

Sword & Trowel



September 2023

From the Most Illustrious Grand Master



Hello from the East

It has been such a pleasure to see all those smiling faces and the comradery exhibited at the events we have attended across this wonderful state of California. It is clearly evident that Cryptic Masonry is thriving throughout our State. Cathy and I started the month off (Aug 5th) with ESBYR Reception at the Alameda Masonic Hall. Then on Aug 6th headed over to the SF & Palo Alto Reception at the Orange Memorial Park for a barbecue and roasted pork. (see pictures at bottom of article)



The following weekend we headed to Branson, MO for the General Grand Triennial for a week. There we voted in the new General Grand Line of officers. Bill Synder is now the new General Grand Master (pictured here), G. Thomas Taylor as the new General Grand DGM, W. Keith Powell as the new General Grand PCW, Chuck McCollum as the new General Grand Treasurer, and Mark Irwin as the General Grand Recorder. Great leadership to serve our General Grand International. I met and made a lot of new friends and companions from around the world, especially from Brazil and Italy.

I also met some Council members from Michigan who performed a fun degree on 34 Council members and some of their wives. Yes, you heard right. Our ladies were able to participate in this degree as well. It is called the “Cigar & Whiskey Degree.” The fees for this degree helped pay for the lapel pin that was presented to everyone engaging in the ceremony and the rest went to CMMRF. I am currently waiting to see if we can get the ritual sent to us so that we may perform the degree here in California at some point in the future. I believe this will be a fun degree and promote fellowship among the members.

After surviving Branson’s humidity, Cathy and I headed straight back to the Bay area for a Reception on Aug 19th at the Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos. We also had the added advantage of spending some time with Cathy’s youngest daughter, Julianna, and her family. Watching 7 year olds run up and down a basketball court was quite a treat.

We held our Grand Council Officers Retreat the weekend of Aug 25th – 27th. The weekend was well attended by a majority of our Grand Officers and their partners. The gathering allowed us to go over a number of business items, including a “health check” to see if we’re on track with finances, discuss new ideas for the coming year, and an update on our new website. RI Andy Pippin and RI Mark

Nielsen gave us a great presentation on the capabilities of the new site. Everyone in attendance was pleased with the results.

Last but not least ,we will be starting September off with a bang as Cathy and I will be attending the SCJ DeMolay Banquet in Riverside on September 3rd. For those destined for this position as a Grand Officer, you'll quickly learn the true meaning of "No Rest for the Weary." Though I am only a third of the way through my term as Grand Master, it is an awesome journey getting to know our members in Cryptic Masonry up close and personal! This applies not only in California, but across the United States.

I would like to thank Massimo del Grande for representing me at the Orange County Reception which took place the same weekend as our Grand Officer's Retreat. I truly thank you, Massimo, for taking time out of your schedule in supporting Cryptic Masons and myself.

Now I would like to hear from YOU. What are YOU doing to improve Cryptic Masonry in your area? What Ideas would you like to see that would make your journey in York Rite Masonry more fulfilling? I believe in an open-door policy. If you would like to stay anonymous, we can make sure you do so. However, if you don't speak up, we can't improve or make things more worthwhile. Please let me know, or let one of our Grand Officers hear what you're thinking.

How would YOU suggest to "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? Share your thoughts, your ideas. Let us know what's working, or not, in your area. Let's spread the word to other Companions throughout the state. I'm happy and ready to spread that word wherever I go on my travels.

Let's not forget to take action to support CMMRF? As I have mentioned before, 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. 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.

Included below are some pictures along our travels and people we met along the way to give you an idea of the fellowship

Thank you all for what you do, have done and will do in the future for Cryptic Masons in California and around the world.

Take care and God Bless you and your families for your support.

MIGM Michael T. Sherman KYGCH, OSV



WELCOME TO TRIENNIAL 2023





Cryptic Council Retreat



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

CMMRF Committee



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):

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..... Memorial

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Additional Message or Comment

The Grand Captain of the Guard



Fun, Family, and Fraternity:

San Luis Obispo York Rite's Ice Cream Social and Other Fun Events

by Christian Marano, KYCH

Grand Captain of the Guard

The San Luis Obispo York Rite Bodies hosted its Annual Ice Cream Social and Luncheon in July, a delightful gathering that brings together the leaders of the California Grand York Rite in a casual and lighthearted atmosphere. This event is open to families and friends, and it becomes even more enjoyable when the children of our members join us. After all, ice cream is a treat best savored by the young ones and the young at heart!

During the social, we had the pleasure of hearing from distinguished leaders including the Grand High Priest, Grand Master, and Grand Commander. They highlighted their priorities and goals and also presented awards to recognize the outstanding service of local York Rite members in SLO. I'm thrilled to announce that Excellent Companion Peter Champion received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award, while I had the privilege of receiving the esteemed Master of Ish Sodi Award. Unfortunately, Sir Knight Robert Bettencourt was unable to attend and accept his Meritorious Service Medal. However, we were fortunate enough to witness a remarkable moment as Companion Howard Beltz, who is currently 91 years old, received a very special 50-year membership recognition in the Chapter and Council. He was accompanied by his wife, Elenor, and their daughter, Terri. It was truly heartwarming to see such dedication and commitment. The Grand Council was well represented at this event, with four Grand Officers in attendance including their ladies, as well as two Past Grand Masters and their ladies.

Events like the ice cream social in San Luis Obispo, Annual York Rite Picnic in South San Francisco, and the recently held reception in a park by the San Jose Bodies truly capture the essence of fellowship and demonstrate its significance within our organization. As Masons, we value the shared experiences that foster friendship and strengthen brotherhood, not only within the confines of our Masonic Temples and formalities of our ceremonies, but also in casual and relaxed settings. Prospective members are encouraged to join organizations where they witness members having fun and enjoying quality time with one another and their families. And more importantly, we get to enjoy the fraternity that we love so much with our loved ones. While we recognize the importance of exemplary rituals and formal business proceedings to maintain active Councils, we must also emphasize the immense value of fun, friendly, and family-oriented fellowship. These aspects bring vibrancy and vitality to our fraternity.

Looking ahead, I eagerly anticipate the participation of our companions in future enjoyable and amicable events. Let's continue to strengthen our bonds through fellowship and make lasting memories together.

Photos from the San Luis Obispo York Rite Ice Cream Social



Lady Jan Champion watches as Excellent Companion Peter Champion receives the Meritorious Service Award from Grand High Priest Tom Chavez.



Most Illustrious Grand Master Michael Sherman presents Illustrious Companion Christian Marano with the Master of Ish Sodi Award, assisted by Illustrious Companion David Coss



Companion Howard Beltz receives the 50-Year Anniversary Award for his membership in Royal Arch Chapter and Cryptic Council. He plans to join the Knights Templar Commandery soon.

L-R: MIGM Michael Sherman, Comp. Howard Beltz, Lady Elenor Beltz, and GHP Tom Chavez.



Illustrious Companion David Coss (R), Master of San Luis Obispo Council No. 38, receives MIGM Michael Sherman and Lady Cathy Francis for presentations.



Past Grand Masters in attendance: Most Illustrious Companion Peter Champion (2021-2022) and Most Illustrious Companion David Chesebro (2014-2015)



Lady Sarah Chesebro, wife of MIPGM David Chesebro, gives a warm hug to Lady Jan Champion, wife of MIPGM Peter Champion.



Companions, family, and friends enjoying the fare at the SLO Annual Ice Cream Social and Luncheon.



Grand Council Family listening to the speech by GHP Tom Chavez.

Photos from the Peninsula and Palo Alto York Rite Bodies Annual Picnic



Group photo of most of the picnic attendees.



The three Grand Presiding Officers with the Dunn Right Cooking Crew.



Most Illustrious Grand Master Michael Sherman presents Illustrious Companion Joshua Cusing with the Master of Ish Sodi Award.

Photos from the San Jose York Rite picnic in Los Gatos





Grand Director of Ritual

SOI



Grand Director of Ritual Schools of Instruction

Saturday September 30, 2023 - **Whittier, CA**
Sunday November 19, 2023 - **Escondido, CA**
Saturday December 2, 2023 - **Union City, CA**
Time 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Inspectors, ADR's, & DGO's please make it a top priority to attend. Officers coaches and council officers are encouraged to attend.

[Click here to let us know you are coming](#)

Mark Harris
415-505-2916
songmaster1@mac.com

Please use QR code to make reservations

Mark Harris 415-505-2916 songmaster1@mac.com



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