

THE WORKMAN



Thomas C. Chavez
NOVEMBER 2023

GHP Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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Grand High Priest's Message

“CONNECT * COMMUNICATE * COMMITMENT”

Greetings Companions,

November is the month to be thankful for a lot of things: for family, health, career, and all the endeavors in our life. We must thank The Lord the Almighty for what He gave us. I traveled to Santa Monica 4 weeks ago to attend a 3 Way Reception. My stay in Santa Monica was very pleasant. The Venue was very amazing, where all the beautiful Yachts were anchored. The companions were very receptive and hospitable.

On October 20 and 21, I attended the Northwest and Southwest Conference in Utah. It was a remarkable and valuable experience for me. I felt the importance and very proud of introducing myself as your Grand High Priest of California along with the other leaders of different Jurisdiction.

My last stop for the month of October is Grand Lodge Annual Communication. October 27-29th. Thank you for stopping-by at the York Rite booth just to say hi! My sincere thanks goes also, to RE David Sokol, Grand King; MEC Lee Routt, PGHP; MEC Steve Goad, PGHP; EC Richard Villegas, Grand Chaplain South; and of course, the other leaders of York Rite of California, MIGM Mike Sherman, RI DGM Jeff White and MIPGM Bob Morrison of Cryptic Masons of CA. There were several Master Masons brothers that stopped by and made inquiries about York Rite.

My wife Angie and I were very proud that MW Randall Brill, Grand Master of Masons in California, introduced me at the Grand Master's Banquet as your Grand High Priest of the GCRAM of California. On Sunday, October 29th a new Grand Master was installed who is also a Companion of a local Chapter, MW Sean Metroka, Grand Master of Masons in California for 2023-2024.

Companions: continue to build the Grand Chapter, us Royal Arch Companions. I cannot do this by myself. As I mentioned in my previous messages, we must work as a TEAM. We must continue working on building memberships. We must continue to Connect, get engaged with brother Master Masons and promote York Rite; Communicate to them the values you received and your experiences of being a member; Show them your Commitment to our Craft and to your Chapter. "Together Everyone Achieves More."

Talk to the leaders of your Chapter, let them know what you want to learn and be proactive. You must show your commitment. It is not easy but, if we show our sincerity, dedication, and commitment, we will all improve ourselves in Royal Arch Masonry. HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU and YOUR FAMILY!

Sincerely and fraternally,

**ME Thomas C. Chavez, KYGCH
169th Grand High Priest
Royal Arch Masons of California**

GRAND LECTURER

Companions All:

November is indeed a time of Thanksgiving and we are all gearing up for Chapter installations over the next three months! It all starts with Officer Qualifications and a commitment to lead in 2024! Every Chapter should be examining its Officer line to ensure they are ready to lead your Chapter next year! The ritual is always important because it distinguishes us from every other body in Freemasonry both in its secrets, but also in its esoteric meanings and our dedication to performing it unaided to our Companions! California York Rite is unique in the Western USA

because we try harder to deliver our ritual from memory than our neighbors! Everyone appreciates these efforts from the candidates to the members to our observers whenever we make the effort and it shows our dedication to the CA Blue Lodge standard when we match their efforts at ritual excellence! Don't forget that our Captains of the Host are held to the same standard as the Senior Deacons in Blue Lodge for qualification to hold office! Our ritual staff is held to a high expectation to help with qualifications and to ensure your Chapter is on a par with the Chapters around you! Our new members coming from

Festivals expect us to perform locally to the same high proficiency as their Blue Lodge and the cast of the Festival! Don't disappoint them and have them doubt their decision to join us rather than our competition for their time! I recently attended the Grand Lodge Communication in SF, the Colorado River Fall Festival in Laughlin NV and the NW/SW Regional York Rite Conference in Salt Lake City UT which inspired my words above concerning our standards of performance and excellence in our Chapters! One only need travel to another jurisdiction in the West to appreciate what we have here in CA! Let us work harder to keep what we have achieved here from falling! Happy Thanksgiving and be safe around the Holidays! COVID and RSV and Flu still haunt us!

Your Most Humble Grand Lecturer

Steve

GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank. The Officers' Conference is set for March 1-3, and Grand Sessions for May 16-21. In May, the Grand Council Assembly will meet on the 17th with the Thrice Illustrious Master conferred in the afternoon and installation in the evening. The Grand Council Family Dinner will therefore occur on Thursday night, the 16th, at a place TBD. After the installation the Grand Commandery will enjoy its Family Dinner. On Saturday the Grand Commandery Conclave will meet, with the PCA conferred in the afternoon and installation in the evening. After the installation the Grand Chapter will enjoy its Family Dinner. Sunday will be much like it has been in past years, with the Drill Team, Vespers and the Grand Banquet enjoyed

by all, with a side-degree conferred for everyone's entertainment after the Banquet. The Corporation meeting is also scheduled for 8:00 am Sunday morning. Grand Chapter will hold its Grand Convocation on Monday, followed by the Order of High Priesthood and installation in the evening. Trustees will stay over to Tuesday for a Corporation meeting. The Golden State Chapter of Research will meet on Sunday or Monday, TBD.

SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

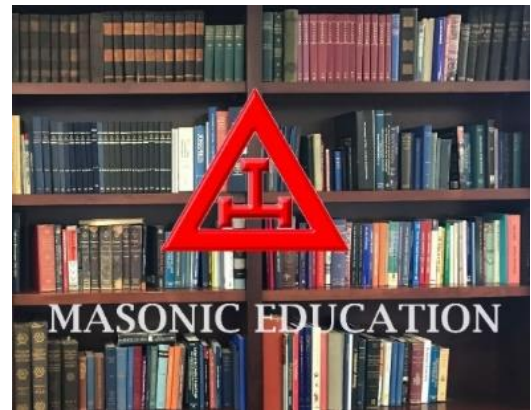
Secretaries new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for

Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.

Another good source of information for the Secretary can be found in the Grand Chapter Forms and Documents folder, called Chapter Secretary Desktop Procedures, *at the new website:*

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/chapter/Chapter%20Secretary%20Desktop%20Procedures%20v2.pdf>

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER



Companions,

The next Research Chapter meeting will be a ZOOM meeting on Saturday, December 2nd at 5:00 pm. You do not need to be a Royal Arch Mason to attend this meeting. We will be glad to hand you a petition and read it at this meeting. We will also have the Grand Orations Book, years 2020-2022, for a donation of \$10.00. Only a few are left after our last meeting at Grand Sessions in Visalia.

Any Royal Arch Mason, in good standing within a Chapter of any jurisdiction in amity with the Grand Chapter of California, is welcome to apply for affiliation with the Chapter as a full member. Any other person may become a Subscription member and receive information by our emailings and attend non-tiled meetings. We can read your Petition to Affiliate at any of our meetings. A blank petition and instructions are provided in this newsletter. Questions may be directed to the Golden State Chapter of Research Secretary:

Bruce Rick at: bar972@outlook.com.



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 -- \$115.00 plus shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$125.00 plus shipping for sizes 50 to 59, also in short, regular, and tall; and \$135.00 plus shipping, for sizes 60-69. 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.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2023 TO MAY 2024

Date	Event	Location
Nov 20 – Dec 1	Vacation Cruise	The Ocean somewhere
Nov 23, 2023	Thanksgiving	Everywhere
Nov 24-26, 2023	NorCal DeMolay	Burlingame
Mar 1-3, 2024	Officers' Conference	Burbank Marriott
Mar 9, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Diego, 6:00 pm
Mar 10, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Bernardino
May 16-21, 2024	Grand Sessions	Burbank Marriott

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below, or go to the Grand York Rite website calendar at:

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

TAX REPORTING

Robert Wellington of Orange County Chapter No. 73 is willing to assist Chapters with guidance to restore their tax exempt status, if needed. If you would rather speak to a brother, Companion and Sir Knight, than an IRS or FTB agent, feel free to contact Bob at rozekroy@gmail.com

GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand High Priest:

Thomas C. Chavez, KYGCH
650-766-2319
thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com

Grand Secretary:

Richard W. Bullard, KYGCH
619-993-4840 (C)
Grand.Secretary.ca@gmail.com

Assistant Grand Secretary:

Tom Krummell, KYCH
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(562) 924-6500(W) x 1001
(916) 844-8252(C)
Tom.Krummell@gmail.com

Editor:

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH
(916) 712-4814(C)
Grand.recorder.cm.ca@gmail.com

Websites:

WWW.YORKRITECA.ORG *****NEW*****

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website: WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES
Website: WWW.CA-GYRS.OR

SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS -- REVISED

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org. The new website will require you to have a userid, and to have established a password. Once you LOGIN, you will see a long white line, above which you will see:

ROYAL ARCH FORMS CRYPTIC COUNCIL FORMS COMMANDERY FORMS

Then click on the appropriate FORMS. In ROYAL ARCH FORMS, scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection** – You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.
2. **Membership control** – Membership information is now managed in the MMS system – Masonic Membership Solutions. Important changes to your membership include new members, suspensions, demits, and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.
3. Do not cavalierly suspend members for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: See Section 201 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/documents/royal-arch/ROYAL_ARCH_Constitution_2022_final.pdf

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/cryptic-council/pdf/Grand_Council_Constitution_2022.pdf

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202022.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th for Chapter and Councils (and April 1st for Commanderies) does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year numbers of active members in MMS. This is the source of your Per Capita bill. Without good data on your membership in MMS you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. Do so before the end of the year. **But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS so you can enter deceased and suspended data.**
5. **Insurance** -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.
6. **Lodge Book of Marks** – Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.
7. **Minutes** – Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s). **Also, please send the candidate class names to the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.**
8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the May meeting, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend; and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of the Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members, however, cannot issue proxies. The appropriate Chapter forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials." Or, alternatively, the forms for all three bodies can be found at www.ca-gyrs.org.
9. **Order of High Priesthood** – Be sure the current HP and PHPs know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander's Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the www.ca-gyrs.org.



Petition for Affiliation

Golden State Chapter of Research, Royal Arch Masons

To the Excellent High Priest, Officers and Members of Golden State Chapter of Research, Royal Arch Masons of California:

I, _____, respectfully represent that

- I am / not a resident of the State of California but resident in _____
- I am a Master Mason in good standing of _____ Lodge No. _____, F. & A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____;
- I am a Royal Arch Mason in good standing of _____ Chapter No. _____, R.A.M., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____;
- I desire to be affiliate with Golden State Chapter as a dual / plural member of your Chapter, and
- If elected to membership, I promise cheerful compliance with the Bylaws of Golden State Chapter and Constitution of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California.

In connection with this petition, I provide the following additional information about myself:

Residence Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Residence Telephone _____ Mobile Phone _____ Email: _____

Business Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Telephone: _____

Date of Petition _____, 20____

Signature of Petitioner _____

Recommendations:

The undersigned, member of Golden State Chapter, recommend the Chapter grant this petition:

1. Signature _____ Printed Name _____