

September

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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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Grand.York.Rite.of.California/>



Shared Vision

Companions,

I have a little saying about participation in our fraternity: “Eighty percent of Freemasonry is showing up.”

That’s right. In my book, you get a B- just for attending the Masonic functions available to you.

So, what about the other twenty percent? In order for there to be a successful Masonic function to show up at, whether it is a dinner, celebration, degree night, or a Stated Meeting, someone had to be performing at the A+ level. Many of these events require even more than 100 percent from someone. They require that there be a vision of the outcome. This is especially true of receptions, dinners, and celebrations.

Having a vision is the first step in having a great event and a great organization, whether it is your Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, or other

organization. Just as there is a difference in scale between holding a successful event and creating a successful organization, there is a big difference in the number of people that need to share the vision of a great event and the number of members that need to share the vision of a great organization. The vision for a great event may or may not be shared by all. It may only need to be communicated. On the other hand, the vision of a great organization must be shared by all.

What’s the difference between a communicated vision and a shared vision? A communicated vision is the vision of one or two people and, although others may participate in its execution, it only truly belongs to the few that share the vision. A truly shared vision requires all or at least most participants in the development of an event or members of an organization to own the vision. This requires a lot of communication. Remember, real communication requires us to listen as well as to speak. To develop and maintain a shared vision for an organization over the long term requires time and many special planning meetings, so that all may be heard.

What’s the result of having a shared vision over a communicated vision? Be assured that there will be more A+ efforts from more members of your organization if there is a shared vision that all or many own. Your organization will have a much better chance of success.

**Sincerely and Fraternally,
David Chesebro, Grand Master**

Itinerary

- ① September 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th: Grand Council Weekend, Quincy
- ① Thursday, September 11th: Sonora Council Visit
- ① Saturday, September 13th: Leadership Seminar
- ① Tuesday, September 23rd: Royal & Select Master Degree Festival, San Diego
- ① September 28th – October 1st: General Grand York Rite Triennial, Buffalo, NY
- ① October 3rd – 4th: Northern California Ritual Conference
- ① October 10th – 12th: Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- ① Monday, October 13th: Reception, San Rafael
- ① Saturday, October 18th: OES, Visalia
- ① October 19th – 22nd: Colorado River Festival, Riverside Hotel, Laughton, NV
- ① October 31st – November 2nd: Southwest Regional York Rite Conference, Ontario, CA

For the latest schedule details:
<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/calendar.html>

Education

Companions,

Education, a very fundamental word: Webster defines education as a noun:

1. The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction
2. An enlightening experience.

Masonry covers both these definitions and this is what we should be striving to do in our Councils. We are both teacher and student. We teach the less informed our ritual and the meaning behind the words. But as we know there are so many ways to interpret our lessons and it's the candidates who need to travel his own road to enlightenment. As students we need to continue to learn our craft's teachings so we do not lose the true meanings and strive to become a Master Craftsman.

For us to continue to give both our Candidates and our Companions that enlightening experience we need to make our education a lifetime search for the Devine Truth that we discuss in our Cryptic Ritual. We also need to foster teaching leadership to all in our charge. Always look to the future and look for the men who will lead our craft into that future we need for our craft to survive.

We now have leadership conferences around the state as well as school of instructions in our ritual. We need to attend these to better our skills that we can use in our Councils and in our everyday life. Many hours were spent by dedicated Companions to give you these courses to make our Councils the envy of all Masonic organizations.

We are a first class, topnotch organization and only with education like we get from our ritual and from our conferences can we continue to grow and prosper. The schedule of these Leadership and Ritual Conferences are listed on the Grand York Rite web site. Please attend and enhance your skills as a Master Craftsman.

**Fraternally,
William E. Price, KYCH
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work**

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**

Seven Cardinal Virtues

Filial Love, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness and Patriotism.

These are the seven cardinal virtues of DeMolay. If you have not been exposed to their teachings, I encourage you to visit a Chapter several times, especially during the Initiatory Degree.

I have shared with our companion editor, that I will write articles about the Grand York Rite Sessions.

How do the DeMolay teachings correlate with Grand York Rite Sessions? Obviously, the fourth precept, Comradeship is a given. At the Sessions you get to visit with those who you might only see this one time a year and bonds that may be formed for the future. The performances of the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master and Past Commanders Association.

But, I will focus on the third precept, Courtesy. I recently read the "Ramblings from the Rep" in the Sacramento Scottish Rite News. Part of Illustrious Fred Sorsabal's article discusses civility in our modern society and our Fraternity. I have permission from the editor to email the News in PDF format to anyone who wants to receive it (just sent an email to reservations@ca-gyrs.org).

The article discusses the need for timely reservations. Obviously, this subject hits so close to my home around April and May; this is when there are reservations for the sessions made after the deadline. This subject has been mentioned from different sources, especially from those who try to plan an event. So, when was it acceptable in Masonry to inculcate inconsideration? It's time to reflect and focus on courtesy. Let your event planner, like the person who is planning the meal for your stated meeting; know that you will be there. Conversely, if you made the reservation and

your plans change, show the courtesy to cancel the reservation.

Slightly related, your editor's need those articles before the deadline to produce the newsletters / trestle boards and distribute in a timely manner.

Show the appreciation to those who labor hard for us to enjoy the benefits of our comradeship inculcating courtesy in making the reservations or submitting the articles before the deadlines.

Jumping off my soapbox to focus back on the Grand York Rite Sessions. The meals have been selected. The reservation forms are getting put together after finishing off a few details. My goal is to have those forms ready each year to go out with the dues card / reports package sent from the Grand Secretary / Recorder's office in October.

I had a discussion with Tom Krummell, the Sessions CFO, about allowing attendees the option that submit their reservation forms prior to February 28th will have the option to defer payment until March 15th. Future issues of the Sword and Trowel will bring you up to date about the Sessions planning (and hopefully will not be as long)

Fraternally and Sincerely
Dave Glass, Grand Standard Bearer

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/> & on the left of the home page, click ENCOMPASSER. Then click the big green ENCOMPASSER PUBLICATIONS

Medical Research Foundation

Through the basic & clinical research, conducted by ICVBM & supported by CMMRF, advancements are being made to discover cures for many of today's health problems prevent major diseases, and finally to save lives. We have the opportunity to improve the human condition for those most dear to us and ourselves. We invite you to become a part of this team and join our partnership in discovery. Let's do something great together!

Link: <http://www.cmmrf.org/>

Scholarships

Scholarships offered by the Masonic Family of Freemasons in Grand California

Brethren or Companions, you should consider these scholarships for our Masonic youth groups and your children and grandchildren.

They are available to them to fill out completely and make sure that they get them in on time or they will not be considered. If you wish help for them make sure they follow the rules. This is a good lesson for the future.

My brethren, you may not figure this out but your children and grandchildren can if they want help attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center have them go to bottom of page and find Scholarship Manual in (PDR – 450KB) and download and follow the instruction for all Masonic Scholarships.

Here is the link:

<http://www.freemason.org/scholarshipCenter/index.htm> it will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All information you need should be right there. These is a complete manual that you can download that talks about all of the scholarships available from California Masonic Foundation as well as Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay Job's Daughters and Rainbow.

I wish to thank Worshipful Lynn Wallingford PM, Inspector, Masonic District No. 513 for providing this information to us. If you cannot get this information contact the Master of your Blue Lodge, Heads of Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay Job's Daughters and Rainbow and allow them to assist you for your youth and their future.

Masonic Humor

Ever heard the story of the giant ship engine that failed? The ship's owners tried one expert after another, but none of them could figure but how to fix the engine.

Then they brought in an old man who had been fixing ships since he was a youngster. He carried a large bag of tools with him, and when he arrived, he immediately went to work. He inspected the engine very carefully, top to bottom.

Two of the ship's owners were there, watching this man, hoping he would know what to do. After looking things over, the old man reached into his

bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine lurched into life.

He carefully put his hammer away. The engine was fixed! A week later, the owners received a bill from the old man for ten thousand dollars.

"What?!" the owners exclaimed. "He hardly did anything!"

So they wrote the old man a note saying, "Please send us an itemized bill."

The man sent a bill that read:

Tapping with a hammer	\$2.00
Knowing where to Tap	\$9,998.00

Effort is important, but knowing where to make an effort in your life makes all the difference.

Contact Information

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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.*

Grand Council Cryptic Masons Officers

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

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York Rite Sovereign College

of North America, in California



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August 8, 2014

Re: Grand Governor's General Order No. 1 – California

Dear Knight Companions of California,

Effective Saturday, August 2, 2014, at the 57th General Assembly of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America held in Denver, Colorado, the following Knight Companions were appointed and installed by our new Most Preeminently Distinguished Governor General, David G. Walker:

David J. Kussman, OPC
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714. 815-3151 mobile
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Howard "Bud" Ramsey, OPC
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David R. Patterson, OPC
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All Governors and Secretaries will kindly add the above named to the mailing lists of your College and make notification of all meetings and conferrals.

David J. Kussman

David J. Kussman, OPC
Grand Governor, California (2014-2016)



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