

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XLII

May - June 2020

Issue 4

Cholera Epidemic



Sacramento, 1850

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XLII, Issue number 4. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies, 487 Appletree Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012-5148. This publication is distributed free of charge to all members. For further information call 805-415-3776.

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: Sacramento Cholera Outbreak of 1850

This is not the first time California has faced a severe epidemic. Read the following story in the California Freemason:

<https://californiafreemason.org/2020/03/24/quarantine-disease-and-masonic-relief/>

to learn how Masons worked to address a similar situation 170 years ago.

News of the Valley

This has been a very interesting time, to say the least.

The coronavirus has changed everything. Things that we took for granted just a few weeks ago are now transformed almost beyond recognition.

Needless to say, most of our events have been canceled. These include our Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony in March, the Supreme Council workshop in San Diego scheduled for April and our Oriental Reunions scheduled for June in Oakland and Long Beach.

Grand Master MW John E. Trauner has banned all meetings of Masonic organizations in California until further notice. For our Valley we are experimenting with Virtual Meetings. We held our April stated meeting online using the GoToMeeting platform (which is similar to Zoom). Approximately 25 members attended the meeting, mostly using video conferencing but some via audio only, using phones. We also had a few members who we haven't seen for some time, including some who do not live near by. Although the trappings of the meeting were unusual, we kept to the format and had a productive discussion of how everyone is doing, and ideas on future events.

The April 25th edition of the Ventura County Star had a front-page article about Brother Sid Sicoff, who sadly succumbed to Covid-19 on March 27. Although not a member of our Valley, Brother Sid was a frequent visitor, along with his wife Janet. We offer our condolences to the family.

Our next stated meeting is scheduled for May 11, and we will again hold it as a virtual, online meeting. We will distribute the access information by email a few

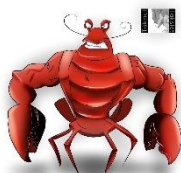
days before that. We hope you can attend.

As for our June stated meeting, we have not decided at this time whether to try having an actual meeting, conditions permitting, or to hold it as a virtual meeting.

Our New England Summer Picnic is still scheduled for August 22, 2020, (see article below) but we realize that there is a lot of uncertainty. The state and county officials may not OK this type of event by that time, or the membership may not be comfortable attending it even if it is permitted. We are also taking a look at other options for this year. We wish we could be more precise as to what we will be doing but that is not possible in this time of uncertainty. As we know anything for certain, we will put the word out, on our web site

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org>

and by email.



New England Picnic

The time draws near as we pre-plan the New England Steak and Lobster Picnic for August 22, 2020.

There are many questions that we have, and we cannot confirm if we will have a fund raiser this year.

We want to assure the safety of the attendees as well as being compliant with any crowd size restrictions. Sadly, we are still on the side of having more questions than answers.

Different suggestions have been made and will be thought out for the best for the Valley and our members.

IF we do not have an event, do we do a Facebook/Zoom style gathering and try to raise money that way?

Do we require attendees to wear masks? Do we social distance on the tables? Do we rent another area and have people sit in a different area?

Can we hold the raffle? Will members of the valley and outside businesses be willing to support the raffle?

Will entertainment be available? Produce availability? Meat and Lobster pricing?

Will the Pleasant Valley Recreation board allow us to hold the event?

Will our usual customers feel safe to attend the event? We have already heard for several of them saying that they would not be attending this year because of the virus.

We will be working on this and send out a note if we are able to have the event. Your patience and your support are much needed now. We want to support the Language Center in the best way possible.

Fraternally,
Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH

From the PR's Quill

John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH

As I write this, we are still under stay-at-home orders. Probably you're growing with anticipation as to when we can move freely again. But for now, all we can think about is "what will the new (ab)normal look like?"

We've never faced such an invisible enemy that has attacked people all across our country. Some well-meaning folks are protesting; others are going to the just-opened beaches — many not following social distance recommendations, and putting themselves and others at risk.

As Scottish Rite Masons, our first duty is to ensure all our members and families are well, sequestered properly, and not lacking for food, medication, or other necessities to stay healthy. Next, we must be good citizens. This means following official guidelines, such as wearing masks, not going out if you feel sick, and just plain being thoughtful to others — especially those with underlying medical conditions. If you or your family needs assistance, please reach out to our officers. We are, truly, all in this together.

Looking forward, our Valley's stated meeting for May will be



virtual, via web video. I encourage all of you to "attend" whether by computer, tablet, or your phone. We can expect to do the same in June; July is normally a dark month. Our Secretary will forward an email to all with the video meeting details.

So, until we meet again (on the video screen), please stay safe and, if called, help a distressed worthy brother.

Fraternally,
John

Uncertain Times Strengthen Our Obligation

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has upended life as we know it, and like the rest of the state, California Masons are now confronting the challenge of living in a world on lockdown. Some of our members have lost their jobs and are having trouble affording even the essentials. If you know members of your lodge or our Valley who have been affected by COVID-19, please learn more about the **Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund**, which can help. This relief program, administered by Masonic Outreach Services, is just a phone call away, at (888) 466-3642, or visit the website (<https://masonichome.org/masonic-homes/covid19/masonic-relief-during-covid-19/>).

The Relief Fund is made possible by the generosity of our fraternity—and of the generations that came before us. Please donate if you have the means. It could mean the difference between a fellow member affording rent, groceries, or other urgent supplies. [Donate Here.](#)

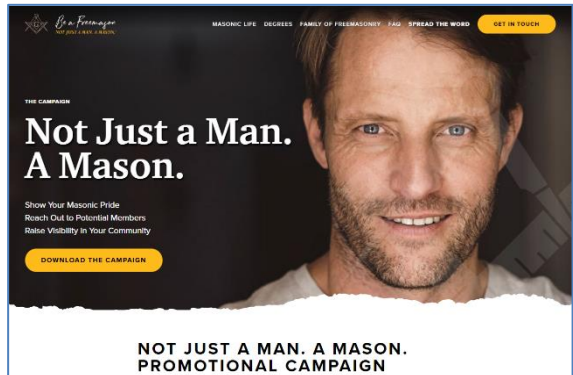
Scottish Rite and Shrine Launch New Web Site

The Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite, together with the Shrine of North America, have created an exciting new web site,

BeAFreemason.org

to answer questions of perspective members of the fraternity. The intent is to supply accurate information and allow

interested men to get in touch with local Masonic groups. If you receive queries about the Fraternity, consider directing them to this site. They will get accurate information and will be able to easily make contacts.





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**
- John A. Argue, (805) 498-4831**
- Mike Satumba, (210) 557-9721**
- Fred 'Tiny' Potter, (805) 484-4150**
- Ron Brown, (805) 796-1886**

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, (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.*

(Thankfully we have no brethren to report this issue.)



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

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG.....	<u>M.W. John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(714)392-2692</u>	<u>johnflowe@verizon.net</u>
Treasurer	<u>M.W. Russ E. Charvonia, 33°.....</u>	<u>(805)258-1037</u>	<u>rcharvonia@freemason.org</u>
Secretary	<u>Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°.....</u>	<u>(805)415-3776</u>	<u>alittle93012@gmail.com</u>
Almoner.....	<u>Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°.....</u>	<u>(805)649-8177</u>	<u>sjl273prez@hotmail.com</u>
Asst Almoner Th. Oaks.....	<u>John A. Argue, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)231-2618</u>	<u>mayfieldpark@aol.com</u>
Asst Almoner Santa Paula.....	<u>Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33°.....</u>	<u>(805)525-5932</u>	<u>efgriffin@verizon.net</u>
Asst Almoner Camarillo.....	<u>William F. Campbell, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)482-7523</u>	<u>bncampbell@verizon.net</u>
Orator.....	<u>J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)241-6968</u>	<u>jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</u>
Prelate.....	<u>Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)389-0787</u>	<u>fastfinn@verizon.net</u>
Director of the Work.....			
Class Director	<u>Michael D. Blodgett, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)390-0114</u>	<u>mdblodgett@gmail.com</u>
Historian	<u>Ill.: Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°.....</u>	<u>(805)484-4150</u>	<u>fred_pttr@yahoo.com</u>
Tyler	<u>Ronnie L. Brown, 32°.....</u>	<u>(805)796-1886</u>	<u>jakezone980@gmail.com</u>

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master.....	<u>James L. Craig, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)804-7247</u>	<u>jlcraig19@gmail.com</u>
Senior Warden	<u>Mark T. Torrez, 32°.....</u>	<u>(805)290-3200</u>	<u>mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com</u>

Chapter Rose Croix

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

Council of Kadosh

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

Consistory

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

Other Workers

Dinner Reservations.....	<u>Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)484-7657</u>	<u>hbogner@smartsourcellc.com</u>
Membership, VMAP Chair.....	<u>J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)241-6968</u>	<u>jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</u>
Stagecraft.....	<u>Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°.....</u>	<u>(805)649-8177</u>	<u>sjl273prez@hotmail.com</u>
Stagecraft Emeritus.....	<u>Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH.....</u>	<u>(805)524-3362</u>	<u>mgmetzler@aol.com</u>
Newsletter Editor.....	<u>Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°.....</u>	<u>(805)415-3776</u>	<u>alittle93012@gmail.com</u>

Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at 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
May – June

Page 8

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon May 11 Virtual Stated Meeting , 7:00. Access information will be sent out by email. [VM]

Mon June 8 Stated Meeting (if it can be arranged, otherwise a Virtual Stated Meeting), Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm,
(Reservations by Jun 4), Program 7:30 pm,
Stated Meeting following. [WM]

Mon Aug 10 Pizza Dinner 6:30 pm, Planning Meeting for
New England Picnic (if it can be arranged)

**Sat Aug 22 NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC, (if it
can be arranged), Serving Time 12 Noon – 1
pm, Camarillo Grove Park**

