

# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



## ORIENT OF FLORIDA Summer 2024



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello my Brothers! 2024 is in full swing at the Valley of Fort Myers. We raised thirteen Brothers to the 32° in our Spring Reunion. Congratulations, my Brothers! We also are providing very worthwhile speakers at the Valley this year, including talks on motivation methodology, Iwo Jima, and Israel. Programs at the Valley are really on point and I think provide us all historical perspective, subjects of value in our personal lives, and spiritual and Masonic strengthening. Please join us in furthering our collective Masonic journey.

Our Lodges serviced by the Valley are strong and able Lodges. Of course, we all need to help our Blue Lodges whenever possible. Whether your a Valley officer, an attending member, or a Brother who is involved in other aspects of your life, please pay particular attention to your home and/or local Lodge. Help us find a way to get the Valley involved in assisting our Blue Lodges to locate and raise new Master Masons.

It is always true that although our Ancient Landmarks are never to be infringed or changed, how we go about applying them can change with the times. It may be time, my Brothers, to help the Fraternity as a whole find a way to apply these Ancient Landmarks to our lives. We are trying to do that in the Scottish Rite, by locating and promoting programs which take a value from our Fraternity and discussing ways that it applies to our lives. How can these Ancient Landmarks, arcane rituals and funny hats have meaning in today's world? Let's find out together!

If you have an idea for a program you would like to see, please let me know.

Fraternally,

**III. Clay W. Taylor, 33°**  
Personal Representative  
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite  
Valley of Ft. Myers, Orient of Florida



## The Mission of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Orient of Florida

To be the premier fraternity of Men of Integrity and Good Character by providing opportunities for personal growth, leadership skills, education and social interaction based on the values of friendship, charity, patriotism, tolerance and a belief in a Supreme Being. To that end we commit to making a positive impact on mankind, promoting our community and providing value to the Masonic fraternity.

**STUDY GROUP:** The evening of *Wednesday, August 28th at 6:00pm* there will be a special esoteric discussion about the 5th, 6th and 7th degrees from the Lodge of Perfection. All Scottish Rite Masons who are 32° Masters of the Royal Secret are invited to attend.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday July 17 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Submariners and the Flag</i>
Wednesday August 21 7:30pm	Consistory <i>15th Degree—Exemplified</i>
Wednesday August 28 6:00pm	Esoteric Study Group <i>5th, 6th, &amp; 7th Degree Discussion</i>
Wednesday September 18th 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Presentation about the 15th Degree</i>
Saturday & Sunday October 5th & 6th 7:00am-5:00pm	2024 Fall Reunion <i>4th thru 32nd Degrees</i>

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



My Scottish Rite Brothers, I am honored to have been selected to serve in this capacity since the departure of our dear friend Ill. Freddie Wright. I will do my very best to support the Brothers of this Valley and beyond, and I hope you will be comfortable reaching out with any questions or issues you may encounter along the way- and even in cases where I may not immediately know the answer, I will certainly find out.

There is an abundance of opportunities to participate in the Valley of Fort Myers. It is a time of change with new Brothers taking over different responsibilities, and I trust you will support them in those new roles.

It takes all of us to keep this special thing going- and to help it grow. I truly believe the Scottish Rite has something for everyone, and we are all tasked with being its ambassadors. Do you know where you fit in and how you could make a difference? If you are not sure, now is a great time to answer that question. We have such a talented array of Brothers among our ranks, and many hands make light work. Are you an encourager or a mentor? Could you help in the classroom? Could you lend a hand to the backstage crew? Are you able to help cook meals? Do you want to be part of a degree cast? Could you help with our efforts to support the Scottish Rite Foundation? Give it some thought. Your active participation enriches the experience for yourself and others.

I encourage you to attend both the monthly meetings as well as our scheduled Reunions. Scottish Rite Masonry has so much to offer all Freemasons, their families, and our communities. We meet on the third Wednesday each month, with dinner at 6:30 PM and the meeting at 7:30 PM. Also, it is asked that you RSVP to [vofmrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:vofmrsvp@gmail.com) if you are expecting to come for dinner, so the kitchen crew can plan accordingly for the food.

God bless you, my Brothers.

**Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°**  
General Secretary



## The Passing Down of a Masonic Heritage

(Right) Bob Sweet, 32° KSA took a few minutes at our Consistory in March to surprisingly present Luis Tulier, 32° some very personal Masonic items; including a couple of authentic white lambskin aprons & cipher books that used to be his uncle's. While Bro. Sweet emphasized that he doesn't have any immediate health concerns, he wanted to be sure that these treasured items would go to someone that would appreciate and take care of them – that person is Brother Tulier.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH



Fellow Brothers and Knights, I hope this newsletter finds you well and eager for the second half of 2024. The AASR Valley of Fort Myers has a good schedule ahead of us where we are planning to exemplify two degrees that we do not normal see - the 15th and the 23rd.

The 15th Degree "Knight of the East or Sword" is set around the time when the people return from Egypt to Jerusalem and the ruins of the Temple of Perfection. It is this degree of the Chapter of Rose Croix which focuses on Faith, Hope and Charity as sure guides to our actions, and as the safest paths through adversity. In a following Consistory meeting, Daniel Molina will be giving us insight into the 15th Degree.

The 23rd degree "Chief of the Tabernacle" is one of several Council of Kadosh degrees. It touches on the Jewish people, the Tabernacle and the Holy of Holies. Great truths must be approached with reverence and piety.

In July, several of our veterans will be giving talks about their adventures in the service of our country. Brothers such as William Hershey, the three submariners (John Troia, Ken Jordan, Mike Meehan), Edgar Lanham and others.

We are also putting together a local lodge history night for our December meeting. This will be a time where Brothers from the Lodges that make up our Valley can provide a little history of their Lodge history and share any interesting events. If you have things you would like to share with the Valley, I would love to give you some time for that. Please give me a call at (239) 410-3337.

May God Bless you,  
**Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH**  
Master of Kadosh



# Howdy from West Tennessee!



Howdy from West Tennessee! I'm 90 miles East of Memphis in a town called Selmer with just under 5000 folks--the home of Buford Pusser.

Greetings, my Brothers. I hope all is well and you are receiving God's blessings.

We should have a moment of silence for our departed Brother Ken Stoner. (Your chores are over; Rest in peace, Brother).

I had the opportunity to attend an outdoor degree in Somerville, Tennessee last Saturday afternoon. To be honest, I had a choice of going to a semi-professional wrestling event at the civic center here in town, but I chose the Masonic event instead. The third degree was going to be conferred upon a candidate that was brought up here from Texas. The degree team were all Texas Rangers from Rising Star Lodge No. 429 in Center Point, Texas.

This took place after about 100+ Masons received the *Coonhound degree*. YES! There was coon there. I tried it, but it did not taste like chicken. Alas, the desserts were all homemade; certainly reminiscing for Freddie.



The *Coonhound* is very similar to the Yellow Dog degree that is conferred at the Cave degree in Kingston, Tennessee the third weekend in August. The degree work for the Master Mason is similar, but different, as you would expect.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and calls. This caregiving thing is not for sissies.

Happy Trails, my brothers!

Brother Fred L. Wright, 33°

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## Congratulations to the 14th Degree Team!

They were chosen as the Favorite Degree at the 2024 Spring Reunion



(Above Left to Right) Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH; Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH; Fred Wright, 33°; Tim Eckert, 32°; and Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA

(Left) Degree Master: Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH



Congratulations to Honorable Bill Jones, 32° KCCH, who recently received his Blue Hat for serving 50 years in Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

# 2024 Elected Officers for Valley of Fort Myers AASR

Executive Board voting members: Elected Valley Officers, Foundation Representative (unless otherwise included), and 4 elected general members, including KCCH Commander (unless otherwise included) and KSA First Knight (unless otherwise included)

	<b>CONSISTORY</b>
Master of Kadosh*	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Prior*	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
Preceptor*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
Chancellor*	Hon. Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Minister of State*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA

	<b>COUNCIL OF KADOSH</b>
Commander*	Hon. John Troia, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander*	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°
Orator*	Hon. Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH

	<b>CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX</b>
Wise Master*	Hon. Jonas Seda, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA

	<b>LODGE OF PERFECTION</b>
Venerable Master*	Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°
Senior Warden*	Bro. Jay Champion, 32° KSA
Junior Warden*	Bro. Gary Marvel, 32°
Chancellor*	Bro. Rick Pennewaert, 32°

	<b>KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW</b>
First Knight**	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
Knight Grand Council**	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA
Knight Bursar**	Bro. Jay Champion, 32° KSA
Minister of State**	Bro. Corbin Kidd, 32° KSA

	<b>KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR</b>
Commander**	Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH
1st Lieutenant**	Hon. Jim Hogg, 32° KCCH
Secretary**	Hon. Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Treasurer**	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Chaplain**	Hon. Kurt Wagner, 32° KCCH

\*Elected Valley Officers  
\*\*Officers elected by the Group



Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH: [KLGourley1971@gmail.com](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor & Publisher / Social Media & Web (2017-Present)

