

Sword & Trowel



August 2023

From the Most Illustrious Master:

How great and momentous it has been to meet and have fellowship with our companions across the state. Until the middle of July we had nice weather and now the heat is upon us and we're crying for fall and winter to get here. The most important thing is most of our gatherings are in air-conditioned spaces.

What a month July has been. Starting off on July 2nd, we began our travels by going to San Luis Obispo to attend the Ice Cream Social and 3-way Reception. Such a beautiful lodge with great historic value, it's always a pleasure to visit. Next, we headed to Van Nuys on July 3rd for a 4-way Reception. Then July 4th we headed to Newhall (Santa Clarita) to participate in the Independence Day Parade. That day found us at the Old West Lodge #813 for a BBQ and 4-way reception. While there we had a surprise visit from PGM Larry Adamson. It was so awesome to meet Brethren and Companions that weekend from across the State. One of the best opportunities was chatting with them and getting direct feedback on what they would like to see in the future of Freemasonry, in general, along with York Rite Masonry.

Cathy and I then headed to Denver, CO for the Red Cross of Constantine Southwest Regional Conference. It was a great time had by all except for not being able to get an Uber or taxi due to the Taylor Swift concert happening that same weekend, along with three other major events also taking place at the same time. But we managed to get through it all and made it home safely. The following weekend was Royal Arch Degrees which resulted in 25 new Chapter members being initiated (between S.D. Chapter #61 and Jerrold A. Wohlfarth Chapter #130). As a result of those degrees, I believe at least 6 new members signed up to take the Council Degrees in San Bernardino on September 13th. We look forward to welcoming these new Companions afterwards. York Rite is starting to make an upswing since we've come out of COVID. It's enjoyable to see the enthusiasm amongst the companions as we move forward into the future of York Rite.

In August we have three receptions in the San Francisco area as well as a trip to the General Grand Triennial in Branson, MO the week of August 13th. These sessions will result in bringing new leadership to guide us into the future. Cathy and I will be racking up both air miles and vehicle mileage with travel every weekend that month.

Now let's talk about Rebuilding the Bridge. Let me take a moment to share some of my thoughts on this subject.

We are all aware that joining the Blue Lodge is but the beginning of a new Mason's journey in Masonry. It's important for us to remember that our new Brethren are not yet aware of the other concordant bodies in Masonry, or the additional lessons they can learn unless we actively engage them in some fashion to pass these messages along. We also know that they can't join the Council until they join Chapter.

What if we consciously decide that each of us in the York Rite bodies (Chapter, Council and Commanderies) make the extra effort to stay in touch with our Blue Lodges and their Worshipful Masters so that we know when they have degrees? What if we visit a Blue Lodge near us when they are raising these new Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason? Wouldn't this make a difference in increasing our opportunities to share the additional opportunities that await these new

Brethren?

What I'm suggesting is that we take the time to ask the Masters of our local Lodges if we can wear our different colored coats (red, purple, or blue). Then we can take the opportunity to make a presentation using the book "The York Rite of Freemasonry."

The "York Rite of Freemasonry" speaks a bit about Blue Lodge and the three bodies of York Rite. These can be used as a jumping off point to then further that conversation with your new Blue Lodge Brethren. You can get these books from your Grand Sec/Recorders for about \$2.00 a book. If you buy 10 or more books for your Councils, I'll pay half the price. With a deal like that, you can't pass up the chance that might get you some new members for only \$1.00 a book! It is well worth the effort, and you won't know unless you at least try. Talk and show them that there is further light in Masonry.

Before the summer is over, how about having a York Rite picnic and inviting the Blue Lodge members in your area? Make it a family affair. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and the usual fixing. We need to show we are a family-oriented organization because we are!

How would YOU suggest "foster new excitement" in York Rite Masonry?? What are YOU prepared to do to foster and expand our growth?? What is being done – this year – to rebuild that bridge?? Or at least begin the rebuilding? Please let me know your thoughts, share your ideas, let us know what's working, or not, in your area. I would be spreading the word to other Companions throughout the state.

Next, I would like to ask what you are doing to support CMMRF? If your Councils have limited funds, how about passing the IM hat at the end of the meetings? Then near the end of the year make a one-time donation. This is done at Blue Lodge all the time. CMMRF is making great advancements in Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (which has a 80% fatality rate) along with Marrow Stem Treatment of Limb Ischemia in subjects with severe Peripheral Arterial Disease. Please type CMMRF in your web browser to learn more about their great work and cures.

Remember – if you have a question, idea, or want to view your opinions or thoughts, please feel free to reach out to me, your DGO, or Inspector. We're always here for you.

Take care and God Bless you and your families.

MIGM Michael T. Sherman KYGCH, OSV



Past Illustrious Grand Master Speaks



Companions,

Please use this form to make your donations, either personally or as a group. All donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated and will help advance the use of stem cells to help cure several problems of your vascular system, including diabetes and many heart conditions.

New situations that will benefit from the use of stem cells are discovered regularly and the research that CMMRF is performing is among the foremost in the industry to apply the stem cells to the recovery of normal function. These discoveries continue to evolve to solve many more cures than originally thought and may possibly be the “magic bullet” sought to treat most diseases, but that may be well into the future.

Remember that your donations are helping the medical industry to keep you alive and healthy. Your donation today may help find the cure for your disease tomorrow. Thank you for your contributions.

Guy Chalmers, Chairman



Cryptic masons
Medical Research Foundation
C.M.M.R.F.
PO Box 210
Brownsburg IN 46112-0210

This donation is from (please check the appropriate box below):

a California Council of Cryptic Masons

Name of Council

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Type of Donation

..... Normal donation

..... Memorial

..... Honorarium

Frequency of Donation

..... One time

..... Monthly

Additional Message or Comment

SAN FRANCISCO, PENINSULA & PALO ALTO YORK RITE BODIES

Annual Picnic & Grand York Rite Reception

M.E. THOMAS CHAVEZ
GRAND HIGH PRIEST



M.I. MICHAEL SHERMAN
GRAND MASTER



S.K. ROGER ROSS
GRAND COMMANDER



Sunday
August 6, 2023

10:30am - 2:00pm

\$15/person

FAMILY AND FRIENDS JOIN
THE SAN FRANCISCO, PENINSULA & PALO ALTO YORK RITE BODIES
FOR OUR ANNUAL BBQ STEAK PICNIC AND
GRAND YORK RITE RECEPTION AT ORANGE PARK

ORANGE MEMORIAL PARK
35 W. ORANGE AVE.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

Checks made payable to: "CA Commandery #1"
RSVPs must be accepted by August 1 to

Art Walton
San Francisco York Rite
34400 Mission Blvd.
Apt.1210
Union City, CA 94587
arthurhwalton@gmail.com | 510-441-3913



East Bay York Rite

Cordially invites you to:

The Grand York Rite Reception Honoring

Most Excellent Grand High Priest Thomas C. Chavez, KYGCH

Most Illustrious Grand Master Michael T. Sherman, KYGCH

Right Eminent Grand Commander SK Roger S. Ross, KYGCH

Date: August 5, 2023

Time:

3:00 P.M. Social 3:30 P.M. Dinner

Location:

Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, California

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

Send to: **Fred Baclig**

5021 Vesteny Ct., Antioch, CA 94531

925-216-1174

Eastbayyorkriteasn@aol.com

Cost \$25.00 per Person

PLEASE R.S.V.P. before July 25, 2023

See next page for parking

The San Jose York Rite Bodies
Are pleased to invite you to attend a
Grand York Rite Reception

Honoring:

Most Excellent Thomas C. Chavez
Grand High Priest

Most Illustrious Michael T. Sherman
Illustrious Grand Master

And

Sir Knight Roger S. Ross
Right Eminent Grand Commander

To be held at:

Gateway Pavilion Area, Vasona Park
333 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos, California

On Saturday, August 19, 2023

Social at 11:00 AM, Lunch at 12:30 PM, Program to follow.

Cost for Lunch is \$20. All proceeds to benefit York Rite Charities.

Pay by check

Check payable to:

San Jose Council No. 20

Mail to: Daniel Doornbos

2165 Carobwood Lane
San Jose CA 95132-1213

Pay by credit card

Contact Secretary/Recorder Daniel
Doornbos at 408-802-7480 or

daniel.doornbos@icloud.com to
request an invoice.

RSVP deadline is August 6, 2022

See the map on the opposite side.

Fall 2023

York Rite Festival

Royal Arch Chapter Degrees

Mark, Past, Most Excellent & Royal Arch

Saturday, August 19th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Cryptic Mason Council Degrees

Royal Master & Select Master

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Knights Templar Commandery Orders

Red Cross, Malta & Order of the Temple

Saturday, October 7th, 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

sbyrb@juno.com

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



Orange County York Rite BBQ

Aug 26th 11 am -3pm

Lake Park Huntington Beach
1035 11th St. HB CA 92648
On the east end of the park

Bring a chair and your favorite drink.

No Alcohol since it is a public park

Learn about The York Rite!
Come enjoy Summer fellowship!

**We are pleased to honor
30 year award recipients!**

RSVP text or call (714) 388-6976