THE CROSS & CROWN



OCTOBER 2022







Vol. II No. 5

Craig L. Flagtwet, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of California

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings, Sir Knights of the Great State of California

Few would find argument with the statement that the first degree is the foundation upon which we build our Masonic lives. In it we receive instruction that should allow us to build square and true and to go forward with increased knowledge and ability. Unfortunately, most seem to become so obsessed by the thought of secret knowledge that they never let the practical information in our degrees have the value in their thoughts that they should.

We are having a commitment crisis in our fraternity and I am of the belief that we can remedy this by further education of our brothers in the symbols of our beloved craft, and the true foundationally critical lessons contained in them; by giving our brothers, practical lessons on the application and use of these tools to allow them to accomplish great and important works.

In the first degree we are taught that the "24-inch gauge is an instrument used by operative Masons to measure and lay out their work. But we, as free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of

dividing our time. It, being divided into 24 equal parts, is emblematic of the 24 hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three parts (notice it's not three equal parts), whereby we find a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother; a part for our usual vocations; and a part for refreshment and repose." So let's be practical and have a look at this important lesson for success.

Time Management

In America the average work day is 8 hours, we can all agree at the very least it takes another two hours getting ready, going to and returning from work for most. So let's remember 10 hours, in addition we know from health studies and form those of us who try to get by on less, that 8 hours is an important amount of sleep. But let's use the number 7 to account for the average Americans number of hours of sleep. So now let's remember the number 17. We all agree that there are 24 hours in a day 17 of which are used up by our usual vocation and sleep. We have 7 left. Out of this amount of time we have to make sure we eat properly so we would use up 1.5 to 2 hours daily in our three meals. Some would argue that they only eat once a day, some only twice so let us call it 1 hour for refreshment. We are now at 18. Of the 6 hours we have left in the day, the average American watches 5.5 hours of television. So our day is done.

This is where the lesson of the common gavel comes into to play as a very important tool for success and achievement. Just stop and think of the impact on our average Americans life by committing to watching 5.5 hours of television a day. First many of us pay over a hundred dollars a month for our TV service, a service that exposes us to all of the advertising and mind control of the best in the field of making you want what they tell you to want and to buy what they tell you to buy -- so you can be skinnier, faster, richer, better, prettier, more successful and on and on and on. In addition many of the shows are now called reality television and so now we pay to be bomb-barded and manipulated and entertained instead of having our own life and experiences. We live our lives through observation of theirs -- not to mention there is no time left for the Service of GOD and a distressed worthy Brother. And we are surprised that America is having a moral crisis!

Life Management

Let's look at the common gavel. "The common gavel is an instrument used by operative Masons to break off the rough and superfluous parts of stone, the better to fit them for the builders use. But we as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life; thereby fitting our minds as living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." This tells us that we must get rid of the unneeded and the unworthy and when taken together with the lesson of the twenty-four inch gauge gives us a very good lesson in Life Management, Mason style.

If we heed the lessons of these important symbols and get rid of our vices so we are clear-minded and healthy, we can then use the time left in our days to allow us to accomplish many great and glorious things. This then allows us to consciously commit to our labors of building. We are all committed to too many things in our lives, some on a daily basis. Unfortunately for many, most of these commitments are unconscious commitments that have not been clearly thought out. These then become our routines and how we spend our time. These then become our values, habits and so on. When we apply these lessons and make clear minded commitments to our plan to build our life, our family and our fraternity, we have then the time and energy to accomplish our tasks. For some reason in our fraternity the value of these fundamental lessons, those provided by the aforementioned symbols, is overlooked and rushed past in pursuit of more -- more mysterious, more important and more secret knowledge.

Very few if any, in my Masonic career, went back and taught me about the importance of these symbols and their lessons. Few if any are currently actively teaching in our lodges -- these or any important truths.

It's interesting that the value of things that have a practical application or use in our daily lives and the lives of so many around us is found to be not worthy of study and application. But when we make them mysterious and vague, we chase them like a thirsty man, after cool water. Once we have captured them somewhat, but not fully mastered them, we seem to lose interest and are off to the next great mystery. We must invest in our members our time and mental energy and teach to them these great mysteries of self-management and clear-mindedness. Stop and think just for a minute, do you think that currently the average American is engaged in the pursuit of knowledge to enable him or herself to become a better leader, a better teacher, a better master to his or her apprentice. Yet we have spent years learning and gathering and thinking and just need to take what we have and use it to make better the lives of those who come behind us.

The foundation that we build upon -- it must be true, square, plumb and strong, in short, well built. We wonder why more men don't come and of those who do come, why more don't stay. Perhaps, if we started teaching the lessons contained in our ritual in a different manner then is currently being done (as in *not at all*), then we could truly say that we make good men better and they would make a commitment to the fraternity, because we showed a due veneration for doing the same. And we would then offer what we purport to offer and would back it up with action, education and commitment.

The current system requires the candidate to memorize his working tools, hisobligation and the grips and words. Think about the fact that we have grouped these three import things together and given as much value in their placement side by side to each as the other, yet we do not capture this opportunity and spend very little time teaching. Most of the time is centered around a proficiency to be overcome as a means to move on to the next lesson that we intend to climb over and on and on; instead if we teach that the tools of the first degree allow you to manage and correct your life to allow you the time and clear-mindedness to learn the lessons of the succeeding degrees, we would be in far better shape as a fraternity and would not be suffering from the current lack of commitment of the new members. Instead, we have

thus far, chosen to continue in our current direction. It is clear that this direction is not producing the leaders of the days of old. Men who have the desire and ability to build, and rebuild that which has been neglected.

Think for just a few minutes of the level of commitment possessed by the men who built the Masonic edifices that we use today. The time, money and energy required to accomplish these deeds. Where did it come from? and where did it go? We must answer these questions and then take action, action beginning with the changing of the way we teach at our local lodges and the lessons we impart. I don't condemn the Esotericists for their love of the mysterious, and the efforts they go to, to teach and attempt to make clear that which they believe to be worthy and important and in many cases is. I do however, express great frustration at the lack of practical instruction in the daily usable lessons held in our store of knowledge. If we do a better job of imparting this information to ourselves and our new Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights, perhaps we can, as I aspire to, continue the work of rebuilding our fraternity to take care of our structures and our assets. We can then share them with the next properly educated generation and have the benefit of being secure in the knowledge that we have accomplished our labor and can return to our creator secure in the knowledge that we have given our clear-minded best efforts to improve a group of men, who can in turn improve others to the benefit of mankind.

So it becomes clear that we must, as the craftsmen of old, take on our apprentices, and teach them the practical application and use of the tools given to us by our wise Masters of the past. We must, as is taught in our lessons, "make darkness light before them and crooked things straight." We need to take a more active role in coaching our new candidates, and during this coaching impart to them the very important, NAY, critical lessons of the working tools to their success in Life and the fraternity. This lack of experienced educators or candidate's coaches at the local level is clearly at the heart of the crisis we are having in the lodges and the appendant orders. How can we expect those who come after us to understand or value the lessons we want to impart to them, if we do not teach them from the beginning in the ways of Masonry. What is currently going on is the same thing as a group of men building a block wall without a proper foundation or mortar. We stand, dumb-founded and stare at the fallen wall with wonder and frustration trying to figure out why, when after we worked so hard to build it tall, it fell over. Instead, we should return to the beginning and heed the lessons given us in the first degree -- that, unless we build a proper foundation, the wall cannot, will not stand, let alone sustain its own weight and will topple under the forces of gravity every time.

Our new and current members are the blocks in the wall we labor to build. We are obligated also, as Masters of our fraternity who are by title Masters of our craft, to impart the practical knowledge of the proper use of our tools to the coming generations. If we neglect this, we will continue to suffer, as is currently happening, the walls of our fraternity collapsing. So, stop and think and come to the clear-minded conclusion that one person can make a difference. It is the great lie of society and the adversary that you cannot make a difference. History and the lessons of our fraternity are full of great accomplishment, accomplishments of a clear-minded individual who

decided they could make a difference, who committed to the idea of building. So, Sir Knights, let us build and rebuild our great fraternity. The work is long, the labors tough and sometimes exhausting. But as with the building of anything great, time patience and perseverance accomplish all things.

Craig L. Flagtwet, KCT, KYGCH, 33° Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar, California

COLORADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL

The following message was received recently regarding this annual festival in Laughlin NV. If you intend to attend and/or send candidates it is imperative that you read this:

The Colorado River Fall Festival will be held October 23 / 24 / 25, 2022 at the Riverside Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada and will be conferring all the Degrees & Orders of York Rite Masonry with the exception of Super Excellent Master.

Our website is now up & running with information, agenda and registration materials.

Please share this with anyone appropriate.

If you have already registered - please respond to this E-Mail immediately.

If you have not registered - in the next 30 days we will be running short of Executive Suites Mini Suites, King bed rooms, handicap and smoking. Pet rooms are almost gone now.

If you have a group coming in on a bus....be sure to let us know in order to make the proper arrangements with the hotel.

Regarding Candidates:

A "Request to Confer" must be filled out by the constituent Secretary/Recorder of the Bodies to which the Candidate is joining and sent to the Candidate Registrar in addition to the normal registration.

No request = no Degree/Orders conferred on that Candidate.

A request may be sent on behalf of a Candidate not yet elected if it is reasonably expected that he will prior to the CRFF. We prefer requests without Candidates over Candidates without requests.

Our website is: www.crff.org

Our EMail is: 1992crff1992@gmail.com
Our mailing address is: PO Box 3742
Kingman, AZ 86402-3742

NOTE: If your CRFF website shows 2019....refresh your browser.

CRFF Committee

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

Sir Knights one and all -- From the world of Ritual

As you are working to learn your work, I would like you to think about the lessons and history of what you are doing. Not only does ritual teach us discipline, but it also teaches us about the craft. When a non-templar asks about our organization what can you tell him? Tell him about the lessons learned in each of the orders and

how they relate to the history of not only masonry, but of the world as a whole. I like to think that it teaches us not only about truth, but also about teamwork and dedication. The historical aspects of Templary are so meaningful. Yes the dress of a Knight Templar is great, but the lessons taught are what needs to be stressed to the young Knight.

I suggest that you take each Order and dissect it and used it as a discussion topic at conclaves. This is how we tell our Knights why we exist.

I am looking forward to hearing about your inspirations to enhance your meetings.

Remember that to increase attendance, you must create an information time.

As always, I am at your service.

God bless

Sir Knight Jim Baum Grand Inspector General jamesgbaum@msn.com 760-885-0256 (leave a message and I will get back to you.)

GRAND SESSIONS 2023

March, 3-5 Officers' Conference

May 14, Sunday - Grand Banquet

May 15, Monday - Grand Commandery

May 16, Tuesday - Grand Chapter

May 17, Wednesday – Grand Council

May 18, Thursday - Corporation

TEMPLAR RITUALIST

How many of you think you know much about the rituals of the Orders? There's a NEW way you can test yourself. Grand Encampment has established a Learning Management System, which you can access at: http://templared.org/moodle/.

Give it a try. Very soon now, there will be additional courses available: on Templar History and on the Trial of the Templars. You will have multiple choice quizzes to take in each Course and an opportunity to show off your excellence by submitting essays for everyone's edification!

The Editor

RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Recorders new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.

KT EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for 2023 are available at: http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/KT_Scholarship.html. The deadline for 2023 applications will be March 1, 2023.

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really "KNOW" they are available? Help spread the word!



THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at **ENTERPRISES.** The price for red and blue is great -- \$115.00 plus shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$125.00 plus shipping for sizes 50 to 59, also in short, regular, and tall; and \$135.00 plus shipping, for sizes 60-69. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 502-3224; or at his website: www.mpenterprises.weebly.com; or directly to his email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

GRAND COMMANDER'S
<u>CALENDAR</u>

OCTOBER 2022 – MAY 2023

Date	Event	Location
Oct 1	AMD and Knight Mason meetings	
Oct 1	Cryptic Festival	Alameda
Oct 15	Commandery Festival	Alameda
Oct 21- 23	Grand Lodge	San Francisco
Oct 23- 25	Colorado River Fall Festival	Laughlin, NV
Oct 28- 29	South West Reg'l Conference	Salt Lake, Utah

Feb 11, 2023	Fall Festival, Chapter Degrees	San Bernardino, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Mar 3-5, 2023	Grand Officers' Conference	Visalia
March 8, 2023	Cryptic Festival	San Bernardino, 9:00 am
Mar 11, 2023	3-Way Reception	San Diego
Mar 12, 2023	3-Way Reception	Inland Empire
April 1, 2023	Commandery Festival	San Bernardino, 9:00 am
May 13- 18	Grand Sessions	Visalia

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below, or go to the Grand York Rite website calendar at:

http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.html

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ORDERS

Several Festivals are upcoming for the Fall. See Flyers below. Of particular note are:

East Bay: 9/24, 10/1 and 10/15 Colorado River: 10/23, 10/24 and 10/25

San Bernardino: moved to 2023

Feb 11, 2023 at 9am March 8, 2023 at 7pm April 1, 2023 at 9am

TAX REPORTING

Robert Wellington of Orange County Chapter No. 73 is willing to assist Chapters with guidance to restore their tax exempt status, if needed. If you would rather speak to a brother, Companion and Sir Knight, than an IRS or FTB agent, feel free to contact Bob at rozekroy@gmail.com

GRAND COMMANDERY CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand Commander:

Craig L. Flagtwet, KCT, KYGCH 209-304-6950 (C) craigflagtwet@gmail.com

Grand Recorder:

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Website:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES Website:

WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG

SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org.

Scroll down and click on "York Rite Forms and Documents." Then click on the appropriate logo. A window opens where you enter the userid, which is "cagyr" and the password, which is "brio"

Scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to the Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

- 1. <u>Dues Collection</u> You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.
- 2. Membership control -- Especially important is the very last item, "Royal Arch Monthly Report." This is relevant to you as a Secretary/Recorder if you do not yet have a userid for access to MMS Masonic Membership Solutions. If you fill the paper report out each month, whenever you encounter changes to the membership, you will find it much easier at the end of the year to produce the year-end report, which is used to compute the amount of per capita the Chapter needs to pay. That payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.
- 3. Do not cavalierly suspend members for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: See Section 201 in the Constitution at http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Chapter/ROYAL%20ARCH%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Council/Grand%20Council%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDE RY%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf

- 4. Per Capita -- The Per Capita payment, due each April 1st, does not require action by the Commandery to be paid. Please note that the per capita charge for 2022 will be \$34.00, as adopted at the 2021 Grand Conclave. Chapter and Council payments are due by January 15th. Chapter per capita will be \$23.00, and Council will be \$21.00. Of course, all three bodies charge \$1.00 to support Grand Sessions; and Commandery also charges \$1.00 for the Eye Foundation, and \$1.00 for Christian Ministry. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year number of active members that is crucial for us when we compute your per capita payment. Without good data you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS.
- 5. <u>Insurance</u> -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary-Recorder.
- 6. <u>Lodge Book of Marks</u> Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.
- 7. Minutes Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s). Also, please send the candidate class names to the Grand Secretary.
- 8. <u>Grand Sessions</u> Before the May meetings, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend, and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of the Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. Commanderies may also elect a representative, but Commandery officers cannot issue proxies. The appropriate forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials."
- 9. Order of High Priesthood Be sure the current HP and PHPs know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander's Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the secure website.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Ways to Give Financial Support

		with your contribution to the address below.	
		State:	Zip:
Phon	e Number:	Email:	
If don	or is a Sir Knigh	t give location:	
	State:	Commandery Name:	No
Pleas	e apply my dona	ation as follows: (Place an X in the appropriate box)	
	\$30.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$100.00 \$1,000.00 \$10,000.00 \$25,000.00 \$	Life Sponsor (For Sir Knights only) Associate Patron (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) Patron (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) Grand Commander's Club * Grand Master's Club * Golden Chalice (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) ** Grand Master's Sword of Merit (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or In General Contribution	dividuals) **
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	of the Grand Co Master's Club.	's Club and Grand Commander's Club may not be purchased in the name of any organizat ommander's Club may add to their donations until they reach a total of \$1,000 to receive m (As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be award at the time of the initial gift, the donations may be applied to the Permanent Donor Fund.	embership in the Grand

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. welcomes gifts and Bequests as well as Gifts of Securities and Life Insurance. If you desire in planning your estate to make a gift to be used by The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. for its charitable programs, regardless of the form which your gift may take, the proper words to be used on any gift or check is "The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Organization under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 271118 Flower Mound TX 75027-1118 Phone: 214-888-0220 Fax: 214-888-0230 E-Mail: Manager@ktef.us www.ktef.org

Fillable Form is at:

https://www.ktef.org/donation-selection

East Bay York Rite Association Presents the Annual Pilgrimage into the York Rite

2022 David M. Shull Memorial Honoree: Federico B. Baclig, Jr.

Location: Alameda Masonic Hall 2312 Alameda Avenue Alameda, California

Chapter Degrees, Saturday, September 24, 2022

Registration 7:30 a.m. Degrees to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by Sponsoring Chapter

Council Degrees, Saturday, October 1, 2022

Registration 8:00 a.m. Degrees to begin 9:00 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by Sponsoring Council

Commandery Orders, Saturday, October 15, 2022

Registration 7:30 a.m. Orders to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by Sponsoring Commandery

Lunch Provided @ \$10
(Lunch: No charge for Candidates - \$10 for all others)

All candidates must be preregistered with the East Bay York Rite Association's Registrar

Fred Baclig – 925 216 1174 Eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com

R.S.V.P. with a Check to "East Bay York Rite"

Send Reservation and check to: Fred Baclig – Registrar 5021 Vesteny Ct.
Antioch, CA 94531-7812

Colorado River Fall Festival

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Festival!

We have a new online registration system for your convenience, (https://crff.org/) and all of the required forms are right there to simplify the process. Please remember the following while planning your travels and preparing your candidates:

- ALL CANDIDATES must be pre-registered in order to participate! CRFF Festival registration for all participants including Candidates must be RECEIVED by October 1. Candidates, this registration is in addition to the application you made to your York Rite Bodies.
- The Request for Courtesy Work by the Candidate's York Rite Secretary/Recorder must be received by the Candidate Registrar by October 1.
- Hotel Registration (included with CRFF registration) must be made by October 1 (Special Accommodations - room upgrades, etc. - NO LATER than September 1). Reservations made directly to the Hotel will not reflect CRFF rates.
- Attendees and Candidates from other Jurisdictions are encouraged to contact us so we are aware of your presence (Jurisdictions MUST be recognized).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: https://crff.org/index.php/contact-us

PARTICIPATE! - We are always looking for more Companions and Sir Knights to get involved! If you have a degree team, expertise, or are from a jurisdiction wishing to get fully involve please contact us at: https://crff.org/index.php/contact-us

Spring 2023 York Rite Festival

Royal Arch Chapter Degrees

Mark, Past, Most Excellent & Royal Arch
Saturday, February 11, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Cryptic Mason Council Degrees Royal Master & Select Master Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Knights Templar Commandery Orders Red Cross, Malta & Order of the Temple Saturday, April 1, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Please Check-In Early! Sharp Time Set - Conferral of Degrees & Orders

All at the

San Bernardino York Rite Masonic Temple
2888 Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92405-3805
<u>sbyrb@juno.com</u>

Please be early to avoid delays / Prompt conferral times are set