

Robert Morrison, KYGCH

160th Grand Master Cryptic Masons California



Most Illustrious Companion

Sword & Trowel

January 2021

The Sword and Trowel is a monthly Newsletter published by the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California and provides information to all Companions of Grand York Rite of California.

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Vision Statement

Cryptic Masonry is an organization where men of good character come together to improve themselves, their families, and their communities.

It is where the highest Masonic values are learned by it's members and applied in all their doings.

As Cryptic Masons, we learn a way of life from our ancient teachings, develop meaningful and fulfilling lifelong relationships, and grow as enlightened men. We never hesitate to go out of our way to assist a widow, or a fallen brother.

Furthermore, membership in our Cryptic Councils provides us with a place where we, and our families, can find spirituality and likeminded positive thinkers, and where members of our community can depend on us for stability, leadership, and enlightenment.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Companions,

Well, it finally happened, 2020 has come to an end and we begin a new year. We can now look forward to getting back to a normal life and being allowed to meet in person once again. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed many things in our life but one thing that has not changed is the enthusiasm our members have for Cryptic Masonry and Masonry in general. We have many Blue Lodge Masons that have submitted application to receive the York Rite degrees. Our Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies are ready and eager to resume normal relations and starts conferring the beautiful degrees we have to offer. There is a great need to provide further light and attract new members into the York Rite. This past year we have not been able to make new York Rite members and our numbers continue to decline for a variety of reasons. With the promised vaccines on the horizon that should free us from these endless stay at home orders and it will be time to begin making new York Rite Masons. The Ritual Staff will begin to recertify officers and cast members in all the York Rite bodies to ensure that candidates receive the best possible conferral possible. You have heard it many times that, you only get one chance to make a first impression. It has been nearly one year since any degree conferrals have been held so I am sure that many of us will have to brush up on our ritual and practice the floor work required to make our degrees shine. We have many outstanding ritualists among our ranks, and I look forward to seeing them all in action. It will certainly be necessary to find new cast members to fill where some of the individuals that have held parts in the past are now longer available. For this reason, I urge all the officer coaches to take stock of who is still willing and able to take part in the conferral of degrees. It is time to get ready to perform our degrees and relearn or brush up on our parts. Not being ready to confer our degrees when we are again allowed to meet would be a travesty.

Elections should have all been done and we ready ourselves for the installation season. Many of the Councils have chosen to keep the same officers in place for the 2021 Cryptic year. If you belong to one of these Councils, please remember to file a “no elections held” form with the Grand York Rite office. Along with this form, please submit an election report form with the names and other information to update the 2021 constituent roster. People move or change phone numbers or select new email addresses and this information is vital to keep communications open.

On a personal note, I and my lady Pauline have moved to the State of Washington to be closer to family. Many of you already know that Pauline is battling breast cancer. We thought this was behind us, but such is not the case. Her cancer has gone to the lungs and bones. It has been very difficult for her to lay down and sit up because of the tumors on the rib and spine. She is going to begin radiation treatments which have proved to be successful in the past to reduce the pain. She and I would like to thank all our friends that have sent positive thoughts and prayers. They mean so much to both of us and certainly help us to get through some rough times. Pauline and I have lived in California since 1985 and it was a hard decision to make to leave so many wonderful friends. If we are released from the pandemic lock down, I will travel as required to meet the obligations of all the different organizations that I currently serve. Pauline will not be able to travel with me because of health issues but be sure to know that she will be with me in spirit. In closing, Happy New Year to all and let us hope for a much brighter future in 2021.

Robert Morrison and First Lady Pauline

For now, please live smart and stay safe and we will survive these troubled times.

As Always, Remember the Rites

Most Illustrious Companion Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH

160th Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

I will do my best to serve you all

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

I didn't want to write this article. I am depressed from this pandemic, depressed from the political situation in our country, and depressed that I cannot shake hands or even talk without wearing a mask. There, got that off my chest now let me attempt to change all this for a more livable situation that will enable me to sustain my optimistic self. In high school I was selected as an Optimist Boy of the Month. Didn't know what that meant at the time but I liked the word optimist and worked to figure out how to be one. Well, that was harder than I realized when there were others who labored to pop my balloon and show that reality was more hazardous. Why are some people so inclined to counter others happiness or good fortune? I still can't figure that one out fifty years later.

So here we are, in a deep hole that few have ever experienced before. In the 1919 flu epidemic the world was exposed to an unknown virus at the time that took millions of lives and a few years to overcome. We learned that we were vulnerable and only by preventive measures could we overcome it but especially with a vaccine. Let's try to apply some preventive measures today with some Masonic vaccine.

The situation today is well known, no in-person meetings of more than two at our Lodges, no physical contact other than a fist or elbow bump and always wearing a mask. There's a lot to be unhappy about there. Our society as a whole is challenged with shutdowns of most business, food service, and recreation opportunities. Our children are forced to adapt to distance learning over the inconsistent Internet and alone for the most part. Our democratic government is fractured right down the middle and God only knows which way that will turn out. But let me get out of this space and try to come up with some optimism.

As Brothers of the ancient craft of Masonry we are gifted with some incredible knowledge and direction accessed by research and learned through practice. We are blessed to have some incredible people working at our California Grand Lodge who have started programs to offer education and research over the Internet, as sketchy as the reception can be at times. We have a computer system from Grand that allows us to remotely govern our member's database, once again by access to the Internet, which seems to be the solution to a lot of problems as long as we can get reception, which is expensive, and computers to everyone. There is a structure to build on and I can hope to see the day when this all is commonplace.

Looking at the future of our Cryptic Council, let's stir things up a bit. I like to tell prospects that the Council is the end of the Hiram legend, telling how the secret word was preserved through the ages. The lessons follow those of Royal Arch nicely and enrich us with some enduring thoughts that stay with us long after the conferral. Our two Degrees are such that we feel complete in our knowledge of this part of Freemasonry. The Super Excellent Master Degree, while telling a useful lesson, is a better stage play. So why do more Knights of the York Cross of Honor settle into the Cryptic Councils regularly? What is so meaningful that leaders of the York Rite congregate here for reward? I'll leave that for your discovery but let me tell you that we are united in feeling peace and love for our Craft.

So, I know that my studies in Masonry will reveal serious truths about life and living it but how can I resist this rising of depression and resistance, which creeps into my life from time to time. Prayers are a major go-to for a confirmation of the love and faith offered to us from our Creator. I've learned through my years that prayers are merely conversations with our Lord, not structured or concerned with using the right words but fears and feelings and asking for help. I could stop right here in my analysis of the current situation because prayers seem to be the answer for everything, but there's a bit more.

My optimistic nature tells me that things will eventually get better and we will return to our habits of living. But I believe that we are at a crossroad of history. All drastic changes to the way we live have come about from disasters or acts of God. We have been placed in such a change with this Covid-19 virus affecting the entire world. The question is how can we survive this change and what do we want the future to look like. This is our challenge today. But I must close this note and tell you that I feel better now, not depressed but hopeful that through Masonry the Ancients are telling me to have faith that the house not made with hands is my reward. But I really want to know how we can change the world and I ask for your suggestions of what the future can be, let's communicate. And may each of us be blessed with the love around us.

R.I. Grand Principal Conductor of the Work,

Guy M. Chalmers, KYCH

Donating to CMMRF is as Easy as Shopping

As of August 2020, the **Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF)** has received only \$1,451.68 from AmazonSmile, out of the \$216 Million the AmazonSmile Foundation has donated to other charities. Why so little? Because our companions haven't designated **CMMRF** as their charity with AmazonSmile.

With no additional out-of-pocket cost, you can increase your donation to (**CMMRF**). If you intend to make online purchases from Amazon for the coming holidays or if you have groceries delivered due to the pandemic, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to CMMRF, **AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU**.

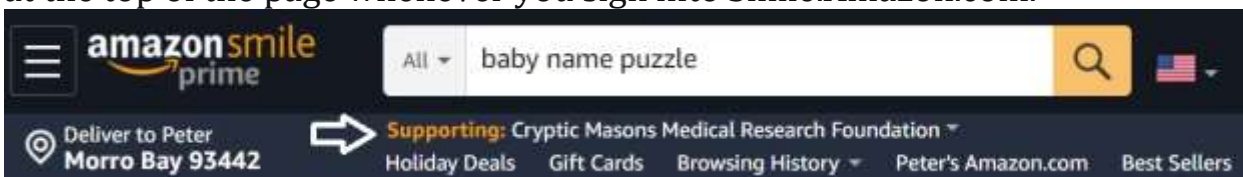
AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support our favorite charity every time you shop at Amazon. AmazonSmile is available at **smile.amazon.com** on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for Android and iOS phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the **exact same prices and selection as Amazon.com**, with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price (minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, or taxes) to the charitable organization of your choice.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile

1. Visit **smile.amazon.com**.
2. **Sign** in with your **Amazon.com** credentials.
3. Type in a Search box, Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation.
4. Select the **charity**.

Your price is identical with or without the donation, so sign up for the automatic donations to CMMRF and sign up your lady as well. Once you have chosen the charity, it will show up at the top of the page whenever you sign into Smile.Amazon.com.



Right Illustrious Companion

Peter G. Champion, KYCH, & Lady Janice

Deputy Grand Master, Grand Council Cryptic Masons

San Luis Obispo Council No. 38

Note: We switched to smile.amazon.com and have generated \$1.73 for Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Yea, I know, that is not a lot of money but for me it is, since we do not use Amazon much. Switch to smile.amazon.com, if you spend a lot or if you spend a little, the money generated will go to Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CCMRF).

Cryptic Masons Recorder

Forms & Documents: located at Grand York Rite website: [Grand York Rite of California](#).

Click on "**Special Documents.**"

Click on Grand Council Documents (In white). You will be presented with a screen (links):

- [**Grand Council COVID-19 Response**](#)
- [**Council Budget**](#)
- [**Council "pdf" Forms \(fillable\)**](#) Please use these pdf forms and if you find any errors, please notify web master as to error.
- [**Council Proceedings**](#)
- [**Council Questionnaires for Dias Officers**](#)
- [**Council Resolutions**](#)
- [**Close Full Form Cryptic Masons
Illustrious Master of the Year - Report Card
Thrice Illustrious Masters Petition
Elected Representative Proxy Credentials
Elected Representatives Credential
2019 Grand Sessions Results**](#)
- [**2020 Ample Form Usage by ADR & Inspectors
2020 Election Procedures**](#)

1. **Dues Collection:** You should send out dues' notices no later than **October**, with payments from members due by December 31st. MMS Database is used by Grand Recorder for per-capita billing to each Council of Cryptic Masons, with data updated by December 31.

2. **Membership control:** MMS Database is used to compute amount of per capita Council needs to pay. Billing is accomplished by Grand Recorder & payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits & deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members & you can easily then forward monthly newsletter, **Workman (Royal Arch Masons) & Sword & Trowel (Cryptic Masons) 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 & not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See following sections of relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Section 30-10. SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

1. Any member whose dues & assessments are unpaid for a period of 12 months may be considered for suspension.

2. Prior to such suspension, Recorder, at first Stated Assembly following first day of August of each year, shall furnish to Illustrious Master a list of members who have not paid current dues & assessments. Such members, if possible, shall be personally contacted with reference thereto by Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work or member appointed for this purpose, who shall report thereupon at next Stated Assembly.

3. Members who have not paid current year's dues & assessments by last day of October, & for whom remission of dues has not been recommended by Illustrious Master, shall be notified by Recorder under seal of Council by first class mail to his last known address that either his dues for current year be paid or cause shown for such failure or he may be subjected to suspension by Council at last Stated Assembly of year. Council may, by vote, suspend such members effective 31st day of December, provided their dues have not been received & no action has been taken to remit dues for that cause.

4. **Per Capita:** Per-capita is billed to each Council by Grand Recorder. Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by Council to be paid.

5. **Insurance:** You will be billed for Insurance payment by Grand Secretary-Recorder. Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid.

6. **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 & vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate basic petitioner information in minutes. It is also a good practice to keep names of attendees at each meeting in minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of cast members & candidate(s).

7. **Grand Sessions:** Before April meeting, remind Dais officers they are responsible to attend, & 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 cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members cannot issue proxies. Appropriate forms can be obtained on Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative & Proxy Credentials."

8. **Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of California:** Be sure current Illustrious Master & Illustrious Past Masters' know they are eligible to receive this Order. Share petition with them & send to Grand Recorder. Petitions for all three bodies are available at website.



Usually, we try to begin with a little humour. Humour is excellent for all and in today's world, Humor is the best. Smile and you have everyone confused. We always try to begin with humor but I found an article on Facebook, talking about Heaven and all of it's glories. "But first this is me and my dog. "A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?' 'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered.

Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked. Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up'. The man gestured, and the gate began to open. 'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveler asked. 'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?' 'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in..' 'How about my friend here?' the traveler gestured to the dog. There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveler asked.

This is Heaven,' he answered. 'Well, that's confusing,' the traveler said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.'

'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'"
Dogs & Cats are family ♥

Now, as an Inspector we must talk about Ritual. Did y'all know an Inspector must talk about Ritual, why its even in the Inspector's Hand Book; "an Inspector, at all Assemblies must initiate a discussion about Ritual". Ah ah gotcha on the one, you did not know Inspectors had a little Hand Book.

I remember when I was first working my way up the Chairs in the Blue Lodge. Junior Steward was hard, had to do all the work, Senior Steward just sat there and smiled and when called upon by the Worshipful Master, stood up and said "We have cake and ice cream after the stated meeting is closed".

Junior Deacon had a little memorization but was fun, didn't have to sit still during the stated meeting. Then went to Senior Deacon and all the Masons said, Wow, that is one tough position to know, the ritual is hard. Even in today's world, I hear it at Lodge, Senior Deacon is a tough position, lots of memorization. Why, it's so tough, that when you lay out the stair way, clues are written on each step, so that you will know what to say. I looked at my coach and said "Wow, this is going to be tough".

Even today, qualifying and opening a Council of Select Masters is beyond tough as the Illustrious Master must begin the ritual "Illustrious Companion of Tyre, shall we resume our ..." and the answer is "it is my ardent desire to see ...".

The Illustrious Master must again initiate a discussion "Companion Captain of the Guard, are all present Select Masters" and answer is "all present are Select Masters".

Wait a minute, the ritual gets harder and to make it harder we inserted math.

Illustrious Master "is our number complete?". The answer, being new to the ritual always confused me "I find the number three times nine". I never saw 27 Companions in any Assembly. Why would the answer be "I find the number three times nine"?

Well in the Olden Days, before you and I were born, Councils were limited to 27 Companions and we have improved, today, we allow any number of Companions to be in Council and we still have problems in obtaining a quorum.

What is the harm in having fun at our Council Assemblies, at our Chapter Convocations, at our Knights Templar Conclave? What is the harm in getting together with our wives and have dinner prior to our Assembly. Then we retire to our "room" while the wives enjoy dessert, maybe Chocolate. If we know our ritual, the meeting is not that long, then we can retire with our wives and maybe discuss how we can help our Community or our widows, or our Council as there are any number of discussions.

Yea, I know, I just got myself in trouble, again, suggesting we take our wives out to dinner once every other month or once a quarter. I don't know why I keep doing this, getting myself in trouble but this one is ok. Cause no one every reads the Sword and Trowel.

No York Rite in England

There is No York Rite in England

The first Grand Lodge in the world was proclaimed as the 'revival' of Freemasonry. This occurred at an Assembly of Free and Accepted Masons that constituted the 'Grand Lodge of London and Westminster' at the Goose and Gridiron Ale house in London on the 24 June 1717. Now known as the United Grand Lodge of England.

There is no York Rite in England as in California that is composed of the Mark, Past Master (Virtual), Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch.

The Mark degree is under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales and its' Districts and Lodge Overseas. The Grand Master, since 1982, is HRH Prince Michael of Kent. (He is the younger brother of HRH The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the U.G.L.E., and cousin to HM Queen Elisabeth II).

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has a larger membership than that of the Grand Lodge of California.

There are about 19 separate Grand Lodges of Mark Master Masons worldwide.

There is no Past Master (Virtual) Degree in England only an actual 'Past Master' degree. This Past Master degree, the name of 'Past' is a misnomer and often referred to as a 'Chair' Degree. It is conferred, in a tiled meeting, upon the Presiding Officer elect, by Installed Past Presiding Officers of that organization.

The Most Excellent Master Degree is much shorter and is part of the Royal and Select (Cryptic) degrees.

The Royal Arch Degree is conferred in a Chapter under the auspices of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. In addition to the Royal Arch Degree, that takes about one hour fifteen minutes to confer, there are three 'Chair' Degrees for the three Principal Officers. The First Grand Principal of the Supreme Chapter is HRH the Duke of Kent. He is also Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and was installed in 1967. Both Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter are separate and autonomous.

I received my Craft, Concordant and Scottish Rite degrees in England and served as one of nine appointed Stewards in my Lodge. A Steward in England works, as referred to in the California Installation ritual, "In olden times, your province was to superintend and provide for the Festivals of the Craft, to assist in the collection of dues and subscriptions, to keep an account of the expenses for refreshments, and to see that the tables were properly supplied and every Brother suitably provided for and to assist in service to the members. Dress was a business suit and white gloves worn in the Lodge".

'In olden times....' our duty as Stewards was to 'man' the Bar after the Stated meeting closed and before dinner. We would then wait as wine stewards during the Festive Board. All meals were catered and served by waiting staff.

Eight years later, I progressed to serve as Tyler of the Lodge. By which time I was able to recite the ritual of all three degrees. However, during Schools of Instruction practices we were never allowed to sit in the Master's Chair. A stool was placed in front. In England only a Master or Past Master can sit in the East and confer degrees. At that time, it would have taken another 6 years to become Master of the Lodge.

Unlike California there is no uniform ritual enforced upon the various Masonic organizations. In the U.G.L.E. there are 19 different rituals available with 9 in common usage. The Royal Arch, Mark Master Masons. Cryptic Council and Knights Templar have slight variations in the ritual. Stated Meetings can be just two a year but the norm is six a year with the summer months omitted.

My Lodge had nine meetings a year. My son's Lodge had five. My father's Lodge had eight. Special Meetings very rarely take place and then only after a Dispensation. There is one annual Ladies Night in the Craft. It is a splendid event held at a Hotel with gifts for the ladies. Cost is in the range of \$100 per person.

The Lodge and Concordant Bodies are responsible to ensure the ritual is taught and presented correctly. They also decide who is competent to assume Offices in the Lodge or Concordant Body. Grand Lodge or the respective Concordant Body do not interfere or dictate to the Lodge, Chapter, Council or Preceptory on how to run internal management unless called upon through gross negligence or incompetence. The Director of Ceremonies in the Lodge or Concordant Body (Officer's Coach) is the disciplinarian and controls all ritual and ceremonies. There are no Festivals. I received all my degrees as a single candidate.

When a Lodge reaches a membership near one hundred it is encouraged to form another Lodge. Most Lodges have about forty members, Chapters about thirty, Councils and Preceptories (Commandery) have about 20 members.

Generally, all Masonic meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are followed by a Festive Board with the last Toast soon after 9 p.m. Degrees are shorter as there are no lectures similar to those used in

California. Both the Royal Arch and Mark Degrees take just over one hour, that includes a business meeting, and are conferred at the Stated Meeting. All business is conducted prior to the Stated Meeting by a committee.

The Council Degrees are Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master.

As with all the other degrees the Knight Templar Orders are much shorter and followed by a Festive Board.

The Council head is the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England, Wales and its' Districts and Lodges Overseas.

The Great Priory of the United Religious Military and Masonic Order of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England, Wales and its provinces Overseas is presided over by the Most Eminent Grand Master. The Commandery/Preceptory is very exclusive and composed of three Orders. I had only been a Mason for 6 years when to my surprise I was invited. I found I was among some of the most distinguished Masons in the area. We met three times a year and it would have taken me 15 years to preside as Preceptor/ Commander.

In all the degrees and orders, you are expected to buy your own regalia. After serving as the presiding officer of the Lodge, or any of the Concordant Bodies you buy your own past presiding officer regalia. If you continue to serve in some capacity for two or more years, you may be invited (based upon merit) to receive a Provincial or District Grand rank, for which you pay a fee and again, buy your own regalia. If you continue to serve in an active capacity over a period of years then you may be offered Grand Rank and you pay a fee and buy your own regalia!

There are various levels of Provincial and Grand rank and the higher the rank offered is a reflection of merit for the service you have given. This system serves as an incentive for those who have passed through the Chair to continue to serve their Lodge or Concordant Body.

At the Stated Meeting there is usually a collection for the Almoners Fund. The Festive Board costs around \$40 and there is a raffle for charity and you are expected to spend at least \$10. At most meetings there are a number of visitors who are invited by members. The member pays for the meal for the guest and very often there is a reciprocal arrangement when you are invited to your guest's meeting.

Charity raised from members is a significant part of all meetings.

If you plan to visit one of the Masonic entities under the English constitution then you will need to purchase regalia as it is not provided to visitors. If you are a Past Presiding Officers the regalia costs more.

The fees to receive the degrees and Orders are higher than those charged in California, being related to annual dues.

Based upon 12 years as an English Freemason and 31 years as a California Freemason I believe one of the main differences between Freemasonry in California and England is: California is very intrusive upon the autonomy of the constituent Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery/Preceptory.

In England, the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery/Preceptory decide who is best qualified to serve as the presiding Officer and manage its own internal finances without intrusion from the Grand organization. This difference is like being a tenant or being the owner. This subtle difference is reflected in the attitude by which members assume responsibility to create a Lodge, Chapter, Council or Commandery/Preceptory of which they are proud to entertain visitors – even from the Grand Body!

California is much more open and democratic in the way Grand Officers conduct themselves among members. Both Jurisdictions contribute towards various charitable causes.

There is NOTHING in England that equals the Masonic Homes in California.

Edgar W. Fentum. PGHP., KYGCH., KTCH.

**Past Master: Medina Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 140
Isle of Wight England 1984**

Past Provincial Grand Junior Deacon

Prov. G. Lodge of Hampshire and I.W. GL MMM Eng. 1987

**Grand Rep to: GL of MMM Eng. 2000 Grand Council Royal and Select Masters Eng. 2005
Supreme Grand Chapter New South Wales Australia. 1999**

ScholarShips

Companions,

Your children, grandchildren, & for some, great-grandchildren may receive financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page & find the Scholarship Manual in (PDF format – 450KB) to download.

There they will find instructions for filling out the forms.

This is the [link](#) which will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All the information you need should be right there. This is a complete manual that you can download that talk about all of the scholarships available from the California Masonic Foundation as well as the [Scottish Rite](#), [York Rite](#), [Eastern Star](#), [High Twelve](#), [DeMolay](#), [Job’s Daughters](#), & [Rainbow for Girls](#).

Contacts

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Grand York Rite of California

Note: Hyperlinks or links to other pages or web sites are prevalent throughout the document.



Officers: Grand Council Cryptic Masons California

We, the officers of Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will visit you & ask “May We Help”?

Most Illustrious Companion
Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH & Lady Pauline
Grand Master, Cryptic Masons of California
Butte Council No. 50

Right Illustrious Companion <u>Peter G. Champion</u>, KYCH & Lady Janice Deputy Grand Master Grand Council Cryptic Masons San Luis Obispo Council No. 38	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Guy M. Chalmers</u>, KYCH & Lady Jeanne Grand Principle Conductor of the Work Grand Council Cryptic Masons Redwood Empire Council No. 46
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u>, KYCH & Lady Marcia Grand Treasurer, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Philip Hardiman</u>, KYGCH, PGHP, & Lady Nancy Grand Recorder, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sacramento Council No. 1
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Right Illustrious Companion
K. Mark Harris, KYCH
Grand Director of Ritual, Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Oakland Council No. 12

Right Illustrious Companion <u>Michael T. Sherman</u>, KYCH Grand Captain of the Guard Grand Council Cryptic Masons Helix Council No. 58	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Jeffrey A. White</u>, KYCH & Lady Lisa Grand Conductor of the Council Grand Council Cryptic Masons Pacific Council No. 37
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Andrew B. Pippin</u>, KYCH, & Lady Juli Grand Steward, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Ventura Council No. 15	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Richard E. Thornton</u>, KYCH, Lady Cara Grand Sentinel, Grand Council Cryptic Masons Stockton Council No. 5
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Arthur H. Walton</u>, KYCH & Lady Patricia Grand Chaplin-North, Grand Council Cryptic Masons California Council No. 2	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Christian G. Marano</u>, KYCH & Lady Mara Grand Chaplin-South, Grand Council Cryptic Masons San Luis Obispo Council No. 38
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>John L Copper III</u>, KYGCH, & Lady Heather Grand Orator Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u>, KYCH, & Lady Marcia Assistant Grand Secretary Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Jarrold D. Washington</u>, KYCH & Lady Melissa Grand Marshal-North Grand Council Cryptic Masons Sierra Nevada Council No. 13	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Robert K. Geiger</u> & Lady Luisa Grand Marshal-South Grand Council Cryptic Masons Adoniram-Whittier Council No. 53
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Right Illustrious Companion <u>Matt Hyde</u> & Lady Nicole Grand Bible Bearer Grand Council Cryptic Masons Omega Council No. 11	Right Illustrious Companion <u>Mike Edwards</u> & Lady Cindi Grand Standard Bearer Grand Council Cryptic Masons Marysville Council No. 3
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Right Illustrious Companion
Merrick R. Hamer
Grand Organist, Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Alpha Council No. 39

Guidelines for a VIRTUAL 3/4-Way Reception: How to do it well!

- Host must arrange, develop the Virtual invitation and distribute to all guests.
- Expected dress: Appropriate Jackets, Term ties, lapel pins, Collar and Jewel. Communicate this in the invitation!
- Prepare the agenda and distribute with the invitation electronically at least 1 week prior to the Actual Meeting date.
- Meeting Host check waiting room for virtual admission and verification of guests. Plan at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Reception.
- Master of Ceremonies – Welcome and statement of purpose for the reception.
- Honorary Chaplain - INVOCATION – No altar or Bible is required for the reception!
- Designated Officer - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OR National Anthem (Ensure that you have a picture of the flag of our country with 50 stars that can be displayed onscreen!)
- Master of Ceremonies or his Designated Officer introduces non-Grand York Rite Officers in attendance, e.g. special guests, Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, Shrine, White Shrine, Youth Group leaders, etc.
- Master of Ceremonies – introduce first Grand York Rite Head of Body to all OR (preferred) the Grand Officer in charge of introductions for that Grand Body (note that this is a Requirement for introductions of the Grand Master of Masons)! Order of speaking should be either Royal Arch, Council, Commandery and Grand Master OR Council, Commandery, Royal Arch and Grand Master as desired by the Master of Ceremonies. Please inform the Grand Heads of Bodies which order they will be speaking Before the Reception begins!
- Grand Head of Body Speaking - should ask one of his Grand Officers (usually one of the Grand Marshals in attendance) if not already recognized by the Master of Ceremonies to do the introduction of the Grand Head of Body Speaking After introducing the Current and Past Grand Officers present along with the DGLs and Inspectors (ritual staff as appropriate) in attendance either Before his remarks (preferred) or After his remarks (also OK). Don't forget to do these introductions!! Grand Head of Body Speaking then proceeds to deliver his remarks in full.
- Master of Ceremonies – After thanking the speaker, he can ask for questions for that Grand Head of Body and/or Introduces the presiding officer of each sponsoring constituent body present (including Blue Lodge Masters when it is

the GM turn) and calls upon each one in turn with the host constituent bodies last in each group to make whatever virtual presentation (arranged IN ADVANCE) they have for the Grand Head of Body Speaking. Don't forget to include the Grand Master in these presentations! This would include charitable donations to the charities of that Body if appropriate AND gifts for the lady of the Grand Head of Body Speaking if desired.

- **Grand Head of Body Speaking** – makes his presentations (virtually) back to each presiding officer and his spouse (if present or otherwise desired) or the senior officer present from that constituent body and his lady (if present). Once all exchanges have been made virtually, he announces that his part is complete.
- **Master of Ceremonies** – Introduces the next Head of Body Speaking or the Grand Officer in charge of introductions for that body (preferred). Repeat the procedure above for each Grand York Rite Body present. If there is a musical interlude, the Master of Ceremonies will introduce the interlude per the announced agenda and ask for appreciation of the performers. If the Grand Master of Masons is speaking (not just in attendance as a guest), then ensure that all thanks and acknowledgements for putting on the event are done Before the Grand Master is introduced!
- **Master of Ceremonies** – wraps up with thanks for the folks that made the reception possible, don't forget the Host of the virtual meeting IF the Grand Master of Masons is Not speaking (otherwise done before the introduction of the Grand Master of Masons). Finally, introduce the Chaplain for the Benediction. Adjourn!

Notes:

- **Dress Code:** The invitation will set the appropriate dress code for the event. The Master of Ceremonies should be dressed for Blue Lodge unless he is presenting as the presiding officer of one of the constituent bodies in attendance. All presenting officers should be dressed as the Grand Head of Body they are supporting prescribes. Changing coats and ties for each segment of the program is acceptable if desired, but not necessary unless presenting on behalf of that body. The Grand Officers and presenting Officers should be dressed as prescribed by the Grand Head of Body they are representing; coat, tie and jewel to match the Grand Head of Body's desires. All other officers and members will wear the respective coat and tie of the constituent body they wish to represent. It is desirable to change coat, tie and uniform if presenting for more than one constituent body.
- **Setup of Lodge Room** if utilized for pictorial ceremonial purposes will be with **Constituent Body Banners** (Chapter, Council, Commandery, Blue Lodge, as desired, AMD, etc.). Altar will be draped with an altar cloth with a Closed Bible surmounting, (if desired for viewing).

Guideline for Council Opening

OPENING IN AMPLE FORM for ADR and Inspectors

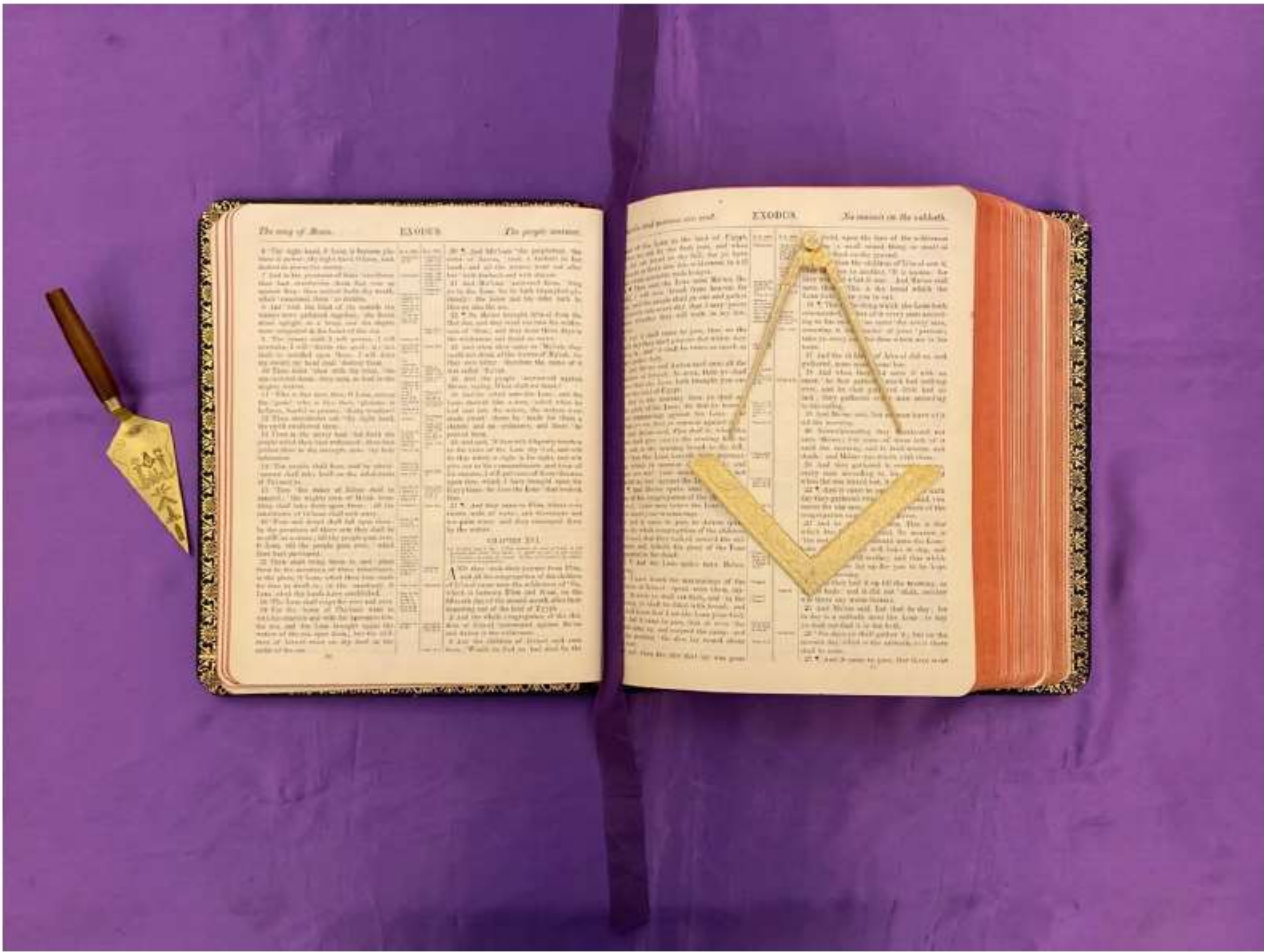
IM: IL *Comp ADR/Inspector*, will you please open in *Ample Form*.

ADR/Inspector: (***) *Comp Chaplain*, you will lead us in our devotions.

Chap: May the Supreme Grand Master graciously preside over all our Councils, and direct us in all such things as He will be pleased to approve and bless. May our profession as Masons be the rule of our conduct as men. May our Sacred Retreat ever continue to be the resort of the just and merciful; the seat of the moral virtues, and the home of the Select. Amen, (response by Companions) So mote it be.

ADR/Inspector: *Comp Conductor of the Council*, attend at the Altar.





ADR/Inspector: *By the authority in me vested by the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of California, I declare _____ Council No. _____ opened in Ample Form. (*)*

ADR/Inspector: *Companions, please join me in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country.*



ADR/Inspector: (*)

CLOSING IN AMPLE FORM

IM: IL Comp ADR/Inspector, will you please close in Ample Form.
(Officer)

ADR/Inspector: (***) Supreme Grand Master, protect and bless us that we may again assemble to pursue our profession as Masons. Amen. OR -

Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions. (Chap gives prayer).

Companion Conductor of the Council attend at the Altar.





ADR/Inspector: *By the authority in me vested by the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of California, I declare _____ Council No. _____ closed in Ample Form. (*)*

ADR/Inspector: (*)

SACRAMENTO SIERRA YORK RITE ASSOCIATION GRAND YORK RITE RECEPTION



HONORING



Most Excellent Companion
Richard W. Bullard, KYGCH
166th Grand High Priest
Royal Arch Masons of California



Most Illustrious Companion
Robert A. Morrison, KYGCH
160th Grand Master
Cryptic Masons of California



Sir Knight
Cirilo P. Marquez, KYGCH
162nd Right Eminent Grand Commander
Knights Templar of California

With special guest
Most Worshipful
Arthur H. Weiss
Grand Master
F&A Masons of California



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021
10:00AM**

Hosted By Auburn York Rite

Royal Arch Masons
Sacramento Chapter No. 3
Nevada City Chapter No. 6
Gold Country Chapter No. 11
Washington Chapter No. 13
Woodland Chapter No. 46

Cryptic Masons
Sacramento Council No. 1
Marysville Council No. 3
Sierra Nevada Council No. 13

Knights Templar
Sacramento Commandery No. 2
Auburn Commandery No. 4
Nevada Commandery No. 6
Marysville Commandery No. 7

All Masons and guests are invited to join the Virtual Reception via this Zoom link:
<https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/82969760313?pwd=MFdLK0Y1c1NmJoenBqdW1NS090UT09>
Meeting ID: 829 6976 0313 Passcode: 5ukTZ? or Phone: (669) 900-9128 Passcode: 436730

Grand Officers, Ritual Staff, High Priests, Illustrious Masters, & Eminent Commanders
Please register in advance to be properly introduced or to make a presentation during the event
via an email to: reception@auburnyorkrite.org with your name and title

Any other inquiries, contact R. Scott Husmann: 530-367-3236, commander@auburnyorkrite.org

The Decryption - News from Cryptic Masons International

December 10, 2020 Vol 5, Issue 19



Survival by Sacrifice [Read More...](#)



Passing of MIC Thomas Jacks,
1942-2020 [Read More...](#)



Southwest Regional Recorder's
Meeting - December 2, 2020
[Read More...](#)



Gift of Hope [Read More...](#)

Just a LATTE a Month



C.M.M.R.F.

\$5 per Month Works Miracles!

Our Goal: 1000 Participants

Give up a coffee a month **or more** to help medical research through the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation.

You can make a step to support our Masonic Charity by setting up recurring giving here:

<https://www.crypticmasons.org/cmmrf/donate-now>

AWARDS

The following individuals have been recognized with Cryptic Awards recently. Articles regarding the presentation are linked to each name. No new recognition reports this week, send your reports through [this form](#) (This form requires a Google Login). If you don't have one, you can [contact us here](#)

[All Recognition News Articles](#)

CALENDARS

We have remodeled and are updating our calendaring system. Check it out!

[NATIONAL CALENDAR](#)

Rather see a listing by category (and including local events that are reported to us):

[CMMRF EVENTS](#)

[CONFERENCE EVENTS](#)

[GRAND YORK RITE EVENTS](#)

[GRAND LODGE EVENTS](#)

[FESTIVAL EVENTS](#)

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Please let us know!

(You must have an account on the website. All events will be reviewed and verified before publishing.)

[SUBMIT EVENTS](#)

The Decryption - News from Cryptic Masons International

December 18, 2020 Vol 5, Issue 20



General Grand Council Holiday Greeting [Read More...](#)



General Grand Master's Fire-Side Chat: Sunday December 27, 2020 at 3pm MDT (GMT-6) [Read More..](#)



Hanukkah Message [Read More...](#)



Cryptic Masonry: Philosophical Rite and Keys to the Past and Future of Freemasonry [Read More...](#)



Northeast Regional Recorder's Meeting - December 10, 2020 [Read More...](#)

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[SUBMIT EVENTS](#)



Northwest Regional Recorder's Meeting - December 10, 2020 [Read More...](#)



It's Your Flag [Read More...](#)

The Decryption - News from Cryptic Masons International

December 24, 2020 Vol 5, Issue 21

[December 27, 2020 at 3pm MDT: General Grand Master's Fire-Side Chat](#)



A Christmas Message [Read More...](#)



Passing of MIC Wayne Lee White,
1930-2020 [Read More...](#)



South Central Regional Recorder's
Meeting - December 16, 2020
[Read More...](#)



East Central Regional Recorder's
Meeting - December 9, 2020
[Read More...](#)

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[SUBMIT EVENTS](#)



The Color Purple: Origin and History

[Read More...](#)



Grand York Rite of Utah
Educational Series: January 6,
2020 at 7pm MDT (GMT-6)

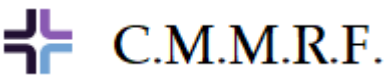
[Read More...](#)



New Year's Resolutions

[Read More...](#)

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