

# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



## ORIENT OF FLORIDA FALL 2024



10868 Metro Parkway  
Fort Myers, FL 33966

Office: 239-332-2311  
ScottishRite.ValleyofFortMyers@gmail.com

### MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Brothers, all. Welcome to Fall, 2024!

The Valley has had interesting programs for you this year. We are focusing on value for the attendees of reunions, Scottish Rite education, and Valley Programs.

Although meal prices might be perceived as high, please remember that we are funding new sound equipment, which is in the process of being installed. This will better enable our attendees to hear and perceive both ritual and our monthly gatherings.

Please join us the rest of this year! Renew those fraternal ties which we all developed and make some new Masonic contacts!

Bless you all!

#### Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°

Personal Representative

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite  
Valley of Ft. Myers, Orient of Florida



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday/Sunday October 5 and 6 7:00am–5:00pm	Fall Reunion 4th thru 32nd Degrees
Wednesday October 16 7:30pm	Lodge of Perfection Feast of Tishri
Wednesday November 20 7:30pm	Consistory 23rd Degree Exemplified
Wednesday December 18 7:30pm	Consistory 2025 Officer Elections
Wednesday January 15 7:30pm	Consistory 2025 Officer Installation

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

#### Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°

Personal Representative

ph: 239-693-1332

email: [29ddgm2016@gmail.com](mailto:29ddgm2016@gmail.com)

#### Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°

General Secretary

ph: 717-519-7034

email: [secretary.vofm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.vofm@gmail.com)

#### Ill. Peter Kolthammer, 33°

Treasurer—Serving all Bodies

ph: 239-282-9427

email: [pmkolt22@gmail.com](mailto:pmkolt22@gmail.com)

#### Hon. Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH

Almoner—Serving all Bodies

ph: 480-600-3100

email: [BobZimm@comcast.net](mailto:BobZimm@comcast.net)

#### Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°

Scottish Rite Foundation Representative

ph: 239-292-9593

email: [kennyvince79@gmail.com](mailto:kennyvince79@gmail.com)

#### Ill. David Wolfe, 33°

Organist—Serving all Bodies

ph: 239-246-2748

email: [davewolffe3327@gmail.com](mailto:davewolffe3327@gmail.com)

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



In August Scottish Rite Foundation Trustee Brother Kenny Vince (right) presented Illustrious Fred Wright, 33° (middle) a [Scottish Rite of Florida Sabal Palm Certificate](#) from Illustrious Ed Lanham (left). Ed purchased this certificate to honor Fred for his dedication, friendship, and brotherly love over many years.



## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



An Applicant for the Degrees in any Body of the Scottish Rite must be and remain an affiliated Master Mason in a Regular Symbolic Lodge and must reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the Bodies to which he applies for a period of six months preceding

his application. A fee, not less than the Lodge of Perfection degree fee, shall accompany the Petition.

Dues are payable in advance on or before the first day of January each year. Instructions issued from the Secretary General's office require that a member of the Rite must have a card for the current year before he can visit even his own Bodies; also, no card can be issued without satisfactory evidence of good standing in the Blue Lodge. A member who has been suspended in his Blue Lodge or who becomes non-affiliate is automatically suspended in the Scottish Rite. It is very important to keep the Secretary informed of your post office address, phone number, and email. Kindly notify me of any change of residence in so all communications may reach you promptly.

The Valley of Fort Myers is one of two hundred and seventeen Valleys within the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A. The membership of the Rite in the Southern Jurisdiction is almost four thousand Masters of the Royal Secret.

God Bless you all,  
**Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°**  
General Secretary



## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: 2024 has started off very well in April we reevaluated our investment portfolio with Wells Fargo, the past 3 years we were taking as much as possible in dividends to support our Valley operations, over those years we had earned and added over \$100,000 to supporting our operations. Now it is time to allow more of

our investment earnings to go into building up our investment portfolio, while still allowing approx. \$10,000.00 per year into our operations account. As of August our operations account has a balance of around \$90,000.

The Executive Board is concentrating on recruitment and building membership in the Valley. Over the last seven Reunions we have averaged 10 new members. If any Brother has any suggestions on this subject please forward them to a member of the Executive Board for consideration. We are in the process of reviewing the Valley's membership. We will make the outcome available to the Membership once this housekeeping is finalized.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, you may have noticed that 2025 dues are now \$186.00.

**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 whom have donated over the years we thank you and look forward to your continued loyalty and support.

Fraternally  
**Ill. Peter Kolthammer, 33°**  
Treasurer



In July, we started with a video about the Flag of the USA and followed up with personal military stories (some funny/some somber) from a few of our own Scottish Rite Brothers who are veterans.

## CONSISTORY MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH



I hope all of you are doing well and getting ready to close out 2024 with gusto. We had Daniel Molina giving a lecture about the 15th degree at our last Consistory and we are all gearing up for a great Fall Reunion. We plan to also put on the 23rd degree and a Lodge history night. I am looking for Brothers from various Lodges to participate, so please feel free to call me at 239-410-3337 and I will add you and your Lodge into the program.

Thank you and God bless you all,  
**John Herman, 32° KCCH**  
Master of Kadosh



## COUNCIL OF KADOSH

*We lost our Commander for the Council of Kadosh, Honorable John Troia, to the Celestial Lodge back in July.*

*The 1st Lieutenant, Honorable Jeff Nowak, is currently overseeing Council of Kadosh functions.*



## CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER



As we approach the fall reunion, I am filled with anticipation and excitement to meet our soon-to-be members who will take their next steps on the path to becoming Masters of the Royal Secret. This upcoming reunion represents not only the growth of our Valley but also the continuation of our shared commitment to the values of our fraternity. I look forward to welcoming each of you, guiding you through the traditions that have shaped us, and sharing in the profound lessons that define the Chapter of Rose Croix.

Before looking too far ahead, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to all who played a part in making our April meeting a resounding success. The Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony was an exceptional tribute to our departed Brothers, reminding us of the bonds that unite us across time. Your dedication, time, and effort were evident in every detail, and for that, I thank each one of you.

As we progress through the remainder of this year, I encourage every Brother to take part in the events and activities we have planned. Whether through attendance, assistance, or offering your unique skills and perspectives, there is always an opportunity to contribute and further strengthen our Valley. It is through your continued participation that we remain one of the best Valleys in all of Florida.

Lastly, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support you continue to show our Chapter and Valley. It is because of each of you that we thrive as a community, and I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming gatherings.

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



## VIRTUS JUNXIT MORS NON SEPARABIT

### LODGE OF PERFECTION

#### MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER



Brothers, I hope this finds you happy and in good health. As a reminder, on October 16th, we will be holding the Lodge Of Perfection for 2024. I am both honored and humbled to have been chosen as the Venerable Master for this event as we will be celebrating the Feast of Tishri on this date. The officers and me will be working very hard to ensure that we bring the dignity and respect to this day of remembrance that it so rightfully deserves.

Please note that there is a time change for this day. All 32° Brothers will need to be in the lodge room for opening and closing at 6:30 PM. We will then rejoin all family and guests for dinner at approximately 7PM.

Dinner will be roasted chicken breast, lamb, baked potatoes (with choice of toppings), vegetables, salad and a dessert. If you plan to attend, please RSVP me by text at **508-728-7491** as early as possible so we can ensure there is enough food for everyone.

I look forward to being with you all for a wonderful night of fellowship and brotherly love. Thank you.

Fraternally,  
**Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°**  
Venerable Master



## SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



Brethren just an update as to how the Children's Foundation is progressing. The newly introduced Florida Sable Palm Program is proving to be a success; we have received a good response from our Brothers. As you all may be aware it is not only for the Masonic Fraternity, any one can apply for a certificate so, put the

word out amongst your family members and work colleagues, this may be something that will allow them to Honor a family member or friend or in Memory of a loved one or close friend who has passed—Minimum Donation of \$50.

Our total donations to the Children's Foundation to date are around \$2,800 with a sizable donation coming from one of the AASR social clubs. More on this in the next Bulletin which includes an update to the donations to the Florida Sable Palm Program.

We are charged with raising \$15,000 for this 2024 campaign. I am looking forward to the Fall Reunion where we can come together in harmony, attend the degrees and welcome newly-installed Scottish Rite Brothers.

Please be mindful of our obligation as Freemasons and that is Faith, Hope and Charity—Charity being the optical word. The Children's Foundation requires your donations. So please dig deep and donate, no matter how small. It all goes to a very good cause.

On another point If any Brother or Family member would be interested in visiting the Fort Myers Johns Hopkins Clinic then please contact me in order arrange a tour of the facility.

May your God be with you Brothers.

Fraternally,

**Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°**

Scottish Rite Foundation Representative

Email: [kennyvince79@gmail.com](mailto:kennyvince79@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (239) 292-9593



## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Brother Adam Saucier, 32° KSA would like everyone to know that he has moved out of state, back to Berlin, NH. He will miss everyone, but can be reached by phone at (941) 218-3061 or by email at [money55511@hotmail.com](mailto:money55511@hotmail.com).

Fraternally,

**Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH**

Executive Board / Digital Communications



## KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR (KCCH)



Greetings Brothers,

I hope this message finds you well. Fall is upon us and we can only hope we get some cooler and drier weather. The Fall Reunion is right around the corner and I'm asking all able members to lend a helping hand. There are plenty of ways to assist: from degree work, stage crew, kitchen help, etc. The Valley always needs and appreciates your assistance. See you at the reunion.

Sincerely & fraternally,

**Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH**

Commander



## KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW (KSA)



The KSA is in desperate need of new brothers to join our ranks. This year we lost three brothers; two to death and one who moved away.

We are 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 Tishri 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. 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, Glen-garry hat, and all the regalia that applies.

Fraternally,

**Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA**

First Knight



SPES MEA IN DEO EST

# 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)

	<b>CONSISTORY</b>
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

	<b>COUNCIL OF KADOSH</b>
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

	<b>CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX</b>
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

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

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

	<b>KNIGHT COMMANDER COURT OF HONOUR</b>
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](mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor & Publisher / Digital Communications (2017-Present)



# 2024 Blue Lodges that make up the Valley of Fort Myers AASR

<b>Moore Haven No. 61</b>	863-946-2841	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</b>
Worshipful Master	Steven Steele	<a href="mailto:sqsteele@gmail.com">sqsteele@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ryan Spooner	<a href="mailto:rspooneer28@yahoo.com">rspooneer28@yahoo.com</a>
<b>LaBelle No. 379</b>	No Phone	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</b>
Worshipful Master	Isidro Lopez	<a href="mailto:offcrplaca@icloud.com">offcrplaca@icloud.com</a>
Secretary	Ed Lanham	<a href="mailto:edgar.lanham@gmail.com">edgar.lanham@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cape Coral No. 367</b>	239-945-1047	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</b>
Worshipful Master	Richard Pennewaert	<a href="mailto:rpennewaert@gmail.com">rpennewaert@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Bruce Rivera	<a href="mailto:brucecigarrivera@gmail.com">brucecigarrivera@gmail.com</a>
<b>Englewood No. 360</b>	941-475-9211	<b>Meeting: 1st &amp; 3rd Tuesday</b>
Worshipful Master	Denis Doome	<a href="mailto:captddoome@aol.com">captddoome@aol.com</a>
Secretary	James Beamguard	<a href="mailto:englewood360@gmail.com">englewood360@gmail.com</a>
<b>Sugarland No. 281</b>	863-227-7469	<b>Meeting: 1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</b>
Worshipful Master	Tony Weems	<a href="mailto:kardsmart@yahoo.com">kardsmart@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Richard Clemmons	<a href="mailto:brewtalone@yahoo.com">brewtalone@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Noah No. 357</b>	239-995-1657	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Monday</b>
Worshipful Master	Ed Ciofani	<a href="mailto:eciofani@me.com">eciofani@me.com</a>
Secretary	Micheal Gardner	<a href="mailto:secretary@noahlodge357.org">secretary@noahlodge357.org</a>

<b>Fort Myers Beach No. 362</b>	239-466-6363	<b>Meeting: 1st &amp; 3rd Thursday</b>
Worshipful Master	John Herman	<a href="mailto:jherman3@yahoo.com">jherman3@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	George Baliotis	<a href="mailto:infomb@gmail.com">infomb@gmail.com</a>
<b>Peace River No. 66</b>	863-494-6102	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday</b>
Worshipful Master	William Gallagher	<a href="mailto:leegallagherelectric@yahoo.com">leegallagherelectric@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Fulton Smedley	<a href="mailto:peacriverlodge66@gmail.com">peacriverlodge66@gmail.com</a>
<b>Tropical No. 56</b>	239-334-6074	<b>Meeting: 1st &amp; 3rd Tuesday</b>
Worshipful Master	Aaron Averhart	<a href="mailto:cmndraverhart@gmail.com">cmndraverhart@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Randy Crone	<a href="mailto:secretarytropical56@gmail.com">secretarytropical56@gmail.com</a>
<b>Punta Gorda No. 115</b>	941-681-0010	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Friday</b>
Worshipful Master	Thomas Kerr	<a href="mailto:tkerr45@gmail.com">tkerr45@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Robert Albert	<a href="mailto:puntagorda115@gmail.com">puntagorda115@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cypress No. 295</b>	239-597-3030	<b>Meeting: 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</b>
Worshipful Master	Louis Kenyon	<a href="mailto:lpkenyon1011@gmail.com">lpkenyon1011@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Dennis Cowley	<a href="mailto:secretary@cypresslodge.org">secretary@cypresslodge.org</a>



## 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.

**ESOTERIC STUDY GROUP**  
 Every 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.  
**SWFL Masonic Center**  
 (aka Tropical Lodge No. 56)  
 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers

