

YORK RITE BODIES OF FT.  
MYERS  
P.O. BOX 6354  
FT. MYERS, FL 33911



### Degree Schedule Starting in September

- September 8** — **Stated Meeting of Chapter**  
**September 22** — **Commandery meeting, Order of Red Cross**  
**October 13** — **Stated Meeting of Council followed by Order of Malta**  
**October 27** — **Commandery Meeting, Order of the Temple and DDGC Official Visit**

We have 3 Candidates for the Commandery Orders. We have 6 additional candidates at various stages in Chapter and Council. We have 4 potential Petitioners at the moment for a new Cycle of Degrees next time around. When a 2010 schedule is set we will publish it in a newsletter and on the website.

## FORT MYERS YORK RITE BODIES

2009

Issue No. 06

Richard T. Nelson, Excellent High Priest, **Poinciana Chapter 50, R.A.M.** (Ph 239-332-0893)

Lewis Fish, Illustrious Master, **Council No. 25, R.& S.M.** (Ph 239-369-5287)

SK E Randal Spradling Eminent Commander, **Commandery #32** (Ph 239-634-3267)

James W Hogg KYCH, **Treasurer** (Ph 239-482-3127)

Guy E Waltman KYGCH, Secretary Emeritus (Ph 239-369-7992)

Meets at  
Tropical Lodge No. 56  
3100 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901

**Regular Communications**  
**2nd and 4th Tuesdays 7:00 PM**

Chapter and Council alternate 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays. Commandery meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. The months of July and August may be Dark. Please verify meeting dates on the calendar and announcement pages of our website

**September 2009**

**Visitors welcome / Members are urged to attend**

**Although we have been dark for the summer, Grand York Rite has been busy.** If you haven't been on their website lately, it is worth a visit and frequent return visits as well. Take a look at <<http://www.flgyr.org/>>. There is a great deal of information available. You can access the latest issue of Florida York Rite Mason Magazine, Knights Templar Magazine, links to a great deal of Masonic education, articles, announcements and calendars of upcoming events. It is an important asset and should be a bookmark on all of our computers. You might want to check our own website from time to time also. Announcements are posted as items come up, newsletters are always posted shortly after release, and you'll find a number of links worth following there as well. The site, <<http://www.yorkritefm.org>> contains a link to the Southwest Florida Masonic Calendar. That calendar is reasonably current on events in Districts 28 and 29 and other major events as well.

**Dan Brown's new book is due out** in early September. After some delays, it appears we will now get to see what it says. There was some interest generated by The Da Vinci Code and we may see that happen again. In any event the Ft. Myers News Press has been doing some background work and some of us may wind up being quoted in the build up to the book's release.

**As we finish out 2009, it is informative to look at what we wanted to accomplish and how far we got.** In response to a number of newer members and those expressing interest, we changed over from Festivals to a "Degree a Month" program. We actually went a bit faster than that with all three of the Ft. Myers York Rite Bodies cooperating with each other and giving way to Called Meetings combined with Stated Meetings in order to move our new members forward but keep the concept of being able to confer a Degree and concentrate on it rather than a long day of too much to remember. The program was well received and we are finishing it up this Fall. The idea has

caught on around the State as well and other groups are looking at this approach, a few apparently following suit. Further, we were successful at bringing the work inside—with 2008 and 2009 Degrees and Orders being conducted by our own members. On the other hand, some of the new candidates missed meetings due to illness and business and therefore had their progress slowed. We able to do a make up session and that helped with Chapter, but there are still candidates in mid progress with no convenient Festivals or Degree events close enough to catch them up. Our emphasis, however, has been on restarting into growth, and that has been somewhat successful. You can see it at any meeting this Fall. How that plays out for 2010 will unfold in the next few weeks as the Dais Officers work on tentative plans for the coming York Rite year.

**Administratively, there are a few considerations to be shared a well.** We set out to update and upgrade the Commandery Armory and much of that has been accomplished. It has, however, been expensive. We knew it would be, but we went at it and we believe with some positive results. There are needs for Chapter and Council also in the regalia category, and those will be addressed to a certain extent this Fall as well. The downside is the need for strong consideration of a dues increase. Like every other part of Freemasonry, we are going to have to be realistic about cost increases. And we are going to have to balance that with the reality of difficult economic times for virtually all of us. The matter will come to the floor in October and November and we'll need to deal with it. Please do your best to attend and help us solve these issues.

