



**Stockton York Rite
340 East Market Street
Stockton, CA 95202**

The Stockton York Rite Newsletter

Officers for 2008

Stockton Chapter No. 28

High Priest

King
Scribe
Treasurer
Secretary
Chaplin
Captain of the Host
Principal Sojourner
Royal Arch Captain
Master 3 Veil
Master 2 Veil
Master 1 Veil
Sentinel

Ian Martin

Richard Slater
Chris Ross
Donald Wilcoxon, PHP
Steven Fowler, PHP
Richard Thornton, PHP
John Patronas
Sky Martin
Don Murchison
Arley Smith
John Lynch
Alex Mendoza
Ken Edwards, PHP

Stockton Council No. 10

Illustrious Master

Deputy Master
Principal Conductor
Treasurer
Recorder
Chaplin
Captain Guard
Conductor Council
Steward
Sentinel
Organist

Leland Rountt, IPM

Ian Martin
Richard Slater
Donald Wilcoxon, IPM
Steven Fowler, IPM
Dax Martin
John Patronas
Arley Smith
John Lynch
Ken Edwards, IPM
Carl Meiske

Inspector

Officer's Coach

Leland Rountt, KYCH

Donald Wilcoxon, PHP

Inspector

Officer's Coach

Steven Fowler, KYCH

Dennis Meritt, KYCH

Stockton Commandery No. 8

Commander

Generalissimo
Captain General
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Recorder
Prelate
Standard Bearer
Sword Bearer
Warder
Sentinel

Richard Thornton

Chris Ross
John Patronas
Don Murchison
Dax Martin
Donald Wilcoxon, PC
Steven Fowler, PC
Sky Martin
Arley Smith
John Lynch
Richard Slater
Ken Edwards, PC

Delta Council 216

Sovereign Master

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Secretary/Treasurer
Chaplin
Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Marshal
Chief Steward
Tiler

Leland Rountt

Richard E. Thornton
William McVicker

Inspector

Officer's Coach

Ken Edwards, KYCH

Steven Fowler, KYCH

Inspector

Officer's Coach

Editorial Commentary

An open letter to **York Rite** members, Stockton, California:

- Stockton Chapter No. 28,
- Stockton Council No. 10,
- Stockton Commandery No. 8, and
- Allied Masonic Degrees Delta Council No. 216.

The renaissance of York Rite, Stockton, California is due to the efforts of a core group of dedicated Masons; Steven Fowler, Ken Edwards, Leland Routt, Dennis Merit, Don Wilcoxon, William McVicker, Douglas Martin, and others.

Delta Council No. 216; Stockton Chapter No. 28; and Stockton Council No. 10 were to meet on Saturday, September 27th. Four (4) members arrived for the meeting but that is perfectly all right. Now, why say that, only 4 members were present and meetings were not held? We need a specific number to open, what would happen if the Blue Lodge cannot open for its stated meeting? Now why would this editor and member of the York Rite state that is ok? Because I can honestly state that all members of the Stockton York Rite was attending the Annual Communications at Grand Lodge. I assume I can honestly make that assumption because we could not open. Now I know there are exceptions, Don is scheduled for surgery; a couple had business, but I do know the rest were at Grand Lodge. Take notice of the next paragraph:

October Alameda Festival has been cancelled. That must have been a crush for the organizers to have to cancel such an important Masonic event. We are scheduled to have a most important role in the Vallejo Festival as we are doing the Order of the Temple. What if we had to cancel Vallejo, we have members whom desired to be Sir Knights. Where would we send them? I know we can send them Los Angeles Commandery No. 9.

We need you and please have no doubt, we need you. Just as your Blue Lodge needs you, we need you. I made a commitment when I accepted the nomination and election as Master of Lodi Lodge No. 256 and I have fulfilled that commitment to the best of my ability. I made a commitment when I accepted the nomination and election as Commander, Stockton Commandery No. 8 and I have fulfilled that commitment to the best of my ability. I have accepted the commitment and responsibility of the Sacramento Festival and the Vallejo Festival and I will fulfill that commitment to the best of my ability.

Now that said and done, those commitments cannot be fulfilled without a commitment from each of you. I do not expect you to commit to such a large plate but if your commitment is; the role of Junior Warden in the Vallejo Festival, that commitment is acceptable. If you want to play one of the Pilgrims, that is very acceptable.

If you accept the nomination and election for a position of a line officer accept that commitment and fulfill that dream by doing it to the best of your ability. If you garner attention by jumping up and down, waving your hands, stomping your feet, French kissing, to receive the nomination and subsequent election as a line officer, showing up for one or two meetings a year is not a commitment. What it actual means is the core group of Masons mentioned above must find a replacement for you, for that meeting or for that event.

Please, Stockton York Rite needs you; commit to attend the meetings, our ancient brethren attended meetings and left us a great heritage. It is our responsibility to accept that heritage and pass it along.

We meet on the 4th Saturday, for a period of 3 and ½ hours and we receive a fantastic breakfast. Festivals are usually an all day affair, on the 4th Saturday and we usually receive a very abysmal lunch, but all cannot be Wine and Roses.



Delta Council No. 216 AMD

Saturday, December 27th, following Chapter and Council

Delta Council No. 216 meets every third month, i.e. March, June, September, and December. Elections are held in December and installation ceremony held in March.

The meeting in September did not occur due to all members and officers attending the Annual Communications at Grand Lodge, with the exception of the Sovereign Master and Senior Warden.

An Explanation of the AMD Emblem

(copied from Internet but shorten to fit) the emblem of Allied Masonic Degrees usually yields the remark "very striking, but what does it mean?"

Allied Masonic Degrees sprang from the fertile mind of J. Ray Shute II; it was Brother Shute who discovered the various degrees then in existence in foreign countries and decided to bring them to America. He organized three initial Lodges of Royal Ark Mariner and Councils of the Red Cross, composing them of his friends & acquaintances. He called them together in April of 1932 and founded the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America. It was at the founding meeting the emblem was adopted without debate.

In designing a symbol to represent the AMD, Shute was faced with two choices: create representations of a symbol of each degree as done in England or create an emblem to represent all degrees simultaneously in one symbol.

Degrees consisted of; Royal Ark Mariner, Secret Monitor, Knight of Constantinople, Saint Lawrence the Martyr, Grand Tyler of Solomon, and Excellent Master. Degrees of Master of Tyre, Architect, Grand Architect, & Superintendent were added at the Grand Council meeting in 1933, while those of the Red Branch of Erie were added by Grand Steward's Council B in 1937.

The emblem consists of four symbols combined into one; Triangles, Compasses, Crown and Cross.

- ☒ The first symbol, Triangles, stands for Noachite Masonry, the time surrounding building of the Ark and encompasses the degree of Royal Ark Mariner.
- ☒ The second symbol, Compasses, stands for Solomonite Masonry, the time surrounding building and rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem and encompasses degrees of Excellent Master and Grand Tyler of Solomon.

- ☒ The third symbol, Crown, stands for Royal Masonry, where royalty had an influence on Masonry or Masonic characters and encompasses the degrees of Secret Monitor (David/Saul) and Knight of Constantinople (Constantine).
- ☒ The fourth symbol; Cross, stands for Christian Masonry, where Christianity had an influence on Masonry or Masonic characters and encompasses the degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr.

The Red Branch of Erie degrees can be considered a part of the Royal Epoch, even though it has a well known emblem of its own. The "chair" degrees also fit into this emblem; the Installed Sovereign Master degree in the Solomonic Epoch and the Installed Commander Noah degree in the Noachite Epoch.

The only exception to this symbolic representation is Ye Ancient and Olde Order of Corks. The "Order of Corks" started out as a separate organization which later merged with Grand Master's Council A and subsequently established its own governing body under the AMD "umbrella" with an emblem of its own. Each local Council (with a RAM Lodge attached) can confer the degrees represented by the AMD emblem, but cannot (without permission) confer the "Order of Corks".



Stockton Chapter No. 28

Saturday, November 22nd, at 9:00 a.m

Stockton Chapter No. 28 meets every odd month, i.e. January, March, May, July, September, and November. All York Rite Bodies meet in December for elections and Stockton Chapter No. 28 installation ceremony held in January.

The meeting in September did not occur due to all members and officers attending the Annual Communications at Grand Lodge.

As many of you know, I, as all of you, love Masonry. The love of history and the history of this ancient craft is astounding and full of lore. Lore is fantastic, whether proven or not. The Regius Poem, A Poem of Moral Duties was found during a research about a year ago. The verbiage is copied from the internet but has been shorten for the reader's sake.

While this manuscript was probably written in the 14th century, it refers to a period of Masonic history in England in the late 10th century. It relates the Legend of York, and is the basis for the prominence the city of York has occupied in Masonic lore since the first millennium. Regulations for the government of the craft are included in the poem, as are fifteen articles and fifteen points dealing with ethical, moral and spiritual responsibilities of the ancient craftsmen. These are as applicable to us today as they were 1000 years ago.

Athelstan, the grandson of Alfred the Great, ruled England from 924 to 940 A.D. He completed the subjection of the minor kingdoms in England, begun by his grandfather, and has been hailed as the first King of all England. The Regius poem and other ancient legends relate that Athelstan was a great patron of Masonry, and that he constructed many abbeys, monasteries, castles, and fortresses. He studied Geometry and imported learned men in these arts. To preserve order in the work and correct transgressors, the king issued a Charter of the Masons to hold a yearly assembly at York. The legends proceed to relate that Athelstan appointed his brother, Edwin, as Grand Master and that the first Grand Lodge was held at York in 926. Aside from the direct implications of this legend, it is interesting to note that the King and Prince were patrons of Masonry and as such were probably speculative, rather than operative members of the craft. The fact that this concept prevailed as early as 1390 A.D., and possibly earlier, makes it easier to account for the fact that so many speculative members of high rank joined the craft in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Stated many time during this and other newsletters; our ancient brethren attended meetings and left us a great heritage. Let's treat York Rite to what it is, a tool, a great tool to advance our knowledge in history, history of the craft.

The second article of the poem, as translated: "The second article of good masonry, As you must it here hear specially, That every master, that is a mason, must be at the general congregation, So that he it reasonably be told Where that the assembly shall be held; And to that assembly he must needs go, Unless he have a reasonable excuse, or unless he be disobedient to that craft, or with falsehood is overtaken, or else sickness hath him so strong, that he may not come them among; that is an excuse good and able, to that assemble without fable."



Stockton Council No. 10

Saturday, November 22nd at 10:00 a.m

Stockton Council No. 10 meets every odd month, i.e. January, March, May, July, September, and November. All York Rite Bodies meet in December for elections and Stockton Council No. 10 installation ceremony is held in January.

The meeting in September did not occur due to all members and officers attending the Annual Communications at Grand Lodge, with the exception of the Illustrious Master.



Stockton Commandery No 8

Stated Conclave is Saturday, October 25th, 9:00 a.m

Stated Conclave for Stockton Commandery No. 8 occurs every even month, i.e., February, April, June, August, October, and December. All York Rite Bodies meet in December for elections and Stockton Commandery No. 8 installation ceremony held in February.

A Knight Templar is a man right with God, Country, and Family; honest with himself and others, ever ready to lay down his life, if need be, in the service of truth, righteousness, and justice. A Knight Templar is pledged to follow the banner of his Order and the American Flag wherever they lead in human service, no matter what may be his condition in life or station in society.

On October 19, your Commandery, Stockton Commandery No. 8 held a Flower Talk before an Audience of 300 plus attendees' because two Bethels were merging. I personally give my thanks to all of the Sir Knights that arrived in full uniform. My heart swelled with pride and so did the hearts of all those in attendance. I know many emails were sent out by me desiring more Sir Knights to attend. But we did form two lines west of the altar and the ceremony went smooth. I would have loved, as the rest of the Sir Knights, for more to be in attendance. Larry Adamson, Grand Master, State of California and member of Old West Lodge 813 was in attendance and it was the first time he had attended or seen a flower talk. He was impressed with the Flower Talk and Stockton Commandery No. 8.

Stockton Commandery No. 8 is well remembered. We are composed of Tall Men, Medium Men, Short Men, Skinny Men, Fat Men, Good Looking Men, Downright Ugly Men, Clean Shaven Men, Rugged Looking Men, Bearded Men but we all have one thing in Common; we are Knights Templar. We are a volunteer organization, one dedicated to comradely and brotherly love. One of these days, we too will be doing our own festival as that Commandery, down south, does, the one with the higher number.

Some of the items we must think about, which will be discussed in the October stated conclave.

‡ Stockton Commandery No. 8 Christmas Observance is scheduled for 11:30 Sunday, December 14th, and in conclusion of this ceremony, we will have lunch. This format occurred last year and as your Commander, would love to see this continue. Robert C. Coe, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander will be attending. We will need Sir Knights to read; usually 4,

as an example, one year we read “A toast to our most Eminent Grand Master, Grand Master’s Response, Gift in Small Packages, and Grand Commander’s response and message. Also, needed are a Sir Knight and lady or Sir Knights and Ladies to help plan the lunch.

- ‡ November 24th is the birthday of your Commander – nothing fancy, just keep it simple
- ‡ December 25th is Christmas Day, the birthday of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
- ‡ December 26th is the 44th Anniversary of Richard and Cara Thornton, and
- ‡ December 27th is the date all of the York Rite bodies will be meeting for election of officers. Please endeavor to attend.