



SACRAMENTO YORK RITE NEWS

MAY 2020

Sir Knights,

We had a great meeting via Zoom in April. This month, right after the Council's Zoom meeting, we will be hosting a meeting for Commandery members only, as we have an issue to discuss. At the York Rite Grand Sessions this July, a motion will be introduced to raise our per capita by \$5.00. If it passes, our Commandery will need to do the same. At this month's meeting, we will need to discuss options. I look forward to seeing you at the May 9th meeting. Be Safe.



Harvey J Holcomb, Commander

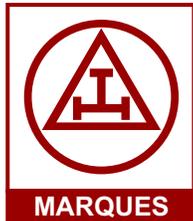
Salutations,
Companions of
Sacramento
Council No. 1.

We are living in interesting times. It has been since March that we were able to come together in person in friendship and Brotherly Love. Even though we may be physically absent from one another, we are still united, although in an informal format, via electronic medium.

It is good to hear and see one another through these means but I look forward to the future when we can once again be among Brothers in person, in peace and in harmony. Until that time arrives, be cautious, stay healthy and do not hesitate to reach out to a Companion.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wallach
Illustrious Master



Companions,

I hope you and your family are healthy and well given all that is going on in our communities and in the world.

When I began working on this edition, we lived in quite a different world, where our day-to-day challenges were the ones of abundance, all the choices and annoyances experienced by the most fortunate generation to walk this planet.

We are all now undergoing a collective transition that has pushed us to change and to adapt, altering in some way our daily behavior to combat the effects of the COVID-19. Never again I will take for granted the ability to hug another human being, especially my Brethren. I do miss our valued tokens of friendship and Brotherly Love.

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THIS MONTH

Saturday, May 9th • 9:00 AM

Sacramento York Rite
Video Call / Audio Call
See Page 2 for Zoom Meeting Information

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, June 13th • 9:00 AM

Sacramento York Rite
Video Call / Audio Call

Tuesday, July 14th through
Thursday, July 16th

Grand York Rite Sessions

Hosted by
Grand York Rite of California

Wyndham Visalia Hotel
9000 W Airport Drive

This is conditional on the
Grand Master of Masons in California
removing restrictions on masonic meetings.



We accepted the challenge and found innovative ways to stay connected by meeting electronically. For many of us, it was the first time we found ourselves dealing with video conferencing and computer applications like Zoom, Skype, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Webex, Facebook, and other similar platforms. We adapted and overcame... and we are thriving!

On April 11th, members of the Sacramento York Rite Bodies joined our very first Zoom meeting and I have to say, what a beautiful experience it was. We shared stories, updates, and lots of laughter. We were in unity again. If you are available, please mark your calendar for our next Zoom meeting this month.

To participate via VIDEO, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88947115579>

Date / Time: **Saturday, May 9th at 9:00 AM**

If you are not familiar with Zoom, please give me a call and I will be glad to give you a quick tutorial. All you need is a device with a camera and a microphone: laptop, smartphone, tablet, desktop computer, etc. Please give this new technology a try. I promise you will enjoy seeing everyone.

If unable to attend via, please don't stay away. Just call (669) 900-6833 to join us via AUDIO teleconference.
Meeting ID: 889 4711 5579

INNOVATION and CREATIVITY have been good, true, and key words for us this year. Just a few weeks ago, we had announced the launch of our newly redesigned website: www.sacramentoyorkrite.org

The new site provides members and visitors with an easier way to learn about York Rite Freemasonry in Sacramento. It has a great mobile version and gives you better access to our Calendar, Educational Material, Philanthropies and a forthcoming How to Join page. If you have not seen it, please check it out today.

I am also delighted to announce that this publication of the Sacramento York Rite NEWS is my very first contribution as your new Editor, and, as such, I invite and welcome submissions to our periodical, along with proposals for special themes as well as expressions of interest in joining the editorial team as an advisor or reviewer. If you would like to submit a paper, please contact me for guidelines.

This edition brings you the unveiling of a new look for our newsletter and marks the return to being published once a month, as well as the launch of the new fully interactive, digital version of our newsletter! Please visit www.sacramentoyorkrite.org/newsletters and let me know what you think. Since it is a members-only page, you will need to register with our website. Just follow the prompts and your access will be approved.

Our goal with this new digital newsletter is to create something that is beneficial, synergistic, and more easily partaken by all members of the York Rite universe.

I would like to take the opportunity and express my gratitude to the following luminaries for their incredible support and guidance during my transition into this new role and through the process of redesigning our newsletter: Most Excellent Companion **Phil Hardiman** and Excellent Companions **Ron Charles Sr.**, **Joseph Dongo**, **Harvey Holcomb**, and **Joseph Wallach**.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our outgoing Editor, Excellent Companion **Richard Wilson**. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to our newsletter over the years.

In closing, Companions, I wanted to mention a very important date which is coming along, a day in which we honor the most important people in the whole world – our mothers. Whether you are maintaining social distancing measures or simply thinking about keeping your mom safe, I know you will find an opportunity to do something special, even if you are unable to see her in person. She might love the idea of seeing you through a video call. Remind her of fond memories. Share a special lesson she taught you. Wish her a wonderful Mother's Day!

Francisco Marques
High Priest

Our 2020 Capitular, Cryptic and Chivalric Officers



Sacramento Chapter No. 3 Royal Arch Masons

High Priest
Francisco Marques
(916) 832-8357
HighPriest@SacramentoYorkRite.org

King
Joseph Wallach

Scribe
Thom Pryor

Treasurer
Richard Wilson

Secretary
Joseph Dongo

Chaplain
Michael Allen

Captain of the Host
Nicholas Johnston

Principal Sojourner
Paul Abeyesekera

Royal Arch Captain
Andrew Grajeda

Master of the Third Veil
Dave Cobb

Master of the Second Veil
Floyd Tritt

Master of the First Veil
Maury Hicks

Sentinel
Brian Vierria



Sacramento Council No. 1 Cryptic Masons

Illustrious Master
Joseph Wallach
(916) 213-4663
JLWallach@gmail.com

Deputy Master
Jesse Solis-Jacques

Principal Conductor of the Work
Francisco Marques

Treasurer
Richard Wilson

Recorder
Joseph Dongo

Chaplain
Michael Allen

Captain of the Guard
Dave Cobb

Conductor of the Council
Brian Vierria

Steward
Alex Baloji

Sentinel
Floyd Tritt

**Sacramento
York Rite Bodies**
Second Saturday of the Month
Sacramento Masonic Temple
1123 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814



Sacramento Commandery No. 2 Knights Templar

Commander
Harvey Holcomb
(916) 502-7761
HHolcomb@pacbell.net

Generalissimo
Luis Montero

Captain General
Francisco Marques

Senior Warden
Thom Pryor

Junior Warden
Jesse Solis-Jacques

Prelate
Paul Abeyesekera

Treasurer
Richard Wilson

Recorder
Joseph Dongo

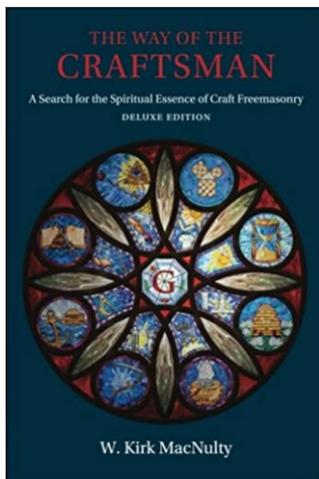
Standard Bearer
Brian Vierria

Sword Bearer
Dave Cobb

Warder
Andrew Grajeda

Sentinel
Alex Baloji

Masonic Book of the Month



The Way of the Craftsman Deluxe Edition A Search for the Spiritual Essence of Craft Freemasonry

In this new Deluxe Edition of an enduring Masonic classic, Bro. **W. Kirk MacNulty** takes you on a quest deep into the heart of Craft Freemasonry in search of its spiritual core. Drawing upon Renaissance philosophy, kabbalistic mysticism, and Jungian

psychology, *The Way of the Craftsman* explores the symbolism and ceremony of the Masonic lodge in a profound and effective manner. With new illustrations, amended annotations, and a special Foreword by Masonic scholar **Shawn Eyer**, this new edition is designed to bring fresh insight to a new generation of Freemasons and those curious about Freemasonry.

About the Author

Brother **W. Kirk MacNulty's** experience in Freemasonry spans more than fifty years. He is a Past Master of lodges in England and the United States, and the author of several notable books about the philosophy and culture of the Masonic Order, including *Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol* (Thames & Hudson, 1991), *Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance* (Thames & Hudson, 2006), and *Contemplating Craft Freemasonry* (Plumbstone, 2018).

Sacramento York Rite NEWS

Monthly Publication

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Richard Wilson

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ANNOUNCEMENT

California Grand York Rite Sessions

The Grand Officers and Trustees met by teleconference on March 25th and voted to re-schedule Grand Sessions to July 14th-16th at the Wyndham in Visalia. This, of course, is conditional on the Grand Master removing his restriction on masonic meetings. As this is a weekday event, there will be no "frills" - no Banquet, no Drill Team, no Vespers program, no Royal Arch Widows degree. Grand Commandery will have all day Tuesday, the 14th, to accomplish its tasks; Grand Chapter will have all day Wednesday; and Grand Council will have all day Thursday. As the practice has been the last few years, the Corporation will meet Monday night, and again on Friday morning.

The Grand Sessions Committee will be refunding all registration payments sent in, either by check or PayPal, and a new registration document will become available early next week. Check the website as early as Tuesday morning: www.ca-gyrs.org. The Grand Presiding Officers have been tasked to produce a new schedule for each day by Monday, March 30th, when there will be another teleconference. So check the website on Tuesday morning.

Please distribute this information to everyone in your orbit who may have already registered for Grand Sessions, or may do so in the future. The Grand Sessions Committee will arrange with the Wyndham to cancel all reservations made for May in our block of rooms. If anyone made a reservation outside that block, or at another hotel, they will need to make their own cancellation.

These developments are a considerable inconvenience for everyone involved, and we can only ask for your understanding during these unparalleled times. Keep in mind that the Grand Officers have gone to considerable time and expense to plan Family Dinners, Installations and Receptions. It would be a nice gesture on your part, if you can make a mid-week event, to come, participate, enjoy the fellowship (however we may prefer to greet one another and at what distance!), to honor these Companions and Sir Knights who are, indeed, struggling mightily to preserve our institution and its practices.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Phil Hardiman
Grand Secretary-Recorder



California Grand Chapter COVID-19 Response



GRAND HIGH PRIEST EMERGENCY BLANKET DISPENSATION

1. Any Chapter under this Grand Jurisdiction may, without requesting a special dispensation, postpone a stated convocation until further notice. This postponement is authorized even if it would cause the Chapter to be in violation of the quarterly meeting requirement.
2. The High Priest of any Chapter may authorize the payment of any bills that are in the Chapter's budget without further vote, provided the budget was accepted by the Chapter.
3. No vote may be taken by telephonic or email communication.
4. All Chapters meeting during this health emergency are encouraged to provide means of hand sanitation and follow basic good hygienic procedures.
5. Instructions on procedures at any festivals that may take place will follow.

Most Excellent Companion Leland Routt, DSM-B, KTCH, KYGCH
165th Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California



California Grand Council COVID-19 Response



GENERAL ORDER OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER EDUARDO ESTRADA

Whereas, on March 5, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state emergency in California due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19),

Whereas, today, March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a state of emergency nationwide due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19),

Whereas, the majority of our California membership in Subordinate Councils of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California are in the "at risk" age demographic and are being advised to avoid public gatherings,

Whereas, our Constitution in Section 37-2 provides for the expenditure of Council funds without the express consent of the Council in non-emergency situations, viz, (a) Funds disbursed by the Charity Committee; (b) Funds due to the Grand Council (Per Capita, Annual Insurance, Supplies, etc.); (c) Funds paid for local, California, or Federal taxes,

Whereas, our Constitution in Section 10-1 defines the Grand Master's duties as, "The Grand Master, during the interval between Annual Assemblies, has all the executive power of Grand Council, except the granting of Charters. ...",

I therefore issue this General Order to cope with the declared State and National Emergency:

For the months of March 2020 and April 2020, if the installed Illustrious Master deems it prudent, he may elect the option of authorizing the payment of regular necessary bills, limited to those delineated below, if made with the unanimous consent of the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, and the Inspector (six in total). The Recorder will make a memorandum of the officers polled and their consent.

Such necessary regular payments that may be authorized include:

1. The Council's rent payable to the Masonic Hall Association,
2. The Council's monthly trestleboard printing and postage or assessment,
3. Utilities (including regular telephone and internet charges),
4. Previously authorized secondary insurance payments,
5. Previously authorized bond on the Treasurer and/or Recorder,
6. Printing and postage required by the Recorder for sending notices to the membership.

Councils may approve such payments against the Council funds only when the bills are supported by proper documentation, such as an invoice or receipt. No warrant shall be drawn unless there are sufficient funds to honor it.

Most Illustrious Companion Eduardo Estrada, KYGCH
159th Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California
Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California



California Grand Commandery COVID-19 Response



The average age of our York Rite membership is almost 66. Since the threat of the Corona Virus is considered to be greater for those over 60, it is important that we reduce the exposure of our older Sir Knights to this sickness.

Therefore, we are directing that all stated conclaves from now until April 30th be suspended, without adverse consequences to the organization, at the option of the Presiding Officer.

Those Commanderies that meet bi-monthly or quarterly may reschedule any meeting during this period to a day of their choosing in the following month or quarter, except Sunday. Exceptions to this suspension are hereby permitted under either of the following circumstances:

I. The Presiding Officer in consultation with his Dais Officers, Recorder, and Treasurer, may choose to hold the stated meeting, as usual, but taking suitable precautions, such as:

- a. The use of gloves and/or hand sanitizer when touching is felt to be necessary;
- b. Limiting contact between Sir Knights;
- c. Urging your members to wash their hands before and after each meeting, to not touch their face during the meeting, and to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing.

II. The Stated meeting during the suspension period is held by teleconference, under the following conditions:

- a. Each member must contact the Recorder for the access code, which will be given to the member when the Recorder can identify and vouch for the member;
- b. The usual and appropriate quorum requirements are met;
- c. Members will not release the conference call number to anyone even a known fellow member, who must himself contact the Recorder;
- d. Non-member visitors are not permitted;
- e. No secret work will be mentioned at the conference;
- f. Commanderies may use the Short Form opening on pages 98-99;
- g. Each member participating will have a copy of the Bible in his visible presence;
- h. No video conferencing is permitted;
- i. No recording, audio or video, is permitted.

III. Absent the ability to hold a stated conclave as described in "II" above, a Presiding Officer along with the Recorder, and the Treasurer, acting in concert by teleconference, may, by email from the Recorder, solicit votes from members on matters of immediate concern, such as the payment of bills, election of representatives to Grand Sessions meetings, approval of stipends to defray expenses of Dais officers and/or elected representatives, and other urgent matters as determined by the Presiding Officer. Such voting on bills or expenses may not be necessary if they are provided for in your annual budget, as approved by your membership. Quorum requirements must still be met, so any action considered must have a total of six or more members, or nine in the case of full form opening, voting for, against, or abstaining.

In the case of either circumstance, Recorders must still produce minutes that document actions taken, and identify who participated so that the Sentinel's Register can be maintained. Copies of relevant emails should be attached to the minutes, certifying who voted and how. No balloting on petitions is permitted under Options II and III above.

Requirements for notification of members about meetings will be deemed to have been satisfied, if email messages are sent at least one day before the teleconference or, for members that do not have email addresses, phone calls are made at least one day prior to the teleconference.

In Unity,

Sir Knight William A. McBroome, Jr., KYGCH
161st Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery
Knights Templar California

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar COVID-19 Response

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11

POSTPONEMENT OF THE STATED CONCLAVE OF A GRAND, SUBORDINATE, OR CONSTITUENT COMMANDERY

March 10, 2020

To all Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

GREETINGS:

The numbers of persons infected with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, are increasing in the United States and throughout the world, posing a danger to vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, many of whom are our Fratres. In the face of the crisis, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge persons to "avoid all nonessential travel" and take other appropriate measures to prevent community transmission of the virus, for example, avoiding large public gatherings and working from home.

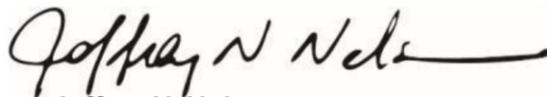
Accordingly, I, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, by the authority in me vested by Section 23 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, do hereby waive the requirement of Section 36 (a) of the Constitution and authorize the Grand Commander of each Grand Commandery within the Grand Encampment, with the prior approval of the cognizant Department Commander, to postpone its Stated Conclave for a period not to exceed six (6) months. In the event of such postponement, the revised date for the Stated Conclave shall not conflict with the date of the Stated Conclave of another Grand Commandery within the Department. Any postponement for a longer term shall require my approval.

In the alternative, I authorize the Grand Commander or his designee to convene the Stated Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Constitution.

In addition, I do hereby waive the requirement of Section 65 (a) of the Constitution, and authorize the Commander of a Constituent Commandery within each Grand Commandery, with the prior approval of the Grand Commander, to postpone or cancel a quarterly Stated Conclave or, alternatively, to convene the same by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Constitution. Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies enjoy the same discretion, subject to prior approval of the cognizant Department Commander.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at Bismarck, North Dakota, this tenth day of March 2020, A.O. 902.

Courteously,



Jeffrey N. Nelson
Most Eminent Grand Master
Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

Attest:



Lawrence Eugene Tucker
Right Eminent Grand Recorder





SACRAMENTO YORK RITE
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

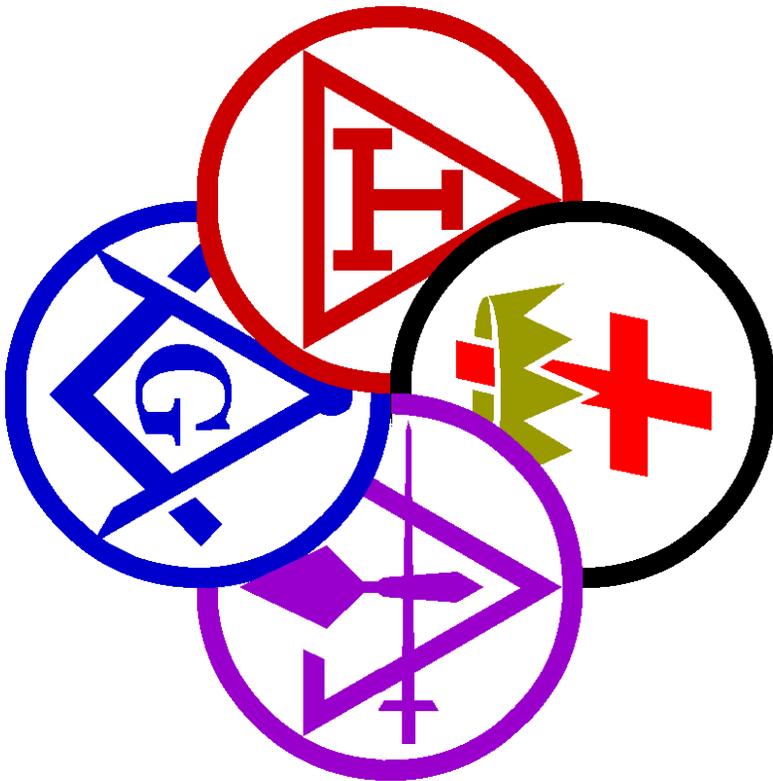
RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

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MAY 2020

SACRAMENTO YORK RITE
NEWS



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