It was mentioned that they have not met since November due to scheduling conflicts with Grand York Rite functions and holidays. The council account balance was reported as approximately \$10k which seems down from \$12k/\$13k which I had seen in older minutes of the council. The ritual team reported their success at the GRAC TX/GCRSMTX School of Instruction Ritual Competition and delivered a check of \$150 to the council. The meeting ended at approximately 7:40 PM, for a total length of approximately 20-25 minutes. There was no chapter meeting before or after.

### Personal Opinion:

I have some serious doubts/concerns (and some outright disagreements) with the answers that I was provided with by the officers. Relying on Thrice Illustrious Orona as a teach seems dubious as he struggles very much to remember the work at this point in time. They claim that they can confer their own degrees with their own members, but from personal recollection, they have almost always needed substantial help in conferring. I have doubts that they have grown (excluding deaths). They don't have a website, Facebook page, or other social media, despite their claim to the contrary. I was dismayed to hear that not only do they not do anything to distinguish Council from other bodies, but that they see no difference between Chapter and Council.

I deeply love the individual Companions of this council, but this was pretty rough. The older members have to work too hard to try and keep the group going, and, to be frank, the younger officers coming up in the line are not going to be able to reach even half of their full potential here. It hurts to say this, but there are several younger members/officers in Tarrant Council whose talents would be much better applied in other councils. I discussed my concerns with a former DDGHP; I must agree with him in that I do not know why Tarrant Council continues to operate.

### Recommendations for District Deputy Grand Master:

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Signed,

Gabriel Allen Jagush

District Deputy Grand Master, Cryptic District № 26