

# THE WORKMAN



Leland G. Routt, GHP Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

**MAY 2020**

**Vol. XI No. 12**

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## Grand High Priest's Message

Companions,

Wasn't April a great month? All of the visits, festivals and receptions all around the state. Sorry, I just had an hallucination and must have imagined a whole month of great activity, while actually not going anywhere or any of those events actually happening.

I do hope the arrival of May finds each of you in good health and soaring spirits due to all this rest. I haven't had any reports of members affected by the virus, though we have had other health problems reported with the members improving now.

Some of our Chapters need to have some paperwork filed with the IRS to correct their non-profit status and I know that those problems are being worked by our capable Secretaries and Treasurers. Hopefully they have access to all required records during the lock-down or can get them as soon as possible. See the **TAX REPORTING** article below.

Some districts and Chapters are having online social and practice sessions. This is helping to keep some of our Chapters healthy and active. Keep up the good work my Companions.

**The annual outdoor festival at the end of June is still being planned at this time! Keep it on your calendar, and bring a candidate!**

**The biggest question that I have been getting is about Grand Sessions, when and are we going to have them? The short answer is YES. We are planning on a delayed and shortened Annual Sessions. The current planned dates are July 14-16, 2020 with Grand Commandery on Tuesday, Grand Chapter on Wednesday and Grand Council on Thursday. Please register with the forms from the Grand York Rite website as soon as possible, so we can get an accurate count on attendance. There will not be a Grand Banquet this year! The daily sessions will pretty much follow the same format as in past years.**

**We do have some legislation to take care of that has already been submitted. A planning group is looking at possible legislation to cover a possible reoccurrence of the current pandemic issue or other reasons to make a major change of session dates that are not planned in advance.**

**This has been a hard year due to several reasons, but this is particularly hard on the incoming Grand Officers because the receptions that are usually held following the normal May sessions have had to be cancelled or postponed. Planning for them has been difficult. The Grand King Richard "Dick" Bullard, has really stepped up and helped with the hard decisions and sessions planning. I would like to publicly thank him for the advice, assistance and overall support he has been all year.**

**Receptions serve as an official visit to a Chapter or District by the Grand Officers, providing a forum for the Presiding Grand Officers to present their annual message to members that are not able to attend the Grand Sessions . These events are more than a social gathering for honoring the Grand Presiding Officers; they are an important opportunity for the Grand Officers to get to know the members. My request is that, if restrictions are lifted before the Sessions happen in July, please honor the Grand King, as if he had been installed in May. If schedules had remained as planned, he would already be the Presiding officer – therefor, he would be the proper person to be honored.**

**On that note I must take a bit of time to say that the officers in the progressive grand line are some of the finest Royal Arch Masons I have ever met. They are dedicated to making our Craft better in every way. From our finances to membership and activities they all bring something important to the table and are all terrifically capable and experienced Royal Arch Masons. Our other elected officers also have performed in an admirable manner: the Grand Lecturer teaching and coaching in our ritual with unparalleled enthusiasm and dedication even during the lockdown; the Grand Secretary and his assistant with keeping the office open for business by alternating days in the office and doing work from home -- these two have performed far beyond expectations and I thank them for all of their work this year and particularly for the work done during the lock-down; our Grand Treasurer for doing a great job, while still working full time for the government and finding time to look after our funds!**

All of the appointed officers have performed well as I have expected when I chose them for their appointed positions. Sadly a longtime friend and my appointment as Grand Sentinel, Excellent Companion Edgar David "Dave" Blundell KYCH, passed to be with the Great Architect on December 31, 2019. I miss him greatly and have appointed another long time friend and dedicated Royal Arch Mason, Excellent Companion Kenneth Edwards KYCH to complete the year as Grand Sentinel.

Keep well and as we come out of the lock-down please resume your Chapter attendance and bring someone who wasn't attending with you!

Fraternally,

Leland G. Routt, KYGCH  
165<sup>th</sup> Grand High Priest  
Royal Arch Masons of California

## **GRAND SESSIONS 2020**

### Companions and Sir Knights

The Grand Officers and Trustees voted to re-schedule Grand Sessions to July 14-16 at the Wyndham in Visalia. This, of course, is conditional on the Grand Master removing his restriction on Masonic meetings before then, and other public health considerations. As this is a weekday event, there will be no "frills" - no Banquet, no Drill Team, no Vespers program (except a modified version on Tuesday morning during the public session at the Grand Conclave), 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.

Please check the website for the latest registration documents and meeting schedules: [www.ca-gyrs.org](http://www.ca-gyrs.org). If you run into an issue of booking your room before the deadline, please send the details to [reservations@ca-gyrs.org](mailto:reservations@ca-gyrs.org) or call Dave Glass at (916) 616-3283. He will work with the hotel to resolve or explain why you

could not book your room (i.e. we have filled our block).

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.

You will also find all of the forms needed for the sessions:

- Event Reservations
- Proxy and Elected Representative
- Applications for the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master and Past Commanders Association
- The Souvenir Program Ad Request

We have a limited number of vendor tables available for the sessions. If you are interested in selling items in our Vendor / Registration Room, please fill out the form at <http://ca-gyrs.org/vendors>. Also that page has the list of the Vendors who are confirmed and a brief explanation of their business/product.

We still need some help at the sessions itself:

- The Registration table – open to the Companions / Sir Knights and the Ladies. This committee is responsible for checking in the attendees and issuing their registration packet. We need people there every day. This is separate from the Credentials Committee that is assigned by the M.E. Grand High Priest, the M.I. Grand Master and the R.E. Grand Commander.
- We need a few volunteers to be part of the Set Up Committee. They are responsible for setting up the paraphernalia for each Grand Session.
- Also, a couple of volunteers to check people in for each breakfast and lunch.

To sign up for a committee, please visit the volunteer page at [www.ca-gyrs.org](http://www.ca-gyrs.org) or

contact GYRS Executive Director Randy Downey at [executivedirector@ca-gyrs.org](mailto:executivedirector@ca-gyrs.org) or calling him at (408) 674-8341

Dates for the 2020 California Grand York Rite are now set as follows:

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – Grand Commandery

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – Grand Chapter

Thursday, July 16, 2020 – Grand Council

## SUN-SHINE REPORT

There are undoubtedly many in the York Rite who are suffering, but here are the latest reports available today:

### Bill Allen, Past Grand High Priest:

Bill went into ICU at Kaiser in Claremont at 3 pm Saturday, May 2nd. He hasn't been able to keep anything down when he eats. Judy, his wife, explains that Bill is in recovery, but the Doctors were unable to remove the stent that migrated from the esophagus to the stomach. The gastroenterologist felt it was not safe to remove. He will go to X-ray next. After that, the general surgeons are going to evaluate next steps and how to place a feeding tube, or other way to give him nutrition. My heart went to my stomach for a bit when I heard they could not remove the stent from his stomach as that has been agitating his ability to keep food or liquids down." She said that she prays for "God's better report. I know He has this. The spiritual battle is real and comes in like a flood and I have to pray away fear and doubt. God is good! God is faithful! I have to keep my eyes on Him. And my updates will be

challenging because I am not allowed to stay in hospital because of the covid-19 rules.” On Sunday she said that she “ FaceTimed with Bill this morning for a little bit and again around 4pm. He can only have ice chips and he is hooked up to an IV. He is hungry. They are trying to set up surgery for Monday.”

### Pauline Morrison

“Our yard is in full bloom as Bob and I are social distancing ourselves from each other! The surgery that was cancelled in March is rescheduled for April 30th as emergency surgery. I had a CT scan and the tumor has enlarged and is growing into the cheek tissue. Wish me luck and add a little prayer that it isn’t cancerous.” *The surgery went well and the tumor was not cancerous!*

“As I’m slowly starting to feel more myself, I would like to again thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers. But today I want to thank the one person who has been by my side from the beginning of my journey with cancer. I have been so blessed to have found my soul-mate, my buddy, my husband. Traveling this road has tested our relationship that would have broken so many. I have not dealt with cancer alone. Bob has been by my side through it all. He gives me the strength to push forward, sometime it’s a word, touch or kiss! Seeing the worry on his face and the fear in his eyes are so heart breaking! But because of this I will put one foot in front of the other and continue this fight. Giving us hope, faith and love that God has us in his hands and he will give us all the strength that we both need to carry on. I love you Buddy!”

### Jesse Dela Cruz

“Many of you are aware that Jesse Dela Cruz, Past Master of San Leandro Lodge and member of the Cal York Rite bodies, is battling COVID-19 at Southern Hills Hospital in Las Vegas. Here is the latest update from Jesse’s daughter since Saturday May 2nd: “He is heavily sedated, and will be on intubation for 12 more days. Reduced his oxygen from 80% to 50% level dependency. He is breathing better. He had dialysis yesterday morning and again in the evening to help his kidney because he is not peeing enough. EKG results are all good. Doctors are finding and removing blood clots. Please pray for his fast recovery.” Bob Whitfield

### Dan McDaniel, PGC

REPGC Dan was admitted to the Hospital a few days ago. No details are available but he is home now and feeling much better! Reported by REPGC W. Bruce Pruitt, who can provide more info as needed.

## GRAND LECTURER

### Companions All

Happy May and may you share my hope for being able to meet again face to face this month! Our ritual requires face to face engagement to be performed correctly, and we must patiently wait until we are able to meet together before proceeding to confer our Degrees! Having said that, what are the important facets of our ritual that must be communicated correctly to the candidates? First is *visual*, then *tactile*, then *auditory* and finally *sensory*! So we are looking for a time when we can properly set up our Chapters, conduct candidates around the

Chapter by touch (although that doesn't require hand to hand touch), and protect them with a mask which we may all be required to wear and speak through. Lighting and scent can be adjusted to support the other senses! Please use common sense when designing local conditions to confer our Degrees! Your ritual staff will be the best place to start when planning your RE-entry back into active Royal Arch meetings! Above all, practice first and keep everyone Safe, and defer rather than confer!

Best Always - Your Most Humble and Currently Isolated Grand Lecturer!

Steve

## GOLFERS OF THE RITE UNITE!

**As you may expect, the Golf Tourney has been canceled.** Hopefully, we will be able to hold it next year. If you made a donation by buying a Hole, the cost will be refunded to you if you wish. Already over \$1,000 of these donations have been left with the Grand Chapter for its programs. Please let Tom Chavez know if you would like a refund. He can be reached at: [thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com); or at 2214 Elliott Dr, American Canyon, CA 94503-4106; or call him at 650-766-2319.

## COMPTCHE– 2020

The outdoor festival this last year was a great success, and Chapters should be planning now to build a class of

candidates for this June. Assuming the Grand Master has lifted his restrictions on masonic meetings, and other public health considerations permit, the Festival at Comptche will still be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

See the picture below to see how much space is available for parking, RVs, tents, and so forth.



Be sure to put Comptche on your Calendar for 2020. The 2020 Festival, if you can see(!) your way there, will be on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

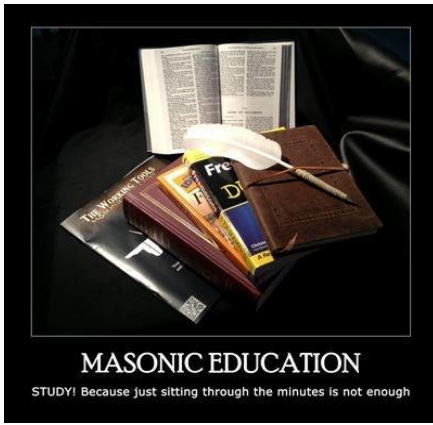
Secretaries new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.

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:

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyrf/forms/Chapter>

If you are prompted for a username and/or password, call your Inspector, or anyone in the CONTACTS section below.

## GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER



Companions,

The installation of Officers elected at the annual meeting in Visalia last May took place Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the semi-annual meeting in San Francisco, during the Grand Lodge Annual Communications. The meeting in the new Lodge Room constructed on the Grand Lodge premises was filled with over 26 members present, and 8 new petitions were presented and balloted upon.

The Annual meeting this year would ordinarily be scheduled on July 15, 2020, but there is not likely to be enough time, given the need for a luncheon, the Order of High Priesthood, and the photographs for the Installation and the Installation and Reception afterwards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert A Morrison, Secretary

## GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

The application period for the Royal Arch Scholarships for 2020 is now closed. Applications for 2021 Scholarships will soon be available at:

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

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really “KNOW” they are available?

California Royal Arch \$1,000 Scholarship requirements:

A member of the Masonic Family  
(ie: Rainbow, Jobs Daughter or DeMolay)

A US Citizen

A California Resident

A 3.0 Grade Point Average

Enrolled or Accepted at an

Educational Institution

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Scholarship Program is March 1, 2021. Submissions can be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Chapter Secretary at

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons

Attn: Grand Secretary

1123 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: (562) 924-6500 x 1123

E-mail: [sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org](mailto:sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org).

Once chosen, the award of \$1,000 is renewable for a total of 4 years, as long as the requirements are maintained. Do you know a Rainbow Girl, Job's Daughter or DeMolay that could benefit by knowing this information? What are you waiting for – make that call!



## 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](http://www.mpenterprises.weebly.com); or directly to his email at [maxluy@hotmail.com](mailto:maxluy@hotmail.com).

## ENCOMPASSER

The April 2020 edition is now available on the website. If you must have hard-copy, please call the Grand Secretary's office at the contact numbers listed below.

[http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/encompasser%20issues/Encompasser October 2019.pdf](http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/encompasser%20issues/Encompasser%20October%202019.pdf)

## GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR

MAY 2020 – JULY 2020

Date	Event	Location
May 2-7	<b>Grand Sessions</b>	Visalia
Jun 27	Chapter Festival	Comptche
July 14 - 17	Grand Sessions	Visalia

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 “will be assisting Whitter with its necessary documentation if needed, or any other body that might need some guidance.” If you would rather speak to a brother, Companion and Sir Knight, than an IRS or FTB agent, feel free to contact Bob at 714-396-0846, or [rozekroy@gmail.com](mailto:rozekroy@gmail.com)



## **GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Grand High Priest:**

Leland G. Routt, KYGCH  
(925) 989-8400(C)  
[Leland@Lroutt.com](mailto:Leland@Lroutt.com)

### **Grand Secretary:**

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH  
1123 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(562) 924-6500 (W) x 1123  
(916) 712-4814(C)  
[sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org](mailto:sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org)

### **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](mailto:Tom.Krummell@gmail.com)

### **Editor:**

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH  
(916) 712-4814(C)  
[philipandnancy@aol.com](mailto:philipandnancy@aol.com)

### **Websites:**

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

**GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH  
Website:**

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

**GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES  
Website:**

[WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG](http://WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG)

## SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: [www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org](http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org).

Scroll down and click on "York Rite Forms and Documents." Then click on the appropriate logo. A window opens where you enter the userid, which is "cagyr" and the password, which is "brio"

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 the 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 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Membership control** -- Especially important is the very last item, "Royal Arch Monthly Report." This is relevant to you as a Secretary/Recorder if you do not yet have a userid for access to MMS – Masonic Membership Solutions. If you fill the paper report out each month, whenever you encounter changes to the membership, you will find it much easier at the end of the year to produce the year-end report, which is used to compute the amount of per capita the Chapter needs to pay. That payment is due by Jan 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits 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 <http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Chapter/ROYAL%20ARCH%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at <http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Council/Grand%20Council%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at <http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year number of active members that is crucial for us when we compute

your per capita payment. Without good data 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. But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS.

5. **Insurance** -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15<sup>th</sup>, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary-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.
8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the April 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 cannot issue proxies. The appropriate forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials."
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 secure website.