

THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

NOVEMBER 2009

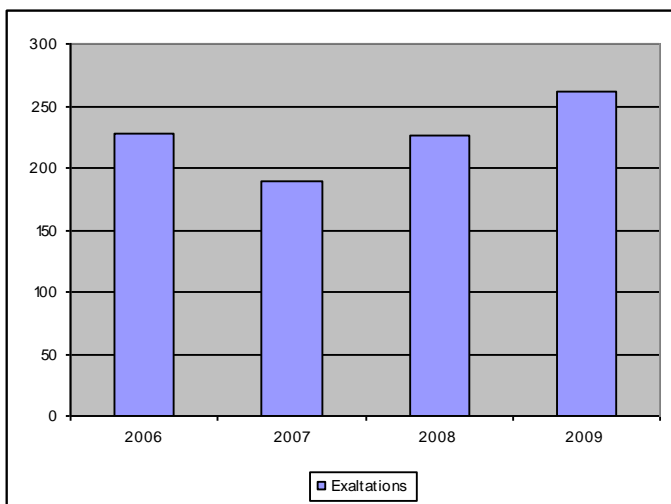
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MEMBERSHIP

My hat is off (should I say Mitre?!?) to those in our local Chapters who have risen to the opportunity to build membership this year. After only 10 months, we have already exalted 22.2 % more than the average during the 2006-2008 period, and almost 38% more than in 2007. See the Chart below. This is an important increase as it gives the local chapters an increase in new blood to get active as officers or in ritual conferrals, or both!



But curiously, fewer Chapters have exalted candidates thus far this year than in each of the preceding three years – 43 of the 61 Chapters. This may in part be due to concentration on conferring the Mark Master. We shall

see next year. Of interest, nonetheless, is the fact that more Blue Lodges have served as a source of candidates than in any of the previous three years: 118 in 2008 compared to 107 in 2006, 106 in 2007, and 106 in 2008. Altogether 242 different Lodges have served as a source for candidates. So the emphasis on visiting Blue Lodges, handing out petitions, talking about the York Rite in general and the Lost Master's Word in particular, does pay off. Hence, this message is for the incoming High Priests for 2010: **Plan now to visit and encourage your members to visit local Lodges.** Contact the incoming Masters of your local Lodges and offer to visit and put on a brief program describing the York Rite. Material is available to help you do this – just call and ask for it. Be sure to take petitions and hand them out – then stay after and collect them. How many of your brethren will resist the opportunity to get the Mark Master at no cost?!?!? And it has been proven repeatedly this year that many who decide to take the Mark Master decide finally to go forward with all Chapter Degrees!

But almost 100 Blue Lodges have not yielded any candidates since 2005. Now some of these Lodges may already have a large percentage of Royal Arch members – but certainly not all. So there is plenty of opportunity for growth if our local Chapters will simply commit to market what we have to offer! Go to it, and Best Wishes to you all for a terrific New Year!

RITUAL

What we have to offer is ritual content that is inferior to none. Furthermore, our ritual recapitulates and completes the three Craft Degrees, and so is of considerable significance to our Blue Lodge brethren. Hence, how important it is that we endeavor to inform them of their opportunities at our classes and festivals. In doing so, we fulfill our obligation as Most Excellent Masters to spread further Masonic light and knowledge. If you will stay excited about doing this, then we will continue to experience the growth surge we have had this year.

As you plan for your Degree conferrals in 2010, start now to incorporate new members in the cast. Getting them active, even if in small parts, is the primary way to get

them to come back regularly. And it gives your members who have held offices and performed specific roles a chance to rest!

The rest is much needed by some of our older officers, who in some cases can no longer perform as they once did, with good projection and articulation. My son and brother were candidates recently in the Chapter Degrees, and were impressed and inspired by Companions in their late 80s and 90s doing the work. It was clear to them that these guys were doing work they loved and thought important. But they have earned their rest! I ask you each to evaluate your Degree Teams from this perspective and ask these older Companions to select a newer, perhaps younger, Companion that they can mentor into these key roles. It is important to focus on good delivery, otherwise our new candidates won't understand what has transpired in the Degrees and, as a consequence, they will be much less inclined to come back.

It is a delicate balancing act to know when and where to move new Companions into officer positions and onto Degree Teams. Many of them are active in their Blue Lodges. But it can never hurt to ask them and let them know you are willing to work with them over time.

ORATE FRATRES

By William B. Jefferies
Grand Orator

In March 1594, Prince Henry of Navarre entered the city of Paris after a four-year siege. Henry was a French Protestant, or Huguenot, as were the majority of the officers in his army, and the Catholic burghers of Paris, despite widespread starvation and disease, refused to surrender their city to a man whom they considered a heretic. But Henry, who had already been crowned King Henry the Fourth of France at Chartres, was a pragmatist. He realized that he could hardly reign without the capital city. So he changed his religious allegiance, supposedly remarking, "Paris bien vaut une messe" ("Paris is well worth a Mass"), and the gates of the city were opened to him.

Henry founded the Bourbon dynasty of French kings, which was violently interrupted almost exactly two hundred years later, on January 21, 1794, when Louis XVI, his grandson seven times removed, was guillotined by a revolutionary mob at the Palace de la Concorde in Paris. Sometimes, gaining what we ardently desire may have consequences we had never imagined.

Several years ago, it fell my lot to provide transportation to the DeMolay Grand Master's class in Oakland for a member of our Chapter in Chico who had moved to a

small town on the west side of the Valley where the economic base was the growing and harvesting of orchard crops. I shall call the young man "Tomas," although that is not his real name. At the time, Tomas was only thirteen, but already considered himself to be God's gift to women. I knew that Tomas would want to stay for the dance which would follow the degrees and other business of the regional get-together. I, on the other hand, did not want to attempt driving out of Oakland at eleven o'clock at night.

Tomas is very bright and was already too clever for his own good. I feared that when the time to leave came that afternoon, he would hide in one of the many recesses of the ornate Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland. For the week before the Grand Master's class, I made this apprehension the subject of my daily prayers. "Please God," I'd pray, "don't let Tomas trick me into staying for the dance."

I had trouble finding Tomas' house at six o'clock that dark October morning. When he got in my car, the first thing he said was, "I've got a zit growing on my upper lip, and I don't want to stay for the dance!" And silently, my amended prayer was, "I don't want Tomas to stay for the dance, but I didn't want to wrick his complexion – even temporarily. The lesson, I suppose, is that one ought to be careful what he asks for. He might just get it.

And there's an added note for those of us who are more mature: Aren't you glad you're not a teenager any more?

PERSONAL NOTES

Below is a picture of the 11 candidates from California who took the Degrees at the Colorado River Fall Festival this year, pictured with the Grand High Priests from New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California, with the Grand Master of Arizona in the center front.



The next picture shows several of your Grand York Rite Officers, in attendance at the Pasadena Scottish Rite just a few days ago.



THE THOUSANDTH MAN

Here is another poem (also titled as *L'Envoi to "Life's Handicap"*) by Brother Rudyard Kipling, who was both a Mark Master Mason and a Royal Ark Mariner Mason. He received the Mark Master Degree in Fidelity Mark Lodge .No. 98 in Lahore on April 14th, 1887, and later that night the degree of Royal Ark Mariner in Mount Ararat Mariners Lodge No. 98.

One man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a brother.
And it's worth while seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you,
But the Thousandth man will stand your friend
With the whole round world agin' you.

'Tis neither promise nor prayer nor show
Will settle the finding for 'ee.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em go
By your looks, or your acts, or your glory.
But if he finds you and you find him.
The rest of the world don't matter;
For the Thousandth Man will sink or swim
With you in any water.

You can use his purse with no more talk
Than he uses yours for his spendings,
And laugh and meet in your daily walk
As though there had been no lendings.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em call
For silver and gold in their dealings;
But the Thousandth Man he's worth 'em all,

Because you can show him your feelings.

His wrong's your wrong, and his right's your right,
In season or out of season.
Stand up and back it in all men's sight —
With *that* for your only reason!
Nine hundred and ninety-nine can't bide
The shame or mocking or laughter,
But the Thousandth Man will stand by your side
To the gallows-foot — and after!

THE CLOTHES LINE

We now have access to a new line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies. I have seen the red and blue, and have purchased a new red one. I believe purple will also be available. The price is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$86.25 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Contact Patsy Baker Luy at her office: 1(510) 527-5728, or cell: 1(510) 502-3224.

THE CALIFORNIA YORK RITE CRUISE

Over 50 have signed up for the Cruise already! And we have three candidates for the Mark Master Degree, which will be conferred on the open seas. Although you may not be able to get the rates as shown below, you can probably still get on the cruise if you so desire. Call Mark at the number below.

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 7th. For more info, call Mark at 415-922-2916, or register online at www.songmastertravel.com.

GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

Until we are able to plan another convocation, 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

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 will be in March 14, 2010. The new application will be posted soon on our website, and was available at Grand Lodge October 2, 3 and 4. 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, June 2009, 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.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY

San Diego	Cruise	Dec 7 thru Dec 11	Pacific Ocean
San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	9-Jan	San Luis (62)
San Francisco	Installation	30-Jan	California(1)
Officers' Conference		5-Feb to 7-Feb	Bakersfield
Sonora	Official Visit	11-Feb	Sonora(2)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand High Priest:

Phil Hardiman
2713 Hoffman Woods Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 488-3708(H)

(916) 712-4814(C)
philipandnancy@aol.com

Grand Secretary:

Ken Hope
801 Elm Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90813
(562) 436-8271(W)
(562) 484-1611(C)
ca.yorkrite@verizon.net

Assistant Grand Secretary:

Al Lewis
801 Elm Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90813
(562) 436-8271(W)
am.lewis@verizon.net

Website:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG