

Sword & Trowel



JULY 2023

From the Most Illustrious Master:

Hello Companions. I hope everyone and their families are doing well as summer moves into full swing. How good and how pleasant it is to dwell together in unity with Brothers and Companions throughout California and other parts of the country.

What a month June has been! The month started with Cathy and I traveling to San Antonio, TX, where we supported Cathy's brother (Michael McCleary) going in as the Worthy Patron in the local Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star on Saturday June 3rd. That evening Cathy and I were received at a separate event as the MIGM of Cryptic Masons and First Lady from California. Great to see Masonry thriving in other parts of the country. It was a terrific trip, and we were honored to support OES in the great state of Texas.

On June 9th Cathy went to Connecticut for 12 days for the Daughters of the Nile Supreme Sessions and to see family in Maine. When she returned, she was sick and had also been exposed to COVID. After medications and much rest she is starting to recover and getting ready for the Ice Cream Social in San Luis Obispo on July 2nd.

On June 10th I was able to attend our newest Commandery in California as they obtained their Charter (Beauseant Commandery #81). I was on hand when the Officers were installed by the RE Grand Commander Roger Ross. I also had the pleasure of being installed as the Prelate.



Beauseant Commandery # 81 Escondido, Ca.

On Saturday, June 17th, I attended the 100th Anniversary of S.W. Hackett Lodge # 574 with the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Randy Brill. Yet another amazing opportunity to get out and support the Blue Lodges and let them know that there is further light in Masonry in the York Rite Bodies.

On June 23rd, I headed up the mountains of Northern CA to Comptche for outdoor degrees. Last year Grand Chapter/Grand Council approved having degrees on Sunday. This was my first time visiting the Comptche outdoor RA degrees and the first time in a long-time doing Council degrees. King Solomon's Council No. 29 did the Royal Master degree and Oakland Council No. 12 performed the Select Master degree. They did a tremendous job and my hat off to the Companions for driving up to

perform the degree work on a Sunday afternoon. This is what Masonry/York Rite is supposed to be. We have to thank Larry Tunzi (a brother and Companion) for providing part of his ranch so we could perform the degrees over a two-day period. Thank you, Larry, for the great hospitality you showed everyone in attendance.

Talking with Companion Larry, he told me about when the first Lodge was built in Mendocino. He told me the first Master of the Lodge hand craved a statue out of a Redwood Stump 60 feet on top of the building reflecting the Virgin weeping, Father Time, etc. That building is now a bank. I was able to stay in Mendocino. Others stayed in Fort Bragg while some camped out on the Tunzi Ranch where the degrees were held.



Have you seen this statue somewhere along your Masonic journey?

I also want to thank MIPGM Guy Chalmers for his support as well. We had three MIPGM's present over the weekend: MIPGM Martin McKeay, MIPGM Robert Whitfield (who I thank for taking charge of the candidates during the degrees), and MIPGM Guy Chalmers.



Thanks to MEGHP Tom Chivas who was also in attendance to support the RA/Council degrees. There were roughly 60 York Rite members and about 8 spouses in attendance. If you take the location into consideration, that was a lot of members for a three-day weekend enjoyed by all (and it only took me a long 11-1/2 hours to drive back to Escondido on Sunday. But it was well worth the trip to have been a part of such awesome fellowship. I can't wait to go back next year. Mark your calendars now as it will be the last weekend in June 2024. You can camp out or stay in a motel about 35 minutes away. Below you'll see some pictures of this last weekend. I hope you enjoy them.



With my travels around the State, and being able to meet so many brothers and Companions, I have already had many opportunities to talk about my theme for this year of “Rebuilding the Bridge.” Bringing brothers together and talking about becoming a York Rite Mason and sharing that there is further light in Masonry to be received. We all play a part in this rebuilding!

One way we all can play a part is to take advantage of the summer months that are now here. It would be the perfect opportunity for your local Chapters, Councils and Commandery’s to get together and have a picnic with your Blue Lodge members and their families. Send out invitations. Make it a potluck. If you can get all three bodies together, maybe buy some burgers and hot dogs, macaroni/potato salad, chips, soda, and refreshments. Make it a family affair. Get the brothers to come out and see what York Rite is about and see the fellowship as I saw it in Comptche this last weekend. That could be the first step in showing your Lodge Brothers what else they could learn from our various degrees.

I can’t say enough about the camaraderie between RA/Council members to put on the degrees! We need to get out there to our Blue Lodge 3rd degrees and present them with the book “The York Rite of Freemasonry” (a book you can get from our Grand Secretary). Ask and you shall receive.

Another item I would like to talk about is getting our new members to take on some



ritual parts. These are our future members and without them we are lost. It is important that we strengthen our ritual teams and we need to get our new members actively involved. It is not always about the business meetings. If we give the members something to do, a role to play, they will come. And once they come, they will stay.

As a great President once said: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". I'm not the President, but I am asking you: Ask not what you can do for your Councils but ask what they can do for you.

Next month will be just as exciting with visits to San Luis Obispo, Van Nuys reception and 4th of July parade. From there it's on to Denver for RCC Southwest Regional, RA degrees in San Diego, and a reception in Bellflower. Very exciting events are coming up and I can't wait to tell you all about it in future issues. As I close, don't forget to donate to CMMRF. Contact MIPGM Guy Chalmers for information on how to support this very worthy charity. Until we meet in our journeys, may you be safe and God Bless you and your families.

Grand Principle Conductor of Work



Time can play funny tricks on you. Sometimes it feels like forever since I was asked if I would be willing to join the progressive line. Other times, it feels like last week. Looking forward, it feels like each advancement is far, far away. I'm sure that, if I'm blessed to advance to the Grand East, it will come sooner than I'm completely ready for it. And then, it will be over in the blink of an eye.

On a trip up to Visalia, my wife and I were batting ideas around for a theme. This theme would help me mold my thoughts and actions into a beautiful, complete whole. I'm looking for a concise phrase that I can use in an "elevator speech" to describe my goals for the year. During the trip, Juli and I came up with the general concept, and now I need to shrink it down to something specific. I'm almost there. Another dozen hours or so and I'll have it.

Not surprisingly, the general idea I have continues along with M.I.C. Sherman's concept of building a bridge between the various York Rite Bodies. Connecting not only the Craft, Capitular, Cryptic Degrees, and Chivalric Orders – but also the Degrees of the Scottish Rite, the York Rite College, the Priory, the Allied Masonic Degrees, and even the "other" Past Master Degree from SoCal Past Master's Association. Many Degrees are unique;

some reinforce others; some build on a different Degree by being a sequel and/or a prequel. I'd like to encourage each of you to review the Masonic lessons that have made a positive impact in your life, and to share those with each other.

In the many Masonic lessons I have experienced, the most important value I have learned is that you often need a hand. Today, it might be you that needs solace by sharing a cup of coffee with a friend. Tomorrow, you might be able to provide a helping hand by raising somebody from the ground. Remember, no man is an island, and only by working together we can build the bridge.

Andy Pippin,

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work



From the Desk of the Grand Recorder

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!!!



Select Master and Cast



Royal Arch Class and Cast



RV site



The lodge with seating for sideliners



Cook Shack and Dining Area



The Canopy above The Lodge

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

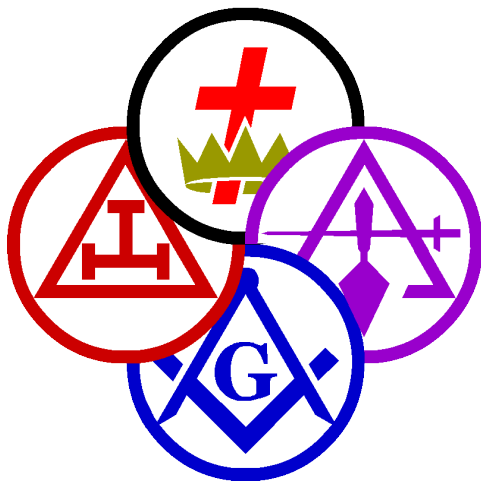
daniel.doornbos@icloud.com to
request an invoice.

RSVP deadline is August 6, 2022

See the map on the opposite side.



**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

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