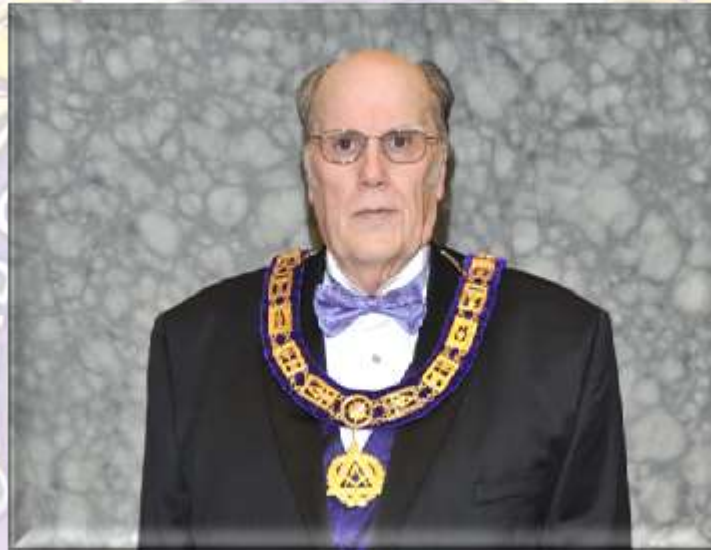


Sword & Trowel

June 2015



1860

2015



**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION
BRETT A. MACDONALD, KYGCH
155TH
GRAND MASTER CRYPTIC MASONS**

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Thank You

Companions,

I'd like to thank you for your confidence in electing me Illustrious Grand Master Cryptic Masons for 2015-2016. I will certainly work hard to continue the process and progress your Grand Council has been making over the past few years. There are many events planned throughout the state and you are encouraged to participate when we are in your area.

Rite Illustrious Ken Nagel has retired as our Grand Director of Ritual. He has worked very hard since 2000 improving the clarity and presentation of our Ritual. He nominated Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Dave Chesebro as his replacement. We have realigned our Departments into smaller Arches which will allow the Assistant Directors of Ritual and Inspectors to spend more time with their Councils. We have increased the Ritual Committee budget allowing the Grand Director of Ritual to increase the number of schools of instruction he'll conduct.

As we have for the last many years we ended the year with fewer members than we started with. This trend has slowed in recent years but we need to remember the main reason for a Council to exist is to make new Royal and Select Masters. Illustrious Art Walton is working on a presentation that you will be able to use as a recruitment tool to increase your membership.

Part of the presentation that is being prepared will contain information about the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Our General Grand Council has selected an excellent charity that is making great progress in the field of cardio vascular research. Their advancements have even attracted a donation from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for research in repairing blood vessel damage in the eyes. Please visit – [Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation](#) – to learn more about their research.

In closing both Donna and I are looking forward to meeting many of you this year during our travels throughout the state.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Brett MacDonald
Illustrious Grand Master

Itinerary

For the latest schedule details: [Calendar](#)

Illustrious Master Biography

Brett was initiated, passed and raised in Hollywood Lodge No. 355 F. & A.M. in 1975; his father and grandfather were present. He affiliated with Covina Lodge No. 334 F. & A.M. and served as Master in 1989. He was Master of Southern California Research Lodge F. & A.M. in 1984. In 1991 he affiliated with Glendora Lodge No. 404 F. & A.M. where he served as Secretary and received the Hiram Award. He is currently a life member of Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge No. 273.

He has served on several Grand Lodge Committees and was Chairman of the Masonic History Committee. He co-authored "California Freemasonry 1850 to 2000"

He was chairman of the Advisory Council of George Washington Chapter Order of De Molay. He served on the Advisory Board of Job's Daughters Bethel No. 269 while his daughter was a member and Honored Queen. His wife Donna was also a member of the same Bethel.

In 1984 he joined Scottish Rite and is currently a life member of the Long Beach Bodies. He has participated in many degrees and served as Degree Master and Director of the Work. He was a member of the stage crew for many years. He was Commander of the Council of Kadosh and was Managing Editor of the "Long Beach Scottish Rite Reporter". He was coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary in 2007.

He is a life member of the Royal Order of Scotland and served on the California Membership Committee. He's a life member of the Robert the Bruce Association and has served as Secretary and President.

He joined York Rite in 1996 and is currently a life member of: Triple Tau Chapter No. 33. He was High Priest and received Grand Chapter's Meritorious Service Award: Shekinah Council No. 35.

He was Illustrious Master and received the Grand Master of Ish Sodi award: Golden West Commandery No. 43 he's served as Commander and received the Grand Commandery Meritorious Service medal.

He's served Grand Chapter as Inspector he is Grand Representative of Finland.

In Grand Council he is Grand Representative of Delaware and was appointed Grand Sentinel in 2009, Grand Steward in 2010, Grand Conductor of the Council in 2011, Grand Captain of the Guard in 2012. He was elected as Grand Principal Conductor of the Work in 2013, Deputy Grand Master in 2014 and Grand Master in 2015.

In Grand Commandery he was Assistant Director of Ritual and is Grand Representative of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

He's a life member of Los Angeles Priory No. 27, Knights of the York Cross of Honor. He belongs to Saint Croix Conclave Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. He's Past Sovereign Master of Excalibur Council No. 218 Allied Masonic Degrees. He's a member of Brian Boru Council No. 38 of Knight Masons.

He's a member of Pasadena Chapter No. 265 National Sojourners. He has served as President and as Commander of the Heroes of '76.

His wife Donna and he served Emerald Star Chapter No. 143, Order of the Eastern Star as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. She is also a past Deputy Grand Matron.

Right Illustrious William Price; Deputy Master Cryptic Masons will be featured Next Month.

Promote Cryptic Masonry

Companions,

First of all, I thank all the Companions for having faith in me by electing me to serve you as Deputy Grand Master, Cryptic Masons for 2015-2016. I will strive to represent you to the best of my ability. I know together we can make Masonry grow and take the teachings of York Rite to a greater number of Masons. We not only need to bring more Masons to the York Rite but try to bring York Rite Masons back who have left for one reason or another as well as retaining the companions we have now.

This year, we as Grand Officers, well still strive to improve our Ritual and encourage Councils to confer both degrees (Royal and Select Master). I thank Illustrious Companion Ken Nagel, KYGCH, Past Grand Master for all the work he accomplished to improve the quality of our ritual. I would also thank him for his Schools of Instruction in keeping and teaching our ritual. His dedication to our Ritual should encourage all of us to continue to improve Ritual and take our Masonic teachings to even greater heights. Our Ritual staff has been restructured to be more active in all departments and the department Grand Officers will visit their Councils and help where needed to improve Ritual. I encourage all Councils to contact our Ritual staff and their department Grand Officers for their help and encouragement.

This year Most Illustrious Grand Master Brett MacDonald KYGCH is asking all the Companions to remember our charity when giving this year. The [Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation](#) is our charity and is making huge advancements in vascular and stem cell research. This research is life saving and is changing medicine and will be historical in medical research. We have over 3,000 companions and if you only give \$20 a year that translates to over \$60,000. This is 4 fancy Starbucks coffees a year that could change medical history. Let's join Most Illustrious Grand Master Brett MacDonald this year and change history.

**Fraternally,
Bill Price
Deputy Grand Master**

CMMRF

Companions please think about Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Our Charity (**Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation**) can really use your support with Dollars. Please send all donations to me, so that I may process the proper receipts and mail all donations to [Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation](#) in Nashville, Indiana. Please take a few minutes and think about our charity.

**Fred J. 'Tiny' Potter, MIPGM
Chairman, CMMRF (California)
345 Otono Ct.
Camarillo, CA 93012-6822**

Scholarships

Companions, your children, grandchildren, & for some, great-grandchildren may receive 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.

This is the [link](#) which 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.

Change

"TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB"

When we convened an Assembly, a mere few weeks ago, it was reported a Light bulb had lost all its glow.

This created a stir, it meant the **evil word**, would need to be spoken, which was seldom heard.

We would need a "**Change**" to make it light again, if we weren't careful, we would commit a sin.

Be it as it may, a **Committee** was formed, to study our plight, and keep a lid on the storm

It was argued by some, we've never done it this way, **Why**, it's preposterous, we heard some say

Change is not needed, **Why**, one could make a slip, while standing so lofty, fall and break a hip

The committee drug on, searching for things, while avoiding reality, the inevitable "**change**".

The Ritualists screamed out, you're breaking our hearts, we won't accept "**Change**" so the Council went Dark

My Companions, it may seem, I make fun with my **Rhyme**, it's more serious, and it's just a matter of time

When Laughter will stop, Companions no more, cause the Council will go dark, we kept "**Change**" from the door

The world has not changed, not one little bit, it's technology and people, that live together on it

Embrace the future, as well as the past, it's a matter of survival, we must make it last

Ben Steen copyright May 15, 2005 as modified by Companion Thornton

Contact Information

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Website:

[Grand York Rite of California](#)

Note: Hyperlinks or links to other pages or web sites are prevalent throughout the document. Please notice the reference "[Sword and Trowel](#)"; if you run your mouse over these names you will see "Ctrl + Click to follow link". These are valid links to York Rite information.

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.*

Pictures

Most Illustrious Companion Brett Mac Donald, KYGCH and Right Illustrious Guy Chambers



Sir Knight Richard Cooper, KYGCH, PGC receiving the Life Time Achievement Award from Most Illustrious Companion Robert Whitfield, KYGCH, MIPGM



Sir Knight Bruce Pruitt, KYGCH, PGC receiving the Life Time Achievement Award from Most Illustrious Companion Robert Whitfield, KYGCH, MIPGM



Grand Council Cryptic Masons Officers

We, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons Grand Officers, are here to assist you, please let us help.

155th MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

**Brett A. MacDonald, KYGCH & Donna
Shekinah Council No. 35 C.M.**

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

**William E. Price & Janet
California Council No. 2 C.M.**

GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

**Lee P. Whelan & Teresa
Riverside Council No. 59 C.M.**

GRAND TREASURER

**Robert A. L. Whitfield, MIPGM & Jeanne
Oakland Council No. 12 C.M.**

GRAND RECORDER

**Kenneth G. Hope, HMIPGM & Sonny
Shekinah Council No. 35 C.M.**

GRAND DIRECTOR OF RITUAL

**David L. Chesebro, MIPGM & Sarah
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38 C.M.**

GRAND CHAPLAIN (North)

**Richard E. Thornton & Cara
Stockton Council No. 10 C.M.**

GRAND CHAPLAIN (South)

**Mark A. Quinto & Trudy
San Diego Council No. 23 C.M.**

GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

**William S. Dann & Anne
Pacific Council No. 37 C.M.**

GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

**Eduardo Estrada & Natasha
Omega Council No. 11 C.M.**

GRAND STEWARD

**Robert A. Morrison & Pauline
Shasta Council No. 6 C.M.**

GRAND SENTINEL

**Peter G. Champion & Jan
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38 C.M.**

GRAND ORATOR

**James M. Sunseri
Orange County Council No. 14 C.M.**

GRAND MARSHAL (North)

**Clive Moss & Betsy
Modesto Council No. 61 C.M.**

GRAND MARSHAL (South)

**Paul A. Clark & Cindy
Pomona Council No. 21 C.M.**

GRAND SOLOIST

**K. Mark Harris
Oakland Council No. 12 C.M.**

GRAND MUSICIAN

**Roderick E. Betham
Marysville Council No. 3 C.M.**

GRAND BIBLE BEARER

**David A. Stiles & Joan
Riverside Council No. 59 C.M.**

GRAND STANDARD BEARER

**Guy M. Chalmers & Jeanne
Redwood Empire Council No. 46 C.M.**

THE BELLFLOWER YORK RITE BODIES
WILL HOST A

DINNER & 3-WAY RECEPTION

HONORING

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION

Steven R. Goad

M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST

GRAND CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION

Brett A. MacDonald

M. I. GRAND MASTER

GRAND COUNCIL, CRYPTIC MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

&

SIR KNIGHT

Fenton R. Mereness

R. E. GRAND COMMANDER

GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

BELLFLOWER MASONIC CENTER

9813 BEACH STREET

BELLFLOWER, CA

DINNER TO BEGIN
AT 6:30 P. M.
\$20.00 PER PLATE
RESERVATIONS
ARE A MUST!

SHORT STATED
CONVOCAATION TO
BEGIN AT 7:30 P. M.
ENTERTAINMENT &
RECEPTION FOLLOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE YOUR DINNER
RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KEN HOPE AT
(562) 924-6500 OR e-MAIL sec-rec@californiayorkrite.org



2015

Grand York Rite Reception

*Most Excellent Companion
Steven R. Goad KYGCH
Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons of California*

*Most Illustrious Companion
Brett A. MacDonald KYGCH
Most Illustrious Grand Master of the
Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California*

*Sir Knight Fenton R. Mereness
Right Eminent Grand Commander of the
Grand Commandery Knight Templar of California*

Date: Friday, June 12, 2015
Location: Red Bluff Masonic Temple
Address: 822 Main St.
Red Bluff, CA 96080
Time: Social Hour 6:00pm
Dinner 6:30pm – Cost \$20.00 – Tri Tip
Reception 7:30pm

Reception Reservations: David Sokol
(530) 223-5510
Email dsokol@co.shasta.ca.us

Dress: Casual





2015

Grand York Rite Reception

Most Excellent Companion

Steven R. Goad KYGCH

Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter

Royal Arch Masons of California

Most Illustrious Companion

Brett A. MacDonald KYGCH

*Most Illustrious Grand Master of the
Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California*

Sir Knight Fenton R. Mereness

*Right Eminent Grand Commander of the
Grand Commandery Knight Templar of California*

Outside BBQ Picnic

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015
Location: Chico Masonic Family Center
Address: 1110 W. East Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
Time: Social Hour 3:30pm
Dinner 4:00pm – Cost \$20.00 – BBQ Steak
Reception 5:00pm

Reception Reservations: Rent Wakefield
(530) 345-1023
Email rwakefield@maxinet.com

Dress: Summer Casual



East Bay York Rite

Grand York Rite Reception

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Steven R Goad, KYGCH

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Brent A MacDonald, KYGCH

Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Fenton R Mereness, KYGCH

Date:

August 1, 2015

Time:

3:00 P.M. Social 3:45 P.M. Dinner

Location:

Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Avenue
Alameda

R.S.V.P. with a Check to "East Bay York Rite"

Send to: Marion Rogers

PO Box 892, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-596-3312

marion.rogers@comcast.net

Cost \$20.00 per Person

PLEASE R.S.V.P. before July 27, 2015