

July
2014



1860



2014



Sword and Trowel

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California

Most Illustrious Companion David L. Chesebro, KYGCH
154th Grand Master Cryptic Masons
California

July 2014

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Grand Council Cryptic Masons

Companions,

Fellowship & Camaraderie: It is indeed a pleasure to again be writing to you as your Grand Master. The last several weeks have been very busy with receptions in Northern & Southern California. Although the travel & traffic jams can be a bit trying, the **fellowship & camaraderie** one finds at the York Rite Bodies around the State makes it all worth it & then some.

Falling Numbers: Since the first of the year, there has been very vocal concern about falling numbers of Cryptic Masons in California. This negative trend has been going on for some time in all levels of our fraternity, not just the York Rite. To say that this has gone unnoticed by the leadership of any of our Masonic bodies would be very incorrect. To expect the leadership to dwell on the numbers alone would also be incorrect. Cryptic Masonry is not about numbers of members, it is about people & their relationships with each other. Cryptic Masonry is about spreading light, more light, & further light in Masonry. This has been the purpose of Cryptic Masonry since it started in this country in the early nineteenth century.

Cryptic Masonry has been in California since 1853 when Sacramento Council met under dispensation from the Grand Council of Tennessee. After some struggles, the Grand Council of California was formed in 1860 in a meeting of the representatives of Sacramento Council, California Council, Marysville Council & Sierra Nevada Council holding charters from the Grand Councils of Tennessee, Alabama, & Texas. From 1860 to 1958 the Cryptic Councils of California stood on their own without affiliation with the other York Rite bodies. In Edwin A. Sherman's work, Fifty Years of Freemasonry in California, he wrote of the Royal & Select Master degrees,

“They must stand alone in their beauty & strength, & teach their beautiful lessons without aid from any friends, either above or below.”

Grand Commandery: When Cryptic Masonry started, it stood alone with only its two beautiful degrees to offer to the members of the Masonic fraternity. In 1958, the Grand Commandery of California adopted the Royal & Select Master degrees as prerequisites to admission into the Commandery Orders. This was a big step for the Councils in California, but it also came with an obligation. California Cryptic Masonry is obliged to provide the highest possible quality conferrals of the Royal & Select Master degrees in order to inspire the Christian Masons receiving them to enthusiastically pursue the Commandery Orders. That is a big responsibility.

Our degrees belong to our Councils: Today we do not stand alone, but we still have only our two beautiful degrees to offer the Masonic fraternity. Companions, our degrees belong to our Councils. Our Councils are responsible for preserving & conferring our degrees. It is through the conferral of the Royal & Select Master degrees that new members are greeted. With this charge, every Cryptic Council in California is responsible for the quality conferral of the Royal & Select Master Degrees.

Building of strong Councils: As Cryptic Masons, we should not spend our efforts trying to keep up with the statistics of the rise & fall of membership of our body. We should concern ourselves with the building of strong Councils, led by dedicated & educated officers who understand the value of having degree teams in their individual Councils. If we cannot confer degrees in our individual Councils, we cannot expect our individual Councils to prosper.

Companions, let's get to work.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

David Chesebro, Grand Master

Illustrious Grand Master Itinerary

- | | |
|--|---|
| ⓪ Friday, July 4 th : | Parade & BBQ - Newhall |
| ⓪ Saturday, July 5 th : | 4-way reception – Van Nuys |
| ⓪ Sunday, July 6 th : | Ice Cream Social – San Luis Obispo |
| ⓪ Sunday, July 13 th : | Grand Council Executive Committee Meeting |
| ⓪ July 18 th , 19 th , & 20 th : | Red Cross of Constantine – Denver, CO |
| ⓪ Saturday, July 26 th : | Fresno Priory – Bakersfield |
| ⓪ Sunday, July 27 th : | Reception & BBQ – Salinas |
| | |
| ⓪ Friday, August 1 st : | Reception – Fairfield |
| ⓪ Saturday, August 2 nd : | Reception – Alameda |
| ⓪ Sunday, August 3 rd : | Reception & BBQ – South San Francisco |
| ⓪ August 14 th , 15 th , 16 th , & 17 th : | Arizona Grand Sessions |
| ⓪ Sunday, August 24 th : | Grand Council Executive Committee Meeting |
| ⓪ Fri/Sat August 29 th & 30 th | Southern California Ritual Conference |
| | |
| ⓪ Sunday, August 31 st : | DeMolay South – Whittier |

For the latest schedule details:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/calendar.html>

Super Excellent Master Degree (Oakland)

Oakland Council No. 12 is hosting the **Super Excellent Master Degree** on Monday November 10, 2014 at Oakland Scottish Rite. Dinner will begin at 6:00pm with the Degree beginning at 7:00pm. Mark your calendars, sign up info to follow.

Fraternally and Sincerely
K. Mark Harris, Grand Soloist

Super Excellent Master Degree (Long Beach)

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Omega Council No. 11 will be conferring the Super Excellent Master Degree on Saturday August 2, 2014. I would like to extend an invitation to you and all of the companions of your council to attend this conferral.

There will be a luncheon at 11:30 am followed by the degree at 1 pm. Both the luncheon and the degree will take place at the Long Beach Scottish Rite Temple located at 855 Elm Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. There will be a charge of \$10, which is not a degree fee. This amount is needed to cover the cost of the luncheon and expenses associated with the conferral.

If you and your companions are interested in attending, I urge you to make your reservations early by completing one of the attached reservation forms and forwarding it along with a check for \$10 to myself at the address listed above. Please send your reservations by no later than July 27, 2014 so that we can get an accurate count for the luncheon and prepare your card in advance.

Please note that this will be a tiled degree. All companions (including candidates) will be required to show a current dues card from their Council of Royal and Select Masters in order to gain admission.

Please mention this event at your next stated assembly and if possible, place a notice in your bulletin so that those companions who were absent will be made aware of this rare opportunity. I am also attaching reservation forms, which I hope you will make copies and post at a prominent location in your temple.

Any assistance you can offer in getting the word out will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me as listed above.

If you need the form below in a different file format please send me an e mail

Sincerely & fraternally,

Rick Baca, Deputy Master
Cell Phone 323 422 7422
E mail: rick_baca@hotmail.com

Reservation Form

(Please print this form)

For the conferral to take place on Saturday August 2, 2014 at the

Long Beach Scottish Rite Temple located at
855 Elm Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813.

Lunch will be served at 11:00 am - Degree at 1 pm.

Full Name of Companion _____

Council Name and Number _____

Will this be your first time attending a conferral of this Degree? () Yes () No

Candidates and Members - Please attach your check in the amount of \$10 payable to OMEGA COUNCIL NO. 11 and send it by no later than July 27, 2014 to:

Omega Council No. 11
(Attn: Rick Baca)
28117 Robin Ave
Saugus 91350-2050

Encompasser

Do you read & know about the Encompasser a quarterly publication of the Grand York Rite of California. It had been available by subscription which covered mailing, but is now available on line. Go to York Rite of California: <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/> and on the left of the home page, click ENCOMPASSER. Then click the big green ENCOMPASSER PUBLICATIONS. You now can read present and past issues.

Check out the new format available – you can now read the Encompasser online! No need to even print it out. Many thanks to our web-master, Excellent Companion Richard Thornton, for his efforts in applying this technology to our needs!

Grand Representatives

A paper presented by Most Worshipful Brother Jon C. Schleter Grand Master of the District of Columbia in North America, held in Orlando, Florida in February, 1981, pointed the need for explicit guidelines to assist Grand Representatives in successfully carrying out their duties. As a result of these Recommendations & after extensive correspondence with Grand Masters & Grand Secretaries of the United States Grand Lodges, the following pages have been developed & modified for the use of Grand Council of California.

Fred J. Potter
Editor

On Being a Grand Representative

Having received the distinctive honor of being appointed the Grand Representative of a Cryptic Grand Council which your Grand Council is in fraternal amity, you have assumed a challenging & rewarding responsibility. Although there are some who do not place ant importance to the position, it can & should be one of challenge.

The principal challenge is in opening new & improved avenues of fraternal communications between the two Jurisdictions. There are other challenges that should tax your ingenuity, & may whet your appetite for more & more Masonic knowledge. You will be expected to be an “expert” about the Grand Council you represent. Don’t let that scare you! It will come with each exchanged bit of information. The more you can learn concerning the history, size, activities, programs, structure & procedures of that Jurisdiction, the better you can fill that role. Developing that information should be a fascinating search.

Establishing communications: Along the road toward establishing communications & developing information concerning the Grand Council you will find a vast treasure of friendships, kindnesses & meaningful Masonic experiences. Also, you may experience some disappointments, stumbling blocks & frustrations. Overcoming them though will also be a challenge well worth the effort.

History & purposes: First, though, it may be well to understand the history & purposes of the Grand Representative System, & how it operates.

Originated by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1838, the Grand Representative System was designed to foster & encourage a closer bond of union & fraternal accord between the several Grand Lodges of the world by helping to establish the true spirit of Brotherhood & by promoting the principles of Masonic universality.

In the United States there are no Grand Councils in Virginia & West Virginia.

Key to success: Communication is the key to success of such a system. Conversely, the lack of communication can result in its failure. If you are the Representative of a foreign country there may be language difficulties in communicating. In most foreign countries, persons of substance & education have English as a second Language. This will help. Do not be surprised if they use words & phrases that sound strange to you. Always bear in mind that they may be thinking in the language of their native land.

Upon receiving the appointment as a Grand Representative, it is a matter of common courtesy to promptly write to the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction which made the appointment. The letter should include:

- 1) Appreciations for the distinctive honor of the appointment:
- 2) Fraternal greetings of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council to which the Representative is accredited:
- 3) A pledge to carry out the duties according to the office:

A copy of a letter should be provided to the Grand Recorder of your own Grand Council. When corresponding with overseas Jurisdiction, especially in the British Isles, Masonic courtesy requires correspondence be directed through the Grand Recorder.

Sample Letter:

Date

Your Name

Address

City, State Zip

Grand Recorder

Grand Council

Address

Right Illustrious Companion Recorder

I am highly honored to receive the appointment as Grand Representative of _____.

Please convey my fraternal appreciation for the distinctive honor to your Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Most Illustrious Companion____, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in California has asked me to convey his personal fraternal greetings to you & the Companions of your Jurisdiction. He prays that our Grand Council may ever remaining amity.

Please be assured of my pledge to carry to be in direct communication with my counterpart.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

(Name)

There are no rules prescribed for Grand Representatives in most Jurisdictions. It is well, therefore, to become acquainted with what Masons Laws has to say about Grand Representatives in your own Grand Council, as well as in the Jurisdiction you represent.

Familiar with the form: A Grand Reprehensive should become familiar with the form, history customs, size & operation of the Grand Council he represents. Almost any Masonic Library will have a great deal of information in Masonic encyclopedias & copies of Proceedings of other Grand Councils. The reference library & clipping files of the Masonic Service Associations are another good source for information. The following web site will also be helpful: Yorkrite.org

Contact with your counterpart: Once you have become familiar with some of the basic knowledge about the Jurisdiction you represent, you should make contact with your counterpart (the Grand Representative of your Grand Council near the Grand Council you represent). In your first contact with him, you should:

- 1) Introduce yourself as the Grand Representative of his Grand Council,
- 2) give a very brief resume of your Masonic activity;
- 3) give the name of the Most Illustrious Grand Master & Grand Recorder;
- 4) convey fraternal greetings of the Most Illustrious Grand Master;
- 5) provide him with a brief summary of the major actions of your Grand Council at its most recent Annual Communication; and
- 6) offer to him your fraternal good will & hope the two of you will work together in promoting York Rite harmony.

Once initial letter has been sent, many Grand Representatives become frustrated if they do not receive an immediate reply. Many things could happen. Your letter may not have been received,

or it could have been misplaced. If going in a foreign country, it may have to be translated. Your counterpart may be on vacation. He may suffer from procrastination. Many things could prevent or delay a reply. Don't give up! Wait at least two months, & then send a polite inquiry as to whether he received your letter. If still no reply after another two months, try once more with an appeal for communications of Information. It's a good idea to keep copies of your letters. After six months, from the time you sent your original letter you receive no reply, you may want to notify your Grand Recorder of this problem. When Grand Recorders correspond with other Grand Recorders, things seem to happen! This of course, will be a matter of your discretion.

Established communications: Of course, you may get a reply right away. Great! If you do, it's a sign you've established communications. Each letter you receive deserves a prompt acknowledgement & reply. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your counterpart is probably as anxious to exchange information as you are. No doubt he is a "worker in the vineyards," too; otherwise he would not have been selected.

If your jurisdiction has a regular publication, it would be a nice gesture for you to provide your counterpart with a subscription. Undoubtedly, he would reciprocate.

If you happen to be traveling in the state or country who's Grand Council you represent, try to arrange your itinerary where you might visit your counterpart or make a brief call at the Grand Council office & make yourself acquainted with the Grand Recorder. Invite (him or them) to visit you if either of the visits your Jurisdiction. This type of interaction can be one of the real joys of being a Grand Representative. Scores of lasting friendships have been realized by such exchanges. Some Grand Representatives have even attempted to learn the language of the country they represent. Grand Representatives are expected to attend Annual Grand Sessions of their own Grand Council. In some Jurisdictions, they must register as Grand Representatives & frequently they must respond to a roll call of Grand Representatives. If there is a visiting dignitary from the jurisdiction you represent present at your Grand Council Session, be sure to make yourself known to him, & offer him your services if needed. It's a gesture of good will which will be appreciated & remembered.

Companions from your Grand Council planning to travel to the Jurisdiction you represent may turn to you for information about visiting councils. Be prepared to inform them of any facts or contacts which will be helpful to them.

Responsibility of Communication: Basically, your job as Grand Representative entails a responsibility of COMMUNICATION; a challenge of public relations; & ability to be a fount of knowledge; & a continual satisfaction in being a force in "spreading the cement of brotherly love."

Take up your "working tools" – apply them – & discover the satisfaction of doing your part to make the system work.

For more information contact our Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of the Jurisdiction to which you have been appointed.

Contact Information

Illustrious Grand Master Cryptic Masons:

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<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/>

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available: MP.ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. 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.

Have you gone to our Grand Council website lately? www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/ Do you know that there you can find rosters of officers, forms that you need, and a complete copy of the Officers Guide. *The Officers guide helps you plan and know what is expected you.*

Officers: Grand Council Cryptic Masons

We, the officers of Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, are here to assist you, Please call upon us.

154th MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

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GRAND STANDARD BEARER

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California Grand York Rite
Leadership Seminar

This seminar is designed specifically for the York Rite Officers and Members to help prepare them to be good leaders, or more knowledgeable members, in their respective Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies and all York Rite Masons are encouraged to attend.

The following is an overview of what will be covered:

- Grand Chapter, Council, & Commandery vs General Grand Chapter/Council & Grand Encampment – How Grand Bodies work
- Administration of Constituent Bodies
- Communications
- Protocol and Special Events
- Ritual, Tactics, & Uniforms
- Mentoring vs Coaching
- Leadership

Note: This is not a ritual seminar/school of instruction

Five seminars have been scheduled as outlined below. If you cannot attend the one nearest you, please attend one of the others. Please RSVP so we can plan lunch and materials accordingly.

All seminars are scheduled on a Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM and lunch will be provided. There is no charge to the attendees. Dress is casual.

<i>DATE:</i>	<i>LOCATION:</i>
May 31, 2014	Sacramento Masonic Center 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2809 <i>(there's a charge for parking)</i>
June 28, 2014	Bellflower Masonic Center 9813 Beach Street, Bellflower, CA 90706-5917
September 13, 2014	San Jose Masonic Center 2500 Masonic Drive, San Jose, CA 95125-2019
November 22, 2014	Vesper Masonic Center 822 Main St, Red Bluff, CA 96080-2759
January 31, 2015	Vista Masonic Center 761 Eucalyptus Ave, Vista, CA 92084-6251

RSVP to Bud Ramsey, 5160 Poston Drive, San Jose, CA 95136-3320
 Phone: 408-838-3730 Email: budsusanr@att.net