

***Sword and Trowel
November 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/>



Membership

Companions,

This week, your Grand Master has been immersed in Membership Development. We were asked to provide a short talk on **California Grand Council's membership development plan**.

This was extremely challenging, beyond Carlos Gonzalez Method of York Rite Recruiting successfully used by many Chapters in our State, as there is not a formal plan for the Grand Council.

Therefore, your Grand Council leadership has begun to formalize a proper Membership Development Program to be considered for implementation.

The plan consists of three parts:

- Membership Recruitment
- Membership Enlightenment

- Membership Engagement

With **membership recruitment**, the plan encourages the continued use of the Carlos Gonzalez Method. It also recognizes need to work closely with our Lodges as needed to promote Masonry in areas where our fraternity is not growing. In order for our York Rite Bodies to grow, our Lodges must also be growing.

With **membership enlightenment**, the plan encourages all constituent councils to employ the conferral of our beautiful Royal and Select Master Degrees locally and often as the primary method of Masonic Education. Our degrees are Cryptic Masonry Education 101. Let's confer them. Also in this section, the Leadership Development Seminars will continue to be used to provide training for all our members, but especially our future potential leaders

Finally, with **membership engagement**, the plan encourages all interested members to take part in ritual conferrals, both actively in the conferral, or on the sidelines in order to take full advantage of the Masonic Education qualities of the degrees.

The plan also encourages our Councils to recognize their members' accomplishments, hold public installations of officers, hold receptions and other events that are open to the public, and generally have fun with their members.

The plan itself needs a little fine tuning before it is released for publication. It will be coming to a California Council near you. I hope you are looking forward to it.

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

Itinerary

- 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
- December: Various Councils and Council Installations

For the latest schedule details:

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

Installations

Companions,

This year has been flying by. We are again at that point in our Cryptic year election & installations of Officers are beginning. It's appropriate at this time that we understand areas of our duties which have not received the proper attention for the past several years.

This past year at our Grand Sessions a resolution was presented regarding the qualification of officers. It would have added to the Constitution: "No installed officer may read the work from a ritual book or other source during a tiled meeting, when doing the work for an office for which he has been installed; doing so will be considered a Cryptic Offence. One Companion, who is not an active participant in the performance of the ritual, may have an open ritual book as a promoter."

It was fashioned after similar regulations in the California Masonic Code. The resolution failed but that does not exempt our Officers from learning their work and being qualified for their station.

Constitution: **Section 24-7. Qualifications:**

1. an Illustrious Master-elect, Deputy Master-elect, Principal Conductor of the Work-elect, and Captain of the Guard-elect will be considered qualified for installation when he has received from the Inspector of his Arch a certificate of his proficiency in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Select Master degree pertaining to his station, and the order of business and balloting.
2. Should an Officer-elect fail to qualify as herein above provided, within 60 days following his election, because of: (a) failure to present himself for Installation, or (b) failure to procure the necessary Certificate of Qualification, the Council shall immediately request a dispensation to hold an election for the office of Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, or Recorder...

Over the last couple of years there has been renewed emphasis on our ritual and stressing that officers are at least qualified to open and close from memory. This year our Inspectors have been instructed not to qualify or allow installation of an officer who does not meet the requirements of our Constitution.

**Sincerely and Fraternally,
Brett Mac Donald, Deputy Grand Master**

Degrees of Royal & Select Master

The degrees of Royal & Select Master were not originally combined into one system, each having been conferred by separate parties & initially controlled by separate Councils. As near as may be determined from conflicting claims, Select degree is oldest of the Rite. It was customary to confer the Royal degree on Master Masons prior to the Royal Arch & the Select degree after exaltation to the sublime degree. This accounts for the fact that control of Cryptic degrees vacillated back & forth in many jurisdictions, even after formation of Grand Councils.

To this date, the Royal & Select degrees are controlled by Grand Chapter in Virginia & West Virginia, & conferred by subordinate Chapters in those jurisdictions.

The Royal degree appears to have been developed primarily in New York under direction of Thomas Lownds, whereas Select was vigorously promulgated by Philip Eckel in Baltimore. It is claimed by Eckel a Grand Council of Select Masters was formed in Baltimore in 1792, while it is definitely known that a Grand Council of Royal Masters (Columbian No. 1) was organized in 1810 in New York. It remained for Jeremy Cross to combine the two degrees under one system, which occurred about 1818, & this pattern was adopted in most jurisdictions as the degrees became dispersed beyond the eastern seaboard.

The degree of Super Excellent Master is not allied to the other two degrees of the Cryptic Rite, so far as its teachings & traditions are concerned. The records of St. Andrews Chapter in Boston indicate that a degree of this name was conferred during the latter part of the eighteenth century. The earliest positive reference to the Super Excellent in connection to the Cryptic Rite is December 22, 1817, when a "Lodge" of Super Excellent Masters was organized by Columbian Council of Royal Masters in New York. The incidents, teachings, & ritualistic format of the Super Excellent degree bear no resemblance in any former degrees so named, which appears to justify the claim that it is American in origin. This degree has been, & to some extent still is, a rather controversial subject. It is conferred as one of the regular Cryptic Rite degrees in some jurisdictions, whereas the others confer it as an honorary degree only; in some instances, separate Grand Councils of Super Excellent Masters have been formed.

Proclamation

Companions,

As we enter November our thoughts are on the upcoming holiday seasons. The first up is Thanksgivings. Our Brother & 1st President made this proclamation for us to remember, from that time to this, what a great accomplishment this nation established for the freedoms of mankind. The freedoms established, then & since, have been the bench mark for many nations to lay the ground work for their governments. So as you enjoy your day of Thanksgiving give thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for all we have in this great nation of ours & what our Gentle Craft has contributed to this great undertaking.

Issued by President George Washington, at the request of Congress, on October 3, 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, & humbly to implore His protection & favor; and—Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving & prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many & signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety & happiness.”

Now, therefore, I do recommend & assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great & glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere & humble thanks for His kind care & protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal & manifold mercies & the favor, able interpositions of His providence in the course & conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, & plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable & rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety & happiness, & particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil & religious liberty with which we are blessed, & the means we have of acquiring & diffusing useful knowledge; and, in

general, for all the great & various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers & supplications to the great Lord & Ruler of Nations, & beseech Him to pardon our national & other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several & relative duties properly & punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, & constitutional laws, discreetly & faithfully executed & obeyed; to protect & guide all sovereigns & nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), & to bless them with good governments, peace, & concord; to promote the knowledge & practice of true religion & virtue, & the increase of science among them & us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go. Washington

**May God Bless You All,
William E. Price, KYCH
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work**

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 & Sincerely
K. Mark Harris, Grand Soloist**

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 left of the home page, click ENCOMPASSER. Then click the big green ENCOMPASSER PUBLICATIONS

Far & Wide Communications

Far & Wide Communications is vital to assist those seeking light in Masonry.

Resolve to Act: 1) Broadcast the “**Encompasser**” far & wide through your York Rite Bodies; 2) Broadcast “**Workman**” far & wide through your York Rite Bodies; 3) Broadcast “**Sword & Trowel**” far & wide through your York Rite Bodies & 4) Broadcast **Grand York Rite Web Site** far & wide through your York Rite Bodies
[“http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/”](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/)

Medical Research Foundation

Through the basic & clinical research, conducted by Indiana Center for Vascular Biology & Medicine, (ICVBM) & 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, & finally, to save lives. We have the opportunity to improve the human condition for those most dear to us & ourselves. We invite you to become a part of this team & 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 & your children & 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 & grandchildren if they desire, may get financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page & 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 talk 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 & 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 & Rainbow & allow them to assist you.

Masonic Humor

There was an Illustrious Grand Master out at sea in a small boat, rough weather & it overturns, as he's bobbing about a life boat appears, as they called out, he said its “**ok**” I am a Cryptic Mason, The Supreme Grand Master will look after me, & refused their help.

After a short while a helicopter is overhead lowering a rope & again the guy says its “**ok**” I am an Illustrious Grand Master, The Supreme Grand Master will look after me, & refused their help.

Shortly after he drowns, as he is met by The Supreme Grand Master at the pearly gates he says I thought you would look after me I am an Illustrious Grand Master.

“The Supreme Grand Master said I sent you a life boat & a helicopter what more did you want!”

Contact Information

Illustrious Grand Master Cryptic Masons:

Most Illustrious Companion,
David L. Chesebro, KYGCH
Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California
dlchesebro@gmail.com – (805) 459-2618

Grand Recorder:

Ken Hope
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13
Artesia, CA 90701-3872
(562) 924-6500 (W)
(562) 484-1611(C)
ca.yorkrite@verizon.net

Editor:

Richard E. Thornton
(209) 747-9518 (C)
sj19secretary@att.net

Website:

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

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.

154th MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

David L. Chesebro, KYGCH & Sarah
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38 C.M.
dlchesebro@gmail.com

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Brett A. MacDonald & Donna
Shekinah Council No. 35 C.M.
bmacdwp@gmail.com

GRAND TREASURER

Frederick J. "Tiny" Potter, MIPGM & Donna
Ventura Council No. 15 C.M.
fredjp3@msn.com

GRAND DIRECTOR OF RITUAL

Kenneth G. Nagel & Kathy
San Jose Council No. 20 C.M.
knagel@comcast.net

GRAND CHAPLAIN (South)

Paul D. Erickson & JoAnn
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38 C.M.
Bluelodge1@comcast.net

GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

William S. Dann & Anne
Pacific Council No. 37 C.M.
bdann@nrmcorp.com

GRAND SENTINEL

Robert A. Morrison & Pauline
Butte Council No. 50 C.M.
bpmorrison@sbcglobal.net

GRAND MARSHAL (North)

Guy M. Chalmers & Jeanne
Redwood Empire Council No. 46 C.M.
mc329@aol.com

GRAND SOLOIST

K. Mark Harris
Oakland Council No. 12 C.M.
songmaster1@mac.com

GRAND BIBLE BEARER

Richard J. Jolley & Carol
Sierra Nevada Council No. 44 C.M.
jolleysfolly@yahoo.com

GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

William E. Price & Janet
California Council No. 2 C.M.
nc46billprice@aol.com

GRAND RECORDER

Kenneth G. Hope, HMIPGM & Sonny
Shekinah Council No. 35 C.M.
ca.yorkrite@verizon.net

GRAND CHAPLAIN (North)

Richard A. Wilson & Kitty
Sacramento Council No. 1 C.M.
D246rich@surewest.net

GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Lee P. Whelan & Teresa
Riverside Council No. 59 C.M.
whelanelectric@hotmail.com

GRAND STEWARD

Eduardo Estrada & Natasha
Omega Council No. 11 C.M.
zestrada@pacbell.net

GRAND ORATOR

William J. Miklos III & Angelica
Amador Council No. 31 C.M.
billmiklos@sbcglobal.net

GRAND MARSHAL (South)

Rees W. Padfield & Elaine
Ventura Council No. 15 C.M.
rpadfield@roadrunner.com

GRAND MUSICIAN

John A. Gonsalves & Saralu
Shasta Council No. 6 C.M.
pianoman1934@charter.net

GRAND STANDARD BEARER

David P. Glass & Kathy
Gateway Council No. 13 C.M.
secretary@ssyra.org



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



Grand York Rite Reception

Sunday, February 22, 2015

2:30 PM Social, 3:00 PM Dinner

Modesto Lodge No. 206

800 Rose Avenue

Modesto, CA 95355

Please join in honoring:

Most Excellent Companion Jon D. Humphreys, KYGCH Grand High Priest Royal Arch Masons
Most Illustrious Companion David L. Chesebro, KYGCH, Grand Master Cryptic Masons
Sir Knight Carlos H. Gonzalez, KYGCH Right Eminent Grand Commander Knights Templar

Hosted by Officers and Members of: Modesto Commandery No. 57, Pacific No. 3, Stockton No. 8, Modesto Council No. 61, Sonora No. 5, Stockton No. 10, Modesto Chapter No. 49, Sonora No. 2 and Stockton No. 28 in a celebration of Central Valley Division York Rite Masonry.

After socializing with appetizers and refreshments, a delicious BBQ Chicken meal by Modesto York Rite will be served followed by a heartfelt and celebratory program, concluding with a special Dessert.

Dress: Western or Casual

Cost: \$15 per person

Please R.S.V.P. by check to "Modesto York Rite by Monday, February 16th to:

Modesto York Rite c/o Donald Scott
3024 Laramie Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

You may also email: Don Scott KYCH (djscott43@gmail.com) or Phone (209)480-7719

Please Include:

Name/Title: _____

Name/Title: _____

Name/Title: _____

Name/Title: _____

Total Number of reservations: ___ X \$15 Per Person = Total Check Amount: _____

Number of each meal: _____ Barbeque Chicken _____ Vegetarian (gluten & nut free)