

North Carolina

December Edition

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Sir Knights:

It is October 26th! York Rite Festivals and Scottish Rite Reunions continue as summer ends and the beautiful fall colors abound. Have you ever stopped to think how beautiful the death of the leaves really is? After they fall, they continue to serve a very fertile purpose. The memories of the many fallen Companions and Sir Knights live on to encourage and guide us. We will always be grateful.

Many congratulations are in order. First, let us congratulate Right Worshipful Leonard Y. Safrit, Jr., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge elect. Let us also congratulate the other Grand line officers on their advancement through the line and Worshipful Brother Robert E. Gresham, Jr. on his appointment as Junior Grand Steward.

The Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America recently held its Biennial Session in Washington, DC. Many Companions and Sir Knights of the York Rite were honored and elected to receive the 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, or the 33° Inspector General Honorary. What a wonderful experience it is to see the two *RITES* working so closely together. Let us continue to “Accentuate the Positives” by always promoting harmony within all of our Masonic bodies.

Yesterday while attending the second day of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Reunion, I had the pleasure of seeing Sir Knight Randy Ogburn receive the Scottish Rite Service Medal. Sir Knight Ogburn is serving as my Grand Aide this year. His enthusiasm and work with both Rites are an inspiration to us all.

The Salisbury York Rite Bodies honored Companion Danial M. Hogue, Most Excellent Grand High Priest with a banquet last night. It was a wonderful evening for Companion Hogue and enjoyed by all.

To date, your presiding Grand officers have visited 26 of the York Rite Bodies in North Carolina. Due to various reasons, we have visited some of the Bodies more than once. At the beginning of our term of office, there were 31 Local bodies. The Southern Pines Bodies have voted to merge with the Fayetteville Bodies. We were privileged to help these two bodies in this very harmonious transition. Companion and Sir Knight Robert A. Schafer, Grand Secretary/Recorder, is always a tremendous help when decisions of this magnitude have to be made.

After a visit to one of the Local bodies, we were flattered by being asked to come back and do an educational program on the York Rite in an open forum. Should a Blue Lodge in your area, or any other Masonic or non-Masonic group like to have a program on the York Rite, please contact one of us and we will make arrangements for the program.

Other Local and out-of-state bodies remain to be visited. With each visit, we renew old friendships and make new ones. Due to a new friendship with the Grand Commander of Tennessee, I was recently invited to come to Tennessee for one of their many Commandery inspections. Because of an obligation in our own jurisdiction, I was unable to make the visit. Unfortunately, this kind of thing just cannot be avoided. As we continue to “Accentuate the Positives” in our own jurisdiction, as well as others, maybe other opportunities to visit will come our way.

On December 2nd, your three Grand presiding officers will be in Charlotte for our visit with the “Local” York Rite Body. We will have the drawing for the beautiful Bob Timberlake print which helped us raise over \$1,400.00 for our three charities. Good luck to all ticket holders!

“Power Pot II” continues to be a very positive part of our program. Our three charities are already feeling the effects of it and will continue to do so throughout the year. Thank you Companion Walston, Companion Reddish, and Sir Knight Cook for the idea.

We don't change God's message – His message changes us.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLANNED DECEMBER ACTIVITES</u> <u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
December 1	Salisbury Christmas Observance	Salisbury
December 2	Local	Charlotte
December 3	York Rite meeting	Greensboro
December 5	Awards and Ladies night banquet	Washington
December 6	Grand Commandery officers meeting and Christmas parade	Denton
December 9	Eastern Star meeting	Stokesdale
December 10	Scottish Rite meeting	Greensboro
December 13	Wilkerson College Lodge	Greensboro
December 15	Blue Lodge meeting	Madison
December 16	Blue Lodge meeting	Stokesdale
December 25	Christmas	All Christians

Sincerely and fraternally,

M. Gene Levellyn, KYCH, KCT, 33°
R. E. Grand Commander

Sword Ritual, Cuts or Parries

In giving the parries, first take the position on guard, keep the feet at right angles and look into the eyes of the Knight opposite. The flats of the blades should be crossed about ten inches from the points, the sword arm 'straight; parries should be given with spirit but the swords touching lightly.

Parry, ONE. Raise and extend the arm, back of the hand to the left and up, without changing the grasp, wrist as high as the head, the edge of the sword up, the blade in prolongation of the forearm, and engage the sword of the Knight opposite.

Parry, TWO. Disengage the sword and describe a circular movement toward the rear and right, back of the hand down, edge of the sword down, the hand on a line with the head, and engage the opposite sword on the right side, crossing the blades as before.

Parry, THREE, Disengage the sword and describe a circular movement toward the left and downward, engage the opposite sword on the left side, the point of the sword near the ground, the edge upward, the back of the hand to the left, and cross blades.

Parry, FOUR. Come directly to the position of Parry One.