

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA

FALL 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello my Brothers, I hope this newsletter finds you well. As of the 20th of September, we have 16 candidates for the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite! Thank you all for your support of the Valley of Fort Myers! Please also come join us for our semi-annual reunion the weekend of October 7th & 8th .

Late August, Ill Rick Hoover, 33°, SGIG of the Orient of Florida notified us that the Orient of Florida had a 1.02% growth rate, which is 2nd in the world to only Japan and Korea (tie). Way to go Brothers! Also, if the death rates were removed, our growth rate was 3.08%, which would put the Orient of Florida first in the world, due to unrealistically low death rates for Japan and Korea. Scottish Rite is on the rise. Let us assist our Blue Lodges in their growth as well!

We at the Scottish Rite are trying hard to give you programs you might enjoy and find interesting, enlightening, and entertaining. Come join us the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Let us know what you would like to see in the way of programs, or help us improve our evenings.

Congratulations to our Honors Recipients, Bros. Peter M. Kolthammer and Edgar F Lanham II, who be participants receiving the November 11th coronation to the 33rd degree in Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Congratulations also to Bros. Jonas Seda, John Troia, and Robert Zimmerman who were elected to receive the KCCH (Knight Commander of the Court of Honour) investiture the same day. Please note that the KCCH Investiture was made a public ceremony two years ago and will be a public ceremony again this year. The 33rd coronation is still a formal degree, and is therefore not open to the public, nor any Scottish Rite mason not of the 33°. Well deserved, my Brothers!

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Saturday/Sunday Oct 7 and 8 7:00am—5:00pm	Fall Reunion
Wednesday, Oct 18 7:30pm	Lodge of Perfection Feast of Tishri
Wednesday, Nov 15 7:30pm	Consistory Master Craftsman & 30th Degree Discussed
Wednesday, Dec 20 7:30pm	2024 Officer Election and a Special Presenta- tion
Wednesday, Jan 17 7:30pm	Installation of 2024 Officers

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
General Treasurer—All Bodies
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Ill. Ben Flynn, 33°
Almoner—Serving Deputy & all Bodies
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Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH
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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.

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



My Scottish Rite Brothers, at our last Executive Board meeting (of which all members are invited to attend upstairs) the names of ten candidates were read and approved. Since then, six more names have been turned in for approval at our next board meeting in October prior to the Fall Reunion. If my math is correct, that totals sixteen, which is outstanding.

There was a hiccup with getting the amounts in the donation boxes of the 2024 dues notices. I want to give a special thanks to those members who have taken upon themselves to include the per capita tax, as well as other areas of concern: THANK YOU! Your Scottish Rite Valley thanks you as well.

The Valley Officers wish you and your family a Blessed Happy Thanksgiving and Upcoming Christmas season (which is very near).

Be good and kind to each other. God Bless,
 Ill. Fred Wright, 33°
 General Secretary



Candidate | Lodge/Country

Justin Rhodes	Okeechobee
Thierry Carrasosca	Auch-France
John Yates	Cypress
Robert Gaitens	Englewood
Mark Hart	St. Johns, WV
Rodney Careaga	Cypress
Glen Norman	Cypress
Steve Rough	United Kingdom
Bruce Hendry	LaBelle
Brian Jones	Fort Myers Beach
Thomas Miller	Punta Gorda
Tom Gallo	Cypress
Angilo Nadone	St. Augustine, FL
Noah Parry	Punta Gorda
Carl Pukin	Cypress
Ruel Rivera-Perez	Punta Gorda



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: 2023 has not been very profitable. Our portfolio has been slowly decreasing in value since the end 2021. To date our holdings are down 19%. Fortunately since 2021 when the Executive Board approved the reallocation of our portfolio we are still accumulating cash on our investments. As of the August 2023 the Valley has accumulated \$20,560.00 so far this year.

The Executive Board is reviewing our ability to generate income and reduce expenditure. First and foremost this is mostly dependent on the recruitment of new Brothers into the Scottish Rite. Over the last four Reunions we have averaged 10 to 12 new members. If any Brother has any suggestion on this subject please forward them to a member of the Executive Board for consideration.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we will be raising the Per Capita Tax in line with the Supreme Councils increases, set out as follows, 2024 by \$1.00 to \$31.00, then 2025 through 2028 raised by \$1.00 per year until the Per Capita Tax will be reach \$35.00 in 2028.

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 voluntarily 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.

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
 Treasurer



CONSISTORY

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH



It's been a great degree-filled summer seeing Scottish Rite degrees that we normally do not see exemplified. Once again, I want to thank Degree Masters Hon. George Baliotis and Hon. John Herman, & Bro. John Troia and all the cast members that participated to bring these degrees to life. Great work!

Congratulations to Hon. Ed Lanham & Hon. Peter Kolthammer who will soon be coronated to the 33rd degree in November. Also, congratulations to Bro. Bob Zimmerman, Bro. John Troia and Bro. Jonas Seda, who will be invested into the KCCH in November as well. All these brothers are always working hard to better our fraternity, not only in Scottish Rite, but Blue Lodge as well.

There are only a couple of months left before we elect our next slate of Valley Officers. It's been a distinct honor serving as Consistory's Master of Kadosh for the past year plus, but it will soon be time to pass the torch. I wish all the officers who will be elected for the incoming 2024 year the best of luck.

Fraternally,
Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER



Good day Brothers all! I hope this finds you in good spirits and enjoying the last few days of Summer.

It's been a pretty busy year for our valley, especially with the extra degrees being performed to help fill your passport. But, it's not over yet—the upcoming reunion has a good amount of candidates going through; I ask that you please introduce yourself to them and help make their journey a memorable one. Also, remember that a big event is coming in January 2024 and we all need to support it.

Tropical has put a lot of time and money into the building. Please do your part in helping it stay that way.

See you around the lodge.

Sincerely & fraternally,
Hon. Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH
Wise Master



COUNCIL OF KADOSH

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



It is hard to believe we are in September with the Fall Reunion less than a month away. This year has been exciting to watch and enjoy the successes of our Brothers. We had an amazing Spring Reunion with a terrific and engaged class who are now Masters of the Royal Secret.

Our Valley is continuing to receive more light, with degrees being performed that haven't been seen in many years. During the Fall reunion you will have the chance to see the 25th degree, Knight of the Brazen Serpent, another degree that hasn't been presented in many years. How fortunate to be a part of a Valley that is aggressive in the pursuit of additional degree work. With your help and continued effort we will be one of very few Valleys that can present all of the degrees.

Please talk to Honorable George Baliotis or Honorable Kevin Gourley if you would like to explore a role in the degrees presented throughout the year and during the reunions.

In addition to our extensive work in the reunions we have again exceeded the targets set for our Scottish Rite Foundation. It is no small accomplishment that every year that Honorable Ken Jordan has been at the helm of our Foundation Fundraising efforts we have surpassed the expectations of Our Southern Jurisdiction.

The crowning glory of the year will be the Special Dinner and Event supporting the Scottish Rite Foundation. This event is the result of hundreds of hours of work on the part of Honorable Ken Jordan and Brother Kenny Vince. Watch for more information from them as the dinner to be held in January approaches.

Fraternally,
Bro. Robert Zimmerman, 32°
Commander



LODGE OF PERFECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER



I hope all are well. The Feast of Tishri is just around the corner in October. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend. Thank you to Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo for taking the reins to assist in this endeavor in my absence.

Also, I'd like to wish everyone an early Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,
Bro. Bill Maddox, 32°
Venerable Master



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

IMPORTANT NOTICE



There has been a change in the times scheduled for the January 11th, 2024 **"FOR THE CHILDREN"** dinner event. We have added the time of 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow this time for a special presentation for the children and families in attendance. The dinner hour and main event will remain the same, 6:00 p.m. and continue until 9:00 p.m.

Bro. John Troia and I have done many of these presentations and they are quite unique and enjoyed by all who attend.

The Naples Base Chapter of The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) has agreed to display their 25 ft, long parade float during this event. This is a replica of the USS Florida SSGN-728. It was built to honor Submarine Sailors lost at sea during WWII.

There will be a special USSVI presentation honoring several of the children of the Johns Hopkins Clinic by honoring them as Honorary Submariners. This presentation will begin at 17:00 hours and end at 18:00 hours (5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.). There will be no need for a ticket for this presentation; it will be open to the public. However, to attend the main event, a ticket is required.

Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last until all have been served. Introduction of VIPs, administrators of Johns Hopkins and speakers will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. and conclude with Keynote speaker, Illustrious James D. Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

We are very sincere in our reporting to you that this event is going to be very exciting and is a one of a kind ever in Southwest Florida.

Your prompt response and payment(s) are necessary as seating is limited! There have been several email mailings and the request for tickets are increasing weekly. Very soon, invitations will be extended to other Valleys in the Orient of Florida. If seats are still available after November 15th, 2023, the event will be open to the public. There were 270 seats available including VIPs two months ago and there are approximately 140 tickets remaining to sell in 3½ short months. Don't be left out.

Fraternally,

Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH
Representative/Trustee for the Scottish Rite Foundation
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KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR (KCCH)



The KCCH brothers have continued to meet regularly prior to Consistory each month. In the next two months, we will have one of our Knights conduct a brief overview about the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. This is intended to spread knowledge about what we are, what we offer and about our charitable causes. This will hopefully raise interest in the Scottish Rite but also for attendance to the "For The Children" banquet.

I would like congratulate Bob Zimmerman, John Troia, and Jonas Seda who are soon to become new KCCH members, and also Peter Kolthammer & Edgar Lanham who will soon receive the esteem honor of Illustrious 33°. All of you are a great friends and Brothers. Both I and my fellow Knights are so proud of you all.

Thanks to Honorable Eddie Sanchez who lead this year's Remembrance & Renewal ceremony which was excellent. Also, thank you to Hon. Ken Jordon for all his diligent work for the Foundation and the children we are helping; Hon. Kevin Gourley for an excellent job in the East, these communications, his help on committees and the KCCH; and Hon. Jim Hogg for always helping at sign-in and collecting for meals. And, thanks to all those that I just don't have space to list.

May God Bless you and your families.

Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Commander



KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW (KSA)



The KSA is working on a new slate of officers for next year. We should have the new officer line finalized by the end of November.

Also, we are in desperate need of new brothers to join our ranks. You can read more about what we do and print out a [KSA application](#) directly from our website if you would like to help us out.

Fraternally,
Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
First Knight



2023 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. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Prior*	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
Preceptor*	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Chancellor*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
Minister of State*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA

	COUNCIL OF KADOSH
Commander*	Bro. Bob Zimmerman, 32°
1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. John Troia, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander*	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Chancellor*	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°

	CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX
Wise Master*	Hon. Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Jonas Seda, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Daniel Van Alstine, 32°

	LODGE OF PERFECTION
Venerable Master*	Bro. Bill Maddox 32°
Senior Warden*	Bro. John Donohoo, 32°
Junior Warden*	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Charles Nunez, 32°

	KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW
First Knight**	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Prior**	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Preceptor*	Bro. Brian Ferdon, 32° KSA
Chancellor**	Bro. Barry Denton, 32° KSA
Minister of State**	Bro. Robert Geltz, 32° KSA

	KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR
Commander**	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
1st Lieutenant Commander**	Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Secretary**	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
Treasurer**	Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Chaplain**	Hon. Kurt Wagner, 32° KCCH

*Elected Valley Officers
**Officers elected by the Group

