

THE WORKMAN



Thomas C. Chavez
JULY 2023

GHP Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

Vol. XV No. 2

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Grand High Priest's Message

“CONNECT * COMMUNICATE * COMMITMENT”

Greetings Companions,

My first activity for June was to travel to Comptche at Mendocino to welcome the candidates and the companions. This was the first time since the Pandemic to have the Comptche Festival. It was also the first time it happened to have the Council Degree in Comptche. Normally, we only confer the Capitular Degrees. It was a great feeling to have a very nice camaraderie and fellowship with the companions and the new candidates. We exalted 19 new Companions, and greeted 29 Companions with the Cryptic Degrees. I ask our new Companions to “Connect with your blue lodge brothers, to continue to Communicate about York Rite Masonry -- especially the Royal Arch and make a Commitment to yourself and to your Chapter.” Let your Chapter officers know that you are ready to help increase membership.

On June 29, 2023, I traveled to Southern California to attend the Grand Bethel Convention in Ontario, California. I spoke regarding the Scholarship Program we have for the youth groups. The deadline for the Scholarship Program was this last March. This year, we have 9 scholarship recipients -- 3 were new and 6 renewals.

On July 2, 2023, I will be in San Luis Obispo for the 3 Way Reception/Ice Cream Social. The following day, another 3 Way reception in Van Nuys, CA, and the parade. WOW!!! This is so exciting, a lot of travel!

Companions, as I have mentioned in my June article, my goal is to increase membership. How do we do it? We must continue to have Mark Master Degrees. I am looking forward that each district will have a degree team. On July 19, 2023, District 14, California Chapter No.1 will collaborate with Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No.370, and they will be hosting a Mark Master Degree. So far, they have 10 candidates signed up -- meaning, 10 candidates for follow-up to become Royal Arch Masons.

Finally, I plan to have an education seminar for ritual and administration. I will direct the Department Grand Officers to set up a School of Instruction. Companions, read the WORKMAN for more information regarding any future events. "Holiness to the Lord." God bless you all!

Sincerely and fraternally,

ME Thomas C. Chavez, KYGCH
169th Grand High Priest
Royal Arch Masons of California

COMPTCHE – HUGE!

Nineteen candidates were exalted in the Royal Arch degree on Saturday, June 24th! Ten more were added for the Cryptic Degrees on Sunday, June 25th, making a total of **Twenty-nine** greeted!! This was the first time in recent memory that Cryptic degrees were conferred on a Sunday, the Constitution having been revised last year to allow such conferrals.

The food provided at the camp-site was excellent, particularly the rib-eye steaks on Saturday night! The Camaraderie was high, and several Companions stepped up at the last minute to fill roles when a cast member was unable to attend – notably, **Rich Lyons** as Master of the First Veil, **Jason Canellos** as Senior Deacon in the Past Master degree, and **Cameron Williams** as Hiram of Tyre in the Select Master degree.

You should put the weekend of June 22 – 23 on your calendar in 2024. Bring your family as well as candidates – there is plenty of room for RVs in the large meadow across from the cook shack, as you can see in pictures nearby. There are also well-shaded camp sites around the area as well, so bring your tents, if you like to rough-it! Although there are no RV hookups, there are restroom facilities on the site. Finally, there are numerous motels and hotels on the coast, only 9 miles from the camp-site, if you prefer those luxuries!

The ladies and kids are welcome to drive to the coast and enjoy the numerous opportunities for site-seeing and shopping, from Mendocino to Ft. Bragg, while the guys are doing their degree work.

Many thanks are due Larry Tunzi, DSM-B, owner of the ranch, who makes the site available to us, and has been present at all Festivals since 1972! We couldn't ask for a better host!!!



The Lodge with Seating for sideliners



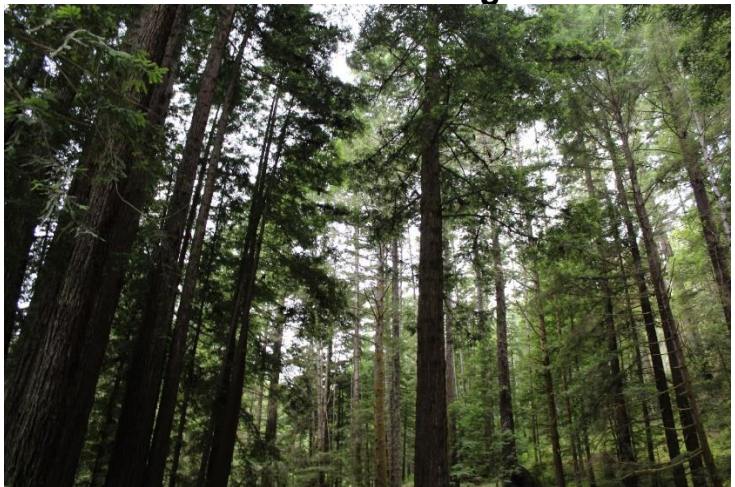
Select Master Class and Cast



Cook Shack and Dining Area



Royal Arch Class and Cast



The Canopy above The Lodge



RV site

GRAND LECTURER

Companions All:

The summer is in full bloom and so are our Chapters in planning and presenting our

beautiful degrees! Comptche was quite successful this year in NorCal and I understand there are several Mark Master degrees planned for this summer in SoCal! If your Chapter isn't planning a degree now, you are missing a golden opportunity to improve your Chapter and its relevance to York Rite Masonry in CA! We are busy preparing for the fall season and I hope to release more info on those planned changes very soon! Until then, stay safe and productive!

Holiness to the Lord!! All the Best -
Your Most Humble Grand Lecturer

Steve

CRFF

What the hay is CRFF you ask??

Well, it's the acronym for the Colorado River Fall Festival. All York Rite degrees and orders are conferred over a two-day period. This year the conferral is planned for October 22-24. That's three days you say?!?!?? Well, yes – the 22nd is a Sunday, when all candidates must arrive for orientation by 7:00 pm. Chapter Degrees start early on Monday morning, Council Degrees in the afternoon, with an excellent banquet provided Monday evening. Commandery Orders are conferred on Tuesday, the 24th.

If you have candidates waiting, consider CRFF – the conferrals are arranged at the Riverside Hotel, owned by the Don Laughlin family. Don was a Mason. The arrangements are very good, especially in this inflationary period – you will not be disappointed. Go to the following website to get the Registration Package:

<https://crff.org/index.php/new-register-now>

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ORDERS

Several Festivals are upcoming for the Summer and Fall. See Flyers at the end. Of particular note are:

Vista Masonic Center
July 18, 2023

Inland Empire (San Bernardino)
August 19, 2023
September 13, 2023
October 7, 2023

Sutter Creek
September 9, Mark Master

East Bay (Alameda)
Sept 23, 2023 at 7:30am
Oct 7, 2023 at 8:00am
Oct 14, 2023 at 7:30am

GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank. The Officers' Conference is set for March 8-10, and Grand Sessions for May 15-20.

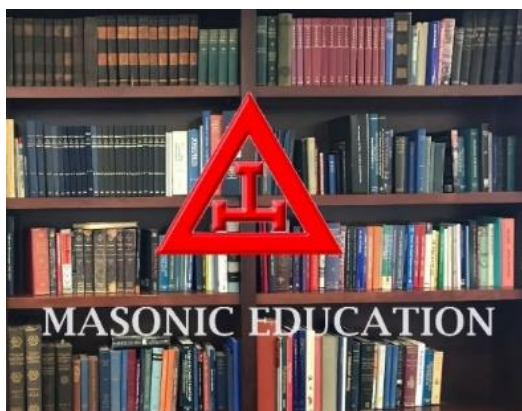
SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

Secretaries 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.

Another good source of information for the Secretary can be found in the Grand Chapter Forms and Documents folder, called Chapter Secretary Desktop Procedures, *at the new website*:

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/chapter/Chapter%20Secretary%20Desktop%20Procedures%20v2.pdf>

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER



Companions,

The next Research Chapter meeting is at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, October 28, 2023, shortly after noon. You do not need to be a Royal Arch Mason to attend this meeting. We will be glad to hand you a petition and read it at this meeting. We will also have the Grand Orations Book, years 2020-2022, for a donation of \$10.00. Only a few are left after our last meeting at Grand Sessions in Visalia.

Any Royal Arch Mason, in good standing within a Chapter of any jurisdiction in amity with the Grand Chapter of California, is welcome to apply for affiliation with the Chapter as a full member. Any other person may become a Subscription member and receive information by our emailings and attend non-tiled meetings. We can read your Petition to Affiliate at any of our meetings. A blank petition and instructions are provided in this newsletter. Questions may be directed to the Golden State Chapter of Research Secretary:

Bruce Rick at: bar972@outlook.com.



THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. 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 HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR JUNE 2023 TO MAY 2024

Date	Event	Location
July 2, 2023	Ice Cream Social Reception	San Luis Obispo, 11 am to 1 pm
July 3, 2023	3-Way Reception	Van Nuys
July 4, 2023	4 th Of July Parade	Newhall
July 18, 2023	Chapter Festival	Vista Masonic Center
August 5, 2023	3-Way Reception	East Bay, Alameda
August 6, 2023	3-Way Reception	Orange Park, SF 10:30 – 2:30

Oct 14, 2023	3-Way Reception	Santa Monica
Nov 20 – Dec 1	Vacation Cruise	The Ocean somewhere
Mar 8-10, 2024	Officers' Conference	Burbank Marriott
May 15-20, 2024	Grand Sessions	Burbank Marriott

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://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/ghpcalendar.html>

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 CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand High Priest:

Thomas C. Chavez, KYGCH
650-766-2319
thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com

Grand Secretary:

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Websites:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website: WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES
Website: WWW.CA-GYRS.OR

SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS -- REVISED

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org. The new website will require you to have a userid, and to have established a password. Once you LOGIN, you will see a long white line, above which you will see:

ROYAL ARCH FORMS CRYPTIC COUNCIL FORMS COMMANDERY FORMS

Then click on the appropriate FORMS. In ROYAL ARCH FORMS, 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 Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection** – You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.
2. **Membership control** – Membership information is now managed in the MMS system – Masonic Membership Solutions. Important changes to your membership include new members, suspensions, demits, 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

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/documents/royal-arch/ROYAL_ARCH_Constitution_2022_final.pdf

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/cryptic-council/pdf/Grand_Council_Constitution_2022.pdf

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202022.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th for Chapter and Councils (and April 1st for Commanderies) does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year numbers of active members in MMS. This is the source of your Per Capita bill. Without good data on your membership in MMS 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. Do so before the end of the year. **But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS so you can enter deceased and suspended data.**
5. **Insurance** -- 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 or Grand Recorder.
6. **Lodge Book of Marks** – 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 or Grand Recorder.**
8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the May meeting, 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. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members, however, cannot issue proxies. The appropriate Chapter forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials." Or, alternatively, the forms for all three bodies can be found at www.ca-gyrs.org.
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 www.ca-gyrs.org.



Petition for Affiliation

Golden State Chapter of Research, Royal Arch Masons

To the Excellent High Priest, Officers and Members of Golden State Chapter of Research, Royal Arch Masons of California:

I, _____, respectfully represent that

- I am / not a resident of the State of California but resident in _____
- I am a Master Mason in good standing of _____ Lodge No. _____, F. & A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____;
- I am a Royal Arch Mason in good standing of _____ Chapter No. _____, R.A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____;
- I desire to be affiliate with Golden State Chapter as a dual / plural member of your Chapter, and
- If elected to membership, I promise cheerful compliance with the Bylaws of Golden State Chapter and Constitution of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California.

In connection with this petition, I provide the following additional information about myself:

Residence Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Residence Telephone _____ Mobile Phone _____ Email: _____

Business Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Telephone: _____

Date of Petition _____, 20____

Signature of Petitioner _____

Recommendations:

The undersigned, member of Golden State Chapter, recommend the Chapter grant this petition:

1. Signature _____ Printed Name _____



**SUNDAY
JULY 2, 2023
SAN LUIS OBISPO
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



**Annual Event
Recognizing
Grand York Rite
Presiding Officers**

**Meet Your
Statewide York
Rite Leaders**

**Honor Local York
Rite Members**

**Learn About York
Rite and Have Fun**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO
MASONIC CENTER**

859 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**11:30 Social
Noon – Lunch,
Ice Cream, and
Program**

Dress - Casual

**RSVP:
Call or Text
Robert Bettencourt
(805) 234-1731**

San Fernando York Rite Bodies

4- WAY RECEPTION

HONORING

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Thomas C. Chavez

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Michael T. Sherman

Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Roger S. Ross

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Randy L. Brill

DATE:

July 3rd, 2023

Time:

5:30 pm social

6:30 pm dinner

Program to follow

Location:

Van Nuys Masonic Lodge
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

R.S.V.P. to rsvp@sfvyrb.org

Please RSVP before July 1st, 2022

GRAND HIGH PRIEST VISIT

Kern River Valley Chapter #162

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN WITH US AS WE
WELCOME OUR GHP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

562 James Road, Kernville
Social 5:00 PM, Dinner 6:00 PM
MSA Presentation

Cost \$15 per person
RSVP to: Tom McKinney
tommckinney77@gmail.com
760 417-9265



East Bay York Rite

Grand York Rite Reception

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, R. Scott Husmann, KYGCH

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Guy Chalmers, KYGCH Rt.

Eminent Grand Commander, SK Craig L. Flagtwet, KYGCH

Date: August 5, 2023 Time:
3:00 P.M. Social 3:30 P.M. Dinner

Dress: Polo & Slacks/Business Casual

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

Eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com

Cost \$25.00 per Person PLEASE R.S.V.P. before July 26th

See next page for Parking

8/22/2016



Alameda Masonic Temple (Island City Lodge) – 2312 Alameda Ave., Alameda, CA 94501

Free Street Parking (if no meters) on Weekends, but always check posted signs before parking

- A Oak St. – between Alameda Ave. and San Jose Ave.
- B Encinal Ave. – unmetered sections between Oak St. and Walnut St.
- C Park Ave. W. and Park Ave. E. – between Encinal Ave. and Jackson Park
- D Encinal Ave. – between Park Ave. E. and Broadway
- E Broadway – between Central Ave. and Encinal Ave.

Pay All Day Hourly Parking on Weekends

- F Alameda Civic Center Garage – 1442 Oak St.

Variable Availability on Weekends, but free

- G Alameda High School Parking Lot – on Oak St. between Alameda Ave. and Central Ave.

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

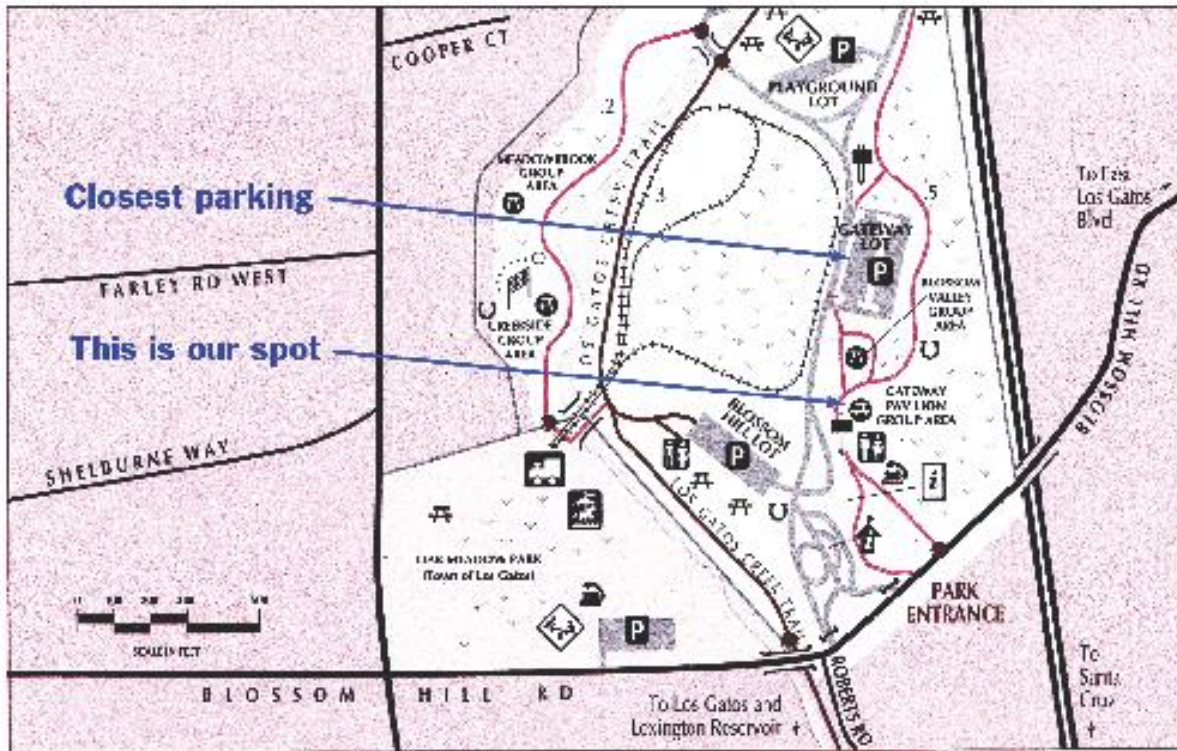
Doornbos at 408-802-7480 or

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

Sutter Creek Weekend



Mark Master Degree
At Historic Sutter Creek Masonic Temple
Saturday, September 9, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled weekend on September 9 at historic Sutter Creek! Gold Country Royal Arch Chapter No. 11 will confer the Mark Master Degree in the Sutter Creek Masonic Temple beginning at 1:00 p.m. While we are conferring the degree, our non-Masonic guests can enjoy the boutique shopping district on Main Street. We will then have dinner together that evening at a nearby restaurant. For those who would like to stay overnight, there are three historic hotels in town.



Hotel Sutter



Hanford House



Sutter Creek Inn

For More Information:
John L. Cooper III, PHP
(650) 224-9189 or jlcooper@freemason.org

Reach out to all the Master Masons in your area to invite them to this event. There is no degree fee to receive the Mark Master, however, they do need to be voted into Gold Country Chapter or their local York Rite Chapter to receive the degree. Petitions for the Auburn York Rite Bodies can be emailed by sending a request to news@auburnyorkrite.org

A special meeting will be held that day to vote for candidates if need be.

**GRAND YORK RITE OF CALIFORNIA
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

MILTON MOSSLER ABBOTT, JR.

**GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS
2023 GRAND CONVOCATION REPORT**

Grand Officers

Grand High Priest.....Thomas C. Chavez.....California Chapter No. 1
Grand King.....David E. Sokol.....Shasta Chapter No. 9
Grand Scribe.....David G. Rathgeber.....J.A. Wohlfarth Chapter No. 130
Grand Treasurer.....Leland G. Routt.....Stockton Chapter No 28
Grand Secretary.....Richard W. Bullard.....San Diego Chapter No. 61
Grand Lecturer.....Steven G. Goad.....Norris C. Viles Chapter No. 153
Grand Chaplain North.....Jason Hui.....California Chapter No. 1
Grand Chaplain South.....Richard Villegas.....High Desert Chapter No.127
Grand Captain of the HostDavid Anderson.....Solano Chapter No. 43
Grand Principal Sojourner...Michael Miller..Santa Monica Bay Chapter 97
Grand Royal Arch Captain..Jonathon Prestage.Siminoff DL Lodge No 163
G.M. of the Third Veil.....Walter Crossley.....Oakland Chapter No. 36
G.M. of the Second Veil.....Rollie Caabay.....Naval Chapter No. 35
G.M. of the First Veil.....Ted Gardner.....Ancient Chapter No. 31
Grand Orator.....Antonio Cimarra.....California Chapter No. 1
Grand Marshall North.....Dinesh Chhabra..... Oakland Chapter No. 36
Grand Marshall South..Massimo del Grande...Santa Monica Bay Chapter 97
Asst. Grand Secretary...Thomas A. Krummell...Gold Country Chapter No. 11
Grand Soloist.....K. Mark Harris.....Doric Chapter No. 66
Grand Musician.....Arthur H. Walton.....Howard Chapter No. 14
Grand Sentinel.....Sam Maffei.....Napa Chapter No. 30

AWARDS

GRAND CHAPTER RAM 2023

HIGH PRIEST of the YEAR **STATE** Robert A.L. Whitfield
Department 1 Robert A. L. Whitfield Doric 66
Department 2 Jake Scharosch Woodland 46
Department 3 Vincent Porcaro Kern River 162
Department 5 David Vassall San Diego 61

SECRETARY of the YEAR **STATE** Sherm Ostrom
Department 1 Jeffrey Schloo Petaluma No 22
Department 2 John L. Barneson III Chico No 42
Department 3 Gary Jackson Kern Valley No. 75
Department 4 Sherm Ostrom Santa Monica Bay No 97
Department 5 Thomas Colgan Jerry Wohlfarth No. 130

GRAND HIGH PRIEST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Department 1 Marty Cusing
Department 2 Mike Edwards
Department 3 Lynn Wallingford
Department 4 Sherm Ostrom
Department 5 Richard Villegas

RUSSELL D. ROBERTS PERPETUAL TROPHY

Marion P. Rogers Doric No. 66

MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Joseph Dongo – Sacramento Chapter No. 3

RITUALIST OF THE YEAR

Thomas C. Handel – J.A. Wohlfarth Chapter No.130
David Sokol – Shasta Chapter No. 9

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER AWARDS

ROYAL ARCH SWEETHEART

Robyn Husmann

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL – BRONZE

Tommy Lee McClellan – Woodland Chapter No 46

EPHRAIM KIRBY AWARD

Myron Tisdell - Shasta Chapter No. 9

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-01 - Per Capita Increase of \$3.00 Passed
Resolution 2023.02 - Modifies Fee Structure for Restoration Passed
Resolution 2023-03 - Standing Committees Cleanup Legislation Passed