

# Proper Placement of the United States Flag at Meetings

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Due to ignorance about correct positioning practice, many Americans disrespect the Flag of the United States. The Flag is the living symbol of the Nation, and reminds us of the past and present sacrifices for liberty and justice for all. We need a reminder about proper protocol regarding the placement of the Flag at meetings.

When displayed on the floor or on a platform, the flag is given the place of honor, always positioned behind the speaker, *to the speaker's right*, and to the left of the audience. Other flags, if any, are positioned to the right of the U.S. Flag *as seen by the audience*.

The right side was established as the position of honor from the time when the right hand was the weapon hand. The right hand raised without a weapon was sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is *the observer's left*.

Years ago, there was a practice, generally in churches, of placing the flag to the left of the speaker, or to the right of the audience, if the flag was on the floor in front of the speaker and between the speaker and the audience. This practice is no longer proper protocol. The flag should be to the left of the audience, defined by the greatest number of people observing it.

If there is a flag at an exit of an assembly room, it should be placed to the left of the door, which positions it to the viewers' left when leaving the room.

For more information about *Flag Protocol* go to <http://americanflags.org>