

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM

ORIENT OF FLORIDA SUMMER 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Brothers, I am reporting on our meeting from May 21st. Unfortunately, our Master of Kadosh was under the weather and was unable to attend that evening. Fortunately, District Deputy Grand Master Acey Edgemon stepped in and ran a very smooth meeting.

As a Valley we should be very grateful to have R.W.: Acey Edgemon and R.W.: Bruce Rivera and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Blue Lodges in our Valley. They have been, and continue to be, critical gears in the workings of our Valley. Thank you both!

Thanks to Brother Joe McArthur for his tireless dedication to the Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA) and to the JROTC program. Brother Joe created a wonderful program to recognize and thank former First Knights of the KSA. He also knighted four new members!

I did a head count, and for the first time in I don't know how long, the red hats were outnumbered by the KSA (and that was without counting the KSA who have received their red hats). We were told that all those Brothers are still KSA at heart — I love to hear that. Great job KSA!

III. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Personal Representative—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



UPCOMING EVENTS ★

Wednesday June 18 7:30 pm	Council of Kadosh Flag Day & Appreciation
Wednesday July 16 7:30 pm	Consistory Military Appreciation Night
Wednesday August 20 7:30 pm	Consistory 30th Degree Discussion
Wednesday September 17 7:30 pm	Consistory Possible Degree—TBD
Sat & Sun October 4 & 5 7:00 am	Fall Reunion 4th-32nd Degrees

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Scottish Rite Foundation Representative
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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



I hope you are enjoying the summer, my Brothers. As you venture out in the SWFL heat in search of more light, don't forget to use sunscreen. Things in the Valley are progressing well. We are seeing Brothers step up, bring fresh ideas, and show initiative in making things happen and moving forward in a positive direction.

Our increased presence with the local JROTC awards this year is just one great example. Personally, it was a really neat experience to be around a great program and great kids—and a great opportunity showcase the values of the Scottish Rite. As Illustrious Clay often reminds us, we are ALL ambassadors for the Valley. As you encounter good Brothers, make sure they understand what we are all about. There is value in what we do together, and those who understand that will naturally want to join our ranks. Let's work together to make this upcoming Reunion something special.

Thank you for the continued efforts of our Naples and Punta Gorda Scottish Rite Clubs. We have seen some really good energy and participation from these Brothers, and I urge you to get involved in helping to support them.

Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°
General Secretary—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



2026 Dues Notices will have a new voluntary donation category for JROTC Scholarship.

Under the management and guidance of Bro. Joe McArthur, 32° KSA the Valley of Fort Myers has expanded our support of the JROTC Program from six schools to twenty-six schools.

In an effort to introduce Freemasonry to the members of the JROTC and their parents we decided to introduce a scholarship program. Like most of the other scholarship programs, the JROTC members must have an association with a Masonic organization, the program is open to both male and female member of the JROTC. If the JROTC member does not have such an association at present they can join DeMolay (male) or Rainbow Girls (female). Our intent is to award eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships per year—1 male and 1 female from each of the four counties we serve.



Along with the voluntary donations we are suggesting with your Dues Notices we are planning other events and fundraisers to raise the necessary funds to finance the program. Currently we are selling challenge coins to our members for

\$20 each (right). These are slightly different from the challenge coins we have made for presentation to the JROTC members. We will hold the collected funds in an interest-bearing account until the funds are ready for annual disbursement.

III. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



Raffle Winner



Kenny Vince presents the Henry Rifle to raffle winner, Rob Gaitens, Worshipful Master of Englewood Lodge No. 360 F&AM.

LEWIS JEWEL



Noah Parry, 32° KSA of Punta Gorda Masonic Lodge is one of few Masons that has the honor of being able to wear a Lewis Jewel — The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Mason, if at the time of his Initiation, his father was a Mason in good standing. In Brother Parry's case, his jewel represents six generations of consecutive Father/Son Masons, beginning way back in 1829.



KCCH ARCH OF STEEL

Honorables Jeff Nowak, John Herman, Eddie Sanchez, Bob Zimmerman and Kevin Gourley of the KCCH performed the "Arch of Steel" at the Araba Shrine Ceremonial on April 19th.



KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW



Greetings my dear Illustrious', Honorables', and Brothers all.

On behalf of the Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA), I wish you all well. This year, our membership and labors have increased significantly. If you've attended recent communications, you've likely seen Glenn Gharries diligently improving our meetings. The Knights of St. Andrew's, known for their flexibility and enthusiasm, are one of the Valley's most active and sought-after organizations. This membership offers an exceptional opportunity to develop leadership skills, gain insights into the Scottish Rite Valley's inner structures, and foster a deeper appreciation for Freemasonry.

The Knights of St. Andrew, a Scottish Rite Masonic service organization, serves its Consistory under the Secretary and Personal Representative. Thus far, KSA members have performed duties in the dining room, kitchen, and various degrees. We will begin assisting in the costume room, supernumerary, backstage, props, soundboard, escorting dignitaries and candidates, credentials and registration. To fulfill these diverse responsibilities, we need to increase our membership. Our responsibilities may change or increase as the KSA's membership expands; however, we will keep our fundamental responsibilities at our forefront.

This year, we have enhanced our visual identity by incorporating sashes adorned with brooches and Valley pins. We Knighted four members (two current and two new members) during May's official communication. We honored our esteemed Past First Knights, who served from 2014 to 2024. This recognition is a long-overdue acknowledgment of their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the KSA and the Valley.

To enhance membership recruitment, I will propose a strategic approach to the Executive Board. This involves advocating for the reinstatement of double-point credit for the Double Eagle Award, recognizing and valuing the significant contributions made by KSA members in their capacity to serve the Valley.

The prospects for the Knights in OUR Valley are promising. The Rite has witnessed an increase in both new members and younger Brothers who recognize the imperative to enhance our established communications, reunions, and special events. In my opinion, there are other and equally important tasks that we could or should be accomplishing. With the Lord's guidance, we will eventually reach a point where our events become more enticing due to the enhanced fluidity and comfort they offer.

If either of you is interested in joining the Knights of St. Andrews, kindly contact any Brother wearing a Glenn Gharrie for further information and a petition. You will be warmly welcomed and assigned responsibilities that align with your aspirations and the Valley's requirements.

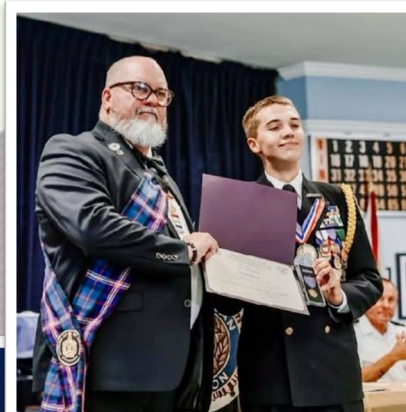
Joe McArthur, 32° KSA
Wise Master & KSA First Knight
Email: jmcarthur16@comcast.net
Phone: (412) 370-0174



Brother Jay Champion, 32° KSA presented a JROTC certificate, medal, and coin to Cadet Aislin Hannon at Cypress Lake High School on April 25th. Pictured here is Lt. Colonel Scott Vamado (left), Cadet Hannon (Middle), and Brother Champion



JROTC presentation to Cadet Autumn Sharrer at Port Charlott High School with Brother Noah Parry, 32° KSA presenting

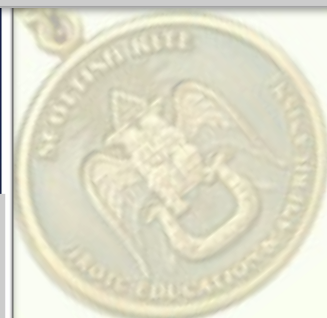


JROTC presentation to Cadet Richard Lemkuhl at Charlotte High School with Brother Noah Parry, 32° KSA presenting

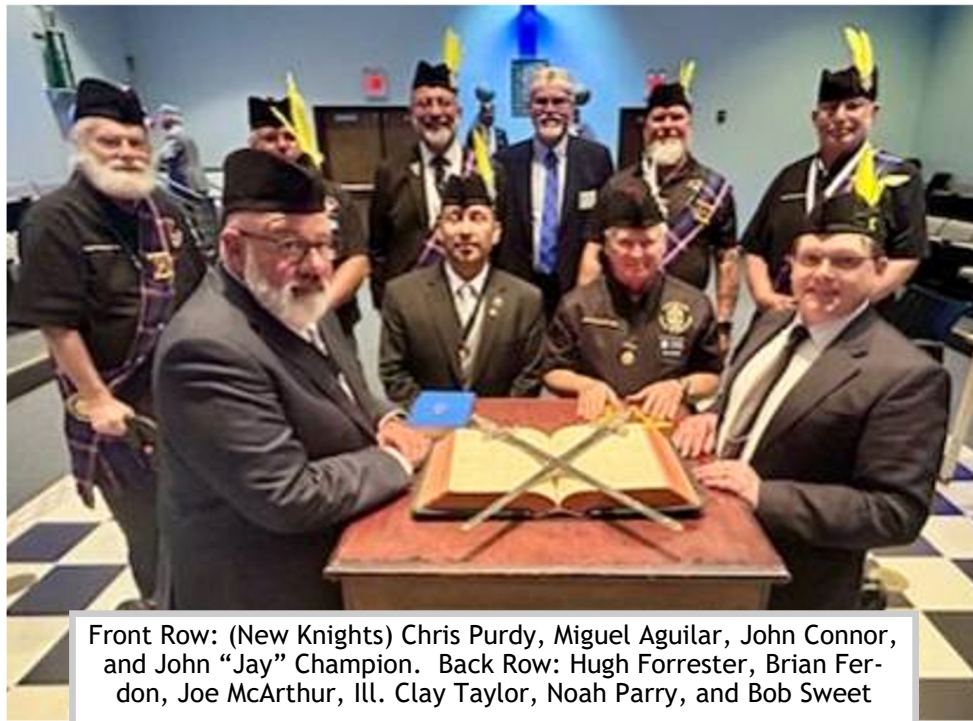


First Knight Brother Joe McArthur, 32° KSA presenting JROTC award to Cadet July Betances at Mariner High School

JROTC PRESENTATIONS



A Night of Knights



Front Row: (New Knights) Chris Purdy, Miguel Aguilar, John Connor, and John "Jay" Champion. Back Row: Hugh Forrester, Brian Ferdon, Joe McArthur, Ill. Clay Taylor, Noah Parry, and Bob Sweet

At the May 21st Consistory we saw the initiation of four new Knights to the Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA).



As well as new KSA initiations, five Past First Knights (those who served as head of the KSA one or more years) were honored and presented a Past First Knight Jewel.











Front Row: Ed Sanchez (2014 First Knight), Kevin Gourley (2021 First Knight), Joe McArthur (Current First Knight), Acey Edgemon (2017/2018 First Knight), Jim Hogg (2019/2020 First Knight) and Bob Sweet (2024 First Knight)

Back Row: Illustrious Clay Taylor and Brother Noah Parry



Planned Programs for Remainder of 2025

June		Council of Kadosh	Presentation about U.S. Flag code and more by Brother Mike Meehan. 32° 	Tiled/Open
July		Consistory	Military Appreciation Night by Ill. Donohoo, 33°/ Hon. Brother Lippek, 33° KCCH	Open
August		Consistory	Ill. Clay Taylor, 33° — Presentation about the 30th Degree and its application in our lives.	Tiled
September		Consistory	Exemplification of the 31st Degree by Punta Gorda Scottish Rite Club	Tiled
October		Lodge of Perfection	Fall Class Report—Project & Favorite Degree Fall Reunion Banquet & Feast of Tishre	Tiled/Open
November		Consistory	Ambassador Reports & Grand Commander Cole Town Hall Meeting	Open
December		Consistory	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

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

Meals for Wednesday Evenings

June 18

Snacks & Drinks

July 16

Snacks & Drinks

August 20

Snacks & Drinks

September 17

Snacks & Drinks

October 15

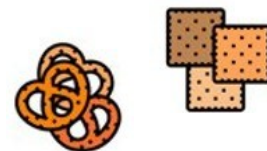
Stuffed Peppers (Banquet)**

November 19

TBD (Banquet)**

December 17

Snacks & Drinks



ESOTERIC STUDY GROUP

The esoteric study group is currently dark for the months of June, July and August. It will resume the fourth Wednesday of September at 5:00 p.m. upstairs in the classroom and hosted by James Record, 33° & Ed Lanham, 33°.



ATTENTION! We need couple of new cast members to cover some parts in the **30th Degree** at the Fall Reunion. If you would be interested, please contact Ill. Clay Taylor or Hon. George Baliotis.

Future Reunion Dates

2025

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


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
Senior Warden*	Bro. Andy Silvia, 32°
Junior Warden*	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°
Orator*	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 Parry, 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



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.

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

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