

The Sword and Trowel is a monthly Newsletter published by Grand York Rite, Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California and provides information to all Companions and friends.



Discover meaning of "Cryptic Mason": traditions, leadership and values.

Let us, your Grand Officers Grand Council Cryptic Masons, help you on your personal Masonic Journey. Your Grand Officers are here to help you as a Friend, Brother, Companion to further your York Rite Experience. Remember, there is no Stranger among us, just a friend whom we have not yet had the pleasure of meeting.

SWORD & TROWEL

1860

162 years young



2022



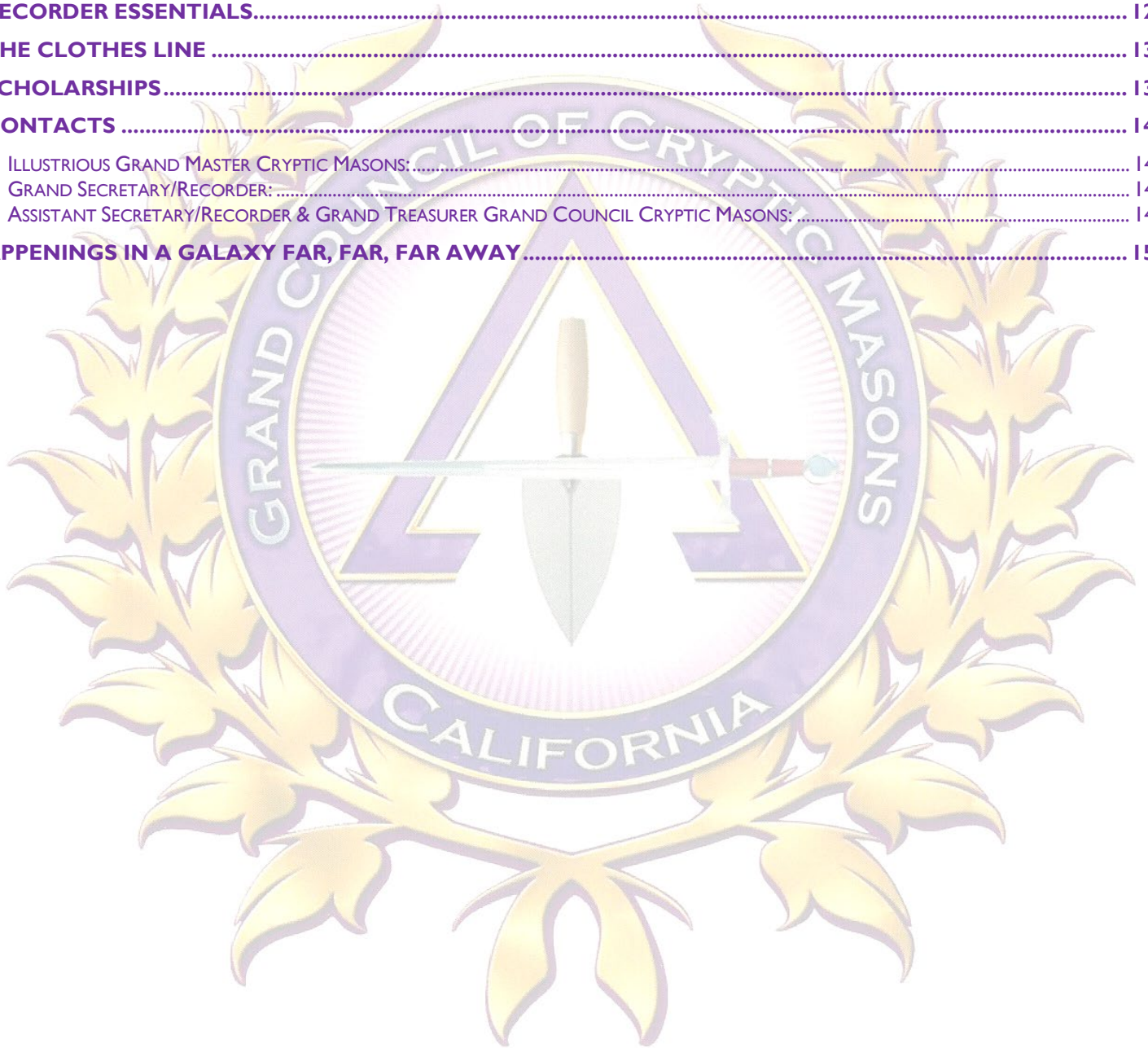
December 2022





WHAT'S INSIDE SWORD AND TROWEL

WHAT'S INSIDE SWORD AND TROWEL.....	4
VISION STATEMENT	5
GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS OFFICERS	6
HOLIDAYS	7
GRAND MASTER'S ISH SODI AWARD	8
EDITOR'S GRUMBLINGS.....	9
ALL COUNCILS CRYPTIC MASONS	10
TAX REPORTING	10
CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION	11
RECORDER ESSENTIALS.....	12
THE CLOTHES LINE	13
SCHOLARSHIPS.....	13
CONTACTS	14
ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER CRYPTIC MASONS:.....	14
GRAND SECRETARY/RECORDER:	14
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/RECORDER & GRAND TREASURER GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS:.....	14
APPENINGS IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR, FAR AWAY.....	15



VISION STATEMENT

Cryptic Masonry is an organization where men of good character come together to improve themselves, their families, and their communities.

It is where the highest Masonic values are learned by its members and applied in all their doings.

As Cryptic Masons, we learn a way of life from our ancient teachings, develop meaningful and fulfilling lifelong relationships, and grow as enlightened men. We never hesitate to go out of our way to assist a widow, or a fallen brother.

Furthermore, membership in our Cryptic Councils provides us with a place where we, and our families, can find spirituality and likeminded positive thinkers, and where members of our community can depend on us for stability, leadership, and enlightenment.



GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS OFFICERS

We, Grand Officers, Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California, have pledged to serve you, our beloved Companions to achieve excellence and satisfaction of your well-earned labor. We aim for your best and most imaginative efforts as we emerge from this life-changing pandemic to reconstruct our world in a better way



Most Illustrious Companion
Guy M. Chalmers, KYGCH & Lady Jeanne
Grand Master Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California
Redwood Empire Council No. 46

Right Illustrious Companion
Michael T. Sherman, KYCH
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Helix Council No. 58



Right Illustrious Companion
Jeffrey A. White, & Lady Lisa
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Pacific Council No. 37



Right Illustrious Companion
Thomas Krummell KYCH Lady Marcia
Grand Treasurer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sierra Nevada Council No. 13



Right Illustrious Companion
Philip Hardiman, KYGCH, MEPGHP, &
Lady Nancy
Grand Recorder
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sacramento Council No. 1



Right Illustrious Companion
K. Mark Harris, KYCH
Grand Director of Ritual
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Oakland Council No. 12



Right Illustrious Companion
Thomas Krummell, KYCH Lady Marcia
Assistant Grand Recorder
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sierra Nevada Council No. 13



Right Illustrious Companion
Marion P. Rogers
Grand Chaplin (North)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Oakland Council No. 12



Right Illustrious Companion
Robert K. Geiger, KYCH
Grand Chaplin (South)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Adoniram-Whittier Council No. 83

Right Illustrious Companion
Andrew B. Pippin, KYCH, & Lady Juli
Grand Captain of the Guard
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Ventura Council No. 15



Right Illustrious Companion
Christian G. Marano, KYCH &
Lady Mara Cristina
Grand Conductor of the Council
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38



Right Illustrious Companion
Richard A. Fonseca
Grand Steward
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Redwood Empire Council No. 46



Right Illustrious Companion
Steven P. Christensen
Grand Sentinel
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Redwood Empire council No. 46



Right Illustrious Companion
Morris H. Moriuchi
Grand Marshal (North)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
California Council No. 2



Right Illustrious Companion
Matthew J. McColm
Grand Marshal (South)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Helix Council No. 58



Right Illustrious Companion
Steven R. Goad, KYGCH
Grand Orator
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Bakersfield Council No. 28



Right Illustrious Companion
Peter L. Cunningham
Grand Bible Bearer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Visalia Council No. 42



Right Illustrious Companion
Joseph L. Wallach
Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sacramento Council No. 1



Right Illustrious Companion
Walter A. Ancheta
Grand Musician
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
California Council No. 2



HOLIDAYS

Grand Greetings

Did anyone think that the holidays came on suddenly? I did, maybe because I don't feel that Halloween is a holiday. I hope that everyone had much to be thankful for Thanksgiving. And isn't it great that we have a 'giving Tuesday' after Thanksgiving that reminds us of the importance of giving charity. Wonderful holiday.



Now comes the season to celebrate our Creator and be happy in His blessings. Both holidays focus on families and their support to us when in need and to celebrate that we are not alone but rather a part of something bigger in our existence on earth. This time of year I love being a Knight Templar to observe my duty to the Lord and to be proud of my convictions.

Here we are at the halfway point of the Grand Council year so let me summarize the high points. I've been to six receptions representing sixteen councils and have received donations of \$2,100, which I have sent to our Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, CMMRF, and thank you all very much. The best part is seeing the companions with their families and their meeting places. And the lifetime memberships are sincerely

appreciated. Jeanne and I have had a fun time in the travelling and visiting with so many smiling faces.

I've had the honor of presenting and signing several Ish Sodi awards to very worthy companions in recognizing their service to our Craft. We've even honored one seventy-five year member. There have been a few councils that have amended their bylaws to change the time, location, and meeting dates of their councils to adapt to the post pandemic situation of the world. Our Grand Recorder and I have worked through the increasing costs of insurance and found a way that those councils with large holdings can bond their Treasurers from losses not covered in their policies. And I have ordered a consolidation for Visalia Council to merge with Bakersfield Council and recognize IPM Gary Jackson of Bakersfield for his patience and understanding. There are plenty of decisions that have to be made but I make them with compassion and knowledge that they are the right thing to do.

Looking down the road at the final six months that I have the privilege to represent our Grand Council of California, I anticipate a few more receptions, more from the southern part of the state, I hope. More donations to the CMMRF as I am passionate about supporting the research to use stem cells to heal many different maladies, which seem like miracles to me. Our Grand Council will meet in Visalia in March to plan for the Grand Sessions activities in May. Several members of the Internet and communications committee have worked hard for the last three months to upgrade our website, yorkriteofcalifornia.org, and increase the links to further light in masonry. There will be all of the old site, with all of the forms updated, and all of the upgrades for the Royal Arch, Cryptic Council, and Knights Templar as well as more information about how to join. We want to make the site more visible and useful to the York Rite. Sign on frequently.

I feel that there is not enough done to increase interest in joining Freemasonry. I believe the answer lies in how we advertise the many ways that Freemasonry makes the man and the world better. We need to tell the public that we teach morality through our degrees and describe the symbols by which we learn how to be better men, fathers, and members of the community. These are not secret nor are they privileged information anymore so lets use our gifts to advertise this wonderful craft by which we learn to make the world a better place to live. Maybe a series of articles on the Internet and in newspapers describing the many charities we support. Perhaps one article listing the prominent men who have been Masons along with their accomplishments. Maybe host a live discussion about Masonry to a radio and television audience. Make presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, or other social groups, that describe our purpose and the meeting halls we have, pictures included. These are just some of the ways that we can talk about Freemasonry and inform the general public who are curious. The common thread to accomplish these tasks is involvement by a committee or an individual. The work done will reveal the tasks that our up to now "secret" society has accomplished and inform the public of our good purpose. It will take many of us to devote to make an effort and do the work. The reward will be more members and a better opinion of Freemasonry.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Fraternally yours,

Most Illustrious Guy M. Chalmers, KYGCH
Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

GRAND MASTER'S ISH SODI AWARD

Greetings Companions and Ladies,

I would like to congratulate Illustrious Companion Michael Murphy on receiving the Grand Master's Ish Sodi award. I had the honor of presenting it to him at Shasta Council's last Assembly. Illustrious Companion Murphy not only continues to support and inspire his fellow Companions, but does the same in all the Masonic bodies he belongs to. Congratulations, Michael.



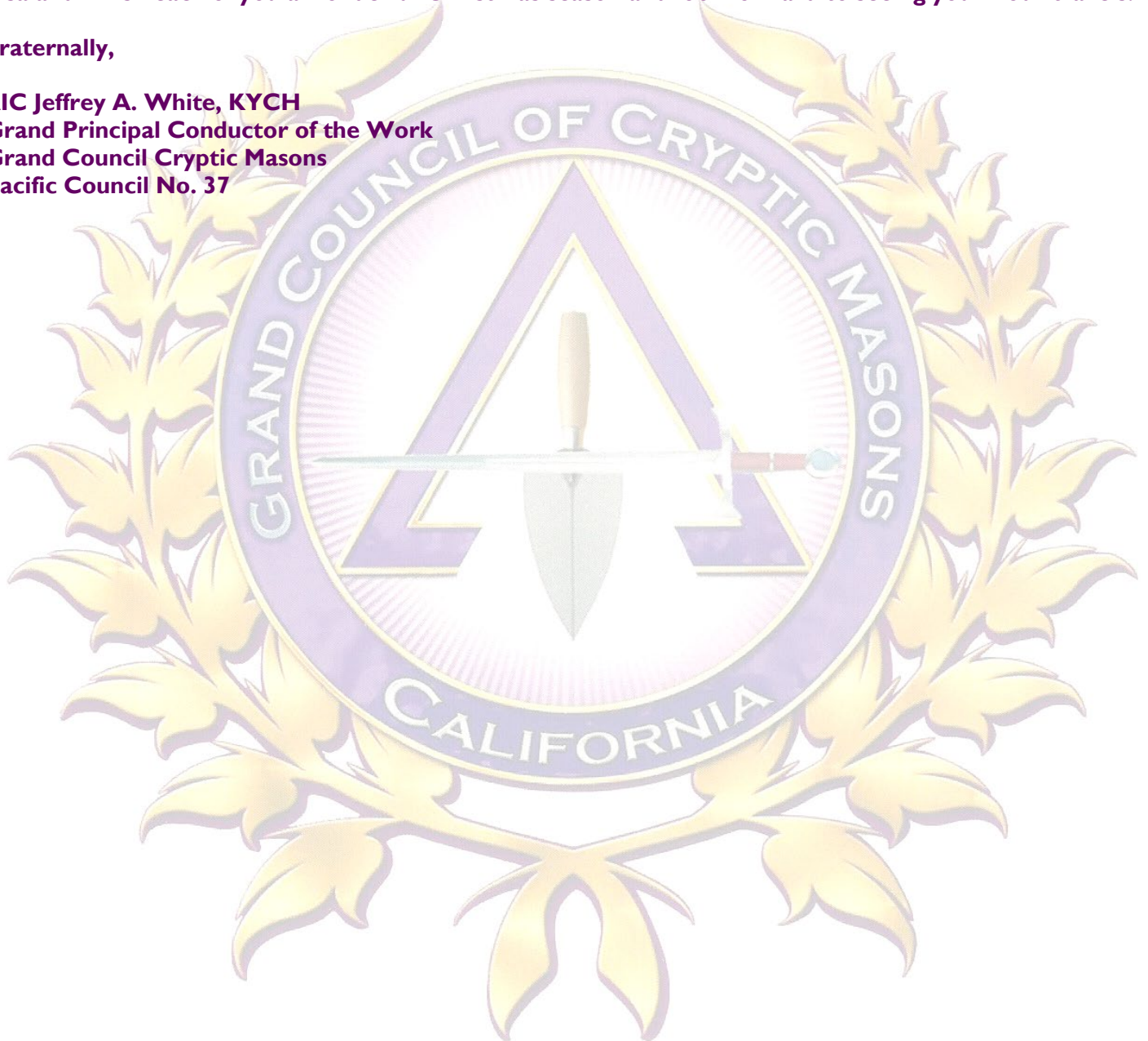
Thanks goes out to Illustrious Companion Cameron Ellis who will be taking over as the Inspector of Department I, Cryptic Arch I. Illustrious Companion Ellis is a member of Butte Council No 50 in Chico and currently serves as Illustrious Master. I would also like to thank Most Illustrious Past

Grand Master Bill Dann for all the years he has held that position and for the help and guidance he has given so many of us through the years.

Lisa and I wish each of you a wonderful Christmas season and look forward to seeing you in our travels.

Fraternally,

RIC Jeffrey A. White, KYCH
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Pacific Council No. 37



EDITOR'S GRUMBLINGS

Happy Birthday to all Companions & their loved ones with a birthday in December.



I have two loved ones, my wife and son. My wife was born in December, we got married in December and as of this December 2022, we will have been married for 58 years.

It is hard being a Mason, truly I am being honest. Belonging to a lodge, Valley Lodge No. 135, running on all cylinders; greeting all with open arms and a friendly handshake, Ritual, Floor Work, Families, with laughter and smiles is not hard, I truly say but the most difficult part of being a Mason with Valley Lodge No. 135 is the food. We call a practice, we eat; we call a meeting, we eat; we call a degree, we eat; before a stated meeting, we eat; before a party, we eat, during the party we eat.

The above is an illustration and guide to which many of us are striving to obtain. Stockton York Rite is changing from a "Run Through for KYCH" to actually being a York Rite Body. We have had 9 inquiries and 1 application. We have also Received inquiries from Mariposa Lodge No. 24, an hour and a half from Stockton. We are making progress.

We, You, I and all of York Rite Companions and Sir Knights have to go out and visit our Lodges. Two specific lodges I have attended have NEVER, NEVER, NEVER heard of York Rite nor has a York Rite Mason visited, but they have heard of Shriners and Scottish Rite.

We have stated, for example, you must learn the Ritual and Floor Work before you can move to the next position. Using Chapter as an example, you must learn the Ritual and floor work of Principal Sojourner before you can move to Captain of the Host. You must learn the Ritual and floor work of Captain of the Host before moving to Scribe and so forth. The High Priest and Captain of the Host has the most to memorize.

The Chapter Chairs are High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, and Principal Sojourner.

The Council Chairs are Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Captain of the Guard, and Conductor of the Council.

The Knights Templar Chairs are Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden.

With Love, Fraternally Yours

Richard E. Thornton, P.M.

Richard E. Thornton

TAX REPORTING

During a Grand Officer, ADR, DGO, REF, & Inspector's meeting last night, This MASON volunteered to help York Rite Masons

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 714-396-0846, or rozekroy@gmail.com



CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Dear Richard Thornton,

This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, **Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation**, in the amount of **\$314.73** as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers between April 1st - June 30th.

Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com or using the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON, everyday purchases make an impact. So far, AmazonSmile has donated:

- **\$3,810.26** to Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation*
- **Over \$377 million** to US charities
- **Over \$422 million** to charities worldwide

Visit your AmazonSmile impact page to track donations generated or change your charity. The donation amount "you have generated" may take several days to update after your order ships. Additional donations generated as a result of special offers may take several months to update. Donations to charities are issued quarterly.

[Learn more](#)

Programs: Contribution to Indiana University Foundation for Indiana University Medical School and communications with them regarding research choices and progress.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. **Sign** in with your **Amazon.com** credentials.
3. Type in a Search box, Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation.
4. Select the **charity**.

Your price is identical with or without the donation, so sign up for the automatic donations to CMMRF and sign up your lady as well. Once you have chosen the charity, it will show up at the top of the page whenever you sign into Smile.Amazon.com.

CMMRF this year is March 6, 2022. There is a goal of having each Cryptic Mason donate at least \$5. Donating online is easy and you can sign up for monthly donations at any level of giving.

<https://www.cmmrf.org/donate/>



Donor Recognition Program

Because we appreciate your generosity, appropriate lapel pins and plaques are awarded based on cumulative totals.

Individuals

- \$ 50 – Bronze Lapel Pin
- \$ 100 – Bronze Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$ 150 – Silver Lapel Pin
- \$ 300 – Silver Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$ 500 – Gold Lapel Pin
- \$ 750 – Gold Lapel Pin with Stone
- \$ 1,000 – General Grand Master's Plaque & Gold Lapel Pin with 1 Diamond Chip
- \$ 2,000 – Gold Lapel Pin with 2 Diamond Chips
- \$ 16,000 – Gold Lapel Pin with 1 Large Amethyst and 1 Diamond Chip

Councils

- \$1,000 – General Grand Master's Plaque
- \$2,000 – Extender Bar for Plaque

Each additional \$1,000 donation the Council will earn another extender bar or another diamond chip for the individual.

THE WORK OF CRYPTIC MASONS

Freemasonry seeks to improve the community by improving the individual. Therefore, Councils of Cryptic Masons are found working with Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies, giving more opportunities to improve one's skills in leadership, public speaking, interpersonal relationships, and administration. This empowers Masons to become better leaders in their career, church, and community. Councils also work with these and other Masonic groups in community service projects to demonstrate Masonic teachings as a way of life.

The General Grand Council established the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation to give Cryptic Masons an opportunity to turn Masonic philosophy into a living practice. Issues like diabetes, stroke, poor circulation, heart failure, wound healing, and many other diseases share the common denominator of blood vessels, so vascular research is a vital part of treating many different kinds of illnesses.

YOU CAN HELP

Be a working partner in CMMRF!

Ask an ambassador to speak at your meeting. Our mission is to reach the entire community and educate everyone about the research and successes at the Indiana University Vascular Research Program.

Our work today, will help generations to come to live better and healthier lives. Let us work together to support the IU School of Medicine and to find cures!



Your gift will be receipted by:

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
PO Box 210
Brownsburg, IN 46112-0210

WWW.CMMRF.ORG

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation

and the

Indiana University School of Medicine



Partners
in
Discovery

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. **Dues Collection** – 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%20COMMAANDERY%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. 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. **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-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.

8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the April 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 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 dies are available at the secure website.

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Companions,

Your children, grandchildren, & for some, great-grandchildren may receive financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page & find the Scholarship Manual in (PDF format - 450KB) to download.

There they will find instructions for filling out the forms.

This is the link which will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All the information you need should be right there. This is a complete manual that you can download that talk about all of the scholarships available from the California Masonic Foundation as well as the

Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, & Rainbow for Girls.

CONTACTS

Illustrious Grand Master Cryptic Masons:

Most Illustrious Companion,
[Guy M. Chalmers](#), KYGCH & Lady Jeanne
Grand Master Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California
Redwood Empire Council No. 46

Grand Secretary/Recorder:

[Philip Hardiman](#), OSV, KYGCH, PGHP
Grand Recorder, Grand Council Cryptic Masons California
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assistant Secretary/Recorder & Grand Treasurer Grand Council Cryptic Masons:

[Thomas Krummell](#), KYCH
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



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

sbyrb@juno.com

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