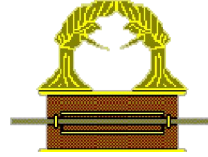


THE WORKMAN



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

Steven R. Goad, GHP

April 2016

Vol. VII No. 11

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Grand High Priest's Message

Companions All: April points to the path of renewal and regeneration! So we are preparing in the Grand Chapter of California for our renewal and regeneration next month at our annual meeting.



This month I want to finish the discussion of who we are and why we exist. The Royal Arch Degree is the earliest known and one of the very few 'Past' Chair Degrees. There are many "chair" degrees in Freemasonry conferred on those officers ascending to the East in their respective bodies, e.g. the Past Master's Degree in Blue Lodge is conferred on Masters while they are still serving as Master as well as the Commander Noah Degree in AMD, the Excellent Chief Degree in

Knight Masons, the Senate of Sovereigns Degree in RCC, and the Order of the High Priesthood in Royal Arch, to name but a few of them. The Royal Arch Degree is reserved only for Past Masters and requires that the officer involved be declared "out of office" before that degree can be conferred as a reward for his valuable efforts throughout the year IN that office. Perhaps this is why our CMC makes such a special distinction out of qualification to be an Actual Past Master? Blue Lodge historically makes it a rite of passage to qualify as an Actual Past Master perhaps in deference to that singular qualification required to be eligible to receive the Royal Arch Degree? The lapse of time and the ruthless hand of ignorance have made this distinction less honorific in the succeeding centuries since this degree was first conferred; but the acknowledgement of a mastery of the first three degrees was very important to our ancient brethren as a qualification to be eligible for that ultimate secret in Freemasonry, the recovery of the Word! So, that special group of Blue Lodge Masons wearing their red coats in a stated meeting as a mark of distinction and agreeable to an ancient custom, became instantly recognizable in any Blue Lodge meeting in days gone by as members of that elite group of masons that had passed the chair and been admitted to that special fellowship afforded All Actual Past Masters of blue lodges, the possession of the Word AND the ability to perform any part of the ritual for that Lodge that they supported! All Companions should constantly strive to emulate that bright example whether they have yet achieved that status of Actual Past Masters or not yet! This is an important example of who we should be to our Blue Lodge Brethren as well as a reliable resource for all that they do!

This month, as we start to wind down this Capitular year, I want to especially thank all of the Royal Arch Masons who attended gatherings with us in March at the Masonic Service Bureau breakfast on the 6th, an Official Visit to San Gabriel Chapter on the 9th, the Grand Officer's Conference in Bakersfield on the 12th, the Signet 57 Chapter Festival on the 19th and a 3-Way reception in Stockton on the 26th wrapping up with the Past Master and Most Excellent Master conferrals in the heart of the Sierras at Kernville Lodge on the 29th! March Madness indeed, but the conferral of the Mark Master Mason Degree by Orange County Chapter #73 on the evening of 22nd March was very special not only because they, along with Long Beach Chapter, had 60+ candidates in attendance; but this was the first time in well over a decade that they decided to pull together a first class degree team (except for the SW) and did a great job with the degree! Well Done to all and many thanks for such a great show!

April marks the serious beginning of preparing for the next Grand Capitular year for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California! We have 10 resolutions to consider this year which will run the gamut from new awards to ritual changes. Please look these resolutions over carefully so that we can deal with them in an expeditious and informed manner on the 23rd of May! We will be at the Royal Arch Degree Conferral in San Bernardino on the 2nd and attending Grand Sessions in New Mexico on the 14-16th.

Finally, please take a moment Now to download the registration form from our website and sign up for our Grand York Rite Sessions starting on Monday, May 23rd at the Bakersfield DoubleTree Hotel before the rates go up on the 17th of this month! The room block is open and it should be a fun session because Royal Arch is first up! Also don't forget about buying an Ad for the Souvenir Program which is due to EC Tom Krummel and EC Casey Latham by the 15th to make it into the program! Until next time – Ascend again to that lofty height of the pinnacle of Freemasonry, your Royal Arch Chapter!

STEVEN R. GOAD
161st Grand High Priest

CHAPTER RITUAL RESOLUTIONS

In the last few months, I have presented early versions of 4 Resolutions modifying the Capitular degrees. These have been discussed at the recent Officers' Conference and revised to adopt some of the comments received over the last few months, since the January issue of the Workman presented the MMM and PM Degrees Resolutions, and the February issue of the Workman presented the MEM and RA Degrees Resolutions. Each Degree will be discussed separately below, for your better understanding and balloting at Grand Chapter on May 23rd.

These changes, if adopted, will be implemented over a two-year period of time, allowing for the production of new Ritual Books, and for proper adaptation by existing ritual teams. Hence, current Ritual Books need not be discarded. Inspectors will have full authority to work with local Chapter staff to incorporate these changes into their work, over that period of time.

MARK MASTER DEGREE

This Resolution was the most controversial, with numerous objections to moving the presentation of the Penny while the candidate is at the Altar. This change has, therefore, been removed – first, because it leaves the candidate at the Altar for an extended period of time; secondly, because of the awkwardness of holding the Penny while exchanging the grips and words; and finally, because presenting the Penny later allows for the candidate, when representing a class, to be recognized as part of that group.

The change in the direction of the Junior Warden to the Marshall makes it consistent throughout the Degree, and also avoids movement of the craftsman prior to the direction by the Marshall.

The change in Section Three with regard to the Marshall's Ode is meant to standardize its usage. It is frequently omitted, unless a

“seasoned” and well-practiced Marshall is performing, and its content is too worthwhile to be omitted. Hence, better read than deleted.

PAST MASTER DEGREE

The controversy regarding this Resolution was two-fold. First, lengthening the time to perform the Degree was objected to; and second adding content when the purpose is just to get candidates to the Royal Arch Degree seems unnecessary.

First, the added time to perform the Degree is less than three minutes! This seems like very little time to make the important points that these changes to the Ritual will emphasize:

1. *That the Capitular degrees form a continuous and sequential whole with the Craft Degrees.* This is so important for the candidates to realize that it justifies adding the five steps toward the Altar, which requires no more than an additional 30 seconds of time to the conferral. With the changes proposed in this Resolution, candidates will now uniformly go on 1-2-3-4-5-6 steps, during the first six Degrees – hence, emphasizing the relationship between the Craft Degrees and the Capitular Degrees.
2. *That the Lodge is governed, not only by the Master, but also by the Wardens.* By adding content that has the Junior Warden emphasizing the importance of the Master learning self-control in order to teach his brethren makes this change highly desirable. By adding content that has the Senior Warden extolling the importance of reverence to our Holy Writings, and of the Master learning to govern himself that he “may be able to govern others,” also makes this change highly desirable.

These lessons are too important to be sacrificed to the interests of time. Although the Past Master Lecture explains that this Degree “sheds no light upon itself,” it nonetheless should be conferred in such a way and with such content that it sheds light upon the significance of the role of the Master in governing himself and his Lodge, and in the value of becoming an “Actual Past Master.”

These ideas were derived from the General Grand Chapter Ritual, although that Ritual uses a five-strand cable-tow rather than going on five steps – but this makes the same point of continuity. The General Grand Chapter Ritual does have the candidate approach the Altar by one step, with the left foot, though not after advancing on all five steps, as herein proposed. The new work of the Junior Warden and Senior Warden are extracted from that Ritual.

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE

There are several purposes to the changes in this Resolution. First, to remove from the official Ritual Book any reference to or use of inflammable materials in this Degree. That removal has been effected by edict of the Grand Lecturer and the change in this Resolution will encode that restriction in the Ritual Book.

Secondly, the perambulation in this Degree, as currently performed, is accompanied by a reading of Psalm 24, which does not seem to bear any relationship to the work of the Degree – namely, celebrating the completion of the Temple. Psalm 122, however, used in other States and in the General Grand Chapter Ritual, does bear relationship to the “House of the Lord,” to the “name of the Lord,” and to our use of the term “Companion.” And it prepares the candidate to understand and appreciate the work he will receive in the Royal Arch Degree.

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

There seems to be general agreement that the change herein proposed will eliminate the

awkward condition the High Priest finds himself in at the Altar, during opening and closing, as to what to do with the Hat. It is inappropriate to place it on the Altar, next to the Bible, but uncomfortable to place it on the floor, especially when not kneeling. Hence, leaving it in the East on the lectern when descending to the Altar seems most practicable.

The description of the Crow, Pick-Ax and Spade as Royal Arch Working Tools seems worth-while, as the description, used in other States, re-iterates to the candidate that the essential purpose of his initiatory experience is the building of his spiritual and moral temple upon a foundation of “truth and wisdom.” There was some discussion about the use of the word “second life” at the end of the description, as to whether it implies “re-incarnation” as one of our teachings. But it does not necessarily do so, as that “second life” could be a simple reference or allusion to a regenerated life, while still in the same body.

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For info about Scholarships, go to the following website:

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

If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872

Remember that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues.

OPERATIONS & TRAINING MANUAL

For decades, we have all clamored for a single document that gives us what we need to effectively run our organizations. General Grand Chapter has now produced the Manual which meets this need for Chapters – and each Chapter should acquire at least one copy for use by its Dais Officers. Councils and Commanderies can benefit from this production as well. Although it is oriented to the Chapter needs, and contains some info specific to the capitular ritual, it does contain the following chapters, which will be found to be useful by all bodies:

- A. The Art and Science of Leadership
- B. Officer Selection & Development
- C. Protocols and Governance
- D. Membership Management
- E. Presentation and Education
- F. Dues, Fees and Budgets
- G. Communications and Public Relations
- H. Strategic Planning and Development

This new Manual is well worth the cost of \$25.00. It can be ordered from the General Grand Chapter as follows:

By writing to General Grand Chapter
RAM, PO Box 128, Greenfield, IN 46140;
or via email at: ramintl@sbcglobal.net

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 **April 2016** edition of the Encompasser has been mailed and is now on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar. **You can help us control cost by letting us know you are willing to take the Encompasser by email only.**

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR
APR 2016 – MAY 2016

Date	Event	Location
Apr 13-17	Grand Sessions	New Mexico
Apr 23	Council SOI	Hanford
Apr 24	St Albans YRC	Ventura
May 1	Glenwood YRC	Van Nuys
May 7	Sierra-Pacific KYCH No. 71 Degree Meeting	Bakersfield
May 8	Mothers Day	Everywhere!
May 20	Cork Lodge Meeting – AMD	Bakersfield
May 21	AMD Ingathering and Degrees	Bakersfield
May 22-25	Grand Sessions	Bakersfield
June 2	RAM Degree	Ridgecrest

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WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH

Website:

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES

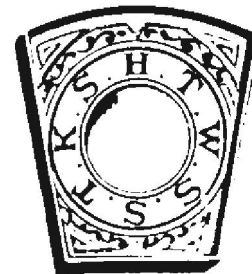
Website:

WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG

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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!! --



2016 Grand York Rite Sessions May 21st to May 25th, 2016 – Bakersfield, CA

Each person attending must fill out a registration form Please print your names and titles as you would like it printed on your badge
Do you prefer your confirmation by: email (default) none phone call (latest time to call _____)

Name: _____ Lady / Guest: _____
 Title(s): _____
 Lady / Guest Title(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Arrival Date / Time: _____ Departure Date / Time: _____ Shuttle Requested? No Yes
 (Enter travel details in comments section)

I am a member of (please enter your Chapter, Council and Commandery numbers below):

RAM # _____ CM # _____ KT # _____ Drill Team Participant

Day/Date	Time	Please enter the number of Meals you are requesting	Price	Total
Sat – 21 st	AMD In-Gathering: All reservations for the AMD In-Gathering held on Saturday will be handled at the AMD Website: http://alliedmasonicdegrees-calif.org/			
Sun – 22 nd	11:30 AM	Battalion & Belles Brunch Chinese Chicken Salad ___ Veg ___	\$23.00	
	8:30 PM	Grand York Rite Banquet Top Sirloin Steak ___ Served with starch, Sautéed Mushroom, Cracked Pepper Cream Sauce Chicken Cordon Bleu ___ Chicken Breast filled w/ Ham & Swiss Cheese, Starch, Morray Sauce Stuffed Portabella Mushroom ___ Broiled Zucchini, Red Peppers & Carrots, Fontina Cheese, Black Beans & Rice	\$40.00	
Mon – 23 rd	7:00 AM	Grand Chapter Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) Great Start Buffet ___ Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Bacon, Sausage, Pastries, Sliced Fruit & Assorted Fruit Juice	\$28.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Chapter and RA Ladies Luncheon (Combined meal) Express Deli Buffet ___ Garden Greens w/ Italian and Ranch Dressing, Roast Beef, Pastrami, Turkey, Ham, Swiss, Monterey Jack & Cheddar Cheeses, Breads, Potato Salad, Potato Chips, Fruit	\$28.00	
Tue – 24 th	7:00 AM	Grand Council Breakfast (Open to all Registrants) French Connection ___ Croissant filled with Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes, Biscuits & Honey, Juice	\$24.00	
	12:00 PM	Council Ladies Luncheon: High Tea ___ Finger Sandwiches, Fruit, Cupcakes	\$27.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Council Luncheon: Grilled Flank Steak Gorgonzola ___ Veg ___ Topped w/ Bleu Cheese, Caesar Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes	\$28.00	
Wed – 25 th	7:00 AM	Grand Commandery Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) Country Scramble ___ Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes, , Biscuits & Honey, Juice	\$24.00	
	12:00 PM	KT Ladies Luncheon Soup & Salad ___ Warm Bread and Butter, Butternut Squash Soup, Spinach Salad w/ Hot Bacon Dressing, Sliced Hard Boiled Eggs, Sliced Mandarin Oranges, Berry Desert	\$25.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Commandery Luncheon Parmesan Chicken ___ Veg ___ With Mascarpone Cheese & Wild Mushroom Risotto & Tomato Coulis	\$28.00	

Check# _____ enclosed payable to Grand York Rite of CA or Invoice me via PayPal

Comment section

Please send this form and payment to: CA-GYRS PO Box 402 Penryn, CA 95663-0402

Reservation forms postmarked after 04/17/16 are subject to a 25% late fee – Forms submitted onsite will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee

Contact the Bakersfield Doubletree Hotel 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct Bakersfield, 93308 @ (800) 222-TREE(8733)
 tell the agent that you are in the Grand York Rite Group for your hotel reservation before 04/15/16 Room rate:
 \$94.00 for balcony rooms (\$10 more per night if you requested a courtyard/pool facing room) +taxes
 There is also a link on www.ca-gyrs.org to make your hotel reservation online

Questions: General Chairman Bob Wright (805) 990-4063 rwrightjr@sbcglobal.net
 Executive Officer James Baum (780) 885-0258 gyrsexecofficer@gmail.com

No refunds after May 10th, 2016 unless approved by the Grand York Rite Sessions Executive Committee.

More forms (including the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master & Past Commanders Association), menus and schedule are available from www.ca-gyrs.org.

S:WW U: 10/18/15



2016 GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS Souvenir Ad Program Order Form

Company Name or Organization _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address City, State Zip _____

What do You Want Your Ad to Say?

Camera ready ad material is preferred (Black and White or Gray scale only). We can assist you in creating your ad. Provide on a separate page, the exact wording of your ad. Submit logos, pictures (original B&W or Gray scale only—no color or “scanned pics”) or business cards that are to be used in the ad on an accompanying sheet.

Payment must accompany Ad request, **payable to “Grand York Rite of CA”** or we will invoice you via PayPal to use your credit card.

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING AD REQUESTS: 4/10/16

Send Ad and Payment to
CA-GYRS PO Box 402 Penryn, CA 95663-0402

Questions – contact: Casey Latham, Ad Chairman
Email: ads@ca-gyrs.org

Please enter quantity:

_____ Full Page @ \$160.00 each

_____ Half Page @ \$85.00 each

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@ \$5.00 each

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Names for the Name Page (at \$5 each)

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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE CREDENTIAL

_____ Chapter No. __

This is to certify that at the Stated Special (check one) Convocation of the above named Chapter, held on the ____ day of _____ A.D. ____, Companion _____ was elected a representative to the Grand Chapter Convocation in the city of _____, California. He is a member in good standing of said Chapter.

The representative has been informed that this Credential must be presented to the Grand Chapter Committee on Credentials at the time of registration.

High Priest _____ / /
(Signature) (Date)

Attest:
Secretary: _____ / /
(Signature) (Date)

R.A. Form No. SM-6.1 (1999)

PROXY TO GRAND CHAPTER

_____ Chapter No. __

I, _____, duly elected and installed as High Priest, King or Scribe of above named Chapter, do hereby appoint Companion _____ as Proxy for my office at the Grand Convocation in the city of _____, California. He is a member in good standing of said Chapter.

Said member has been informed that this Credential must be presented to the Grand Chapter Committee on Credentials at the time of registration.

Dais Officer _____
(Signature)

(Chapter Seal)

Attest:
Secretary: _____ / /
(Signature) (Date)

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RESOLUTION 2016-1

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A proposal to add Standing Resolution XIV to the Grand Chapter Constitution

Whereas the General Grand Chapter provides a Ritual Medal demonstrating competence and proficiency in numerous and significant roles in the Capitular Degrees, but the California Grand Chapter does not, and

Whereas ritual thrives in an environment where good ritualists as well as those who repeatedly and consistently make arrangements for conferrals, are suitably recognized, so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Resolution be added to the Standing Resolutions of the CONSTITUTION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

XIV. Grand Lecturer Ritual Award.

RESOLVED, that this Grand Chapter shall establish an award to be known as the Grand Lecturer Ritual Award, the rules granting this award to be as follows:

1. The award shall be in the form of a medal and a certificate to be provided by the Grand Lecturer, with cost provided by the Ritual Staff budget.
2. To be eligible to receive this award, a Companion shall have served Capitular Masonry in California for five (5) or more years, by consistently giving unselfishly of his time and services in the conferral of our ritual for the betterment of his Chapter, the Grand Chapter and its members.
3. The Companion(s) eligible to receive this award shall be selected by the Grand Lecturer, after consultation with Ritual Staff and the Executive Committee. Criteria to be used shall be developed by the Grand Lecturer, in consultation with Ritual Staff, to include: a) Exemplary performance of significant Capitular Ritual roles; b) Exemplary service to the Grand Lecturer as a part of ritual staff for five or more years; c) Exemplary and outstanding long-term service, five or more years, in qualifying officers for degree parts, leading the arrangement of Festivals and/or Degree conferrals.
4. The name of the Companion(s) selected to receive this award, together with a written statement of the services for which the award is recommended, shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary who will prepare a certificate for approval by the Grand High Priest and the Grand Lecturer. Upon approval, the Grand Secretary shall attest and affix the seal of the Grand Chapter. The Grand Lecturer will then acquire the medal and certificate for appropriate presentation to the Companion, preferably at a convocation of the Grand Chapter.

Submitted by: **Philip A. Hardiman** (3)
Steven R. Goad (153)
Richard D. Baskin (61)

RESOLUTION 2016-2

The proponents of this Resolution seek to amend Article IX Section 35.1 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California pertaining to Per Capita.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 35.1 of the Constitution states: For each Royal Arch Mason of a Chartered Chapter, borne upon its Roll as of December 31st of each year, the sum of twelve dollars (\$12.00), and

WHEREAS, the General Grand Chapter at their 69th Triennial Convocation on September 29, 2014 increased Per Capita of each constituent Grand Chapter on the North American Continent from two dollars (\$2.00) to three dollars (\$3.00) effective January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter of California cannot absorb this increase, and must pass it along to its members; and

WHEREAS, California Royal Arch Masonry currently enjoys the lowest Per Capita of all other California Masonic bodies; and

WHEREAS, costs, rents, and other expenses to the Grand Chapter have continued to rise, so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article IX Section 35 Subsection 1 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California be amended as follows:

1. **For each Royal Arch Mason of a Chartered Chapter, borne upon its Roll as of December 31st, 2016, and thereafter the sum of Fifteen dollars (\$15.00).**

Respectfully Submitted: **Richard D. Baskin** (61)
 Jerrold A. Wohlfarth (155)
 Kenneth G. Hope (33)

RESOLUTION 2016-3

The proponents of this Resolution seek to amend Article IX, Section 35 Subsection 5 of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons pertaining to Grand Sessions Assessment.

WHEREAS, it has been 19 years since our last raise in the Grand Session Assessment; and

WHEREAS, our membership is still declining and thus decreasing our income every year; and

WHEREAS, the expenses of providing the common services of the Grand York Rite of California continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, the negotiation for our next Grand Sessions location is commencing this year; so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Session Assessment be increased from \$0.25 to \$1.00 for every Companion borne upon the rolls of the Subordinate Chapters, effective with the Annual Returns due on 1-1-2017 and that Section 35 Subsection 5 be amended to read: "5. A charge of ~~25-cents~~ **1.00 dollar** per Companion borne upon the rolls is levied to help **defray the costs of the Grand York Rite of California.**"

Respectfully Submitted: **Kenneth G. Hope** (33)
 Robert V. Wright Jr. (86)
 Steven R. Goad (153)

RESOLUTION 2016-4

The proponents of this resolution seek to amend Article XVIII Section 175a, subsection 1, of the Grand Chapter Constitution pertaining to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter Life Membership Program to new applicants.

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter Constitution provides for a Life Member option at the behest of its constituent Chapters; and

WHEREAS, the current Life Membership fee is actuarially unsound and a severe financial burden to many of the Chapters having a long standing Life Membership program, so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article XVIII Section 175a, subsection 1, of the Constitution be amended to read:

§175a. Life Membership (New Plan).

1. **The Life Membership Program of Royal Arch Masons in California for individuals is hereby suspended for all new applicants except by dispensation of the Grand High Priest.** A Chapter may, by Standing Resolution, adopt the Life Membership Plan as herein set forth which shall forever exempt a member from the payment of dues.

Respectfully Submitted:

Steven R. Goad (153)
Richard D. Baskin (61)
Dennis T. Dyer (86)
Leland G. Routt (28)
Jerrold A. Wohlfarth (155)
Teddy G. Hammack (75)
Robert V. Wright Jr. (86)
Sam Pitassi (57)
Philip A. Hardiman (3)
Raymond D. Godeke (73)

RESOLUTION 2016-5

The proponents of this resolution seek to amend Part II, Article III, Section 108, Subsections 1 and 4, of the Grand Chapter Constitution pertaining to the timely submission of the Annual Returns, per capita, fees, and reports.

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter relies on the timely submission of each Chapter's Annual Return, Election Report, assessments, fees, and per capita to conduct its necessary business; and

WHEREAS, some Chapters repeatedly do not submit their Annual Returns, Election Reports, Installation Reports, assessments, fees, and per capita by the prescribed date; so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Part II, Article III, Section 108, subsections 1 and 4, of the Constitution be amended to read:

§108. Annual Return.

1. Each Chartered Chapter shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a full and correct return of its transactions for the twelve (12) months next preceding the first day of January of each year, within fifteen (15) days thereafter, in such form as Grand Chapter may direct. **Failure to submit the Annual Return with the assessments, fees and per capita by February 15th of each year shall**

result in the automatic suspension of a Chapter's Charter. Upon submission of the Annual Return and payment of the assessments, fees and per capita, the Chapter's Charter shall automatically be reinstated. (ref: Section 142.7)

4. ~~Any Chapter which has failed to make its Annual Return shall not be entitled to representation at the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter.~~ **Any Chapter which has failed to submit its Annual Election of Officers Form or a report of No Election Held and a request for Dispensation to hold an election, shall have its Charter suspended on the first day of the month prior to the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter. The Chapter shall automatically be reinstated upon proper submission of the aforementioned form or report (ref: Section 142.5)**

Respectfully Submitted:

Steven R. Goad (153)
Richard D. Baskin (61)
Dennis T. Dyer (86)
Randy R. Downey (14)
Leland G. Routt (28)
Jerrold A. Wohlfarth (155)
Teddy G. Hammack (75)
Jon D. Humphreys (3)
Robert V. Wright Jr. (86)
Sam Pitassi (57)

RESOLUTION 2016-6

The proponents of this resolution seek to amend Article XV and Section 56 of the Grand Chapter Constitution.

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter Constitution provides that only the appointed Grand Officers serve at the pleasure of the Grand High Priest, and

WHEREAS, the Grand High Priest should have the Constitutional authority on behalf of the Grand Chapter to suspend those elected officers that might come into conflict with the duties of his office while not reaching the level of misconduct warranted in Capitular Charges, so

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article XV and Section 56 of the Grand Chapter Constitution be amended to read:

ARTICLE XV

Appointed and Elected Grand Officers

§56. Duties.

The appointed Officers of Grand Chapter shall perform such duties as the usage of the Craft and the orders of Grand Chapter or the Grand High Priest may require of them. **All Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter serve at the pleasure of the Grand Chapter. Any officer, appointed, or elected to a Grand Chapter Office may be removed if appointed, or suspended if elected, by the Grand High Priest during his term in office between meetings of the Grand Chapter if warranted. Suspended elected officers may be re-elected and appointed officers re-appointed at the next annual Conclave at the will and pleasure of the Grand Chapter.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Steven R. Goad (153)

Richard D. Baskin (61)
Dennis T. Dyer (86)
Randy R. Downey (14)
Leland G. Routt (28)
Jerrold A. Wohlfarth (155)
Teddy G. Hammack (75)
Jon D. Humphreys (3)
Robert V. Wright Jr. (86)
Sam Pitassi (57)

RESOLUTION 2016-7

A proposal to amend the Royal Arch degree, pages 117, 118, 150 , 164 and 170-171

WHEREAS the HP has been required to remove his Hat at the Altar prior to prayer in the Opening, creating a certain clumsiness as to where to put it, since it should really not be on the Altar with the Holy Writings, nor should it be on the floor, requiring the HP to bend over when he may have back or knee problems,

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 117 and 118 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, to allow the HP to leave his Hat in the East before descending to the Altar, as follows:

At page 117

11 **CH** - (*Faces south, turns head east and gives sign.*)
12 **Excellent High Priest, your order has been duly**
13 **executed. (HP removes Hat and leaves on chair, and Council descends, and with CH fill space in**
14 *circle.*)

At page 118

32 **HP** – (**Recovers Hat from chair and says:** *Companion Captain of the Host, (faces south,*
33 *turns head east, gives sign)* **it is my order that a**
1 **Chapter of Royal Arch Masons be now opened for**
2 **the dispatch of business, under the usual Masonic**
3 **restrictions. This you will communicate to the**
4 **companions for their government.**

Furthermore, WHEREAS this degree does not explain the first three working tools of a Royal Arch Mason;
and

WHEREAS the ritual at other times and in other States has included short text describing these Working
Tools;

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pages 150 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, to add text describing the Working Tools, to be delivered by the Captain of the Host after placing tools on candidates, as follows

At page 150

1 CH - *(Returns sword, places crow, pickaxe and spade,*
2 *one at a time, on CND's right shoulder commencing on*
3 *his right; naming the tool as it is placed* **(The Crow is used by Operative Masons to raise things of great weight and bulk; the Pick-Ax to loosen the soil, and prepare it for digging; and the Spade to remove rubbish)**

At page 164, the “noble purposes” of the crow, pick-ax and spade are added to the Lecture, after line 23.

19 **THEWORKING TOOLS OF A ROYAL ARCHMASON**
20 **are the crow, pickaxe and spade, and the square**
21 **and compasses, which have been presented to your**
22 **view in every degree of Masonry through which you**
23 **have passed.**

The Crow is used by Operative Masons to raise things of great weight and bulk; the Pick-Ax to loosen the soil, and prepare it for digging; and the Spade to remove rubbish. But the Royal Arch Mason is emblematically taught to use them for more noble purposes. By them he is reminded that it is his sacred duty lifting from his mind the heavy weight of passions and prejudices, which encumber his progress towards virtue, loosening the hold which long habits of sin and folly have had upon his disposition, and removing the rubbish of vice and ignorance which prevents him from beholding that eternal foundation of truth and wisdom upon which he is to erect the spiritual and moral temple of his second life.

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 170 and 171 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, to allow the HP to leave his Hat in the East before descending to the Altar, as follows:

At page 170

16 *sign.) Excellent High Priest, your order has been*
17 **duly executed. (HP removes Hat and leaves on chair, and *Council descends and with CH, fills in*
18 *space.)***

At page 171

17 HP – **(Recovers Hat from chair and says:)** *Companion Captain of the Host, (faces south,*

Respectfully Submitted: **Philip A. Hardiman (3)**
 Ritual Staff

RESOLUTION 2016-8

A proposal to amend the Most Excellent Master degree, pages 79-80, and 97

WHEREAS this degree as presently conferred is not consistent with sensible fire code standards; and

WHEREAS some of the practices for representing the “fire coming down from Heaven” are either ineffective or comedic; and

WHEREAS the circumambulation of this degree uses Psalm 24, when Psalm 122 would be more appropriate because of its references to 1) “the house of the Lord;” 2) the “name of the Lord;” and 3) the term “Companion,”

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 79-80 and page 97 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows, in order to replace Psalm 24 with Psalm 122, and eliminate the practice of actually using fire in an attempt to represent “fire descending upon the sacrifice.” Non-flammable methods of portrayal may still be optionally employed, consistent with safety and professionalism.

~~27 The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;
28 the world, and they that dwell therein, for He hath
29 founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the
30 floods.~~

~~31 **~~

~~32 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or
33 who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath~~

-79-

~~clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted
2 up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.~~

~~3 ***~~

~~4 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and
5 righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is
6 the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy
7 face, O Jacob.~~

~~8 *** **~~

~~9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted
10 up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory
11 shall come in.~~

~~12 *** ** *~~

~~13 Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and
14 mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your
15 heads, O ye gates, even lift them up, ye everlasting
16 doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.~~

~~17 *** ** **~~

~~18 Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He
19 is the King of Glory.~~

I was glad when they said unto me; Let us go into the house of the Lord.

**

Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

** *

Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

** **

For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

** ** *

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within they walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

** ** *

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

At page 97

31 of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. And when
32 all the children of Israel saw how the fire came
33 down, (~~fire descends, brethren in divisions kneel on~~
-97-

1 ~~hands and knees, except RWM, CNDs, SD and MAR,~~
2 ~~who remain standing~~ any usage of actual flammable material is strictly prohibited) and the glory of the
Lord upon
3 the house, they bowed (~~brethren kneeling all bow~~
4 ~~down~~) themselves (brethren in divisions kneel on
1 hands and knees, except RWM, CNDs, SD and MAR,
2 who remain standing) with their faces to the ground
5 upon the pavement, and worshiped and praised the
6 Lord, saying: (*All brethren join:*)
7 For He is good, for His mercy endureth forever.

Respectfully submitted: Philip A. Hardiman (3)
Ritual Staff

RESOLUTION 2016-9

A proposal to amend the Mark Master degree, pages 14, 20, 33, 45 and 48

For consistency in the giving of direction by Marshall to the Craftsmen to repair to the apartment of the SW for wages (on pages 14 and 47), the following change will eliminate the movement of craftsmen prior to the giving of the direction:

27 JW- *** ~~Craftsmen, you will assemble and repair to~~
28 ~~the apartment of the Senior Warden to receive your~~
29 ~~wages. Brother Marshal (gives due guard) you will assemble the craftsmen for the purpose~~
of repairing to the apartment of the Senior Warden to receive their wages.

MAR - (*Whose station is in the north, takes two steps in*
31 *front of station.*) Craftsmen, you will form in procession on
32 the north side of the lodge, single file, facing the
33 east.

WHEREAS the candidate is caused to present work for inspection a second time in order to demonstrate that he has learned what constitutes "good work;" and

WHEREAS it is unclear that only the exemplar returns again to the overseers; and

WHEREAS the SD is instructed to advance toward the CND as soon as the CND stomps for inspection, when he should advance after the interrogation by the MO;

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 20 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows for clarification:

20 **JW - *** Craftsmen, you will return to the quarries**
21 **and resume your labors.** *(Seats the lodge as CND*
22 *pass between the pillars. * If more than one CND, all*
23 *must now retire. JD meets SD just east of pillars. SD*
24 *hands stone to JD and returns to his station. JD retires*
25 *with CNDs and explains to them what to do—namely, that CNDs go to seats, except the*
26 *then return together without alarm, only the ~~first one~~ exemplar presents himself, alone,*
27 *with “good work,” to be presented to the Overseers as*
28 *~~before~~ directed and which passes inspection in due form.)*
29 **SD -** *(Advances toward CND ~~as soon as he stops~~ after the interrogation at*
30 *MO’s station, then takes charge of CND and*
31 *approaches east. Steps back 1 step, gives due guard.)*

WHEREAS the Marshall’s recitation on page 48 is frequently omitted, and

WHEREAS making it optional to be recited or read from a scroll by the Marshall might cause it to be delivered more frequently,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 48 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows:

3 *(The following verses ~~may be omitted or~~ shall be recited by*
4 ~~MAR,~~ *or read from a scroll by the Marshall during procession.):*

Respectfully Submitted: **Philip A. Hardiman (3)**
 Ritual Staff

RESOLUTION 2016-10

A proposal to amend the Past Master degree, pages 59-60, and 66

WHEREAS this degree is not consistent with the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees, which require the candidate or exemplar to advance to the Altar by an appropriate number of steps; and

WHEREAS this degree is not entirely effective in teaching the candidate(s) the importance of learning to govern themselves before attempting to govern others; and

WHEREAS this degree would be more impressive if suitable content were added; and

WHEREAS the importance of the Wardens to the conduct and governance of a Blue Lodge would be emphasized by giving them a role in presenting important content in this Degree;

So, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that page 59-60 and page 66 of the Ritual Book, 2008 edition, be revised as follows:

SD - *(Goes to altar, gives 1 sign, and retires to anteroom.*
2 *The CND is clothed as a Mark Master without*
3 *hoodwink or cable tow. Takes CND by the right arm*
4 *and enters without alarm from anteroom. Conducts*
5 *CND to a position 5 steps West of the altar and takes 1 step to rear, gives sign.)*

6 Right Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure of
7 presenting to you, Brother A B who has taken all
8 the degrees of Masonry from Entered Apprentice to
9 Mark Master inclusive, and now prays to be
10 inducted into the Oriental Chair of King Solomon,
11 having been duly elected to that distinguished
12 honor.

13 RWM – Brother SD, you will teach the CND to approach the altar in a proper manner.
SD -- Brother A B, you will approach the east with five steps; first, as an Entered Apprentice
Mason (done) second, as a Fellowcraft, (done) third as a Master Mason, (done) fourth as a
Mark Master Mason, (done). Advance your left foot, bringing the heel of the right to the heel
of the left, toes turned out equally, the feet forming a right angle. (After the SD instructs the
CND, the RWM continues:)
RWM -- My brother, permit me to congratulate you...

INSERT THE FOLLOWING IN FRONT OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY (PAGE 66):

SW – (Approaches Altar and recites or reads from a scroll:) Freemasonry would take all
men by the hand and, leading them to its Altar, would point to the open Bible and urge each
to faithfully direct his steps through life by the Light he shall find therein. If from our sacred
Altar the atheist or irreligious man should ever wrest this Book and thus remove, or even
obscure, the great Light of Freemasonry, that Light which has been for centuries the rule and
guide of all Masons, then could we no longer claim the proud title and rank of Master Mason;
but as long as that sacred Light shines upon our Altar, as long as it illumines and brightens
the pathway of the Craftsman by the golden rays of Truth, so long will Freemasonry live and
shed its beneficent influence among men. Guard, then, my brother, this sacred Book as you
guard your life. Defend it as you would defend the flag of your country. Live according to its
sublime precepts, govern yourself that you may be able to govern others; learn first that you
may be able to teach, for justice, moderation and decorum should mark the acts of the
upright man.

CHARGE

JW – (Approaches CNDs and recites or reads from a scroll:) Brethren, you have been
invested with the secrets of the degree of Past Master and been inducted into a representation
of the Oriental Chair wherein the wisest of Kings once ruled. While brief may have been the
ceremonies of the degree, the lessons conveyed are of great importance and, according to
ancient regulations, essentially necessary before you could be exalted to the most sublime
degree of the Royal Arch. For he who would attain to this honorable station must be a Ruler
of the Craft. He who would rule must first learn the great lesson of obedience, and the
observance of every obligation heretofore taken, squaring his actions by the square of virtue,
and keeping his passions and prejudices within due bounds. He only can teach who has
passed through the severe school of discipline; and he rules best who has learned the
important lesson of self-control. Self, a subject, although a King—self, a servant, but still a
Master—self, a craftsman, yet a Ruler of the Craft—a Ruler whose scepter is justice, whose
kingdom is in the heart of humanity, and whose throne is builded in love.

Respectfully Submitted: Philip A. Hardiman (3)
Ritual Staff