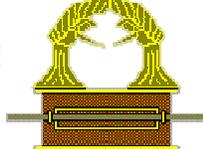




THE WORKMAN



Robert V. Wright, Jr., Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

November 2012

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As we approach this New Year, we will be holding elections for new Officers and planning the upcoming year. I hope my message this year will inspire the officers to get there Chapter more involved with Quality Education and Quality Ritual. Our new Companions want more than a dull meeting!

My Special fund raiser coin is doing great thanks to your generous donations -- Thank You! As we approach this Holiday Season please keep our military personnel in your prayers that they will be safe and back home soon. Also our widows, give them a call and invite them to dinner. Let them know we haven't forgotten them.

Several of our Grand Officers and I just returned from the Colorado River Fall Festival. We had ten new Companions take the degrees. Please make them welcome at their first Convocation.

Fraternally,
BobWright, Grand High Priest

GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

On a sad note, our Assistant Grand Secretary Al Lewis has been very ill lately, and is no longer able to serve the Grand York Rite in that capacity. He is now staying in Hemet, after having been hospitalized for over 6 weeks, much of that time in a diabetic coma. He suffered from pneumonia as well, and had to have a tracheotomy performed. Wish him well!

We have almost reached the half way point of this Grand Capitular year. I have been traveling the state visiting many of the Chapters, and I would like to thank each of you for the hospitality shown me and Janet.

THE SHOWCASE CHAPTER

Delta Chapter #27 conferred the Mark Master Degree on Monday night, Oct 29th, on four candidates, shown below. Right Worshipful John L. Cooper, a member of Delta Chapter, served in the East. Also shown are Past Grand High Priest Edgar Fentum, in his English Mark Master regalia, and Past Grand Lecturer Don

Lamoureux, along with the other Chapter members serving in the cast.



This Chapter has a plan to confer all four Chapter Degrees within the next few years. They will confer the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees in February. They will soon be among the few Chapters statewide that confer all four Degrees!

CHAPTER PLANS FOR 2013

Your Chapter's growth begins with the Mark Master Degree. If you don't have a team in place, like Delta and many other Chapters, to confer that Degree at least once each year, you should make that the major element of your plan for 2013.

Now is the time to get plans in order for the New Year. You should have an installation in a couple of months, and at that time it would be a good idea for you to announce your plans for your Chapter for the New Year. Try at least to put on a Mark Master Degree for all those Master Masons "found to be worthy and well qualified." Concentrate especially on Blue Lodges in your area and to which your members belong. Plan on making special visits, speaking at Stated Meeting dinners, or other functions, and hand out petitions. Try to do so at least once every quarter. Go to the following website for support documents to help you market the Mark Master program in general:

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

Plan also during the year to keep your Stated Convocations interesting by providing interesting tidbits of information to your companions regularly. The new Education Program, spear-headed by Dennis Dyer with the help of Ray Broomfield and Steve Bass, is a source of over 50 relevant and informative articles. Go to the Research Chapter website, click on Library, and go to the bottom-right of the screen for access to this material.

Plan also to attend Grand Sessions in May, and participate in the Order of High Priesthood, if you haven't already. This is significant and superior ritual, and you will find yourself blessed by the conferral. Urge any High Priests or Past High Priests you may know to make an effort to attend also.

Plan to come to the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and come to the annual meeting of the Research Chapter.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable year as you shepherd your Chapter.

COLRADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL

The Colorado River Fall Festival had a smaller than average class of 38, with a smaller than normal contingent from California – 10. Though California did no Chapter ritual this year, we did all enjoy the marvelous work done by the Companions and Sir Knights from the other States. Below are most of the candidates who became California Companions on Monday the 22nd.



SERIOUS TAX MATTER

In the August 2012 edition of the monthly Knight Templar magazine, Grand Encampment warned of an impending TAX deadline. Here, verbatim, is that warning:

Very few of us enjoy hearing about tax changes, but they have to be dealt with whether we like them or not. If your Commandery is doing taxes the same way you always did, you are in serious trouble.

In the good old days, small non-profit organizations with less than \$25,000 annual gross revenue did not have to file federal tax returns. This applied to most of our Commanderies. Beginning in 2007, all U. S. non-profit organizations must file, regardless of how small they are. The smallest organizations do not have to file the full form 990 but do have to file at least the form 990-N, e-postcard.

This has been discussed in Grand Encampment department meetings starting in 2008. If your U. S. Commandery or other non-profit Masonic organization has not filed some type of form 990 with the IRS for 2007, 2008, or 2009, you are no longer exempt from income tax effective May 17, 2010.

ACT NOW. For a short time, the IRS is allowing organizations such as ours to regain their exempt status. This includes a discounted fee of \$100, an expedited and simplified application process (form 1024) and retroactive reinstatement. The deadline for this temporary relief is December 31, 2012. Yes – this year only. Any organization that has not taken advantage of this relief will have to pay four times more, complete a more difficult application, and will not get retroactive reinstatement. This means you will be paying federal income tax on all income including dues.

The process for this one time offer has been discussed at department meetings for the last year and provided to Grand Recorders. The information is also available on the Grand Encampment website (the section on downloads). There you can find a PowerPoint presentation on the subject, a sample form, and instructions. Help can be obtained through your Grand Recorder. Your time is limited, and it will cost you to miss the deadline.

It's natural to hope that new complexity doesn't apply to us. However, natural isn't the same as real. If you have missed the boat since 2007, your last chance to board is now. **ACT NOW – December 31, 2012, is the**

deadline. SEE PAGE 15 FOR THE 17 CALIFORNIA BODIES AT RISK.

IRS Circular 230 – Please be advised that, based on current IRS rules and standards, the advice contained herein is not intended to be used, nor can it be used, for the avoidance of any tax penalty that the IRS could assess related to these matters. Non-profit taxation is a complex and specialized subject. A qualified professional should be consulted if necessary.

RAM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issue number 12 for October of 2012 has been forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. The format has been changed somewhat and the Title has been changed to avoid the acronym IRAM, in response to comments from several California companions! In this new format, scroll down in the message to find the state-specific entries – four from California.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: www.goldenstatechapter.org

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For info about 2012 Scholarships, go to the following website:

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

If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872

Remember that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues.

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 -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 527-5728, or cell: (510) 502-3224; or email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

ENCOMPASSER

The **October 2012** edition of the Encompasser is now available on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar.

You can help us control cost by letting us know you are willing to take the Encompasser by email only.

Check out the new format available – you can now read the Encompasser online! No need to even print it out. Many thanks to our web-master, Excellent Companion Richard Thornton, for his efforts in applying this technology to our needs!

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org now contains a copy of the 2010 and 2011 Grand Orations booklets. Also included is a copy of "The Royal Arch Path," by MEC Phil Hardiman, KYGCH. At the May convocation, the Chapter approved the publication of the 2012 Grand Orations. This publication has now been produced and also contains the Vesper Service and West Coast Easter Observance messages given by Tom Boles, the outgoing Grand Prelate.

The most recent meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, September 22nd, 12:15pm, during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, on the mezzanine outside the main hall. For information about membership, contact:

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GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY

NOVEMBER		
	SouthWest Regional York Rite Conference	Ontario, CA
1st – 3rd		
JANUARY	Installation	San Luis Obispo
12th		
APRIL	Reception	Redding
13th		

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GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH

Website

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