

Ventura Valley

VOL. XLIV

November - December 2021

Issue 1

Honors



**Brothers Salvador J. Lopez, Jr.
(L) and Ryan A. Phillips are
dubbed Knight Commanders of
the Court of Honour**

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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:

We congratulate Brothers Salvador J. Lopez, Jr. (L) and Ryan A. Phillips on becoming Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor at the Honors Ceremony on September 11 in Oakland. Also, Ill.∴ John F. Lowe was coroneted a

33° Inspector General Honorary. (Unfortunate, Ill.∴ John has recently become camera shy so we are unable to show you a picture of him in his new white hat.) Below we have a picture of Sir Knights Sal and Ryan at the Grand Banquet.



News of the Valley

We have now had two in-person stated meetings and are beginning to get back in the hang of things, although we still have a way to go to get back to where we were before the pandemic hit.

As you are no doubt aware, food prices have recently undergone a large increase. To accommodate this, we have regrettably found it necessary to increase the price of our dinners to \$20. (Historical note: our dinner prices were set at \$15 at the beginning of 2015. Prior to that they were \$17!)

Our next stated meeting is Monday, November 8. At that time, we will hear from the Nominating Committee about their recommendations for next year's officers. If you are willing to take an office next year, please let the current officers know. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Friday, November 5th. Cost is \$20.

The Rainbow Girls who serve our dinners are collecting canned goods for Food Share as a service project. They would appreciate it if those attending the meeting would bring some canned goods to donate to their project. Please help them out.

Our December 13 stated meeting will be our annual election of officers. If you are planning to

join us for dinner, please make a reservation with Sir Knight Harold Bogner (see above) by Friday, December 10.

Ill.:. Tom Melugin, 33°, is stepping down as coordinator of the kitchen crew. Brother Mark Torrez, 32°, will be taking on the responsibility for the dinners as well as the bar. Please give Mark all your support, and continue to make reservations for dinner so we know how much food to prepare.

Just a reminder, we are continuing to collect donations in lieu of the New England Summer Picnic, (which we were unable to hold this summer), to support the Santa Barbara Language Clinic. Donations may be made through our GoFundMe page at

<https://gofundme.com/f/ventura-valley>

Or you may mail donations to the Secretary at 487 Appletree Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012-5148 (which will save a service fee).

Dues notices were sent out already and second notices will go out soon. If your dues are not paid, you should have received your second notice in the next month. Please be prompt with your payments. As always, if you are having financial or other problems which interfere with your ability to pay, let the Secretary know and we will work it out.

From the PR's Quill

Another Unsure November?

Ill John F. Lowe, 33°

Sometimes it feels as if we are stuck on Ground Hog Day – that every day COVID-19 issues keep us all nervous... Masks needed to enter a business? Vaccination required to enter a restaurant? Can I lower my mask to eat? Can I give (or get) a hug? Indeed, these are times that try one's patience.

Yet, now that we can again meet in person as Scottish Rite masons, caution is still important. We must wear masks inside the temple building unless eating or drinking. Handshakes? Only if you feel comfortable – otherwise an elbow bump might be in order.

If you are healthy, we need you back among us. We are not whole when one of us neglects attending merely because we are out of the routine of attending.

Put the second Monday back on your calendar and make a dinner reservation. Eat, talk, and be reminded why we are



brothers of every sect and opinion enjoying common bonds. I hope you will attend!

As previously mentioned, our Valley is blessed with two new honour men. Brothers Ryan Phillips and Salvador Lopez are now Knights Commander Court of Honor! They traveled to Oakland for the investiture ceremony and well represented our Valley. The recognition indicates the expectation of future good works in store for each of them.

See you on the 8th!

The Image of Freemasonry

Most Worshipful Brother Theodore Meriam, then Grand Master of California, in a message in the California Freemason said in part:

“For hundreds of years, Masonry has rightfully enjoyed a position of great respect in the general public eye. This has been because of favorable activities on the part of individual members, individual Lodges and Masonry as a whole. Perhaps too few people know what we stand for and what we do. It has been recounted that a school superintendent was interviewed about Public Education Week activities, and at the conclusion of the interview he asked if this was a sample of what Masonry believed in and worked for. On being assured that it was, he immediately asked for a petition. He stated that he had been around Masons all his life, and this was the first time he ever knew that Masons did anything except go to the Lodge hall and confer some degrees, and now he had learned something, and wanted to be a member.

“I think we need to build an image – an image in the mind of the public that Freemasonry is a great institution, a most valuable asset for the community, a tremendous influence for public good – and above all, an institution of dignity, quality and substance.

“The individual Mason should always be ready to stress the Quality, the Dignity, the Substance of the

Masonic Order – and his own personal pride in being a Mason. He should not hesitate to talk about Freemasonry. When somebody asks – “What do you do at the Masonic Lodge?” each Mason should be prepared to tell of some of the things that are done. He should not “clam up.” He should not imply that “all is secret.” He can say that we participate in serious ritualistic ceremonies designed to portray in a very graphic manner many fundamental precepts of ethical, good moral conduct of our lives. He can say that the fraternal meetings provide an opportunity for friendly, sincere conversations with fellow members concerning many, many things. He can say that his Lodge provides an inspirational thrust to its members to be thoughtful, conscientious, participating citizens.”

The public gets its image of Masonry from you and me; from our Masonic Temples, our public appearances such as funerals, church services, public installations, cornerstone and dedicatory ceremonies, Lodges of Sorrow, etc.; from the worthwhile endeavors of our Lodges and Brethren individually and collectively; from the composite picture presented by the sum of all of our members and of their lives and endeavors.

Let each one of us ask himself: Am I the kind of Mason, who, by my way of life and service will add Dignity?



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**
- Thom Piper, (805) 208-8004**
- Jim Daniels, (805) 984-7272**
- Raul Cifuentes, (805) 807-1419**

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.*

Alfred DeOrr Cook crossed on 9/20/2021



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

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG...Ill.:	John F. Lowe, 33°	(714)392-2692	johnflowe@verizon.net	
Treasurer		(805)258-1037		
Secretary	Ill.:	W. Andrew Little, 33°	(805)415-3776	alittle93012@gmail.com
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Loge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Mark T. Torrez, 32°	(805)290-3200	mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com
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Chapter Rose Croix

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Council of Kadosh

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1 st Lt. Commander	Rodrigo Kammer, 32°	(805)586-4640	rodrigo.kammer@gmail.com	
2 nd Lt. Commander	Pat Riggs, 32°	KCCH	(805)984-1453	wpatrickriggs@verizon.net

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Master of Kadosh	Steven R. Goad, 32°	KCCH	(760)608-1585	steve.goad9@gmail.com
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Other Workers

Dinner Reservations	Harold W. Bogner, 32°	KCCH	(805)218-1648	hbogner@smartsourcellc.com
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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

2021

Views from Ventura Valley
November- December

Page 8

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

- Sun Nov 7 Daylight Savings Time ends. Set your clocks **back one hour** so that you will be **on time** for our stated meeting!
- Mon Nov 8 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Nov 5*), Stated Meeting,
Report of Nominating Committee (MoK)
- Mon Dec 13, **Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm** (*Reservations by Dec 10*), Stated Meeting, Election of Officers (VM)
- Mon **Jan 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm** (*Reservations by Jan 7*), Installation of Officers

