

Valley of Fort Myers Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite



WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM

ORIENT OF FLORIDA

FALL 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Brothers! I sincerely hope that you were able to attend our Scottish Rite Reunion on Oct 4th and 5th.

Our Grand Commander, Ill James D. Cole, will be with us for a Zoom Town Hall meeting at our November Consistory Meeting. This is the opportunity for you to ask a question of the Grand Commander regarding the state of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Being in Southwest Florida, you may feel that you are far from the center of Freemasonry. However, as it is such a universal Fraternity, wherever you are is the center of Freemasonry, as long as it is in your heart.

Please make plans to join us the rest of this year and all of next - we will be sending you agenda's meal plans, times, and dates so you can put the interesting bits on your calendar. Please join us as our officers are making tremendous efforts to bring programs of interest to **you** — the most important part of all of Freemasonry!

Fraternally,

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Personal Representative—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday October 15 7:30 pm	Lodge of Perfection Feast of Tishri
Wednesday November 19 7:30 pm	Consistory Town Hall with Sovereign Grand Commander and Reunion Worker Dinner at 6:30pm
Wednesday December 17 7:30 pm	Consistory Elections KCCH & KSA Reports
Wednesday January 21 7:30 pm	Consistory Officer Installation

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
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Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°
General Secretary
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Ill. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Serving all Bodies
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Hon. Robert Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Almoner—Serving all Bodies
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email: bobzimm@comcast.net

Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°
Scottish Rite Foundation Representative
phone: (239) 292-9593
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Ill. David Wolffe, 33°
Organist—Serving all Bodies
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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



My Brethren, we've just concluded a Fall Reunion that saw our Valley initiate nine great Brothers from across the area. Be sure to introduce yourselves to them and other new faces you encounter at Valley functions. You'll be glad you did.

The enthusiasm from the new initiates was contagious. Their desire for knowledge was evident. Without fail, they all expressed a desire to be involved and to make a difference in the Scottish Rite. Let's help them do that- and while we're at it, let's rededicate ourselves to the work we know to be so important.

A running theme in Scottish Rite degrees is that of duty, so let's seize those opportunities to be great mentors to the new Brothers, to continue being great Ambassadors for the Valley, and to work together in improving the quality of the experience our Valley provides to both Masons and our community.

Thank you for everything you do to make our Valley and Freemasonry in Southwest Florida so special. Good bless you, my Brothers.

Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°
General Secretary—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: After a sluggish start to the year our Portfolio has gradually returned to the positive. At the beginning of the year we changed our strategy to growth increasing the principle investment and take a smaller amount in cash return at the end of the year to \$10,000. This we achieved in April 2024 the total balance of the Valley's investment was \$484,150.41, as of the end of September 2025 the balance is \$569,466.37 an increase of \$85,315.96. We are also expecting a cash return at the end of this year in the range of \$20,000.

Since the beginning of 2021 when we decided to use our investment as income producing revenue instead of investment building we have added \$123,577 to our operating bank account. By doing this we have managed to keep the Dues steady over the last few years and managed to operate in the positive. We have also moved a portion of the cash in our operating account in to a savings account, this has given us the ability to earn additional interest on monies instead of just having it sitting in our operations account. We now have a balance of \$83,284.35.

I want to take the opportunity of thanking you all for allowing me to be the Treasurer of the Valley for the last 8 years. I have decided to step down, allowing another Brother, David Vistica to become the Treasurer of the Valley, David comes with a wealth of experience having served as a Treasurer for a non-profit before coming to SWFL. I wish him well.

To our Perpetual and Life Members: Once again, the Executive Board will be reaching out to you our Perpetual and Life Members of the Valley to voluntary, donate toward the Per Capita Taxes. For those who have donated over the years we thank you and look forward to your continued loyalty and support.

III. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



NEW KSA



From our recent Fall Reunion class, we would like to welcome our newest knight to the Knights of St. Andrew:

Daniel Larson, 32° KSA
Cape Coral No. 367



2025 Fall Reunion Class



We would like go congratulate and give a huge WELCOME to our new members from the 2025 Fall Reunion Class.

Jerry Hamm, Jr., 32°
(Tropical No. 56)

Bruce Prescott, 32°
(Tropical No. 56)

Robert Bennett, 32°
(Tropical No. 56)

George Benjamin, 32°
(LaBelle No. 379)

Daniel Larson, 32° KSA
(Cape Coral No. 367)

Gary Gunkel, 32°
(Cape Coral No. 367)

Jim Jones, 32°
(Punta Gorda No. 115)

Phil Harris, 32°
(Punta Gorda No. 115)

Guy Henning, 32°
(Punta Gorda No. 115)

CONSISTORY



This summer at the Scottish Rite has been both enjoyable and enriching. While we weren't able to exemplify any degrees during our meetings, I'm confident we'll have the opportunity to do so in the near future.

As we look back to the Fall Reunion, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Degree Master Hon. George Baliotis, along with all the cast and crew who dedicate their time and talents to bringing the degrees to life. You are truly the heart of our Valley, and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

A special word of congratulations goes to Hon. George Baliotis, who will be coronated to the 33° this November. Congratulations also to the following Brothers who will be invested with the KCCH:

- Bro. Timothy C. Eckert
- Bro. William (Bill) T. Maddox Jr.
- Bro. Joseph R. McArthur
- Bro. Patrick (Mike) M. Meehan

December will be here before we know it, and with it, the election of our 2026 Valley Officers. Serving as Consistory's Master of Kadosh has truly been an honor. But, as is our Masonic way, the time soon comes to pass the torch so that our Valley may continue to grow and prosper. I extend my very best wishes to those who will be elected to lead us in the year ahead.

Most importantly, I want to thank each of you, my Brothers, for your fellowship, support, and dedication to our Valley. It is because of you that our work has meaning, and our bonds remain strong.

Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh

Email: blippekg@gmail.com



Congratulations to Jim Kershaw, 32°. He received his blue cap representing 50 long years of service as a Scottish Rite Mason!



COUNCIL OF KADOSH



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent reunion weekend. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the newly invested Masters of the Royal Secret. We had an outstanding group of candidates for the degrees. The candidates showed genuine interest in the degrees and the mission of the Scottish Rite.

Thanks to all the hard work of the degree teams. Your efforts make the reunions great. The music... our great musician, Ill. David Wolf, who is part of all the degree teams. We can't forget the stage/backstage crew—a lot of physical work and historical knowledge to make the sets perfect for the degrees.

Mike Meehan, 32°

Commander

Email: mike@catsprn.com



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX



The Fall Reunion is like the grand finale of the year, a perfect time to celebrate, look back, and get ready for what's next! For so many, it's all about family, traditions, and the joy of giving. It's also a great moment to think about the light we've got inside ourselves and in our Valley, and how we can keep shining bright in the year to come.

As the year winds down, take a moment to think about what Freemasonry has brought to your life this year. What lessons have stuck with you? How have you strengthened your relationships? How have you made a difference? As you look ahead, think about how you can keep shining as a beacon of light—not just here in our Valley, but in your family and community too. Wishing you and your families a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with growth, happiness, and purpose!

Joe McArthur, 32° KSA

Wise Master & KSA First Knight

Email: jmcarthur16@comcast.net

Phone: (412) 370-0174



LODGE OF PERFECTION



I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the brothers who have volunteered their time and effort during the 2025 Fall Reunion Weekend. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

At our meeting on October 15th, which coincides with the Feast of Tishri, we will be joined by Rabbi Diamond. The Lodge will open at 6:30 p.m. with stuffed peppers for dinner. It promises to be an enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing you there

Fraternally,

Rick Pennewaert, 32°

Venerable Master

Email: rpennewaert@gmail.com





SEPTEMBER 17: Many Valley of Fort Myers AASR members were presented Sabal Palm Certificates honoring them for their dedication to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Recipients include: Tim Eckert, Ken Jordan, Kenny Vince, Kevin Gourley, Peter Kolthammer, as well as Fred Wright and Ed Lanham (who are not pictured). These brothers were sponsored for Sabal Palm Certificates by Illustrious Clay Taylor and Honorable Kurt Wagner and the monetary donations go to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida.






FLORIDA SABAL PALM



JULY 16: Hon. George Baliotis, Hon. Bob Zimmerman and Hon. Kevin Gourley were presented [Sabal Palm Certificates](#) by Brother Andy Silvia. He felt their hard work and dedication to both Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite Freemasonry deserved additional recognition. In turn, Brother Kenny Vince presented Brother Andy Silvia and Brother Joe McArthur with a special pin for their generous and heartfelt contributions in support of the [Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida](#).

Planned Programs for Remainder of 2025

October	 Lodge of Perfection	Fall Class Report—Project & Favorite Degree Fall Reunion Banquet & Feast of Tishre	<i>Tiled/Open</i>
November	 Consistory	Grand Commander Cole Town Hall Meeting / Reunion Worker Appreciation	<i>Open</i>
December	 Consistory	Election of 2026 Officers, KCCH & KSA Reports	<i>Tiled/Open</i>

Naples Scottish Rite Club

Meets 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m.
at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road in Naples.

President: Tom Budzyn, 32°
Email: budzyn32@gmail.com

Punta Gorda Scottish Rite Club

Meets 2nd Monday at 6 p.m.
at Punta Gorda Lodge.

President: Noah Parry, 32° KSA
Email: noahsark24@gmail.com

Meals for Wednesday Evenings

- October 15**
Stuffed Peppers (Banquet)**

November 19
TBD (Banquet)**

December 17
Snacks & Drinks
- 



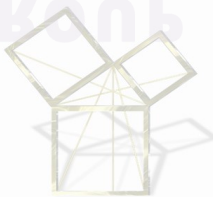
NEXT REUNION DATES

2026 Spring Reunion: March 14 & 15
2026 Fall Reunion: October 3 & 4



ESOTERIC STUDY GROUP

There is an esoteric study group on the fourth Wednesday every month at 5:00 p.m. It is held upstairs in the classroom. All 32° Scottish Rite Masons are invited to attend. It is hosted by James Record, 33° and Ed Lanham, 33°.



LIFETIME PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP: General Secretary Tim Eckert, 32° presented Brother John Champion, 32° KSA his Lifetime Perpetual Membership Card for the Valley of Fort Myers AASR.

Ambassador Education



AUGUST 23: A big THANK YOU goes to Illustrious Donohoo who came to the Valley of Fort Myers to share his extensive experience and knowledge, as we all endeavor to be better ambassadors for the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry.



VALLEY OF FORT MYERS, AASR FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



Kenny Vince, 32°



(239) 292-9593



kennyvince79@gmail.com

FOUNDATION MISSION

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida's mission is to help children with speech and language disorders, ensuring they receive the necessary therapy regardless of their ability to pay. They fund language therapy clinics operated by hospitals and private practitioners, with the goal of enabling children to communicate effectively.



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

HELPING CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

The foundation raises funding for children with speech and language disorders, providing essential therapy and support services to help them communicate effectively.

NETWORK OF CLINICS

The foundation supports a network of clinics across Florida, including Johns Hopkins All Children's Outpatient Care here in Fort Myers, offering specialized care for children with language disorders.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

With a history of success, the foundation has helped thousands of children overcome language challenges, enabling them to lead productive lives.

EFFICIENT USE OF DONATIONS

97 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly towards the mission of helping children communicate, ensuring that donations are used effectively.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

As a 501(c)(3) organization, donations to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida are tax-deductible, providing a valuable benefit to supporters.

SUPPORTING A NOBLE CAUSE

By supporting the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, individuals contribute to a worthy cause that enhances the lives of children and families across the state.

ESTATE PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES


The foundation offers estate planning options, allowing individuals to make a lasting impact through bequests and planned gifts.


Make checks payable to:
Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida


Send to:
**Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers
P.O. Box 60691
Fort Myers, FL 33906**


2025 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).


	CONSISTORY
Master of Kadosh*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
Prior*	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
Preceptor*	Hon. Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Chancellor*	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Minister of State*	Bro. Bill Maddox, 32°

	COUNCIL OF KADOSH
Commander*	Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°
1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
2nd Lt. Commander*	Hon. Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH
Chancellor*	Hon. Jonas Seda, 32° KCCH
Orator*	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA

	CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX
Wise Master*	Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA
Senior Warden*	Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°
Junior Warden*	Bro. John (Jay) Champion, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Gary Marvel, 32°

	LODGE OF PERFECTION
Venerable Master*	Bro. Rick Pennewaert, 32°
Senior Warden*	Bro. Noah Parry, 32° KSA
Junior Warden*	Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°
Orator*	Bro. Chris Sanchez, 32°

	KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW
First Knight**	Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA
Knight Grand Council**	Bro. John (Jay) Champion, 32° KSA
Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Noah Parry, 32° KSA
Knight Bursar**	Bro. Chris Sanchez, 32° KSA
Keeper of the Realm**	Bro. Brian Ferdon, 32° KSA

	KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR
Commander**	Hon. James Hogg, 32° KCCH
1st Lieutenant**	Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Secretary**	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Chaplain	Hon. Kurt Wagner, 32° KCCH

*Elected Valley Officers
**Officers elected by the Group



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.

Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH: KLGourley1971@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor & Publisher / Digital Communications
(2017-Present)

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