



# THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

MAY 2009

Vol. I, No. 1

## MAKE YOUR MARK!

The Theme for the new Capitular year is: Getting Excited about Making Your Mark. We have attempted to enable this with changes to our Constitution and local Chapter Bylaws (see accompanying article) that allow us to confer the Mark Master Degree at no cost to the candidate. He need only pay the normal fees if, and when, he decides to take the remaining Degrees. I am convinced that, once our Blue Lodge brethren witness the quality ritual that constitutes our Mark Master Degree and as performed by our conferral teams, most will decide to proceed.

Local Chapters, working in concert with other Chapters in their District, should begin now to schedule Keystone Classes – those classes for which only the Mark Master will be conferred. Set a date for the conferral and everything else will fall in place. Set it far enough into the future that you have enough time to visit Blue Lodges in your area at least once. Take a couple dozen petitions to each Stated Meeting you can attend and, with the Master’s permission, announce the Mark Master opportunity they now have! Assume their consent, and wait for them to complete the petitions on site!

You know the preparedness of your local Team, but schedule enough practices to guarantee a quality conferral – one you will be proud of. Be prepared, also, to announce at the end of the conferral when they can return for the remaining degrees. This is crucial follow-thru! Don’t let cast problems deter you – we have numerous excellent ritualists around the State who are willing to travel. I personally will be happy to assist whenever possible, doing the Lecture in the Mark Master Degree, Right Worshipful Master in the Past Master Degree, or Lecture in the Royal Arch. Our Jr. Past Grand High Priest, M·E·C Comp· Sean Foran, has traveled extensively this last year, serving as Principal Sojourner at least 14 times! M·E·C Comp· Harry Hall will also travel, as will M·E·C Comp· Edgar Fentum.

A data-based analysis reveals in the following table how many prospects for the Royal Arch that we have around this large State:

Area	Non-Chapter Masons (est.)	Target Prospects	Target Classes
Los Angeles	10,000	1,500	10
San Diego	5,000	750	5
San Bernardino	4,500	550	4
Orange County	3,500	425	3
Bay Area	4,250	525	4
Sacramento	5,000	750	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32,250</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>31</b>

If the Chapters in these areas will coordinate to put on large Keystone Classes, for the benefit of their Blue Lodge brethren, then we will experience a huge increase in membership. The value of our ritual and its content will be readily seen and appreciated -- and this is the real reason for taking on this effort, not just to build our numbers.

## MARK MASTER AT GRAND LODGE

Most Worshipful Larry Adamson has agreed to allow us to use the auditorium for a Mark Master conferral on Friday night, October 2nd. If you have candidates who cannot receive the Degree locally, then by all means bring them to Grand Lodge.

## MARK MASTER LEGISLATION

There seem to be a few Companions who have misunderstood the legislation that was adopted at our Annual Convocation, concerning the no-fee Mark Master Degree.

For clarification, the legislation adopted changed all Chapter's by-laws. Effective at the close of our Annual Convocation on April 29th, each Chapter's by-laws read that the Mark Master Degree fee is "zero," and each Chapter's by-laws have had the fee for the Royal Arch Degree increased by the amount that Chapter formerly had for a fee for the Mark Master Degree. No action is required by any Chapter to make this shift of fee from the Mark Master Degree to the Royal Arch Degree effective.

This means that all Chapters are now able to accept petitions in two ways: for either the Mark Master Degree only (with no fee paid), or for all the Chapter Degrees (with the full fee paid). The new petition, distributed at Annual Convocation and available on the Grand Chapter website, provides these two options for a petitioner.

In addition, under the newly adopted legislation, a petitioner for the Mark Master Degree only (paying no fee), is balloted upon for all the degrees of the Chapter. If he subsequently wishes the remaining degrees, he need only pay the fee for degrees to qualify for them. He has already been elected to receive all four Chapter degrees.

Refer to the Grand Chapter Constitution, Section 110.6(b). Please notify your Companions about the Bylaws change in your Trestleboards and at your Stated Convocations.

### **PERSONAL NOTES**

Nancy and I have had an exciting time these first 16 days of the new Grand Capitular year. Driving almost 4,000 miles from Redding to San Diego has been a test of my lower-back strength and Nancy's patience, but we have visited companions from 13 Chapters and the San Diego Scottish Rite, participated in one Degree conferral, one 50 year Chapter celebration, presented six 50-year pins, and issued one Keystone Award. The welcome by all bodies has been terrific and much appreciated by us both. All contributions received will be used to support our educational programs – including Scholarships, the Research Chapter, the Educational Committee, and printing more "The York Rite Path" booklets (see accompanying article).

We are presenting gifts to each High Priest and his Lady. The High Priest is receiving a Tie, a Pin and a Booklet. The tie is hand made by my daughter-in-law, Stacey, and is intended to be attractive and represent the physical or material side of our lives. The Pin represents our spiritual side, and my hope is that he will always wear it with the tie, as a means of emphasizing the balanced life which Royal Arch Masons enjoy. Nancy's Pin is an open book with a rose, signifying Love of Education.

### **THE YORK RITE PATH**

This is a booklet I have prepared that explains why I believe our Chapter Degrees are so important. Please do as much as you can to extend its scope, by arranging for it to be given to your current and new companions. Consider also acquiring enough copies to share with your Blue Lodge brethren as you urge them to submit petitions for our Keystone Classes. All donations received for copies will benefit our Grand Chapter Educational Programs.

### **BLACK-BALLING**

Early in May, a very rare event occurred: a Chapter actually experienced the black-balling of two petitioners for degrees! This is such a rare event that it merits some special attention. At this writing it is unknown who balloted against the petitioners or why. There is much supposition, but few hard facts, so I will make my remarks in general terms, without specific reference to the individuals or facts in this case.

First, the ballot box is not the place to resolve grievances, either with the petitioner or his recommender(s). A black cube should be used only if the *petitioner* is guilty of some moral offense or unmasonic conduct. To do otherwise is itself unmasonic conduct! You may feel that the petitioner is not worthy of the Capitular experience, but you should be more concerned with his improvement in character and behavior that our Degrees are designed to bring. Hence, assisting him in becoming a Companion may help resolve your grievance!

Secondly, if you must express or seek satisfaction for the grievance, your proper approach is to inform the High Priest who will determine whether to present the petition for ballot or not; or whether to require a standard Masonic investigation prior to balloting.

Thirdly, rejecting a petitioner for purely personal reasons casts a black mark on the Chapter, not on the petitioner or on the unknown balloter.

Finally, while our Constitution protects the privacy of the ballot box, it does not preclude investigation by proper Grand Chapter authorities into situations where there may be evidence of abuse of the balloting right. In extreme situations, a Chapter's Charter may be suspended or revoked if its Companions reject candidates for degrees based on malicious and/or unmasonic motives.

So please, next time you contemplate voting to reject a petitioner, consider carefully if he really deserves to be deprived of the Capitular experience because of his own immoral or unmasonic conduct. It is a benefit to you

personally, and to your Chapter, to ballot favorably on a petitioner, even when your emotional reaction might induce you to ballot against, if that emotional reaction is based on personal concerns that do not relate to the petitioner's Masonic conduct. Search yourself and seek "...that purity of heart which should characterize each one of us who would appropriate to himself the proud title of a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

Refer to Grand Chapter Constitution, Sections 209 and 161.3 for further clarification.

### **THE CALIFORNIA YORK RITE CRUISE**

This 4 Day Baja Mexico fund-raiser cruise benefits the Royal Arch Philanthropies, the Cryptic Council CMMRF, and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Fifty dollars will be donated to them for each cabin that sails! Friends and family are also invited. The cruise sails December 7 – 11, 2009, and includes a one hour open bar, Hospitality Suite access, and a Mark Master Degree conferral. A \$100 deposit reserves you a slot, with cabins ranging in price from \$250 to \$740, per person double occupancy. Final payment is due October 7<sup>th</sup>. For more info, call Mark at (415)-922-2916, or register online at [www.songmastertravel.com](http://www.songmastertravel.com).

### **GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER**

Please visit the excellent website at:  
<http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/>

For information about membership, contact  
M.:E.: Comp.: Edgar W. Fentum, High Priest  
34400 Mission Blvd.  
Union City, CA 94587-3604  
510-476-4839  
[fentumew@gmail.com](mailto:fentumew@gmail.com)

### **GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS**

Although the final filing date has passed for this year, keep in mind for next year the eligibility of Masonic youth. Final filing may be as early as mid-January, 2010. Remember, also, 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

### **ENCOMPASSER**

For access to the latest edition, go to the basic website:  
<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar.

### **PETITIONS**

New petitions and brochures about the Chapter are available on the website at:

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

Simply scroll down to the lower half of the page.

### **OUTDOOR DEGREES**

The **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Comptche** Outdoor Royal Arch Degrees are scheduled this year for June 27<sup>th</sup> at Tunzi Ranch. All four Degrees will be conferred on Saturday, with the Prologue beginning at 8:30 a.m. The reservation deadline is June 12<sup>th</sup>. You could make a vacation around this event. Self-contained RVs and tent campers are welcome to setup from June 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. There are no 120V hookups but there are chemical toilets in the meadow. There is a hot water shower in the restroom shack.

Fish Fry Friday night -- \$12  
Breakfast Saturday morning -- \$8  
Dues Registration -- \$10  
Companions Lunch -- \$8  
Barbeque Saturday Night -- \$15  
Breakfast Sunday morning -- \$8

Children half-price; only companions pay the registration. Make checks payable to COMPTCHE OUTDOOR DEGREE ASSOCIATION, and send to Guy Chalmers, 50 Lohrman Lane, Petaluma, CA 94952-3609.

**I have made a commitment to buy lunch for any lady who brings a candidate (brother, father, son, grandson, etc) or whose husband brings a candidate.** Nancy will be leading a troop of ladies into Mendocino, for shopping and lunch, on Saturday while the guys do the Degrees. If you prefer not to rough it, call for information about local motels along the coast.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Did you leave, or do you know anyone who left, a black apron case with Royal Arch aprons in it, in the large hall at Grand Sessions? I found them late Wednesday night, the 29<sup>th</sup>, and will be happy to return them if you will call me at one of the numbers below.

**GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY**

Stockton	Visit	23-May	Stockton(28)
Sacramento	Reception	28-May	Sacramento(3)
Antioch	Scholarship	2-Jun	Antioch(31)
Fairfield	Reception	3-Jun	Solano(43)
Orange County	Reception	8-Jun	Orange County(73)
Long Beach	Reception - 3	10-Jun	Long Beach(84)
Long Beach S/R	Reunion Class	11-Jun	
Bellflower	Reception - 3	11-Jun	Triple Tau(33)
Long Beach S/R	Reunion Class	12-Jun	
Channel Islands	Reception - 3	13-Jun	Ventura(50)
Riverside	Reception - 3	19-Jun	Riverside(67)
Sebastopol	Reception	20-Jun	Sebastopol(117)
Modesto	Visit	22-Jun	Modesto(49)
Comptche	Festival	27-Jun	Santa Rosa(45)
Visalia	Grand Bethel	25-Jun	OES
Newhall	Parade	4-Jul	Van Nuys(135)
San Luis Obispo	Picnic	5-Jul	San Luis Obispo(62)
Alameda	Reception - 3	1-Aug	Oakland(36)
So San Fran	Picnic/Reception	2-Aug	California(1)
Arizona	Grand Sessions	15-Aug	Phoenix, AZ
San jose	Reception	26-Aug	Howard(14)
San Diego	Reception	27-Aug	San Diego(61)
Oakland	Visit, Brigadoon	13-Sep	Oakland(36)
Salinas	Reception - 3	20-Sep	Salinas(59)
Sta Monica Bay	Reception - 3	26-Sep	Sta Monica Bay(97)
Auburn	Reception	28-Sep	Delta(27)
San Francisco	Grand Lodge	2-Oct	
Phoenix	SW Regional	30-Oct	Phoenix, AZ
Pasadena	S/R Reception	6-Nov	

**CONTACT INFORMATION****Grand High Priest:**

Phil Hardiman  
 2713 Hoffman Woods Lane  
 Carmichael, CA 95608  
 (916) 488-3708(H)  
 (916) 713-4814(C)  
[philipandnancy@aol.com](mailto:philipandnancy@aol.com)

**Grand Secretary:**

Ken Hope  
 801 Elm Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90813  
 (562) 436-8271(W)  
[ca.yorkrite@verizon.net](mailto:ca.yorkrite@verizon.net)

**Website:**

[WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG](http://WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG)

If you need access to the secure portion of the site, please call me or the office for the userid and password.