

THE WORKMAN



Thomas C. Chavez
OCTOBER 2023

GHP Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

Vol. XV No. 5

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Grand High Priest's Message

“CONNECT * COMMUNICATE * COMMITMENT”

Greetings Companions,

I mentioned in my September message, this month of October is the busiest month for me and for some of you too. Before I tell you of my travels, last September 16 and 17 was our Annual Ritual Conference that was held in Visalia. There were 18 Ritual staff attending consisting of Grand Officers, DGO, DGL and Inspectors. This year the topic is the Royal Arch Opening and Closing. We also did the Past Master degree and the Most Excellent Master. Thank you MEC Steve Goad for teaching the ritual staff.

As I continued my travel, I started with a magnificent event on September 23, 2023. The East Bay York Rite Association (EBYRA) had a remarkably successful Royal Arch Degree. The cast consisted of three lodges, Doric 66, Oakland 36 and Ancient 31. Of course, with the best of the best performance of the Principal Sojourner, MEC Tony Yuson PGHP was “superb”! Most of all, without the commitment of the twenty-six candidates the festival would not have happened. Congratulations to all new companions!

My next stop on October 14, 2023, I will be at the Santa Monica York Rite 3 Way Reception at the California Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey. Then a week later, I will be attending the North and Southwest Conference in Utah. This will give me an experience

of the conference. Later in the week is the Annual Communication at the Grand Lodge of California F. & A.M. We will have our booth at the Exhibition Hall. Please stop by and say hello to us!

Companions, I mentioned in my previous messages to continually working on building memberships. We must continue to Connect, get engaged with brother Master Masons and promote York Rite. Communicate to them the values you received and your experiences of being a member. You must show to them your Commitment to our Craft and to your Chapter. Companions contact our Editor MEC Phil Hardiman, PGHP or me if you have any articles to share for the Workman. May you have all a safe Halloween with your family!

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

GRAND LECTURER

Companions All:

We completed the annual Inspector's Conference in Visalia in September! It was well attended by the ritual staff with the Department Grand Officers and the training was helpful to all in attendance (including me!). This month completes most of our fall festivals around the state! My hope is that most of us can participate in degrees or festivals near our area!? The esoteric meanings of our degrees make great Masonic education for all Chapters to pursue whether we are doing degrees in house or not! Your ritual staff can help with their knowledge we just discussed in Visalia! Next month we prepare for elections and Chapter turnovers! Qualification is essential and the questions will be available later in October for all! Don't forget that the Captain of the Host must also qualify in the ritual of opening and closing the

Chapter! Until next month I remain 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:

Inland Empire (San Bernardino)

October 7, 2023

East Bay (Alameda)

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 1-3, and Grand Sessions for May 16-21.

SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

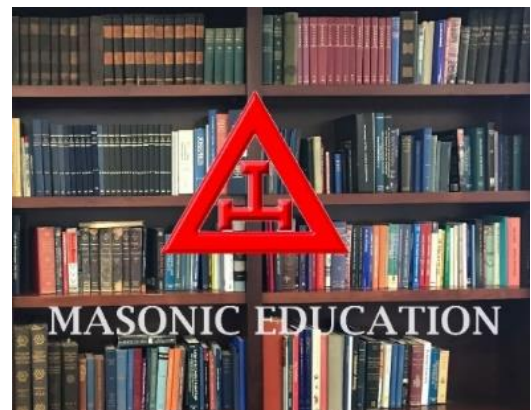
Secretaries new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for

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 OCTOBER 2023 TO MAY 2024

Date	Event	Location
Oct 14, 2023	3-Way Reception	Santa Monica
Oct 19 – 26, 2023	Grand Sessions	Philippines
Oct 27 – 29, 2023	Grand Lodge	San Francisco
Nov 20 – Dec 1	Vacation Cruise	The Ocean somewhere
Nov 23, 2023	Thanksgiving	Everywhere
Nov 24-26, 2023	NorCal DeMolay	Burlingame
Mar 1-3, 2024	Officers' Conference	Burbank Marriott
Mar 9, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Diego, 6:00 pm
Mar 10, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Bernardino
May 16-21, 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

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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 _____

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

East Bay York Rite Association
*Presents the 54th Annual
Pilgrimage into the York Rite*

2023 David M. Shull Memorial Honoree: Marion Rogers

**Location: Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, California**

Chapter Degrees, Saturday, September 23, 2023

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 7, 2023

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 14, 2023

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

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

Lunch @ \$10

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

All candidates must be preregistered

For more information contact

Fred Baclig – 925 216 1174 Eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com

Mail Reservation and check payable to EBYRA

To: Fred Baclig – Registrar

5021 Vesteny Ct.

Antioch, CA 94531-7812

Santa Monica Bay York Rite Presents

Santa Monica Bay Royal Arch № 97
Alpha Council № 39 Cryptic Masons
Santa Monica Bay Commandery of
Knights Templar № 61



Grand York Rite Brunch

**Saturday,
October 14th**

NOON until 4pm

\$20



California Yacht Club

4469 ADMIRALTY WAY, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292

Dress Code: Suit or York Rite Jackets!

Send RSVP to mj@mj.org