

# THE WORKMAN



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

**APRIL 2020**

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## **Grand High Priest's Message**

**Companions,**

This being my April message I was looking forward to being bright and cheery about the change of seasons and the coming end to my time as Grand High Priest. It is my hope that during this stressful time with a dangerous virus attacking the entire world that each of you are safe and healthy. I can echo M.E. Tony's words from last year about my trip through the Grand Line:

" It is an amazing journey and the lessons I have learned, the people that I have met and the memories I have collected have made all of the long and tedious roads worth the effort. "

Until the outbreak of this virus I was looking forward to the sessions in May when I would turn the gavel over to a very well prepared R.E. Richard Bullard. Now that we have been forced to postpone our grand sessions until mid-July (see details below), I am disappointed but still working to do what I can to help our Grand Chapter survive this test. Historically it is not the first time this has happened. The Spanish Flu and World War 2 both had effects on our proceedings even cancelling a session causing a two-year term. I do not expect this to go to that last extreme but it already has caused us to delay our sessions.

The presiding officers along with the elected line officers of each body are working together on the postponement and re-arrangement of Sessions, which may include a stripped-down version of the schedule. My prayers are that this virus will soon be abated in order to return to a normal event schedule.

Comptche in June and the Newhall parade in July are major events for us and I am still looking forward to them. In light of the current situation, if the lifting of restrictions precede our sessions, I wish that any events that normally honor the Grand High Priest be held with the honoree being the Grand King as the incoming Grand High Priest even though he may not have been installed at that time. He surely deserves that respect and honor and I would not want him to be deprived of it.

We have seen a bit of growth this year and I thank each of you North and South that helped make this happen. This is what will make our survival as an institution assured. We have lessons that teach and improve those that receive them let us continue to perform that effort on into the future.

My prayers are with each of you in these trying times. Please do what you must to stay healthy. I consider each of you as my family and care for your well-being. Stay safe and we will be together again soon!

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 met by teleconference Wednesday night and 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, 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.

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 soon. Check the website as early as Tuesday morning: [www.ca-gyrs.org](http://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.

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.

Our website, [www.ca-gyrs.org](http://www.ca-gyrs.org) will have the link for the online reservations to the hotel. 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).

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 a follows:

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 – Grand  
Commandery

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – Grand  
Chapter

Thursday, July 16, 2020 – Grand  
Council

## GRAND LECTURER

### Companions All

During this time of isolation, please stay safe and polish your ritual skills to prepare for our emergence this summer! There will be immediate pressure to rush into conferring degrees once we are free to meet again and it is critical that we properly prepare and most importantly practice together after this extended layoff and decay in our skill levels before conferring our beautiful degrees! This also shall pass and we will be better than ever after it is over! Please be careful and use this pause to improve your memory skills for the renaissance to come!

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. Please let Tom Chavez know that 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/cagyr/forms/Chapter>

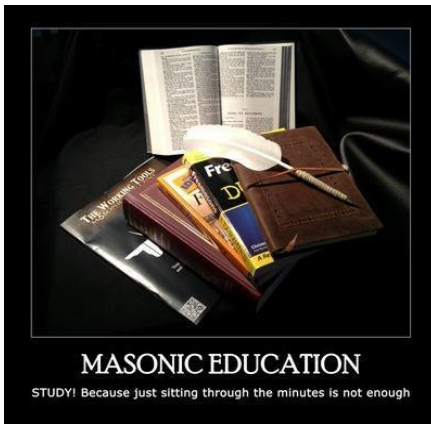
If you are prompted for a username and/or password, call your Inspector, or anyone in the CONTACTS section below.

## 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:

## GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

<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!

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 HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR

APRIL 2020 – JULY 2020



### 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 January 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)

Date	Event	Location
Apr 2-4	<b>Grand Sessions</b>	Oregon
Apr 8-11	<b>Grand Sessions</b>	New Mexico
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>

### GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

**Grand High Priest:**

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**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 15th 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.