

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA
Winter 2024-2025



Physical Address:
 10868 Metro Parkway
 Fort Myers, FL 33966
 Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 60691
 Fort Myers, FL 33906
 Office: (239) 332-2311
secretary.vofm@gmail.com

WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM

MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello My Brothers! We are blessed in our Valley. Our Officer line is solid and capable. Our Reunions are improving year by year. Our Foundation is in trusty hands. Our finances are being well looked after, and our office is running smoother.

However, we have no petitions in house for the Spring 2025 reunion. I urge all Scottish Rite Masons to attend their local Lodges, and ask all quality Brothers if they are members of the Valley of Fort Myers Scottish Rite. If they are not, please ask them to seriously consider it. [A Petition is included in this newsletter.](#)

If we all find one Brother to join, we can double our membership in short order. We are going to establish a goal of 15 new Masters of the Royal Secret in the Spring, so please get the word out. We have programs and meals planned for 2025, details are in this newsletter.

We have Ambassadors for every local lodge served by the Valley of Fort Myers, and our Ambassador program is ready to roll. We will have Ambassador training shortly, and you will soon see some good information being delivered to our Lodges.

We all need to help our local Blue Lodges locate new members as well. If you know of a quality man who is not a Mason, please recommend him, and recruit him. Invite him to Lodge or Scottish Rite. Tell him about your positive experiences in the Fraternity. It is now possible to ask a man to be a Mason one time, and follow up, so let's locate some quality future Brothers, and help ensure the continuation of our great Fraternity!

Come join us in 2025. The year should be memorable.

Fraternally,

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Wednesday January 15 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Officer Installation</i>
Wednesday February 19 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Worshipful Masters and Wardens Invitation</i>
Sat & Sun March 15 & 16 8:00am	Spring Reunion <i>4th thru 32nd Degrees</i>
Wednesday March 19 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Double Eagle Awards</i>
Wednesday April 16 7:30pm	Chapter of Rose Croix <i>Remembrance & Renewal</i>

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
 Personal Representative
 phone: (239) 693-1332
 email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com

Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°
 General Secretary
 phone: (717) 519-7034
 email: secretary.vofm@gmail.com

Ill. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
 Treasurer—Serving all Bodies
 phone: (239) 282-9427
 email: pmkolt22@gmail.com

Hon. Robert Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
 Almoner—Serving all Bodies
 phone: (480) 600-3100
 email: bobzimm@comcast.net

Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°
 Scottish Rite Foundation Representative
 phone: (239) 292-9593
 email: kennyvince79@gmail.com

Ill. David Wolffe, 33°
 Organist —Serving all Bodies
 phone: (239) 246-2748
 email: davewolffe3327@gmail.com



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



2024, like all years, was a year of victories and challenges. We added some great new Brothers to our ranks, and we said goodbye to many special Brothers & friends. As we enter a new year, let's approach it with enthusiasm and energy as a fresh opportunity to make a difference in the Scottish Rite and the world we live in.

I challenge you to remember the reasons you joined Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite. Though they may have evolved over time, those reasons are still just as valid- and the Scottish Rite is a great place to seek greater knowledge and to share what you have already learned with a new generation. This organization is special and has something to offer good men who seek it. The Ambassador program is a great step in getting the word out about the great work that is done by the Brothers of the Valley.

Every member of the Valley of Fort Myers brings unique experience and skills to the group, and I encourage you to find a way to apply yours this coming year. Let's grow and improve the Valley of Fort Myers Scottish Rite together.

Thank you to all the Brothers who have paid their 2025 dues already. As always, if you have questions about dues or any other administrative questions, please reach out to me and I do my very best to help you work through it. Thank you for your kindness and support as I learn the job of the Valley Secretary. Happy Holidays to you all, and God bless, my Brothers.

God bless you, my Brothers.
Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°
 General Secretary



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.



Turn in those Petitions!

We're eagerly looking for candidates to attend the 2025 Spring Reunion. If you're sitting in Lodge with a Brother, let's get him interested in Scottish Rite. You can [print a petition directly from our website](#). First & second line signers receive *100 Knight of the Double Eagle Award Points*.

Scottish Rite is perfect for Brothers interested in degree work—29 degrees to learn new ritual and communicate the essence of each to the next generation. We've been called the University of Freemasonry. We expound on the lessons learned in the first 3 degrees and further Masonic knowledge.

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
OF FREEMASONRY
Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America
Valley of Fort Myers Orient of Florida
Mailing Address: PO Box 6049, Fort Myers, FL 33906-0049
1606 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33916
Petition for Scottish Rite Degrees
4° thru 32°

Date of _____ Month _____ Day of _____ 20__
 First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email address _____
 Bus. Phone _____ Occupation _____
 (Printed, give classification of membership) _____
 Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
 Cup Size _____ Ring size _____ Wife's full name _____
 I certify that I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____ Blue Lodge No. _____
 Located at _____ Under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____
 Date named to Master Mason _____ Date of Proficiency in these instructions _____
 If you have previously applied for these Degrees, state fully the date, place and to whom application was made _____

The Supreme Council requires the acceptance of the following fundamental principles:

1. The installation of petitioners, respect for the law and order, and loyalty to the principle of civil and religious liberty. Do you voluntarily accept of these principles? Yes _____ No _____
2. Has your ever held or expressed opinion contrary to the foregoing or have been affiliated with any organization which has? If your answer is YES, give particulars: Yes _____ No _____

WARRANTS OF FORTIFICATION (SINGLE)
 RECOMMENDED BY: (Sponsors must be members of Valley to which the petition is directed)
 Brother (print) _____ ID No. _____ Signature _____
 Brother (print) _____ ID No. _____ Signature _____

Petition Received _____ For Office use only _____
 Date Received _____ Date Received _____

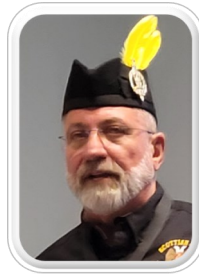
A minimum of \$100.00 must accompany this petition
 National Fee Received \$ _____
 Balance due \$ _____
 Make Check payable to SCOTTISH RITE BROTHERS
 P.O. BOX 6049, Fort Myers, FL 33906-0049
 Fees include 14° Process, Council fee, 12° Pass and the
 Scottish Rite Book "A Bridge to Light"
 Balance due may be paid by cash or check at the Reunion



Collier County Lee County

- Aubrey Rogers
 - Barron Collier
 - Golden Gate
 - Gulf Coast
 - Immokalee
 - Lely
 - Naples
-
- 
-
- 
-
- Bonita Springs
 - Cape Coral *
 - Cypress Lake
 - Dunbar
 - East Lee County
 - Estero
 - Fort Myers
 - Ida Baker
 - Island Coast
 - Lehigh *
 - Mariner +
 - North Fort Myers
 - Oasis
 - Riverdale
 - South Fort Myers

FROM THE KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW (KSA) FIRST KNIGHT ELECT



Brothers, as many of you are aware, our *JROTC recognition program* is making a significant increase in the amount of schools we support with certificates and medals supporting the Jack London Supreme Council JROTC Award for High Schools. In CY24 we supported six schools and in CY25 we have [thus far] identified twenty-six schools within the Valley area that have a JROTC unit and are deserving to be included. We are looking for volunteers to present the medal and certificate at each schools' JROTC Annual Awards Program, usually held in April.

If you live in the area of any of the schools listed here and are willing & able to support this program, please email me at jmcarthur16@comcast.net or text me at (412) 370-0174.

NOTE: Schools listed with an asterisk () currently have a presenter.*

Thank you all in advance.

Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA

First Knight Elect

Email: jmcarthur16@comcast.net

Phone: (412) 370-0174















On November 20th, Honorable Ken Jordan was presented three Florida Sabal Palm Certificates from Brothers Gary Nelson, David Vistica, and Tim Eckert.



On December 18th, Brother Kenny Vince was presented a Florida Sabal Palm Certificate from Brother Andy Silvia.



Planned Programs for 2025

January	 Consistory	Installation of 2025 Officers	<i>Tiled/Open</i>
February	 Consistory	Valley of Fort Myers Lodge Masters & Wardens Invitation	<i>Open</i>
March	 Consistory	Double Eagle Awards Presentations 	<i>Open</i>
April	 Chapter of Rose Croix	Spring Class Report—Project & Favorite Degree Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal 	<i>Tiled/Open</i>
May	 Consistory	Bro. Daniel Molina, 32°— Presentation about the 15th Degree and its application in our lives. (To Be Confirmed)	<i>Tiled</i>
June	 Council of Kadosh	Flag Day 	<i>Tiled/Open</i>
July	 Consistory	<i>To Be Determined</i>	<i>TBD</i>
August	 Consistory	Ill. Clay Taylor, 33°— Presentation about the 30th Degree and its application in our lives.	<i>Tiled</i>
September	 Consistory	<i>To Be Determined</i>	<i>TBD</i>
October	 Lodge of Perfection	Fall Class Report—Project & Favorite Degree Fall Reunion Banquet & Feast of Tishre	<i>Tiled/Open</i>
November	 Consistory	Ill. John Donohoo, 33°—Leadership & Development Presentation (To Be Confirmed) Ambassador Reports	<i>Open</i>
December	 Consistory	Election of 2026 Officers, KCCH & KSA Reports	<i>Tiled/Open</i>

MESSAGE FROM SOCIAL MEDIA & WEB / DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



Brothers: Sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances we need to make last minute program changes. I try to make sure the most up-to-date information about our monthly programs is posted on the main page of our website at

www.ScottishRiteFortMyers.org

In addition, we also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ScottishRiteFortMyers where we are always posting information and promoting special occasions.

Be sure to visit either of these pages to stay informed on the current happenings in our Valley.

Also, if you are not receiving our quarterly newsletters, please send me a message at my email address below so I can add you to the distribution list. We try to put out a Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter newsletter; which can also be found on our website above — including past issues.

Fraternally,

Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Social Media & Web / Digital Communications
Email: KLGourley1971@gmail.com



Congratulations to the 30th Degree Team!

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



Cast Members



Jonathan Karalekas, 32°
Degree Master

First Apartment	
Preceptor	Jonathan Karalekas, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Errol Smith, 32° KSA
Departed Knight	Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Departed Knight (Voice)	Clay Taylor, 33°
Organist	David W. Wolfe, 33°

Third Apartment	
Chaplain	Jonathan Karalekas, 32°
Junior Deacon	Ed Lanham, 33°
Supreme Frank Judge	William L. McDaniel, Jr., 32° KCCH
2 nd Frank Judge	Kit Webber, 32°
3 rd Frank Judge	Errol J. Smith, 32° KSA
4 th Frank Judge	John Reilly, 32° KSA
5 th Frank Judge	Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
6 th Frank Judge	John Champion, 32° KSA
7 th Frank Judge	Tim Eckert, 32°
Introduction	Clay Taylor, 33°

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: Rich Bayly, 33°

Email: rbayly2424@gmail.com



ESOTERIC STUDY GROUP

There is no esoteric study group for December. However, starting again in January 2025 the study group is planned for 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.

Hosted by James Record, 33° and Ed Lanham, 33°.

Wednesday Evening Dinners 2025

January

Chicken Cordon Bleu (Banquet)



February

Spanish Night

March

Corned Beef & Cabbage

April

Roast Pork (Banquet)



May

Country Fried Steak & Mashed Potatoes

June

Grilled Chicken

July

Hamburgers, Hotdogs & Fries

August

Fried Chicken



September

Spaghetti & Meatballs

October

Stuffed Peppers (Banquet)

November

Ham & Potatoes

December

Salsbury Steak



Future Reunion Dates

2025

Spring Reunion: March 15 & 16
Fall Reunion: October 4 & 5

2026

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

2027

Spring Reunion: March 13 & 14
Fall Reunion: October 2 & 3

2028

Spring Reunion: March 11 & 12
Fall Reunion: October 7 & 8

Scottish Rite Foundation - Valley of Fort Myers



As we have are now coming to the end of our second quarter you have raised in the order of \$6,294.00. Just a reminder that our target for this campaign 2023/2024 is \$15,000. so, we are not quite halfway there. Obviously it would be good to reach our goal by the end of December.

As I said in my previous bulletin the third virtue being “**Charity**” which we all accepted as we all knelt at the altar, as we progressed to become Free and Accepted Masons. Donations no matter how small are very welcome.

The Florida Sabal Palm Program Certificate that has been introduced which allows the brethren to contribute a minimum of \$50 donation to the Foundation has been a relative success. The donation for a certificate does not require it to be from a Scottish Rite or a Freemason it can be from a work college or a family member. So, I urge you all to get the word out there. Also, with Christmas just around the corner why not get a certificate as a gift in honor of a loved one or in Memory of a deceased family member. Get it framed to hang it on a wall as a nice reminder.

I have contacted the Administration staff at the Johns Hopkins Clinic here in Fort Myers and they will allow members of our Scottish Rite Foundation Valley of Fort Myers a tour of the clinic, this is for you to further understand where your donations goes and what is achieved by the Clinic. Obviously, any such visit to the clinic would be limited to small groups of 4 people at any given time.

On a personal note, I have visited the clinic, I was very impressed as to what is achieved by the staff there. Very enlightening to see the children benefit from their excellent work. If anyone is interested in visiting the clinic then please email kennyvince79@gmail.com or call me direct on my cell phone 239 292 9593.

Please keep in mind we need your help in donating to the AASR Foundation, Vally of Fort Myers. Should you send in checks please make them out to Scottish Rite. Vally of Fort Myers. Again, no donation be it small is truly welcome.

I sincerely hope all and every one of you together with your families have a Healthy Future and of course a prosperous year ahead. Plus, a Very Merry Christmas.

May Your God be with you


Fraternally,
Kenny Vince, 32°


Trustee / Foundation Representative – Scottish Rite Foundation
Valley of Fort Myers AASR Orient of Florida




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
1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander*	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°
Chancellor*	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 Perry, 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

*Elected Valley Officers
**Officers elected by the Group



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





Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Of freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America

Valley of Fort Myers Orient of Florida

Mailing Address: PO Box 60691, Fort Myers, FL 33906-6691
10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33966



Petition for Scottish Rite Degrees

4° thru 32°

Dated at _____, Florida this _____ day of _____ 20__

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email address _____

Bus. Phone _____ Occupation _____

If retired, give classification of retirement _____
(If Military, give rank or pay grade)

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Cap Size _____ Ring size _____ Wife's full name _____

I certify that I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____ Blue Lodge No. _____

Located at _____ Under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____

Date raised to Master Mason _____ Date of Proficiency (If Master Mason less than 6 months) _____

If you have previously applied for these Degrees, state fully the date, place and to whom application was made _____

The Supreme Council required the acceptance of the following fundamental principles:

1. The inculcation of patriotism, respect for the law and order, undying loyalty to the principle of civil and religious liberty. Do you wholeheartedly approve of these principles? Yes _____ No _____
2. Have you ever held or expressed opinions contrary to the foregoing of have been affiliated with any organization which has? If your answer is YES, give particulars. Yes _____ No _____

SIGNATURE OF PARTITIONER. (IN FULL) _____

RECOMMENDED BY: (Sponsors must be members of Valley to which the petition is directed)

Brother (print) _____ ID No. _____ Signature _____

Brother (print) _____ ID No. _____ Signature _____

For Office use only:

Petition Received _____ / _____ /20_____ Date Elected _____ / _____ /20_____

Degree Fees:	\$339.00
Annual Dues:	\$185.00
Total:	\$524.00

A minimum of \$100.00 must accompany this petition
Amount Received: \$ _____
Balance due: \$ _____
Make Check payable to: SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
PO BOX 60691, Fort Myers, FL 33906-6691
Fees include 14° Pyramid, Scottish Rite 32° Patent and the
Scottish Rite Book "A Bridge to Light"
Balance due may be paid by cash or check at the Reunion

