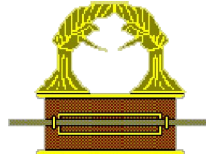


THE WORKMAN



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

Richard D. Baskin, GHP

October 2016

Vol. VIII No. 5

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Grand High Priest's Message

Companions,

I'm sure many of you have already heard that we did in fact hold the much discussed ritual conference. My thanks go out to all who participated and to MEPGHP Steve Goad for all his hard work to make this a reality. The logistics of getting the Grand Officers and Ritual Staff all in one place were difficult to say the least, but I believe the effort was worthwhile.

The Companions that heard my remarks know that I stressed the need to make the Royal Arch experience memorable. The new men that we are bringing into our Chapters are already knowledgeable about Masonry and that we need to engage them and make them active participants in their Chapters. Business meetings, and festivals with poorly done ritual, will not keep them coming back. I believe we can engage them by performing outstanding ritual. This means that every officer needs to know his part by memory. Open ritual books in Chapter need to be a thing of the past. With this said, your Grand High Priest and Grand Lecturer need to make sure you have the information and tools to make this a reality. The Ritual Conference was the first step.

Each Companion that came to the conference came with the desire to learn, participate, and improve the ritual experience. To that end, the administrative remarks were held to a minimum. They included my opening remarks outlining expectations and the plan to review and discuss as much ritual as we could reasonably expect to complete. By days end I can

assure you each and every one of us was worn out. The breadth of experience and knowledge of our Grand Officers and Ritual Staff was amazing. These Companions worked through all our degrees, as well as opening and closing. Discussion and clarification was the norm on all issues and resulted in a greater understanding of our ritual and a more unified approach to take that knowledge forward.

The next step will be to hold three Officer Schools of Instructions (OSIs), one each north, central and south, where our Ritual Staff will exemplify the results of our efforts. Both Steve and I will attend each of the OSIs to meet with Companions to understand their concerns and challenges with our ritual. As we are finding out, what is considered the norm in one area may not be the norm in another part of the State. As we meet and discuss our ritual, we will work to ensure we are all doing things the same way, and just as important, understand why we do things a particular way. Not only do we need to know how to perform our ritual, we must be able to explain it.

Our Grand Lecturer also has an article in this Workman. After you finish reading both Steve's and my articles, please do two things. First, please let us know your thoughts. Second, review your favorite Chapter degree and honestly ask yourself, can I explain the degree to a new Companion? I wonder if your answer will cause you to do some research as did mine.

Richard D. Baskin, KYGCH
162nd Grand High Priest

FROM THE GRAND LECTURER

Companions All,

Many of you have probably already heard something about the Ritual Staff Conference that was held on 3 September in Bakersfield. One of the goals of that Conference was to examine the traditions and landmarks of California Royal Arch Masonry in connection with the established ritual that we all know. As we examine our relevance to Freemasonry as a reason to join us for future Companions, it has become clear to those of us still working ritualistically in Blue Lodges in California that connecting and establishing our ritual and traditions to its philosophical and esoteric symbolism is critical to attracting and exalting new and younger members. If you don't know Why we do the things that we demonstrate in our Royal Arch degrees, then your explanation

of it to our new Companions devolves quickly to something like "We have always done it that way and I can't tell you why"! This answer is becoming more and more unsatisfactory to our curious and desirous of enlightenment younger prospects. We need to do better as that part of the fraternity that claims to bring more and greater light in Masonry! So, in that vein, we have started reviewing our ritual and traditions with the aim to make their esoteric and symbolic meanings more understandable and rational to all California Royal Arch Masons, old and new. In other words, "We do our degrees this way in California Royal Arch Masonry and here's why"! To explain this a bit deeper, recall that many of the most important parts of our degrees are not to be found written or pictured Anywhere in our history or rituals; but are only to be found out by hand to mouth or mouth to ear. That is the best definition of a "tradition or landmark" as opposed to a "ritual". The Royal Arch in California is more encumbered with

traditions than our Blue Lodge which has in its history adopted a written variant of its traditions as ritual which protects it from arbitrary change in the future by having a written record and requiring any future changes to be voted on by Grand Lodge. One of my goals as your Grand Lecturer, is to do the same thing for the Royal Arch in California by examining our unwritten traditions for their symbolic and esoteric relationship to the associated ritual, adjust them (if necessary) to improve or even to establish this relationship and then transform them into ritual to protect them in future to transfer to our posterity. To this end, we, i.e. myself and your ritual staff, have made an esoterically inspired adjustment to the tradition of the true grip of a Mark Master in California as a step in this direction. I enjoin each of you to learn this slightly altered grip, its symbolic and esoteric meaning, and let me (or anyone on the ritual staff) know if you agree (or object and why) with the rationale for this change. If we mostly agree, then we will make it part of our California ritual and move a step closer to connecting our traditions esoterically to our ritual. It's always Great to be a Royal Arch Mason in the Sovereign Grand Chapter of California! This process will surely make us more relevant to Blue Lodges (and attractive to their officers) everywhere! All the Best!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Steve Goad
Grand Lecturer

ALAMEDA PILGRIMAGE
Alameda Masonic Center.
24th September 2016

By Edgar W. Fentum
Siminoff Daylight Chapter No 163

I recognize that Festivals are necessary when a Chapter, Council or Commandery

fails to fulfill their prime functions, that is, to confer degrees. Oh Yes! There are excuses by the yard. It only takes a determined effort by one or two individuals to gather together a few Companion of the Chapter to form a core and 'import' from other Chapters, Companions eager to exhibit their ritual expertise, to help confer a Mark or Past Master Degree.

We are all aware that without ritual and the conferring of degrees Freemasonry would be just another 'club'. The 'Initiatic experience' is what made Freemasonry a vital experience for me. I received all my degrees of the York Rite as a single candidate in my own Chapter, Council and Preceptory (Commandery). So I am prejudiced!

What would it be like to have the Chapter Pilgrimage conferred with just the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees? Would not the other Chapters be encouraged to confer the degrees or support Chapters that do? Would that enhance the Initiatic experience for the candidates? What would it be like if the 'dead time' when candidates are kept waiting in the preparation room for the degree is cut down to a minimum? Would we have more Companions on the side lines and greater time for discussion and fraternalism?

The late Comp. Dave Shull would have been proud of the way Comp. Marion Rogers organized the event, program and conducted the registration of twenty-seven candidates. Our Grand Lecturer, M.E. Comp. Steve Goad would have been more than gratified by the outstanding manner Comp. Marion Rogers served as Senior Deacon in the Mark Degree. I have not seen many Senior Deacons who could outperform the quality of his ritual and the demeanor with which he conducted the candidate. Special commendations to Companions Kevin Keen as Master, Austin Ashmore as Senior

Warden with Anthony Yuson in the Lecture and Marion Rogers as Senior Deacon who also delivered the Charge. Congratulations to the entire cast from Doric Chapter No 66. The Royal Arch Degree was again an outstanding effort by Antioch Chapter No. 31 with an excellent presentation by the entire cast. Special commendation to Companions Teddy Gardener as High Priest, Pepito Duque as Captain of the Host, Anthony Yuson as Principal Sojourner together with the delivery of the Cryptogram and Charge, and the incomparable Lecture by Lee Hasal. The late Grand Lecturer, and my mentor, Charles O. Meadows, would have been very proud.

I am heartened to see a renaissance in the quality and number of ritualist stepping up to replace the 'old guard'. There has always been a good core of ritualists in the Chapter but now we are having replacements. This has been overdue and we must capitalize and encourage these Companions by allowing them opportunity to perform - even if it means that some of the established ritualists step aside and serve as the degree directors, backups, coaches or prompters.

I am heartened to see the number of Masons entering the fraternity who are seeking a deeper meaning of the symbolism of Freemasonry. Symbolism is not the 'be-all and end-all' of Freemasonry. The great beauty of Freemasonry is that it has a variety of qualitative experience. Masons can develop their own interests in charity, ritual, community service, fraternalism, administration, service within the organization, history or the symbolism and philosophy of Freemasonry.

We are all Freemasons no better than anyone else. It is not the external qualities but how we internalize and live the teachings of Freemasonry that counts. That is the desire I see coming from the new members of our fraternity who are now entering the

York Rite. I do hope that the 'veterans' like myself will recognize, create opportunity and encourage these Companions by making our Chapters receptive and welcoming.

The ubiquitous Spaghetti Bolognese followed by poor and sometimes comedic ritual to open and close the Chapter, punctuated by prompts and inferior reading from ritual books is not an encouragement for any Companion to attend. Especially when followed by a prolonged Stated Convocation filled with minutia, 'hot air' and 'ego massages'!

P.S. Siminoff Daylight Chapter No. 163 under High Priest E. Comp. Efren Prado and King Comp. Jonathan Prestage are planning for the conferral of the Mark Master and Past Master this year and the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch degrees next year at the Masonic Home. We do have a vast number of active members – twelve in all and one retiree - me!!! EWF

GRAND CHAPTER **SCHOLARSHIPS**

For info about Scholarships, go to the following website:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really "KNOW" they are available?

California Royal Arch \$1,000 Scholarship requirements:

- A member of the Masonic Family (ie: Rainbow, Jobs Daughter or Demolay)
- A US Citizen
- A California Resident
- A 3.0 Grade Point Average

Deadline to apply: To be determined

Once chosen, the award of \$1,000 is renewable for a total of 4 years, as long as the requirements are maintained.

Do you know a Rainbow Girl, Job's Daughter or DeMolay that could benefit by knowing this information? What are you waiting for - make that call!

COLORADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL

The 2016 dates for this major event are Oct 16 through the 18th. There is a Ladies' Program, arranged by our own Sandra Coe. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter. Go to <http://www.crff.org/index.php/2016> to register. The deadline is Oct 1st.

INFORMATION ON RECEPTIONS, FESTIVALS & DEGREES

At the very end of this Newsletter you will find copies of flyers for some of the remaining activities throughout the year – some, but not all, Receptions as well as Degree conferrals, whether individual or part of a Festival. For other events not included here, refer to the Grand High Priest Calendar summarized below, or with full details, at the Grand York Rite website.



THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at 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.

ENCOMPASSER

The July 2016 edition of the Encompasser has now been published. It can be found at http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/encompasser_issues.html OR. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left of the top toolbar.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR SEPT 2016 – FEB 2017

Date	Event	Location
Oct 4	Stated Mtg # 626	Chula Vista
Oct 5	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Oct 6	Red Cross	San Diego
Oct 9	3-Way Reception	Santa Monica
Oct 12	Scottish Rite Info Night	San Diego
Oct 16 – 18	Colorado River Fall Festival	Laughlin, NV
Oct 21- 22	Scottish Rite Fall Reunion	San Diego
Oct 27 – 30	CA Grand Lodge	San Francisco
Oct 29 – 30	Southwest Regional Conf	Las Vegas, Nevada
Nov 2	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Nov 3	Red Cross	San Diego
Nov 7	3-Way Reception	Petaluma
Nov 12	SRICF California	San Diego

	College	
Nov 19	3-Way Reception	Victorville
Nov 24	THANKSGIVING	U. S. A.
Dec 1	Red Cross	San Diego
Dec 4	AMD Ikopah	San Diego
Dec 6	Stated Mtg # 626	Chula Vista
Dec 7	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS	Everywhere
Dec 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE	U. S. A.
Feb 11	3-Way Reception	San Diego

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WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH

Website:

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES

Website:

WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below

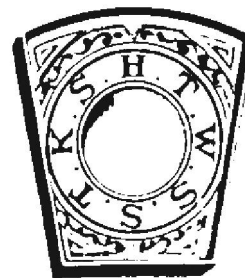
GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Attention Royal Arch Masons in California!

HELP YOUR BROTHER “MAKE HIS MARK”!!!



To introduce Master Masons to the Degrees of the Chapter, our Grand Chapter has authorized the conferral of the Mark Master Degree to interested Brethren without fee.

A petition to the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is still required, to take advantage of this opportunity.

“Keystone Classes” are being planned for this program now, for group conferrals of the Mark Master Degree throughout the state in the Fall of 2015.

This is where **YOU** come in. Please talk with that Brother you would like to recommend to your Chapter, and tell him of this opportunity to “sample” the further degrees of the York Rite. To help you explain this opportunity to your Lodge Brethren, the following new materials are available to you:

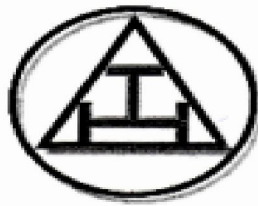
- A new Petition for this introductory Mark Master Degree.
- A brochure inviting a Brother to explore the Chapter Degrees.

You can print these new materials from the Grand Chapter website, at <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm> Or you can ask any Chapter Secretary, District Inspector, or Grand Chapter Officer for copies of these new materials.

Be sure to explain the advantages of this opportunity to your Lodge Brothers:

- The Mark Master Degree expands and extends the Craft Degrees, shedding further Light on what it means to be a Mason.
- Further Degrees in the Chapter are entirely optional.
- This is an opportunity to share Masonic fellowship with members of other Lodges in the local community.
- No proof of proficiency is required to advance in Degrees.

-- Companions, please talk with your Blue Lodge Brethren today!! --



East Bay York Rite

Presents the 48th Annual
Pilgrimage into the York Rite

2016 David M Shull Memorial Honoree: Cornelius Buys

Saturday, September 24, 2016

**7:30 A.M. Registration; 8:30 A.M. Degrees Begin
Royal Arch Degrees (\$30.00)**

Saturday, October 1, 2016

**8:00 A.M. Registration; 9:00 A.M. Degrees Begin
Council Degrees (\$30.00)**

Saturday, October 15, 2016

**7:30 A.M. Registration; 8:30 A.M. Orders Begin
Commandery Orders (\$30.00)**

Alameda Masonic Hall

2312 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, California

Lunch provided @ \$10

All Candidates must be preregistered with the East Bay York Rite Association Registrar

Marion Rogers PO Box 892, Lafayette, CA 94549

marion.rogers@comcast.net 925-596-3312



Colorado River Fall Festival

LADIES TEA

Tuesday - October 18, 2016 - 12:30 p.m

We will have Margaritas

Cost \$30.00

Wear you best , crazy or funny HAT



www.closet.com 118597



Again we will collect Teddy Bears, but please keep the size to about 12".

Also Beanie Caps and Mittens.

Any questions please call me Sandra Coe 626-485-5596.

A97wm193@aol.com