

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA

Spring 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello, Brothers! As you may have heard, we are having a one-day 2024 Spring Reunion on Sunday, Mar 17 2024. We will confer the mandatory degrees. This Fall we will be back to our regular schedule as approved by the Executive Board and communicated during our Executive Board meetings.

The Valley of Fort Myers is very proud of the work performed during our reunions and communications. As you probably know, my mantra has been and continues to be "Share the Wealth". I am not speaking of \$\$\$. I am talking about the wealth of value in being active and involved in the Scottish Rite.

As Masons, we say you get out of Masonry what you put into it. This is very true in Scottish Rite. The personal value to any Brother is an internal scale, measured by an individual Brother. All we can do as a Valley is give a Brother an opportunity to experience the recognition of the wealth that being involved generates.

Whether you get your "Wealth" from working backstage, as a member of a degree cast, as a member of the classroom staff, being in the kitchen, being an officer, sitting on the sidelines for meetings and enjoying the programs, performing specific duties such as photography or music, fundraising for the Scottish Rite Foundation, performing any number of miscellaneous duties required for a reunion or meeting or leadership, or just coming to the Valley once or twice a year, the "Value Derived" in Scottish Rite is really enjoying the fellowship and brotherhood, which can be multiplied by being involved.

Scottish Rite is a "Destination Organization", which really means that the Value Derived from being involved ("Wealth generated") is greater than the time and energy expended ("Cost").

Join us, and increase your Wealth. The more who work, the lower the Cost for each member, and the resultant Value Derived is greater, due to the association with your Brothers.

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Personal Representative
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday March 17 7:00am—8:30pm	Spring Reunion 4th thru 32nd Degrees
Wednesday March 20 7:30pm	Consistory Double Eagle Awards
Wednesday April 17 7:30pm	Chapter of Rose Croix Remembrance/Renewal
Wednesday May 15 7:30pm	Consistory Leadership/Development
Wednesday June 19 7:30pm	Council of Kadosh

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
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Ill. Fred Wright, 33°
General Secretary
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Ill. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Serving all Bodies
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Ill. Ben Flynn, 33°
Almoner—Serving all Bodies
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Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°
Scottish Rite Foundation Representative
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Ill. David Wolffe, 33°
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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.

STUDY GROUP: The eve of Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a special esoteric discussion about the 4th degree. This talk will be hosted by Ill. Jim Record, 33°; Ill. Ed Lanham, 33° and Brother John Donohoo, 32° upstairs in the classroom. All Scottish Rite Masons who are 32° Masters of the Royal Secret are invited.

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



My Scottish Rite Brothers, as you have heard, a problem with scheduling has occurred which has pressed us to confer the mandatory five degrees all in one day on Sunday, March 17th. We will see about exemplifying some of the others later in the year. We have eight candidates at this time.

Your valley has been very active and spreading the wealth of the Scottish Rite by attending the various lodges, passing along information, and inviting members to attend the open meetings. We meet on the third Wednesday each month, with dinner at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30pm. Please try to attend. Also, email an RSVP to vofmrvp@gmail.com if you are coming, as a head count is Needed for the food.

This Spring Reunion is in honor of Illustrious Ted Adams. God Bless us all.

III. Fred Wright, 33°
General Secretary



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: Finally 2023 has ended. It was not a very financial stable year, we realized some reduction in the value of the Valley's portfolio. Fortunately though, in the last couple of months the Market got back on track. At the end of the year the Valley realized an income of \$32,000 — a sign that the portfolio is regaining some of our losses.

The Executive Board is concentrating on recruitment and building membership in the Valley. Over the last six Reunions we have averaged 10 new members. If any Brother has a suggestion on this subject please send 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 Council's increases, set out as follows: 2024 by \$1 to \$31, then 2025 through 2028 raised by \$1 per year until the Per Capita Tax will be reach \$35 in 2028.

We have received a communication from the SGIG suggesting to include the Per Capita in the yearly dues. This will increase our dues to \$185. It has been necessary to do this because of the increased cost of doing business.

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



Candidate	Lodge
Manuel Aviles	Noah No. 357
Thomas Gallo	Cypress No. 295
Michael Gendron	Palm Beach Gardens No. 366
Ron Myers	Cypress No. 295
Bruce Hendry	LaBelle No. 379
Noah Parry	Punta Gorda No. 115
Paul Stoltman	Punta Gorda No. 115
Justin Swetman	Tropical No. 56
Robert Graham	Tropical No. 56
Keith Carrington	Tropical No. 56
Stephen Gotham	Ortonville No. 339



CONSISTORY
MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH



My Dear Masters of the Royal Secret,

The Valley should have a fun and educational year if all things go according to plan and our good Lord, the Great Architect of the Universe, permits. We have some good speakers and good content lined up, but we are always looking for more good material, if you have presentations or ideas please let me know.

I hope to see you all throughout the year and encourage your assistance with the various degrees and functions that the Valley puts on. We have started the year off well with Honorable Ken Jordan's "For the Children Banquet", which was quite a big success. Let us keep up the good momentum and have a great Spring Reunion.

Thank you, my Brothers. May God Bless each of you and your families.

Fraternally,
Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX
MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER



Dear Brothers of the Royal Secret,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for placing your confidence in me to serve as Wise Master for the year 2024. It is an honor and privilege to be a leader in this esteemed valley, and I am eager to collaborate with many of you in the upcoming months.

Our Chapter of Rose Croix is blessed with a dedicated lineup of officers, all enthusiastic and ready to contribute their services. I encourage you to reach out without hesitation if you require any assistance. Together, we can make this year a memorable and prosperous one for our Chapter of Rose Croix.

Mark your calendars for the significant event in April, as we will open our meeting, followed by the Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal. This poignant occasion allows us to reflect on those who have departed, moving on to the Celestial Lodge above. Your presence during this solemn time is deeply appreciated, so please make an effort to attend.

Brothers, your active participation in meetings, reunions, and special events is integral to the success of our Valley. We eagerly anticipate your continued involvement, as it is the collective spirit of our Brotherhood that makes our Valley thrive.

Fraternally,
Hon. Jonas Seda, 32° KCCH
Wise Master



COUNCIL OF KADOSH
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



Hello, my Brethren one and all!

Hail and farewell can have some funny connotations, Hail is welcoming all the new members to our great organization, whoever and wherever they may be, Farewell is saying goodbye in some way, shape or form. I was welcomed aboard this great organization 5 1/2 years ago on my 80th Birthday; I wish I had done it sooner Now, 5 1/2 years later, an older distinguished 86 year old is saying goodbye and recount some of my pleasures.

I jumped into Masonry with both feet because I wanted to learn as much as possible (and get double eagle points); with the help of my 2 mentors, Ken Jordan & Freddie Louis Wright, I did just that. Ken & I did Kaps 4 Kids in the Naples Hospital and Eagle Scout presentations in Lee County. We worked on Scottish Rite things. I was Degree Master of the 22nd Degree for 4 years and the 25th degree for one year.

You won't learn anything if you don't get involved. Find a mentor and learn from him.

Fraternally,
Hon. John Troia, 32° KCCH
Commander



LODGE OF PERFECTION
MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER



Brothers, this year's Lodge of Perfection will be held on October 16th. First, I would like to say that I feel very blessed and humbled to have been elected Venerable Master for this event. I am also very fortunate to have a great group of elected and appointed officers who will be assisting me with the planning and presentation. Our goal will be to carry this out with the dignity and respect that this celebration deserves.

We will be conducting the ancient victory celebration of the Feast of Tishri. This memorializes the freedom which the Israelites won with the guidance of Providence, despite the shackles of Egypt and the armies of the Philistines. This ancient victory celebrated in the dedication of King Solomon's Temple is kept forever fresh through our keeping of the Feast of Tishri.

We look forward to seeing you all there. If you plan to attend dinner, as always, [email your RSVP](#).

Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°
Venerable Master



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



Brethren, as you may or may not now know I have been appointed Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida Representative for the Valley of Fort Myers. I have had the pleasure of assisting Brother Ken Jordan over the last year and he has helped me in understanding this position and what it entails. I believe and I'm sure you will all agree, Brother Ken Jordan has been very active in fund raising for our Valley for the past 5 plus years and has done an excellent job.

All I can ask is for you assist me where and when you can in donating to our Valley of Fort Myers. You may be aware that we are being tasked in raising funds for our Valley of Fort Myers to the value of \$15k. In order to meet our goal: Basically we have 542 active members in our valley which equates to \$27.60/member. I know we may not all be in a position to donate \$27.68 at one time but any amount per month would be very much appreciated.

For the Jan 11th Event for the Children approximately 200 members raised over \$15,000. In donations. This was a great effort by our members plus we had a good social gathering.

So please my Brothers do what you can for our wonderful charity Johns Hopkins for the Children.

God Bless You All, my Brothers.

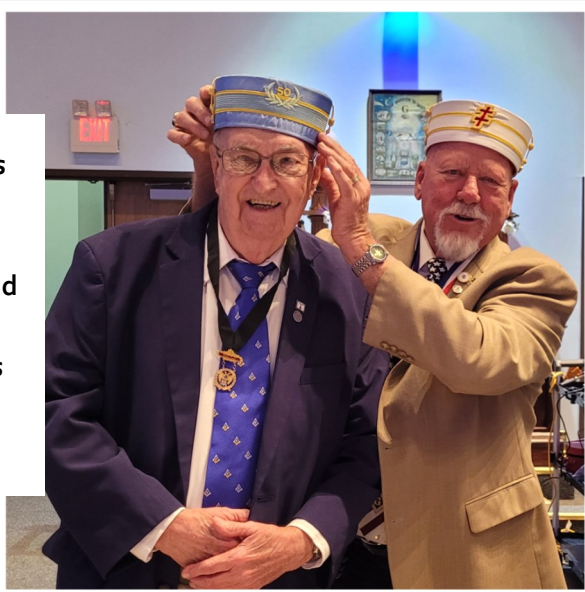
Fraternally,

Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°

Scottish Rite Foundation Representative

Email: kennyvince79@gmail.com

Cell Phone: (239) 292-9593



Congratulations to Brother Phil Keyes, 32°. He recently received his Blue Hat for serving 50 years in Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR (KCCH)



Greetings my Brothers and Knights,

First, I would like to congratulate our newest members to the K.C.C.H. The Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) brothers have continued to meet regularly prior to Consistory and will continue to this year.

Hon. Eduardo Sanchez, 32° KCCH, is heading up this year's team for the Remembrance and Renewal ceremony at the Chapter of Rose Croix in April. This is one of our Valley's most important ceremonies and I look forward to everyone participating. Please look for emails about practice dates and times.

Enjoy the Spring weather and I hope to see you at the Spring Reunion on March 17th.

In grace and peace,

Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH
Commander



KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW (KSA)



We are in desperate need of new brothers to join our ranks. The KSA is a service organization within the Scottish Rite made up of Masters of the Royal Secret (Black Hats) that provide assistance to the Valley of Fort Myers wherever it is needed. We always need help setting up and taking down the Lodge for regular meetings as well as with special meetings like the Feast of Tisri and SGIG visit. This assistance can also involve anything from helping the backstage crew with costumes & props backstage to filling in for missing cast members during reunions. We never ask anyone to take on an oppressive work load, we are simply asking you to become involved to help the valley move forward. You can print out a KSA application directly from the Valley website or ask one of our officers.

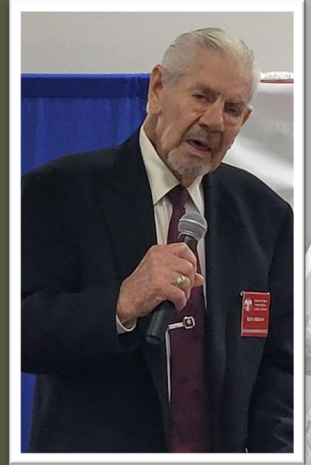
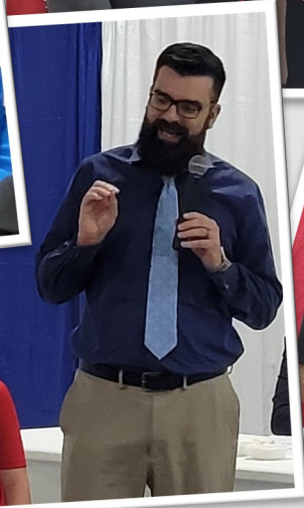
So, if you have a desire to become involved within the Scottish Rite and be hands-on, we invite you to join our group of dedicated Knights. There are no dues, only a one-time fee of \$100 which covers your KSA shirt, Glengarry hat, and all the regalia that applies.

Fraternally,

Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
First Knight





January 11th, 2024 "For The Children" Dinner & Event





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)


	CONSISTORY
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

	COUNCIL OF KADOSH
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

	CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX
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

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

	KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW
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

	KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR
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
Newsletter Editor & Publisher / Social Media & Web (2017-Present)