

# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



## ORIENT OF FLORIDA Spring 2025



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Brothers, congratulations to you all! Through your generosity in supporting the meals at the Valley, you have contributed to funds accumulated to finalize the installation of a new sound system, which was installed last year. Thanks also to Tropical Lodge, which purchased the sound board and general sound equipment, and allowed our accumulated funds to purchase handheld mics, over ear mics, and related equipment so we can more easily hear everything that is done in our meetings and programs.

We intend to create a change in meals and banquets for the remainder of 2025. Banquets will be **March** (SGIG/Double Eagle/Reunion), **April** (Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal), **October** (Feast of Tishre), and **November** (Reunion workers dinner). At the other meetings, May, June, July, August, September, and December, there will be snacks and drinks available. Banquets will start at 6:30 pm. Other evenings, snacks, drinks, and fellowship will begin at 6:30pm. Meetings will begin at 7:30pm as normal. The meals schedule will be listed in this newsletter.

We continue to try to plan programs that are of value to members and guests. The March Consistory will be our Double Eagle awards, where Ill Rick Hoover, SGIG is scheduled to assist us. April will be the annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. Other 2025 programs and events are listed in this newsletter.

Please visit your Lodges, and while there, talk to your Brothers and help promote the Scottish Rite, and let your Lodge know that we Scottish Rite Masons support them!

Come join us!

**Ill. 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday March 19 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Double Eagle Awards</i>
Wednesday April 16 7:30pm	Chapter of Rose Croix <i>Remembrance &amp; Renewal</i>
Wednesday May 21 7:30pm	Consistory <i>15th Degree Discussion</i>
Wednesday June 18 7:30pm	Council of Kadosh <i>Flag Day</i>
Wednesday July 16 7:30pm	Consistory <i>Program—TBD</i>

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°**  
Personal Representative  
phone: (239) 693-1332  
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**Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°**  
General Secretary  
phone: (717) 519-7034  
email: [secretary.vofm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.vofm@gmail.com)

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

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

**Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°**  
Scottish Rite Foundation Representative  
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**Ill. David Wolffe, 33°**  
Organist—Serving all Bodies  
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email: [davewolffe3327@gmail.com](mailto:davewolffe3327@gmail.com)



## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



I hope that your 2025 has started out well. Although there are always challenges and hurdles along the way, I'm reminded of the upcoming Remembrance and Renewal ceremony - showing respect and reverence to what's come before and embracing hope for the future.

We hope to see each of you often this year. There's a reason you joined the Scottish Rite. There are lessons to be learned and taught, and the camaraderie & brotherhood that are second to none. Bring your experience and talents. Bring your enthusiasm and optimism. Leave behind any negative experiences and be part of a better future. You are welcome and valued here. Let's build something special together for the future of our Valley and for Freemasonry.

God bless you all.

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



## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: 2025 year has started off very sluggishly and slowly, due to the current Stock Markets performance. The optimistic view is we are expecting a turnaround later in the year once the Market decides what and where it is going to go. Other than the slow start of the year with our investments, I can report that the Members have stepped up and paid their dues earlier this year.

We currently have and have been maintaining an average monthly balance in the Valley Operations account of \$70,000.

The Executive Board has taken necessary action to reduce our Per Capita Tax payments to the Supreme Council. Over the past five months we have reviewed our records and identified over 70 Members who are anywhere from 2 to 9 years in arrears.

We are in the process of submitting 49 members to the Orient of Florida and the Supreme Council requesting the suspension of these members as NPD, hence removing them from our Per Capita obligations. On average, this should realize a savings of \$1,600 per year. Once the initial suspension requests have been approved by the Supreme Council and the Orient of Florida, we will undertake and request the suspension of the remaining 20+ members who are in arrears.

I can assure you that every effort has been made by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Personnel Representative to reach out to these members and ascertain the reason for their current situation and to offer solutions to try rectifying their situation.

**III. Peter Kolthammer, 33°**  
Treasurer



## CONSISTORY



Dear Brothers of The Royal Secret,

I want to take a moment to personally thank each of you for your kind thoughts and prayers for my family during our time of mourning. Your support has meant a great deal to us.

This year, the Valley is shaping up to be another exciting and educational one. We have a few guest speakers and presentations lined up, and we're always looking for more. If you or someone you know is interested in presenting, please feel free to reach out to our Secretary.

We've also kicked off the JROTC and Ambassador programs, and if you'd like to get involved, please connect with the program directors. Additionally, we've switched to a new meal model this year. For our Stated communications, we'll be offering light finger foods, while our banquets will feature full meals.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Spring Reunion this year, but we remain committed to growing our community. It's important that we all take on the role of Ambassadors, working to welcome new members into our fold.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you throughout the year and encourage you to get involved in the degrees and functions the Valley has to offer.

Thank you again, my Brothers. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and your families.

**Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH**  
Master of Kadosh

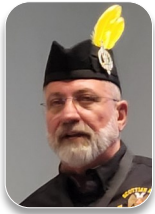


**Scottish Rite Foundation  
of Florida, U.S.A., Inc.**





# CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX



**From The Chapter of Rose Croix** – The Chapter is earnestly preparing for the Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony at our April stated meeting. For those who are unaware, this is a springtime celebration that honors deceased members of the Valley; it is also known as the Mystic Banquet. Remembrance and Renewal, including the extinguishing and relighting of the lights is, in its simplest terms, a celebration of the gift of life. Quoting from the Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite, “The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, including the Mystic Banquet, is not a religious observance. It is neither the Feast of the Passover nor a Sacrament of Holy Communion, although it commemorates the spirit of both days.” As we approach this season, where the Ceremony of Remembrance will remind us that our duty is to be better than ourselves, let us begin to turn our attention to how each of us might fulfill our duty. As we look to the East, let us also look consistently to one another with genuine brotherly love and affection for those who have gone before us and those who are still among us. This is an open meeting so please, invite your families, neighbors, and of course, your lodge brothers.

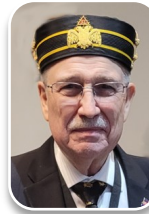
**From The Knights of Saint Andrews** – On behalf of all Knights, greetings! Those who have attended one of the two Valley meetings this calendar year, should have seen KSA members conspicuously throughout the building. For the newer members that see us wearing our glengarries and sashes, you may be wondering what we’re about. The KSA is an elite service-oriented organization within the Scottish Rite, dedicated to supporting the mission and values of Freemasonry. We take our assignments (as needed) from either the Personal Representative or General Secretary. We are comprised of 32° Scottish Rite Masons and this celebrated group of men, uphold the principles of service, leadership, and fellowship. We are always looking for new members as there are many more duties we could and should be achieving.

**JROTC Award Update** – Last year we presented six certificates and medals to four different schools within the Valley. This year, we are presenting twenty-six certificates and medals throughout the Valley covering five counties. Most High Schools with JROTC programs will have their awards/recognition ceremonies/banquets in April and May. We are still looking for Brother who can present these awards at four schools in Lee County, Dunbar, East Lee County, Fort Myers, and South Fort Myers. If you can assist, please contact me as soon as possible. Our rationale for expanding to 26 schools is twofold: 1) Recognize fine young people and future leaders in our communities and country. 2) Offer these outstanding young men and women in these JROTC programs another opportunity to develop citizenship, leadership, and other skills.



**Joe McArthur, 32° KSA**  
Wise Master & KSA First Knight  
Email: [jmcarthur16@comcast.net](mailto:jmcarthur16@comcast.net)  
Phone: (412) 370-0174

# COUNCIL OF KADOSH



I was sorry to see our Spring Reunion was cancelled. Our input from the Blue Lodge system is the only way we can continue. The outreach program with AASR members will be a big help.

I want to thank Brother Bob Sweet for his visit to Moore Haven No. 61. His offer of assistance from the Valley was very appreciated. These gestures will go a long way to help build our numbers.

Each of us can do this... talk up the AASR when at your lodge meetings. Urge members that are not AASR to join us. Ask to speak at meetings to let others know about what we do to support children’s health and other philanthropic endeavors.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our regular meetings.

**Mike Meehan, 32°**  
Commander



# LODGE OF PERFECTION



I hope this message finds you in good health and spirit. I am sorry to hear that the spring reunion has been cancelled, but I understand the circumstances. Thank you to all the brothers for their hard work on preparing for the parts in the degrees.



We will be presenting the recipients of the JROTC programs with a certificate and coin. I think this is a great way to get our name out in the community. Also, I would like to thank Brother Joe McArthur for working diligently executing this program.

I would like to take this time to also wish Brother Prescott and his wife a speedy recovery.

Fraternally,  
**Rick Pennewaert, 32°**  
Venerable Master



Brother Shawn Hubbard (left) of Tropical No. 56 is presented a Scottish Rite Sabel Palm Certificate from Brother Andy Silvia (middle). Kenny Vince (right) is the local Scottish Rite Foundation Representative.



# Planned Programs for 2025

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

## Naples Scottish Rite Club

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

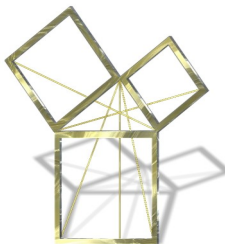
President: Tom Budzyn, 32°  
Email: [budzyn32@gmail.com](mailto:budzyn32@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:noahsark24@gmail.com)

## 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°.

## Meals for Wednesday Evenings

### March

Corned Beef & Cabbage (Banquet)\*\*

### April

Roast Pork (Banquet)\*\*

### May

Snacks & Drinks

### June

Snacks & Drinks

### July

Snacks & Drinks

### August

Snacks & Drinks

### September

Snacks & Drinks

### October

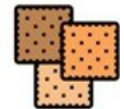
Stuffed Peppers (Banquet)\*\*

### November

TBD (Banquet)\*\*


### December


Snacks & Drinks





# 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).

	<b>CONSISTORY</b>
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°

	<b>COUNCIL OF KADOSH</b>
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

	<b>CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX</b>
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°

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

	<b>KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW</b>
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

	<b>KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR</b>
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](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor & Publisher / Digital Communications