

***Sword and Trowel
October 2014***



1860



2014



***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/>



Core Values

Companions,

In several of my speeches this year, and in the description of my lapel pin, I've alluded to "**Core Values**". Until now, I've not tried to define what the core values of our Councils are, because Councils need to determine their own core values. Core values are personal and unique to every individual and organization. Core values are the guiding principles by which we make decisions relative to unexpected and planned changes in our lives and those of our organizations.

In my allusion to core values, I suggest a good starting point for discerning the possible core values for our Councils. They are the Three Principle Tenets of Freemasonry: **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**, and the Four Cardinal Virtues: **Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice**.

However, these are all personal core values. These are values that attracted us all to our fraternity in the first place. Our Principle Tenets and Cardinal Virtues are values we should have possessed

before we even asked for an Application for Degrees. These are not the values of our Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies, but the values that these organizations charge their members to possess and live by.

So then, what are the core values of your Council? This is a difficult question, as it requires a collective vision of the membership of your Council. The core values of our Councils not only need to coincide with the core values of the members, but must also address the organization's relationships with its members, its community, and its charities. Since it must touch on all these aspects, it is necessary for the active members to provide input to define or redefine the core values of their individual Councils. Every Council in California should meet sometime in the future to discuss, discern, and document the core values of their organization.

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

Itinerary

- October 3rd – 4th: Northern California Ritual Conference
- October 10th – 12th: Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- October 13th: Reception, San Rafael
- October 18th: OES, Visalia
- October 19th – 22nd: Colorado River Festival, Riverside Hotel, Laughton, NV
- October 31st – November 2nd: Southwest Regional York Rite Conference, Ontario, CA
- November 10: Super Excellent Master Degree, Oakland
- November 14-16: Grand Council Strategic Planning Retreat, Covina
- November 21: Reception, Nevada City
- November 22: Leadership Seminar, Red Bluff

For the latest schedule details:

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

You can't change what you refuse to confront

Companions,

While I was perusing Facebook I ran across a saying I want to share with you. "**You can't change what you refuse to confront**". It is a simple saying but a powerful one that can sum up what we are going through in the Grand Council right now. Our Illustrious Grand Master has seen we need to change things in the Craft and has the

will to confront the present situations. Your Grand Officers have joined him and with your support and God's Divine assistance, will continue in the future what we have started. I have had the honor to serve you on this Grand Council for the past 4 years and have seen our Illustrious Grand Masters slowly start the changes we've needed, but there is a great deal of work left to continue the growth of Cryptic Masonry in California.

As we have seen, we need more communication, better membership procedures, work to be done on our web site, and improving our ritual, just to name a few projects. We, as Grand Officers, can accomplish these and more only with your help. We need your input on what changes you want to see and then your support in implementing these changes.

Last year Most Illustrious Companion Richard Williamson KYGCH, IPGM authorized the start of a newsletter and with the great help of Companion Richard Thornton KYCH; the **Sword & Trowel** was born. The problem is how to distribute this wonderful publication; this is where you, the companions, can help. The Council Recorders need to let your council members know where to find this newsletter, companions who know about the newsletter need to talk about it, & companions who don't have a computer need to be sent a copy. This newsletter is a great source of information & a great deal of work goes into it. This is your newsletter & we welcome contributions, from our companions, to make it a success.

In the words of our Masonic Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt in his fourth inaugural address on 1/20/1945 "We shall strive for perfection. We shall not achieve it immediately, but we still shall strive. We will make mistakes, but they must never be mistakes which result from faintness of heart or abandonment of moral principle".

Our Gentle Craft has as much volatility today as it did in Roosevelt's time. We have great teachings to convey and the brotherhood watch makes us one. Let us draw strength from one another, as did our ancestors, and continue to make this the greatest fraternity in the world.

The Sword and Trowel can be found on Facebook or the Grand York Rite Web Site at:
<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/bulletin.html>

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

Re-Introducing Battalion & Belles

Most don't know that there is a Cryptic Council organization by the name of the **Battalion and Belles**, or even what it does. The group was founded in 1961 when Most Illustrious Irvin B. Beckham was the Grand Illustrious Master. An organization of supporters for Most Illustrious Beckham was started and called Beckham's Battalion whose mission was to provide financial relief for the many expenses incurred during his year as Grand Master. The efforts proved so enjoyable that it was decided to continue the group to include the ladies and to be called the Battalion and Belles. Since that time, year after year, Battalion and Belles have raised funds through various venues, with an extreme amount of fun activities, all to provide support to the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of California.

There is a Southern and Northern chapter of Battalion and Belles both working with the same mandate. The President of the Southern Chapter is currently Eduardo Estrada, the Grand Steward of the Grand Council, and the President of the Northern Chapter is Guy Chalmers, the Grand Marshal of the North, of the Grand Council. Both Chapters are holding two meetings a year in their areas and combining for a joint meeting at the Grand Sessions to present their gift to the incoming Most Illustrious Grand Master. They have a triangle-shaped medallion in purple with the logo of the Battalion and Belles in gold and hanging from the neck with a small purple cord. These medallions are for sale for a donation of \$15 and can be sent through the mail. Contact either President for more information. Listen for announcements in your Councils or in the various bulletins for the time and place of their next meeting.

**Fraternally and Sincerely
Guy M. Chambers
Grand Marshal of the North**

Super Excellent Master Degree

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**

What is a Mason

A Mason is a man who is clean inside & outside, who neither looks up to the rich nor down to the poor, who can give without complaining & who can prosper without bragging, & who is considerate of women, children & the old.

He is a man who is too brave to lie, too noble to cheat, too sensible to loaf & who takes his share of the world's goods & lets the other people take theirs.

Taken from "New Age"

Fraternally and Sincerely
Frederick J. "Tiny" Potter, MIPGM & Grand Treasurer

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 Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, (ICVBM) and supported by Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, (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 are offered by the Masonic Family of Freemasons in California.

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

The scholarship forms are available to students to fill out. Make sure that they get them in on time or they will not be considered.

Companions, your children and grandchildren if they desire, may get financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page and find the Scholarship Manual in (PDF format – 450KB) to download. There they will find instructions for filling out the forms.

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 the information you need should be right there. This is a complete manual that you can download that talks about all of the scholarships available from the California Masonic Foundation as well as the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

I wish to thank Worshipful Lynn Wallingford PM, Assist Grand Lecturer of Division 5, of the Grand Lodge of California for providing this information. 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.

Masonic Humor

As we "older" Cryptic Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers. I had a problem yesterday, so I called Anna, the 11 year old "Computer Whizz" next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked her to come over.

Anna clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As she was walking away, I asked, 'So, what was wrong?'

She replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.'

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.'

Anna grinned 'Haven't you ever heard the error "ID ten T?" "No" I replied.

'Write it down,' she said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.' So I wrote down: **ID10T**

I used to like Anna.

Contact Information

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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.*

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.

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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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
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