

*Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies*

*Views from  
Ventura Valley*

VOL. XLII

January - February 2020

Issue 2

## Our New PR



**Sir Knight John F. Lowe**

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the address above. The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Ventura, Orient of California acknowledge the authority and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

**Cover**

Our new Personal Representative to the SGIG: MW and Sir Knight John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH.

**MW John Lowe New PR**

From our SGIG:

“With the retirement of Ill. Jerry Gonzales as PR in Ventura - I have appointed MW John F. Lowe as my Personal Representative commencing January 1, 2020. I wish to thank Ill. Jerry for the many years serving as PR.”

**Frank Loui**

*Sovereign Grand Inspector  
General in California*

Please join us in welcoming MW John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH, as our new Personal Representative to the SGIG.

**Officers for 2020**

On January 20, 2020, our Valley will hold our annual Installation of Officers. The following officers will be installed to serve our Valley this coming year. Please give them your support.

**Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master..James L. Craig, 32° KCCH  
Senior Warden .....Mark T. Torrez, 32°

**Chapter Rose Croix**

Wise Master.....Roy G. Price, 32°  
Senior Warden .....Ray Broomfield, 32°

**Council of Kadosh**

Commander .....Steven R. Goad, 32° KCCH  
1st Lt. Cmdr.....Rodrigo Kammer, 32°

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh...Ill. : Ryan A. Phillips, 32°  
Prior..... Javier Hernandez, 32°

**Officers of All the Bodies**

Treasurer.. Ill. : M.W. Russ E. Charvonia, 33°  
Secretary ..... Ill. : W. Andrew Little, 33°  
Almoner..... Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°  
Orator..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH  
Prelate .....Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH  
Tiler .....  
Class Director ...Michael Blodgett, 32° KCCH  
Historian ..... Ill. : Fred J. Potter, 33°

## Upcoming Events

Pages 6 and 7 contain the proposed calendar for the year 2020. Please keep it for reference. Also check this newsletter, as well as our web site, <http://venturascottishrite.org/>, for updates.

Our next event will be our Installation of Officers, which is scheduled for January 20 (*note the date change!*). If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required. The installation dinner is NOT part of the annual reservation. Contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Thursday, January 16th. Cost is \$15 per person (no discount for couples) with reservation.

Our next stated meeting will be February 10. The program is to be announced. Dinner reservations are due by February 6, to Harold Bogner (see contact information above). The cost is \$15 for individuals or \$25 for couples with timely reservations.

Longer term, several major events are planned for 2020. The **Scottish Rite Leadership Workshops** this year include one scheduled for April 24-25 in San Diego, CA. (Others will be on March 13-14 in Charlotte, NC and March 27-28 in St. Louis, MO.) This year's theme is Passing the Tools of Leadership. These workshops provide an excellent opportunity for leaders of different valleys to get

together and exchange ideas. Given the near proximity of the workshop we hope many of our members can attend.

Looking a little further ahead, on June 26-28 the valleys of Southern California are planning an Orient reunion, to be held at Long Beach Scottish Rite, at which the 5 mandatory degrees plus 12 additional degrees will be exemplified. On June 5-7 in Oakland the 5 mandatory degrees plus the other 12 degrees will be exemplified by the valleys of Northern California. The plan is to switch the optional degrees between the North and South the following year. This will allow candidates and members who desire to see all 29 degrees to do so either by attending both reunions this summer, or by attending reunions in Southern California two years in a row. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity then be sure to put these dates on your calendar. Our Valley is scheduled to confer the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree. We are starting to line up cast members and stage crew for this event and could use your help.

The **Scottish Rite Builders** is planning to hold its 8<sup>th</sup> annual event on July 31 to August 3, 2020, in Lake Tahoe. (This is related to the Tough Mudders events previously held, but that activity will not be part of this event.) This is a chance to work on building teams, improving participation, Masonic education, fund-raising and public awareness, and plan for 2021. It will include a complete list of speakers and topics. There will be recreational events

(Continued to Page 9)

## From the PR's Quill

*John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH*

### **A New Decade for Valley of Ventura**

**A**s our Valley begins not just a new year, but a new decade, I wish the best in health and happiness to all within our sphere! And with this new decade, our S.G.I.G. Illustrious Frank Loui asked that I step forward and lead our Valley beginning January 1. If you know me from my time as Grand Master, you know that I lead from the middle – and so it shall be in this Valley with my new responsibility, and with your good graces.

Each of you, to be sure, know that the Valley of Ventura needs growth, strengthening, and relevance to engage Scottish Rite Masons, their family, and friends. Those tasks must be our aim going forward. Will you help? Will you join with our team, our officers, all our members, to reinvigorate, find new spirit, and ensure our Valley is strong?

I do have a request for each of you, a question actually: When we finish this first year of the decade, when we are successful, *what will you say I have done?* Don't be timid; whatever is important to you becomes important to me as your P.R. Please forward your



thoughts and ideas to me at [johnflowe@verizon.net](mailto:johnflowe@verizon.net). I will report that data back to you; then let us knock off any rust on our trowels and set to work.

In closing, may we all give thanks to Illustrious Jerry Gonzales for his leadership in our Valley and Godspeed for future success.

*May We Work Beyond Our Valley,*

John  
32° K.C.C.H.

## From the *Outgoing* PR's Quill

*Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°*

**G**reetings to our Scottish Rite Family!

An End of an Era. As most of you know I have resigned as our Valley's Personal Representative. A decision which came with much thought, prayer and discussion, but I felt it time to step aside and allow someone new to lead and direct our Valley into the future. As always, leaving a time-honored position is both a sad and joyous occasion. My 10 years as your PR has been a rewarding one, filled with much success as well as a few shortcomings, but the biggest reward for me was the fellowship and social interaction with so many of you, as well as Scottish Rite Masons around the Country. I wish to thank each and every one of you who have supported me over the years in attempting to make our valley a success. Without all of your support I would not have been able to carry on as well as I did.

As we all know, good things come to an end, but the end is only a new beginning for someone else and our Valley. I wish to Welcome Most Worshipful John Lowe as our new Personal Representative. I will do my best to share my knowledge and experiences with John, and ask that each and every one of you show him



the same love and support, as you did me. I know John will bring new leadership skills to our Valley, and help us to overcome some of the obstacles we are faced with in the coming years.

As we embark into the year 2020 and beyond, I look forward to watching our Valley grow and prosper into a successful valley.

Again, I Thank You all for your support over the past several years.

*Ill. Jerry E. Gonzales 33°*

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org/>  
<http://www.scottishritecalifornia.org/>  
<https://scottishrite.org/>

## VALLEY SCHEDULE 2020 EVENTS

Keep this schedule for the coming year. Note that all dates are tentative. Watch this newsletter and our web site, <http://www.venturascottishrite.org>, for updates.

- Mon Jan 20 Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Jan 16),  
Installation 7:30 pm. [VM, PR, Installing Team]**
- Mon Feb 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Feb 6*),  
Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. [VM]
- Sat Feb 22 VMAP Oriental Conference in Sacramento
- Mon Mar 9 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Mar 5),  
Program 7:30 pm, 25/50 Year Awards, Stated Meeting  
following. [CoK]**
- Mon Mar 23 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Mar 19)  
Remembrance and Renewal. [WM]**
- Mon Apr 13 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Apr 9*),  
Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. [MoK]
- Sat Apr 18 Spring Fast Class (Part 1), (Setup at 7:00 pm Friday),  
8:00 am Saturday, Conferral of 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Degrees.**
- Fri-Sat Apr 24-25 Supreme Council's Scottish Rite Workshop in San Diego
- Mon May 11 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by May 7*),  
Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. (Mother's Day).  
[VM]
- Fri May 15 PR's, General Sec, etc., Oriental Meeting, Palm Springs
- Sat May 16 California Foundation Semi-Annual Meeting, Palm Springs
- Mon June 8 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (*Reservations by Jun 4*),  
Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. [WM]
- Fri-Sun Jun 5-7 CA Northern Oriental Reunion, Oakland
- Fri-Sun Jun 26-28 CA Southern Oriental Reunion, Long Beach
- Fri-Mon, Jul 31-Aug 10 Oriental Scottish Rite Builders Planning Session, Lake  
Tahoe
- Mon Aug 10 Pizza Dinner 6:30 pm, Planning Meeting for New England Picnic
- Sat-Sun Aug 15-16 Wings over Camarillo Air Show
- Sat Aug 22 NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC, Serving Time 12 Noon  
- 1 pm, Camarillo Grove Park**
- Mon Sep 14 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Sep 10), Cap  
& Ring Ceremony 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following, [CoK]**
- Fri-Sun Oct 9-11 Grand Lodge Annual Communication, San Francisco

- Mon Oct 12 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Feast of Tishri Celebration, (Reservations by Oct 8), Stated Meeting following (Reobligation of 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, Nominating Committee Appointed) [VM]**
- Sat Oct 17 Fall Fast Class (Part 1), (Setup at 7:00 pm Friday), 8:00 am Saturday, Conferral of 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Degrees.**
- Mon Nov 9 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (Reservations by Nov 5), Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee) (Veterans Day) [MoK]
- Fri Dec 4 PR's, General Sec, etc., Oriental Meeting, Orange County
- Sat Dec 5 California Foundation Annual Meeting, Orange County
- Mon Dec 14 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Dec 10), Cap & Ring Ceremony 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following (Election of Officers) [VM]**
- Mon Jan 11, 2020 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Jan 7), Installation 7:30 pm

***Please note the Scottish Rite Class dates are under review and pending degree teams and practice dates. Alternate to Classes are to take part in the EA Oriental Reunions or to travel to other Valleys such as Long Beach, Los Angeles or Pasadena!***

([VM] – Venerable Master presiding, [WM] – Wise Master presiding, [CoK] – Commander of Kadosh presiding, [MoK] – Master of Kadosh presiding)

## News of the Valley

At our November stated meeting we honored our veterans. We also received the report of the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. Under Masonic Education III ∴ Andy Little spoke on "The Royal Secret", detailed the different meanings the term has had.

At our December stated meeting we held our annual Election of Officers. Our newly elected officers are shown on Page 2.

Congratulations to Brother Hector Lopez, 32°, who has been elected Master of Mosaic Lodge #184 in Denver, Colorado. Brother Hector is scheduled to be installed on January 11.

# From The Kitchen Staff

## Dinner Menu

### January 20 Dinner Installation of Officers

Garden Salad  
**Grilled Pork chops**  
Candied apple yams  
Mashed potatoes  
Corn on the cob  
Brownies

Cost \$15.00/Individual

RSVP by Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (No Exceptions!)

*(Please Note this is a Special Installation Dinner,  
not a part of the Annual Dinner Reservation!)*

***Please note we will not take any  
reservations after January 18th!***

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com), otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

### February 10th, Stated Meeting Dinner

Meat Lasagna  
Broccoli  
Garlic Cheese Bread  
Strawberry pound Cake

Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple

RSVP by Thursday, February 6, 2020

***Please note reservations after this date  
will be at the cost of \$20.00 Per Person!***

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com), otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).



## Dinner Reservations

### 2020 Dinner Reservation Policy:

**Annual Standing Reservations** are available, for an advance fee of \$140.00 per person or \$240.00 per couple, paid by no later than January 31st of the effective year. After this date **Prorated Annual Reservations** are available at the rate of \$15.00/\$25.00 per remaining Dinner meetings.

This reservation will include dinner for all nine (9) stated meeting dinners and one (1) Remembrance & Renewal Dinner, for the year. It will not include any Special Dinners or the Dinner for our Annual Installation of Officers, which is a special catered Event.

If you choose to pay monthly; the fee will be \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 4 days in advance.

If you make a late reservation, the fee for dinner will be \$20.00 per person.

If you fail to make a reservation and show up asking to eat, the fee will be \$25.00. (Providing there is enough food to accommodate your lack of Reservation.)

If you make a reservation and fail to attend; the appropriate thing to do is send your money to the Valley or be prepared to pay at the next meeting you attend, as we will have paid for your dinner reservation in advance.

As always Widows are guests of the Valley with or without reservations!

(Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from the non-reservation price.)

*Be sure to make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com), otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).*

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### Upcoming Events

*(continued from page 3)*

such as hiking, nature trail walks, swimming, kayaking, jet skiing, etc. Most of the meals will be provided.

We will have more information on these events as the time draws nearer but please take this opportunity to put them on your calendar.



## For Those Who Need our Prayers

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friend,  
Our heart's true wish to send you,  
That you may know that, far or near,  
Our loving thoughts attend you.*

- John Klopstein, (805) 486-0602**
- Larry Toumi, (805) 987-1738**
- Thom Piper, (805) 208-8004**
- Orvene S. Carpenter, (805) 985-2076**
- Terry Holts, (805) 642-6117**
- John A. Argue, (805) 498-4831**
- Ryan A. Phillips, (805)443-2906**

Please give these people a call, pay them a visit, or drop them a card or letter, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a distressed brother, please contact the Secretary ([alittle93012@gmail.com](mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com)), (805) 415-3776) or one of the other officers.

## For Those Who Have Crossed the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call from me,  
And may there be no moaning of the bar  
When I put out to sea.*

*For tho' from out our bourne of time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,  
When I have crossed the bar.*

**John Kenneth Kapus crossed on January 19, 2019**



**FREEMASONRY BUILDS ITS TEMPLES IN THE  
HEARTS OF MEN AND AMONG NATIONS.**

**Useful Contacts**

**Officers of All the Bodies**

Personal Rep of the SGIG...M.W. John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH . (714)392-2692	<a href="mailto:johnflowe@verizon.net">johnflowe@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer .....M.W. Russ E. Charvonia, 33° .... (805)258-1037	<a href="mailto:rcharvonia@freemason.org">rcharvonia@freemason.org</a>
Secretary .....Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° ..... (805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>
Almoner .....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° ..... (805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:slj273prez@hotmail.com">slj273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Asst Almoner Th. Oaks.....John A. Argue, 32° KCCH ..... (805)498-4831	<a href="mailto:mayfieldpark@aol.com">mayfieldpark@aol.com</a>
Asst Almoner Santa Paula...Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° ..... (805)525-5932	<a href="mailto:efgriffin@verizon.net">efgriffin@verizon.net</a>
Asst Almoner Camarillo ..... William F. Campbell, 32° KCCH (805)482-7523	<a href="mailto:bncampbell@verizon.net">bncampbell@verizon.net</a>
Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH ..... (805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Prelate.....Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH..... (805)389-0787	<a href="mailto:fastfinn@verizon.net">fastfinn@verizon.net</a>
Director of the Work.....	
Class Director .....Michael D. Blodgett, 32° KCCH.. (805)390-0114	<a href="mailto:mdblodgett@gmail.com">mdblodgett@gmail.com</a>
Historian ..... Ill.: Fred ‘Tiny’ Potter, 33° ..... (805)484-4150	<a href="mailto:fred_ptr@yahoo.com">fred_ptr@yahoo.com</a>
Tyler .....	

**Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master ..... James L. Craig, 32° KCCH ..... (805)804-7247	<a href="mailto:jlraig19@gmail.com">jlraig19@gmail.com</a>
Senior Warden ..... Mark T. Torrez, 32° ..... (805)290-3200	<a href="mailto:mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com">mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com</a>

**Chapter Rose Croix**

Wise Master ..... Roy G. Price, 32° ..... (805)276-8946	<a href="mailto:venturaprice@yahoo.com">venturaprice@yahoo.com</a>
Senior Warden ..... Ray Broomfield, 32° ..... (805)482-6756	<a href="mailto:raybroomfield@msn.com">raybroomfield@msn.com</a>

**Council of Kadosh**

Commander ..... Steven R. Goad, 32° KCCH ..... (760)608-1585	<a href="mailto:steve.goad9@gmail.com">steve.goad9@gmail.com</a>
Senior Warden ..... Rodrigo Kammer, 32° ..... (805)586-4640	<a href="mailto:rodrigo.kammer@gmail.com">rodrigo.kammer@gmail.com</a>

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh ..... Ryan A. Phillips, 32° ..... (805)443-2906	<a href="mailto:ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com">ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com</a>
Senior Warden ..... Javier Hernandez, 32° ..... (805)889-6714	<a href="mailto:javier@javierhernandez.me">javier@javierhernandez.me</a>

**Other Workers**

Dinner Reservations.....Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH..... (805)484-7657	<a href="mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com">hbogner@smartsourcellc.com</a>
Membership, VMAP Chair. J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH ..... (805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft.....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° ..... (805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:slj273prez@hotmail.com">slj273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft Emeritus.....Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH ..... (805)524-3362	<a href="mailto:mgmetzler@aol.com">mgmetzler@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Editor ..... Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° ..... (805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>

Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com).

Web site: <http://venturascottishrite.org>

**“WHAT WE DO FOR OURSELVES DIES WITH US. WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL.” – Albert Pike**

Ventura County  
Scottish Rite Bodies  
487 Appletree Ave  
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

2020

Views from Ventura Valley  
January – February

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com), or call (805) 218-1648

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**Mon Jan 20 Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (Reservations by Jan 16), Installation 7:30 pm. [VM, PR, Installing Team]**

Mon Feb 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Feb 6*), Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. [VM]

Sat Feb 22 VMAP Oriental Conference in Sacramento

**Mon Mar 9 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm**  
**(Reservations by Mar 5), Program 7:30 pm,**  
**25/50 Year Awards, Stated Meeting**  
**following. [CoK]**

**Mon Mar 23 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm**  
**(Reservations by Mar 19) Remembrance and**  
**Renewal. [WM]**

Mon Apr 13 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations*  
*by Apr 9*), Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting

