

# THE CROSS & CROWN



**Craig L. Flagtwet, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of California**

**MAY 2023**

**Vol. II No. 12**

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## Grand Commander's Message

**Greetings, Sir Knights of the Great State of California**

Lady Tammy and I look forward to seeing you all in Visalia, CA, this month as we complete our terms business and work to put forth our new efforts to build and grow Knights Templar in the Great state of California. Please if you have not already done so, Go to the website [ca-gyrs.org](http://ca-gyrs.org) and register to attend the California York Rite Grand Sessions. They will be held at the Wyndham Visalia Hotel, May 13th to the 17th, 2023.

Sir Knights, thank you one and all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Grand Commander of the State of California. It is an honor I will cherish for the rest of my life -- the year has passed quickly and the issues needing attention many. I am confident that the incoming staff of Officers will continue the good work of building and strengthening Knights Templar in the Great State of California.

As the Craft Lodges in our great state begin to work through the back log of 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree conferrals, we the members of the York Rite in California need to be ready to share information with our Craft lodge Brothers and then work to welcome them to membership in Our beloved Rite. Many hands make light work, and it will take the efforts of us all to grasp the opportunity that is in the process of presenting itself. It is my aspiration that we do not miss this opportunity and I will continue to make York Rite presentations at Craft lodges to spread the Joy of the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Please, if you are able, join with me in this great work of building membership in our part of our great fraternity.

Lady Tammy and I pray for the continued success of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of California, together with the constituent Commanderies and their members. May GOD continue to bless you all with Peace, happiness, and plenty.

“You will know them by their works”

Craig L. Flagtwet, KCT, KYGCH, 33°  
Grand Commander, Grand Commandery  
Knights Templar, California

## GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

Sir Knights one and all -- From the world of Ritual

Inspections should be over and now an evaluation of the status of the Commanderies will be forthcoming at the Grand Conclave on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you can be there to participate, I will be glad to discuss your commandery. I look forward to visiting with each Eminent Commander. Also in May is the draping of the beuceant with a black ribbon, to honor those who have passed away during the year.

A reminder that even if you are using the five-man opening, please do it from memory. The hope is that if you only have eight to five members present, the message will spread of the fine work you are doing and that your attendance will increase, so that you may open with the nine or full form opening. Remember, that your meetings should be short, in order to present a program.

If you are looking for topics, Lewismasonic.co.uk has a large collection

that gives a different approach to the commandery. It is worth looking into. Grand sessions is just two weeks away and registrations are way down. The dais officers are required to be in attendance. Please look at the schedule and make your reservations today.

As always, I am at your service.

Sir Knight Jim Baum  
Grand Inspector General  
[jamesgbaum@msn.com](mailto:jamesgbaum@msn.com)  
760-885-0256 (leave a message and I will get back to you.)

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ORDERS

Several Festivals are upcoming for the Fall and Spring. See Flyers at the end. Of particular note are:

Sacramento-Sierra YR Association

**June 17, 2023 at 8am, Sacramento**

East Bay

**Sept 23, 2023 at 7:30am**

**Oct 14, 2023 at 8:00am**

**Oct 28, 2023 at 7:30am**

## **GRAND SESSIONS 2023**

What to expect when you get to the Grand York Rite Sessions.

This being the May issue, this is my last article for the Grand York Rite Sessions. As a refresher to some and for those of you attending for the first time, here is how to prepare. The registration table is in the Cedar / Pine Rooms along with our Vendors. The hours were posted in your confirmation email

Start at the Registration Table to pick up the envelope that has your name badge(s) and any tickets for the multi-entrée meals (like the Sunday banquet). The other meals will have you listed for check-in at the door. You will also receive the badge name holder.

Take your name badge to the Credential Table and show them your dues card. They will stamp your name tag to allow you entrance to the tiled meetings. If you are entitled to vote, you will sign the book in the appropriate place(s) and receive your ballot card. Please remember to bring your ballot card to the meetings to cast your vote (the tellers are instructed to count the number on the ballot cards when a count is needed).

I direct your attention to the back of the reservation form that states: "Meal reservations are locked & will not be accepted after 05/01/23 (don't even ask)". This is because I need to give the hotel our final counts. If there is a last-minute cancellation, then we would be able to resell the meal. A waiting list will be available at the registration table. However, last year there were only a couple of cancellations. As such, the opportunity is very unlikely.

There are a couple of events that were added just recently. Scott McNair has set up a Golf Tournament that will be held on Saturday. The Wyndham Visalia Hotel has set up a Mother's Day Celebration Brunch on Sunday. Details and reservations for both events are available on the GYRS website: [www.ca-gyrs.org](http://www.ca-gyrs.org)

In addition to the standard Hospitality Room in the Executive Boardroom with the usual snacks and beverages, we have a Ladies' Social Area in the Sequoia Room - for the ladies only. This is an area to play games and puzzles and just socialize. The schedule is rather fluid - but will be posted in the room and also available for download on your smartphone.

Have fun and enjoy the camaraderie!

Thanks, Dave Glass

## **TEMPLAR RITUALIST**

How many of you think you know much about the rituals of the Orders? There's a NEW way you can test yourself. Grand Encampment has established a Learning Management System, which you can access at: <http://templared.org/moodle/> .

Give it a try. Very soon now, there will be additional courses available: on Templar History and on the Trial of the Templars. You will have multiple choice quizzes to take in each Course and an opportunity to show off your excellence by submitting essays for everyone's edification!

The Editor

## RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Recorders 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.



## 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).

## GRAND COMMANDER'S CALENDAR

### MAY 2023 – JUNE 2023

Date		Location
May 3, 2023	Keystone Chapter	San Bernardino
May 6, 2023	Royal Order of Scotland	Ontario, 8:00 am
May 9-11 2023	Business Trip	Florida
May 13-18	Grand Sessions	Visalia
May 16, 2023	Scottish Rite	San Bernardino
May 17, 2023	St. Bernard Commandery	San Bernardino
May 28, 2023	Memorial Service PGM David Decker	Chino, CA
June 17, 2023	Commandery Orders	Sacramento, 8:00 am
August 5, 2023	3-Way Reception	East Bay, Alameda

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://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.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](mailto:rozekroy@gmail.com)

## **GRAND COMMANDERY CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Grand Commander:**

Craig L. Flagtvet, KCT, KYGCH  
909-553-4397 (C)  
[craigflagtvet@gmail.com](mailto:craigflagtvet@gmail.com)

### **Grand Recorder:**

Bud Ramsey, KCT, KYGCH  
408-838-3730  
[Grand.Recorder.KT.CA@gmail.com](mailto:Grand.Recorder.KT.CA@gmail.com)

### **Assistant to the Grand Recorder:**

Gregg Hall, KYGCH, KCT  
408-656-2459  
[greggahall@gmail.com](mailto:greggahall@gmail.com)

### **Editor:**

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH, KTCH, KCT  
(916) 712-4814(C)  
[Grand.recorder.cm.ca@gmail.com](mailto:Grand.recorder.cm.ca@gmail.com)

### **Websites:**

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

**GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES**

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

## 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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup>.
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](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](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 15<sup>th</sup> for Chapter and Councils (and April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 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](http://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](http://www.ca-gyrs.org).

# Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

## Ways to Give Financial Support

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If donor is a Sir Knight give location:

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply my donation as follows: (Place an X in the appropriate box)

- \$30.00 **Life Sponsor** (For Sir Knights only)  
 \$50.00 **Associate Patron** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)  
 \$100.00 **Patron** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)  
 \$100.00 **Grand Commander's Club** \*  
 \$1,000.00 **Grand Master's Club** \*  
 \$10,000.00 **Golden Chalice** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) \*\*  
 \$25,000.00 **Grand Master's Sword of Merit** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) \*\*  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **General Contribution**

Check or money order enclosed (Payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.)

Please charge to my credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Memorial or In Honor Contributions please fill out the following:*

In Remembrance  In Honor

Name of Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Notify: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If a Commandery is to receive Remembrance or Honor credit please supply:

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Grand Master's Club and Grand Commander's Club may not be purchased in the name of any organization, only individuals. Members of the Grand Commander's Club may add to their donations until they reach a total of \$1,000 to receive membership in the Grand Master's Club. (As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be awarded.)*

*\*\* If requested at the time of the initial gift, the donations may be applied to the Permanent Donor Fund.*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. welcomes gifts and Bequests as well as Gifts of Securities and Life Insurance. If you desire in planning your estate to make a gift to be used by The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. for its charitable programs, regardless of the form which your gift may take, the proper words to be used on any gift or check is "The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc."

The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Organization under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 271118  
Flower Mound TX 75027-1118  
Phone: 214-888-0220 Fax: 214-888-0230  
E-Mail: [Manager@ktef.us](mailto:Manager@ktef.us)  
[www.ktef.org](http://www.ktef.org)

Fillable Form is at:

<https://www.ktef.org/donation-selection>





## SACRAMENTO – SIERRA YORK RITE ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL YORK RITE FESTIVAL



### Chapter Degrees

**Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>, Orland Masonic Temple 431 Colusa St, Orland**

Registration, Coffee and Donuts	8:00 AM	Candidate fees are \$10
<b>CAPITULAR DEGREES</b>	9:00 AM	
<b>MARK MASTER PAST MASTER</b>		
Lunch (reservations required)	12:00 PM	Lunch for everyone (including candidates) is \$15

**Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Yuba City Masonic Temple 501 Second St, Yuba City,**

Registration, Coffee and Donuts	5:30 PM	Candidate fees are \$10
<b>CAPITULAR DEGREES</b>	6:00 PM	
<b>MARK MASTER PAST MASTER</b>	(no meal)	

**Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, Woodland Masonic Temple 228 Palm Avenue Woodland**

Registration, Coffee and Donuts	8:00 AM	Candidate fees are \$10 (unless paid @ the MM/PM)
<b>CAPITULAR DEGREES</b>	9:00 AM	
<b>MOST EXCELLENT MASTER</b>		
Lunch (reservations required!)	11:30 PM	Lunch for everyone (including candidates) is \$15
<b>ROYAL ARCH DEGREE</b>	12:30 PM	



### Council Degrees

**Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, Auburn Masonic Temple 956½ Lincoln Street Auburn**

Registration	9:00 AM	Candidate fees are \$10
<b>CRYPTIC DEGREES</b>	10:00 AM	
<b>ROYAL MASTER SELECT MASTER</b>		
Lunch (reservations required!)	11:30 PM	Lunch for everyone (including candidates) is \$15



### Commandery Orders

**Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Sacramento Masonic Temple 1123 "J" St. Sacramento**

Registration, Coffee and Doughnuts	8:00 AM	Candidate fees are \$10
<b>CHIVALRIC ORDERS</b>	9:00 AM	
<b>ORDER OF THE RED CROSS ORDER OF MALTA</b>		
Lunch (reservations required!)	11:30 AM	Lunch for everyone (including candidates) is \$15
<b>ORDER OF THE TEMPLE</b>	12:30 PM	
Closing	3:00 PM	

**Please make your reservations using the form on the next page.**

E-Mail: [ssyra@ssyra.org](mailto:ssyra@ssyra.org)

WEBSITE: [www.ssyra.org](http://www.ssyra.org)



# GOLFING AT GRAND SESSIONS

**SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, 2023**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING A ROUND OF GOLF WHILE AT GRAND SESSIONS THIS YEAR? WE ARE GETTING A GROUP TOGETHER WHO WANT TO PLAY AND HAVE SOME FUN. MEN, WOMEN, SINGLES AND GROUPS ARE WELCOME. THE COST IS **\$62/PERSON** AND INCLUDES A CART.

**VALLEY OAKS GOLF COURSE**  
1800 S. PLAZA STREET VISALIA, CA 93277  
(LOCATED JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM THE WYNDHAM HOTEL)

CONTACT SCOTT MCNAIR TO COORDINATE A TEE TIME  
EMAIL: [SCOTTMCNAIR74@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCOTTMCNAIR74@GMAIL.COM)  
CALL/TXT: (909) 226-3847

**SUBMIT RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**





The 48th Comptche Outdoor York Rite Degrees Association



presents the

# Royal Arch and Cryptic Council Degrees

Tunzi Ranch, Comptche, CA

June 24 & 25, 2023



**Fri. 6/23 - Welcome**  
**6:30 pm - Fish Fry**

**Sat. 6/24 - 6:30 am - Breakfast**  
*Candidates need to sign Chapter Bylaws*  
**7:30 am - Open Chapter**  
**7:45 am - Prologue Deg.**  
**8 am - Mark Master Deg.**  
**10 am - Virtual Past Master Deg.**  
**10:30 am - Most Excellent Master Deg.**  
**12:30 pm - Lunch**  
**2:00 pm - Royal Arch**  
**Deg. 4 - 6 pm - Social**  
**6:30 pm - BBQ Dinner**

**Sun. 6/25 - 7 am - Breakfast**  
*Candidates need to sign Council Bylaws*  
**8:15 am - Open Council**  
**8:30 am - Royal Master Deg.**  
**10:30 am - Select Master Deg.**  
**12 Noon - Lunch**



<b>Friday - Fish Fry</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Saturday - Breakfast</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>Registration</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Barbeque</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Sunday - Breakfast</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>Lunch (To-Go home)</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Total (Under 12 -half Price)</b>	<b>\$130</b>

Make checks payable to *Comptche Outdoor Degree Association*

**Reservations Required**, after 6/19 add 20% to your total

Mail to: **Guy M. Chalmers, 50 Lohrman Lane, Petaluma, 94952-3609**

**RV & Campers Welcome!**

**Lodging accommodations are available along the Mendocino Coast, 10 miles West.**



