



# Stockton York Rite Newsletter

## Officers for 2009

### 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

**Ioannis E. Patronas**  
**Arley Smith**  
**John Lynch**  
**Donald Wilcoxen, PHP**  
**Steven Fowler, PHP**  
 Richard Thornton, PHP  
 Don Murchison  
 Sky Martin  
 Bill Alessio  
 Alex Mendoza  
 Jerry Sabat  
 Richard Slater  
 Leland Rutt, PHP



**Inspector**  
**Officer's Coach**

**Leland Rutt, KYCH**  
**Donald Wilcoxen, PHP**

### Stockton Commandery No. 8



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

**Richard Thornton, PC**  
**Ioannis (John) Patronas**  
**Don Murchison**  
**Arley Smith, III**  
**John Lynch**  
**Donald Wilcoxen, PC**  
**Steven Fowler, KYCH**  
 Sky Martin  
 William Alessio  
 C.W. (Bill) Hasenbuhler  
 Richard Slater  
 Leland Rutt, KYCH

**Inspector**  
**Officer's Coach**

**Leland Rutt, KYCH**  
**Steven Fowler, KYCH**

### Stockton Council No. 10



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

**Dennis Meritt, IPM**  
**Don Murchison**  
**John Patronas**  
**Donald Wilcoxen, IPM**  
**Steven Fowler, IPM**  
 Richard Thornton, IPM  
 Arley Smith  
 John Lynch  
 Bill Alessio  
 Leland Rutt, IPM

**Inspector**  
**Officer's Coach**

**Steven Fowler, KYCH**  
**Dennis Meritt, KYCH**

### Delta Council 216



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

**Leland Rutt**  
**Richard E. Thornton**  
**William McVicker**

# *Commentary*

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

### **Grand York Rite Sessions:**

**Sunday, April 26, 2009 Grand York Rite Banquet**

**Monday, April 27, 2009 Grand Council (Cryptic Masons of California)**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009 Grand Commandery (Knights Templar of California)**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009 Grand Chapter (Royal Arch Masons of California)**

**Stockton York Rite Picnic: August 22, 2009:** Let's have a York Rite Family BBQ. Need volunteers to help organize, plan, cook, and so forth.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, installations of Chapter No. 28 and Council No. 10 officers proceeded in excellent form. Companions, please accept thanks for attending because we had sideliners and as you will read under the Chapter and Council notes, a few Grand Officers were in attendance. This installation of officers was one of the best attended in recent memory. **Thank you.**

Between installation of Chapter and Council officers, a very prestigious award, **Master of Ish Sodi Award**, was presented to Companion Douglas Martin. This award is presented by **Grand Council & Stockton Council No. 10** to companions who give unselfishly of time and service. Basis for the award is a Companion shall have served his Council for four (4) or more years, by constantly giving unselfishly of his time and service for the betterment of his Council and its members. Companion Douglas Martin is very, very deserving of this award.

In general, Chapter, Council, and Knight Templar each have an award, awarded to a Companion or Sir Knight, who gives unselfishly to the York Rite. Chapter has Meritorious Service Award; Council, as mentioned above has Master of Ish Sodi Award; and Commandery has California Knights Templar Meritorious Service Medal. Additionally, Grand Chapter Inspectors has recommendations for General Grand Chapter's Distinguished Service Medal, High Priest of the Year, and Secretary of the Year. Grand Commandery has nomination for the Award of Knights Templar Cross of Honor and Crown and Cross Award.

The Knight York Cross of Honor is by invitation and is awarded to those having served as Master, High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Commander. Knight York Grand Cross of Honor is awarded to those have served as Grand Master, Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander.

I opened a Trestle board today and was moved by an article, reprinted and Author Unknown but I believe the article should be shared.

*I'm the Guy,*

*I'm the guy who asked to join your organization. I'm the guy who paid his dues to join. I'm the guy who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.*

*I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to. I tried several times to be friendly to some of the fellows, but they all had their own buddies they talk to and sat next to.*

*I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts with I volunteered.*

*I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.*

*The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.*

*You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his community, and his country.*

*You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!*

*It amuses me when I think back on how the heads of the organization and the members were discussing why the organization was losing members.*

*It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time.*

*All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and welcome!*

*Author Unknown*

**please learn your position**

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**PLEASE LEARN YOUR POSITION**

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## **Delta Council No. 216 AMD**

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Installation Ceremonies following Chapter and Council: this is the third Saturday as Commandery will be in Vallejo on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday.**

Delta Council No. 216 meets every third month; March 21, 2009, June 27, 2009, September 26, 2009, and December 26, 2009 are the meeting dates. Elections are held in December and installation ceremony held in March. .

Need your help Brethren on Delta Council No. 216 Allied Masonic Degrees. Do not know what else to say, cannot think of any thing to say brilliant nor full of wisdom but very simple, Need Your Help.



## **Stockton Chapter No. 28**

**Saturday, March 21, 2009: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Stated Meeting at 9:00 a.m. THIRD SATURDAY**

Stockton Chapter No. 28 meets every odd month, January 24, 2009 (Installation), March 21, 2009 (Stated Meeting), May 23, 2009 (Stated Meeting), July 25, 2009 (Stated Meeting), September 26, 2009 (Stated Meeting), November 28, 2009 (Stated Meeting), and December 26, 2009 (Elections).

Stockton Chapter 28 was opened by Right Eminent Companion Phillip Hardiman, Grand King and proceeded to install your officers. Also, officers from the Grand Chapter in attendance and additionally members of Stockton Chapter No. 28 were Steven M. Fowler, Assistant Director of Ritual, and Leland Routt, Inspector.



## Stockton Council No. 10

**Saturday, March 21, 2009: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Stated Meeting at 10:00 a.m. THIRD SATURDAY**

Stockton Council No. 10 meets every odd month, January 24, 2009 (Installation), March 21, 2009 (Stated Meeting), May 23, 2009 (Stated Meeting), July 25, 2009 (Stated Meeting), September 26, 2009 (Stated Meeting) November 28, 2009 (Stated Meeting), and December 26, 2009 (Elections). All York Rite Bodies meet in December for elections.

Stockton Council No. 10 was opened by Fredrick J. “Tiny” Potter Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Installation of your officers proceeded. Also, officers from the Grand Council in attendance were Fenton R. Mereness, Grand Director of Ritual, Thomas A. Krummell, Grand Chaplin (North), David P. Glass, Grand Marshal (North), and Steven M. Fowler, Inspector, who is also a member of Stockton Council No. 10.

If you attended the installation of officers, presided by “Tiny” Potter, we had fun, in fact this is the way installations should be – fun, interesting, and still a Grand Installation.

And then, and then, and then, that reminds me of a cartoon somewhere back in the past, think it was a Canadian Mounties or something, along came the question. The Illustrious Grand Master asked the Grand Direct of Ritual how his ritual and performance was during the installation. Fenton R. Mereness is the Grand Director of Ritual and probably will be the Grand Director of Ritual for many years. Companion Mereness proceeded to give a diplomatic dissertation that in the end had elevated “Tiny” Potter to the top 10 out of 145 Grand Illustrious Masters. WOW and it is my sincerest belief, which after listening to the dissertation delivered by Companion Mereness that he actually has seen the ritualist performance of all the past Illustrious Grand Masters and thus is well qualified to make the statement.

And if you were not in attendance, you were missed.



## **Stockton Commandery No 8**

**Stated Conclave is Saturday, February 28, 2009: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Installation at 9:00 a.m.**

- ☒ Installing Marshal: William D. Robertson, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar**
- ☒ Installing Officer: Robert C. Coe, KYGCH, KCT, Right Eminent Department Commander, Southwestern Department, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America**
- ☒ Installing Chaplin: Fenton R. Mereness, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Commandery Knights Templar**

Stated Conclave for Stockton Commandery No. 8 occurs every even month, February 28, 2009 (Installation), April 25, 2009 (Stated Conclave and Inspection), June 27, 2009 (Stated Conclave), August 22, 2009 (Stated Conclave), October 27, 2009 (Stated Conclave), and December 26, 2009 (Stated Conclave and Elections). All York Rite Bodies meet in December for elections.

A Knight Templar is a Sir Knight, right with God, Country, Family, and neighbor; honest with himself and others, ever ready to lay down his life, if need be, in the service of truth, justice, righteousness, and the American way of life. A Knight Templar has 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.

The past year, your Commander has learned a lot about Chapter, Council, and also Stockton Commandery No. 8. I am humbled by the experience, especially the foundation and comradely we had during Christmas Observance. And then you elected your Commander once again, this is a humbling experience and the best words of gratitude I can think of is "Thank You".

We are known throughout the State of California for our excellence in doing the Order of the Temple and this excellence can only be laid at the feet of Steven Fowler, Ken Edwards, Dennis Meritt, and Leland Routt – thank you. During a recent meeting for Festival Planning a comment overheard "Stockton was doing the Order of the Temple and they are good". The only question asked was who was going to be the Commander and Prelate during Order of the Temple. To attend a meeting with the reputation of Stockton Commandery No. 8 makes you stand tall. Thank you.

Let's build upon our reputation and knowledge of the Order of the Temple. I have been reading about various Commanderies and their discussion on lack of attendance; our Grand Commandery has developed a program based on a "Blue" Lodge program. The primary discussion points are and to share a couple of paragraphs:

Unfortunately, for many years, the several bodies of the York Rite have ultimately relied on the Symbolic Lodges as the training grounds for Masonic leaders. Historically, men served on several committees, planned functions, and progressed through the chairs of the Blue Lodge, perfecting their administrative skills prior to entering or serving in the chairs of the York Rite. Observations by Grand Commandery Officers for the past several years have shown this is no longer the norm.

Several subordinate Commandery line officers were surveyed and asked if they had a plan for their year; **many responded No**. Several reasons were cited, with lack of participation by membership being the most often mentioned. As a result, some subordinate commanderies only hold the required number of stated conclaves and have no other activities planned for the year.

Let's turn this around in Stockton Commandery No. 8 and this change can only occur with you, the Sir Knights of Stockton Commandery No. 8.

The program has four categories and our initial objectives for each of the categories is to complete four items within each category and then the following year we can add two, thus doing six items from each category. Please notice that several items are marked as Completed.

**CATEGORY ONE (Commandery Internal Improvement)**

#	Requirement	Points Possible	Score
1	Open installation of officers	5 points	Completed
2	Open meetings with programs	5 points per open meeting	
3	Knightings	5 points per knighting	
4	Knightings 10% or more	25 points	
5	Sponsor a widow's night	5 points	
6	Memorial Service	10 points	
7	Meals with wives	5 points	Completed
8	Recognize birthdays and anniversaries	5 points	
9	Past Commanders Night	5 points	Goal
10	Annual returns submitted on time	5 points	Completed
11	All obligatory observances	5 points	
12	Installed officers proficient in opening and closing	10 points	Goal
13	Contribute \$50.00 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation	10 points	Goal
14	Installed officers are Life Sponsors of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation	10 points	
15	Installed officers are Life Sponsors of the Christian Ministry Fund	10 points	
16	Installed officers are not Past Commanders	10 points	
17	Present a Meritorious Service Award	10 points	Completed
18	Nominate a deserving Sir Knight for the Knight Templar Cross of Honor or Knight Commander of the Temple recognition	25 points	Goal

**CATEGORY TWO (Commandery External Improvements)**

19	Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Ritual Instructor and at least six (6) other Officers attend School of Instruction.	10 points	Goal
20	Publish a newsletter or bulletin.	15 points	Completed
21	Program to promote York Rite and Templar Masonry.	10 points	Goal
22	Visit other Commanderies.	10 points each visit	Goal
23	Publicize your Commandery's activities on a regular basis in the local news media.	10 points	Goal
24	Flag presentations in other Masonic bodies.	5 points each	Completed
25	Drill Team at State Conclave.	10 points	
26	Drill Team at Grand Encampment.	20 points	
27	Ritualistic Team at State Conclave.	10 points	
28	Net growth over and above deaths.	50 points	
29	Confer the Order of the Red Cross with all members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 30.)	15 points	
30	Confer the Order of the Red Cross with not less than ten (10) members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 29.)	10 points	
31	Confer the Order of Malta with all members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 32.)	15 points	
32	Confer the Order of Malta with not less than ten (10) members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 31.)	10 points	
33	Confer the Order of the Temple with all members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 34.)	15 points	Completed
34	Confer the Order of the Temple with not less than ten (10) members of the degree team from your own Commandery. (NOT available if completing Requirement 33.)	10 points	
35	Assist other Commanderies in the conferral of the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta or the Order of the Temple.	1 point per station	
36	No suspensions for N.P.D. or demits.	25 points	
37	Create and maintain a web site.	25 points	

**CATEGORY THREE (Civic and Community Involvement)**

38	Support a local Public library.	25 points	
39	Sponsor a fund raising project.	25 points	Goal
40	Participate in a community improvement project.	25 points	
41	Collect and distribute food, clothing, and/or toys.	25 points	Completed
42	Join the "Adopt-a-Highway Program".	25 points	
43	Sponsor or assist in a fix-up or building campaign.	25 points	
44	Sponsor or assist the "Meals-on-Wheels" program.	25 points	
45	Sponsor a Blood Drive.	25 points	Goal
46	Take part in the presentation of the American Flag at a local government or civic function.	25 points	
47	Take part in the presentation of the American Flag at local high school, collage or professional athletic event.	5 points each	
48	Sponsor a minister for the "Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage".	75 points	

**CATEGORY FOUR (Public Relations Involvement)**

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|----|--|-----------|
| 49 | Sponsor a Knights Templar booth at a local fair or community celebration.                                  | 50 points |
| 50 | Sponsor a Knights Templar float or have the Commandery's Drill Team march in a local parade.               | 50 points |
| 51 | Commandery appears on television participating in a civic or community project.                            | 50 points |
| 52 | Commandery appears on television participating in a Commandery project.                                    | 25 points |
| 53 | Commandery's name to be mentioned on the radio for its participation in a civic or community project.      | 25 points |
| 54 | Commandery's picture appears in the local newspaper for its participation in a civic or community project. | 50 points |
| 55 | Commandery's picture appears in the local newspaper for its participation in a Commandery's project.       | 25 points |

Between the items we have completed, items suggested for Goals, and the items you may want to complete, we are well on our way in becoming a very active Commandery.

**REMEMBER:**

When you receive this newsletter, Installation of your officers for Stockton Commandery No. 8 will only be a couple of days away. You must wear your Uniforms, in their full splendor, with shoes shined and hair combed, whether you part or not is completely personal. This is an open Installation (nothing secret), bring your wife, girlfriend, mother, father, neighbor, your relatives, your distance relatives, anyone.

We will begin with breakfast, biscuits, gravy, eggs, sausage, hash browns, coffee, hot tea, and milk.