

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XLII

July - August 2020

Issue 5



James L. Craig

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XLII, Issue number 5. 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: In Memoriam, Sir Knight James L. Craig

We recently lost one of our most active members, due to COVID-19.

James was serving as Venerable Master. He had previously served twice as Master of Kadosh, in 2015 and 2019, and as Commander in 2018. He was invested as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) in 2017.

But beyond the actual stations that he filled, he was a person we could always count on whenever the Masonic Center needed to be set up, or we needed someone to fill in for a part in a degree at the last minute, or to help out with any other project.

James was also a key figure in Santa Paula Lodge #291, serving as Secretary for several years, and in the Ventura County Shrine Club. He was also a member of Channel Island Lodge and was serving as Chaplain there. He was also a member of the York Rite Bodies.

We will all miss him.



as Venerable Master for the rest of this year.

We also decided to proceed with a fundraiser for the Childhood Language Clinic, to replace the New England Summer Picnic this year.



News of the Valley

We are continuing our virtual meetings. At our June stated meeting we elected Brother Mark Torrez, 32°,

We are asking that those who normally would support the picnic to make equivalent donations to help the Language Center this year. We

also invite all members and supporters to make similar donations to the extent that you are able. Please see enclosed flier for details.

For those who prefer to donate online Brother Rodrigo Kammer, 32°, has created a GoFundMe page. The link is

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

We will have a virtual stated meeting on Monday, July 13 this year, starting at 7:00 pm. A big Thank You, Brother Javier Hernandez, 32°, for setting it up for us on his Zoom platform. The link and sign on information are:

Topic: Ventura County Scottish Rite
Virtual Stated Meeting
Time: Jul 13, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific
Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84637824700?pwd=V01rZU80SDc2Q3V0RUR0MWRlRUs0dz09>

Meeting ID: 846 3782 4700

Password: 379507

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,84637824700#,,,,0#,,3

79507# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,84637824700#,,,,0#,,3

79507# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 846 3782 4700

Password: 379507

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84637824700?pwd=V01rZU80SDc2Q3V0RUR0MWRlRUs0dz09>
Ycq

We hope that you can join us then.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING PIKE STATUE

On June 19th, 2020 a statue of Past Grand Commander Albert Pike was toppled from its pedestal in Washington, D.C.

The statue celebrated Pike's humanitarian successes and his leadership of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The statue was gifted to the people of the United States in 1901. Even though the Scottish Rite no longer had any ownership rights to the sculpture, this Supreme Council has repeatedly voiced its strong support for any governmental decision to remove the statue, because we recognized that its existence could be a concern among some citizens.

We can never condone unlawful acts; otherwise the foundation of our society would crumble.

However, the statue has belonged to the people since we gave it to them more than a hundred years ago. Our prayer is that the removal of the statue can be at least a small step toward healing our nation's wounds.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we prefer to step forward with our fellow citizens, consistent with the Scottish Rite Creed: Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.


Sovereign Grand Commander



From the PR's Quill To our Scottish Rite Family:

John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH

The month of July traditionally means celebrating the Fourth, watching fireworks, enjoying family picnics and vacations, and getting together with friends and neighbors. This July though begins like no other in our memories.

In the middle part of June, our Governor began the process of slowly re-opening businesses closed or curtailed by the pandemic. Then, the daily case count of COVID-19 infections began to climb as Californians, no doubt tired of quarantine, began going in large numbers to public spaces crowded with like-minded people. Given the climbing number of infections, by late June the Governor mandated most business to again close, to protect the general population.

So, this Fourth of July seems quite muted for most of us: no fireworks, no group picnics, no time at the beach. Perhaps, though, it could be a time for reflection of the true meaning of the day.

Back in 1776, a group of patriots were busy with words and sentences that emoted their true feelings of freedom and independence. Not even one delegate, I am sure, thought those words would become perhaps the most important document ever written. That those words would begin the greatest experiment in self-



government — the American Experiment. Those ideas expressed in Philadelphia that hot summer still hold meaning to Scottish Rite Masons right here in Ventura County, and across these United States.

The pandemic has changed our lives to a different normal, and we all hope for and long for a return to a normal close to what we remember. But we, as Scottish Rite Masons, have an important role in the here and now. We should set an example of the best in America, to display the virtues of brotherly love and truth. Set an example. Follow the guidelines of health officials, both statewide and national. Social distancing? We all are accustomed

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NEW ENGLAND

SUMMER PICNIC

THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL

Saturday, August 22nd, 2020 (Cancelled)

“DON'T BRING YOUR OWN LARGE PLATTERS THIS YEAR”

As the support of the Childhood Language Centers is important, the Ventura County Scottish Rite Valley will be promoting a donation fundraiser in lieu of the New England Summer Picnic this year. We are asking the volunteers and the attendees to generously donate monies that they would have spent on tickets for the event for the support of the Language Center.

HOW TO DONATE!

- Cut-off date for Donations – December 1, 2020
- Checks can be made out to: **Ventura County Scottish Rite**
- Ill. Andy Little 33°, 805/415-3776
- **Mail to:** 487 Appletree Ave. Camarillo, CA 93012-5148
- The link for our gofundme campaign is: www.gofundme.com/ventura-valley



SPONSORED BY THE Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

All profits go to the:
Santa Barbara RiteCare
Childhood Language Center
www.sbspeech.org



Santa Barbara RiteCare

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit center that provides screenings, evaluations, and therapy services to preschool-aged children.
Tax ID: 94-6078728

Prepare for the 31st Annual New England Picnic:
July 17th, 2021

From the PR's Quill

Continued from page 4

to it now. Yes, wearing a mask may be uncomfortable, but the life you save could be your own. Or a family member or friend. We are indeed our brother's keeper.

The U.S. Senate Chaplain, the Reverend Peter Marshall recently stated:

May we think of freedom,

*not as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity to do what is
right.*

Finally, while out of caution our Valley had to cancel the New England Summer Picnic, the speech clinic in Santa Barbara still needs our support. You will find information on how to donate to that worthy cause in this issue.

Until we meet again upon the level, stay safe and healthy.

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](#).

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

Mike Satumba, (210) 557-9721

Ron Brown, (805) 796-1886

Jim Daniels, (805) 984-7272

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.*

James L. Craig passed on 5/9/2020

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

Lodge of Perfection

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Venerable Master | <u>Mark T. Torrez, 32°</u> (805)290-3200 | mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com |
| Senior Warden | | |

Chapter Rose Croix

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

Council of Kadosh

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

Consistory

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

Other Workers

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

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
July – August

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon July 13 Virtual Stated Meeting, 7:00 pm [WM], Zoom Meeting ID: 846 3782 4700, Password: 379507
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84637824700?pwd=V01rZU80SDc2Q3V0RUR0MWRlaUs0dz09>

Mon Sep 14 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm
(Reservations by Sep 10), 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*),

