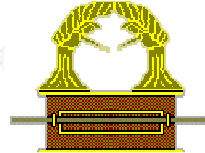




THE WORKMAN



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

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

Though the Royal Arch is not specifically a Christian organization, like the Commandery, I still offer you and all our companions, on behalf of the Grand Chapter, a Merry Christmas! We use the Master's great Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard from Matthew 20 in our Mark Master degree, so during this Christmas season, please re-confirm your zeal and commitment to spread the word to our Masonic brethren. Plan now to visit Blue Lodges in January and urge our blue lodge brethren to petition a Chapter and get the benefit of the greater light in Masonry that we have to provide in all our Degrees. If your Chapter does not now confer the Mark Master degree, consider putting a team together and doing

the conferral. Also consider bringing those candidates to Comptche, near Mendocino, to get the remaining Chapter Degrees. See below for Comptche details, but make every effort you can to help us achieve our 40 For 40 Goal: Forty candidates for the Fortieth Anniversary Festival in the beautiful outdoor setting at the Tunzi Ranch.

Below, we honor one of our Department Grand Lecturers – Tommy McClellan, who was recently chosen by his Chapter to receive the MSA for 2011. Congratulations, Tommy! As you know, each Chapter can issue this award at most once each year, so start thinking now about who your Chapter should honor next year.

Further below, notice the 12 California candidates who received the Chapter Degrees at the Colorado River Fall Festival. Altogether 52 candidates from 4 States participated and were greeted and knighted as well as exalted. Congratulations to these new Companions, and to the Chapters that took advantage of this multi-State opportunity to enjoy the York Rite Degrees and Orders.

Best wishes to you all, again, for a Merry Christmas, and have a Happy New Year, as well!

Fraternally,

Bill Allen, Grand High Priest

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
TOMMY McCLELLAN



Tommy, third from the left, is the Department 2B Grand Lecturer, for 7 Chapters in Northern California. He has served Woodland Chapter #46 for many years, and provides the organizational talent in support of the annual Chapter Festival for the Sacramento Sierra York Rite Association. He is flanked on the left by E.C. Richard Wilson, Inspector, and on the right by E.C. Tom Schwartz, High Priest of Woodland Chapter. And he is surrounded by other Companions of his Chapter who chose him for this distinguished honor in 2011.

COLORADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL



This picture shows M.E.C. Allen with other California Chapter Companions, and the 12 candidates from California who joined the York Rite

in October. Remember this opportunity next year. Although the scheduling is subject to change, put October 21, 22, and 23 on your calendar for this Festival in 2012. Check www.crff.org for the latest info.

THE ROAD

The last two months, we have shared poems from Carl H. Claudy's series of three small booklets from 1931: INTRODUCTION TO FREEMASONRY, I, for Entered Apprentices; II, for Fellowcrafts; and III, for Master Masons. They have been recently republished by The Temple Publishers, and are available from Southern California Research Lodge. The following poetic gem appears in the third booklet:

*So many men before thy Altars kneel
Unthinkingly, to promise brotherhood;
So few remain, humbly to kiss thy road
With ears undeaftened to thy mute appeal;
So many find thy symbols less than real,
Thy teachings mystic, hard to understand;
So few there are, in all thy far flung band
To hold thy banner high and draw thy steel
And yet . . . immortal and most mighty, thou!
What hath thy lore of life to let it live?
What is the vital spark, hid in thy vow?
Thy millions learned as thy dear paths they trod,
The secret of the strength thou hast to give:
"I am a way of common men to God."*

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 2011** 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!

PETITIONS

New petitions and brochures about the Chapter are available on the website at:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm>

Simply scroll down to the lower half of the page.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Last month, we announced this program as developed by Dennis Dyer, Ray Broomfield and Steve Bass. They have compiled an information source, available on CD, as an attachment to email, or by download from the Research Chapter website. It contains numerous articles and books, which can be used to address perceived chapter membership problems throughout the state, especially with regard to membership retention: "It appears more members leave through

the back door via death and apathy than enter the front door after Blue Lodge outreach. Once you have a new member, how do you retain him -- that is the question. I would suggest education is a way to start the process. We hear there is great interest in Masonry as evidenced by thousands of contacts at Grand Lodge after the Dan Brown Books, with particular interest in the spiritual aspects of Masonry as taught by allegory and symbolism. Are we prepared to answer the inevitable questions?" The material available to you now through this program will help you be a source to your companions, new and old alike.

These items are now loaded on the Research Chapter website. For other access methods, please free to contact Dennis for a copy of that CD: 805-758-0043, or ddyer39@verizon.net.

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The Golden State Chapter of Research of the Holy Royal Arch is pleased to announce the release of an updated website, just in time for the new year.

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.

The Research Chapter has also prepared a publication of the Grand Orations and Vesper Services message given at the Grand Sessions in April 2010. Copies are available for a suggested \$5 donation by sending a request to the High Priest. A publication for the Orations of 2011 is now available and will be distributed at our next meeting during the Annual Communication at Grand Lodge.

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**GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website**

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY

Dec-11		
Thursday, December 01	Red Cross of Constantine	San Diego
Friday, December 02	Imperial Valley Commandery	115 E. Baroni Blvd Imperial, CA 92251
Tuesday, December 06	Eastern Star	Escondido
Wednesday, December 07	San Diego Scottish Rite	San Diego
Thursday, December 08	Imperial Valley RAM/CM	115 E. Baroni Blvd Imperial, CA 92251
Monday, December 12	Consuelo Lodge Stated Meeting	Escondido
Thursday, December 22	NCSRA	Carrow's Restaurant Escondido
Thursday, December 29	Knight Masons/San Diego Scottish Rite	San Diego
May-12		
Saturday, May 19	Grand York Rite Sessions	Bakersfield
Sunday, May 20	Council Commandery Chapter	
Monday, May 21		
Tuesday, May 22		
Wednesday, May 23		