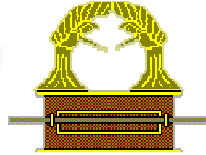




THE WORKMAN



James W. "Bill" Allen, Jr., Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

For those of you who plan to attend Annual Convocation in a few weeks, I, and the Grand Officers and their ladies, deeply appreciate your attendance as a sign of your serious support of Capitular Masonry in California.

It has been my honor to travel the length and breadth of this great state and others and to General Grand Chapter sessions in Raleigh, North Carolina as your representative. The many receptions I've attended ranged from 20 to 25 representing a few Chapters to over 100 at a couple of our 3-way receptions. At each, there was an intimacy and an outpouring of brotherly love. A copy of my complete itinerary, with regard to Grand High Priest functions, will be published later this year in the Annual Proceedings.

One of the great pleasures of any presiding Grand officer is the presentations of individual awards. We will publicly honor a number of Companions for their specific, notable actions this past year, at the coming Grand Chapter convocation. I would like to recognize two more, specifically. It was my pleasure, at last year's sessions, to appoint Excellent Companion **Richard D. Baskin** to the progressive line. Rick is active in most all facets of Masonry and has already been a leader in he East in many of these organizations. Master Chief – well done! Right Excellent Companion **Fred Kleyn**, our Grand Lecturer, received the General Grand Chapter RAM International DSM in Bronze at last year's sessions here in May. In August, at General Grand Chapter sessions in Raleigh, he was personally presented the DSM in Silver by General Grand High Pries Emory "Smokey" Ferguson. He's the first in California to receive both of these prestigious honors. I extend to him my most heartfelt congratulations for his long and distinguished service to our craft.

If there is one constant I have observed in Masonic bodies, it is there is an ebb and flow to the life of the organization in leadership and ritual. I've seen Chapters that, several years ago, I thought might not be around this year rebound and are now growing and providing full ritual teams for one or two degrees at our festivals. Conversely, Chapters that were thriving five years ago are now barely taking in candidates and having trouble opening and closing without stumbling for ritual. It has been a humbling lesson to me – Don't judge too quickly, don't give up too quickly. Just a few, new, motivated Companions

can incite fervor into a few of our 'senior' Companions and get the train back on track. The key is to stay focused and positive. My heartfelt thanks to those 'senior' Companions who have stayed the course in the lulls and stepped up when hey saw the revival coming.

Judy and I appreciate your assistance in the way of donations over the course of the year. As I told you, Judy is a high school English teacher, and she and I decided that we would augment all contributions and donate them to the Fred DeBarrows Scholarship Fund. I'm pleased to say that on November 10, 2011, I was able to write a check in the amount of \$3,000 to be added to the corpus of the fund. That will ensure growth of he Fund as only he interest from that, and the original donation, will be used by the Scholarship Committee in future years, maintaining a core balance. Your continued support to the Scholarship Fund will be used each year to support five of our Masonic youth to pursue higher education.

In the Annual Proceedings you will be able to read about the numerous dispensations I have granted and decisions made. Of particular note: in March 2012, at the behest of the Department 4 Grand Officer, I divided Department IV in two creating Departments 4A and 4B. This necessitated creating an additional Deputy Grand Lecturer and two Inspectors. Also, I approved the consolidation of Franklin Chapter #20 with Chico Chapter #42. Counterbalancing this consolidation, so some degree, I gave my hearty encouragement for the companions at the Masonic Home in Union City to explore the possibility of forming a Chapter there. Under the tutelage of MEC **Edgar Fentum**, PGHP, I look forward to a request for dispensation to form a new Chapter in the ensuing Capitular year.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their support his past year. As many of you know, I was not only Grand High Priest but also Venerable Master of the San Diego Scottish Rite, Worthy Patron of Escondido Chapter #154, Order of Eastern Star, and President of the San Diego/Imperial Past Masters Association. (From experience, I don't recommend that to anyone!) I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many, many Masons and ladies whose day in and day out support and actions got me through. To **Cathy Francis**, daughter of MIPGM Paul McCleary, and my Worthy Matron, and to **Norma Wohlfarth**, my

Grand Capitular mom and friend, thank you so much for taking the lead in all of the social functions for the Grand Chapter this year while Judy was busy educating the next generation. I extend a special thank you to the Grand Office staff. MEC(H) **Ken Hope** and EC **Al Lewis** kept me informed and on an even keel. Your dedication to your jobs and the craft are unsurpassed.

To my Capitular dad, MEC **Jerrold A. Wohlfarth**, PGHP, my sincere appreciation for appointing me to the Grand Line and enabling me to have this most memorable experience, and also for your guidance and support all year long. I trust I have not let you down and have justified your decision.

Thank you all. May God continue to bless us as we endeavor to serve Him.

Fraternally,
Bill Allen, Grand High Priest

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 7 for May 2012 will soon be forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Under Grand Chapters on the left side of the Newsletter, check for California specific news.

The March and April editions can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: www.goldenstatechapter.org

FORTY FOR FORTY

Speaking of Festivals, each Chapter, especially those north of Fresno, should consider taking candidates to the beautiful outdoor setting near Mendocino, where Larry Tunzi allows the use of his ranch and amphitheater for conferral of the Chapter degrees. This year is especially significant, as this Festival at the ranch in Comptche (9 miles inland from Mendocino) is celebrating its 40th year! The theme is Forty For 40!! So if you have candidates for any or all of the Chapter Degrees, bring them to Comptche. Camping on the Ranch is at no cost! And there is a

shack with men's and ladies' restrooms, and a co-ed shower. And of course a cook shack for preparation of the Friday night Fish Fry and the Saturday night Bar-be-Que. Nancy Hardiman will be planning a trip into Mendocino or Fort Bragg for shopping and lunch on Saturday, June 23rd, while we confer degrees. See the latest edition of the Encompasser on the website for the registration flyer.

THREE GREAT PILLARS

The three great principles on which Freemasonry is founded are Brotherly love, relief, and truth:

- 1. Brotherly Love** - Every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures.
- 2. Relief** - From earliest times Freemasons have been taught to help, to the best of their ability, those in distress, without detriment to any who are dependent upon them, and to give their support to outside Charities, both by charitable giving and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.
- 3. Truth** - Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives and believe that these principles represent a way of achieving higher standards in their public and private lives.

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies and is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Its members are taught its precepts by a series of ritual dramas. These remain substantially the same form used in stonemasons' lodges, and use stonemasons' customs and tools as allegorical guides.

The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with its traditional modes of recognition. There is no secret about any of its aims and principles. Like many other societies, it regards some of its internal affairs as private matters for its members.

The Ritual of Freemasonry is a product of the early decades of the 18th century. It contains much of the language of that time period and other words and phrases from the very old work have been incorporated. This is why the language is written and spoken as it is. If the time and effort is spent to study the words of our Ritual, one will discover that the

thoughts and teachings imparted cannot be put in fewer words and still retain their meaning.

The honest answers to the questions when, where and why Freemasonry originated are that we simply do not know. Early evidence for Freemasonry is very meager and not enough has yet been discovered - if indeed it even exists - to prove any particular theory. Although it is not yet possible to say when, why or where Freemasonry originated it is known where and when "organized" Freemasonry began. On 24 June 1717 four London lodges came together at the Goose and Gridiron Ale House in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and formed themselves into a Grand Lodge and elected a Grand Master and Grand Wardens. For the first few years the Grand Lodge was simply an annual feast at which the Grand Master and Wardens were elected, but in 1721 other meetings began to be held and the Grand Lodge began to be a regulatory body. By 1730 it had more than one hundred lodges under its control (including one in Spain and one in India), had published a *Book of Constitutions*, began to operate a central charity fund, and had attracted a wide spectrum of society into its lodges.

The formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (of England) in 1717 had been followed, around 1725, by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and, in 1736, the Grand Lodge of Scotland. These three Grand Lodges, together with Antients Grand Lodge of 1751, did much to spread Freemasonry throughout the world, to the extent that all regular Grand Lodges throughout the world, whatever the immediate means of their formation, ultimately trace their origins back to one, or a combination, of the Grand Lodges within the British Isles.

The Esoteric Side of Freemasonry - Some Masons study their belief of a deeper esoteric quality to Freemasonry and attribute hidden meanings to the teachings in the ritual. The Origins of Freemasonry, according to some scholars, are considered to have evolved from the Temples and schools of the Ancient Mysteries. The ceremonies of the Ancient Mysteries, some of which marked seasonal festivals, were exceptional occasions of dignity, power and beauty and were presided over by initiate priests who had considerable knowledge of creating ceremonial magic in a beautiful ceremony. These ceremonies were considered to be allegoric representations of

birth and growth and reflected mans' own inner progress along the path of spiritual unfolding. Through the ages the ceremonies have enabled the brethren to search for the deeper esoteric spiritual or hidden meanings of Freemasonry. It could be argued that in the ceremonies some things are only half said, leaving a Brother with the feeling that something is missing. This in turn engenders the need to search for the hidden truths of the allegories and symbols and also for a deeper spiritual meaning. A desire to seek esoteric knowledge will help the serious student to unravel the inner meanings of the Ceremonies. **Although knowledge is important, Freemasonry is free and speculative and values all aspects of study, encouraging a Brother to engage at whichever level of Freemasonry he finds interesting and stimulating.**

Submitted by Nigel Gallimore

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 **April 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 will there find copies of the registration documents for Grand Sessions as well as for the 40th annual Royal Arch Festival at Comptche.

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 next meeting of the Research Chapter will be during the afternoon of Grand Chapter on May 23rd, at 3:00 p.m., location to be announced. The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org features an all new look to better capture the academic and esoteric work that the Golden State Chapter is dedicated to pursue and share with fellows and members. With an updated backend system, the website will be scalable to meet the ever expanding technology available on the web. Many more features and updates will be released in the near future and the Golden State Research Chapter invites members and those looking for further light in the Royal Arch to visit the website today.

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GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY

CONTACT INFORMATION

May -12		
May 1	OES	
May 2	San Diego Scottish Rite	
May 3	Tyre RAM	Escondido
May 14	Consuelo Lodge	
May 17	Helix Council	
Saturday, May 19	Grand York Rite Sessions	Bakersfield
Sunday, May 20	Council	
Monday, May 21		
Tuesday, May 22		
Wednesday, May 23	Chapter	

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