

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA
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FALL 2019

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

III. James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander of Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction

III. Richard G. Hoover, 33°

Deputy for the Supreme Council
Orient of Florida

III. Clay W. Taylor, 33°

Personal Representative
ph: 239-693-1332
email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com

Bro. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH

General Secretary—Serving Deputy & All Bodies
ph: 239-675-6503
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Bro. Peter Kolthammer, 32°

General Treasurer—All Bodies
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III. Ben Flynn, 33°

Almoner—Serving Deputy & all Bodies
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Bro. Ken Jordan, 32°

Representative—Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida
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III. David Wolfe, 33°

Organist Serving all Bodies
ph: 239-246-2748
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 5th — 7 a.m.

2019 Fall Reunion Day 1

Sunday, October 6th, — 7 a.m.

2019 Fall Reunion Day 2

Wednesday, October 16h — 6:30 p.m.

Feast of Tishre

Wednesday, November 20th — 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Wednesday, December 18th — 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Wednesday, January 15th — 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Wednesday, February 19th — 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Wednesday, March 18th — 6:30 p.m.

Consistory

Saturday, March 21st — 7 a.m.

2020 Fall Reunion Day 1

Saturday, March 28th, — 7 a.m.

2020 Fall Reunion Day 2



MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hello Brethren,

Our Valley is the largest (by membership) of all the masonic organizations in Southwest Florida. This is a circumstance you can enjoy - be proud to be a member of Scottish Rite.

Please come out to our communications and be an active participant in this vibrant Masonic organization. Think back to when you became a Master of the Royal Secret. Come to the reunion just around the corner, and get a refresher course on what fascinated you when you went through the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite.

Don't forget to attend your home Blue Lodge, or if you are visiting the area, find the closest Lodge to you and visit it. Aim high with your masonic brethren. Be a Mason of the highest caliber, and come enjoy the fellowship which accompanies all Masonic gatherings.

Clay W. Taylor, 33°

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

Cell: 239-693-1332 (weekends all day,
and weekdays after 5 pm, please)
Email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com



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.

2019 Elected and Appointed 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)

Chairman - Personal Representative

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Phone: 239-693-1332
Email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com

Consistory



Master of Kadosh*

George Baliotis, 32° KSA
Phone: (239) 560-4873
Email: donazeuli08@comcast.net

Prior*	Bro. Harold Simpson 32° KCCH
Preceptor*	Bro. Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Ill. Chuck Machell, 32°
Minister of State*	Bro. Charles Tanner, 32°
Prelate	Bro. John Troia 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Ill. Vincent Abbattello, 32°
Expert	Bro. Ken Jordan 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Kit Webber, 32°
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Ray Dolbek 32°
Color Guard	Bro. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Tiler	Bro. Aldo Vargas 32°

Council of Kadosh



Commander*

Bro. Peter Kolthammer 32°
Phone: 202-241-6558
Email: bosshogg55@yahoo.com

1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Fred Natoli, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Acey Edgemon, 32° KSA
Prelate*	Bro. John Troia, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Turcopolier	Bro. Ed Lanham, 32° KCCH
Draper	Bro. Tom Knaffel, 32°
1st Deacon	Bro. Brian Myers, 32° KSA
2nd Deacon	Bro. Parker Wunderlich, 32°
Bearer of the Beauceant	Bro. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Bearer of the White Standard	Bro. Mark Stewart, 32°
Bearer of the Black Standard	Bro. Aldo Vargas, 32°
Lieutenant of the Guard	Bro. Chance Wunderlich, 32°
Sentinel	Bro. Ken Jordan, 32°

Chapter of Rose Croix



Wise Master*

Bro. John Herman, 32° KSA
Phone:
Email: JHerman3@yahoo.com

Senior Warden*	Bro. Tom Elliot 32° KCCH
Junior Warden*	Bro. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
Orator*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Prelate	Bro. John Troia, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Vincent Abbatellio, 32°
Expert	Bro. Aldo Vargas, 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Kit Webber, 32°
Standard Bearer	Bro. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Ray Dolbec, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Ken Jordan, 32°

Lodge of Perfection



Venerable Master*

Bro. Bob Zimmerman, 32°
Phone:
Email: bobzimm@comcast.net

Senior Warden*	Bro. Neil Morales, 32°
Junior Warden*	Bro. John Riley, 32°
Orator*	Bro. Scott Peacock, 32°
Prelate	Bro. Kevin Zimmerman, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Gordon Paltza, 32°
Expert	Bro. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Assistant Expert	Bro. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Captain of the Host	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
Tiler	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA

Knights of St. Andrew



First Knight**

Bro. Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
Phone: 202-241-6558
Email: bosshogg55@yahoo.com

Knight Grand Councilor**	Bro. Tom Elliot 32° KSA
Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Bobby Lippek, 32° KSA
Knight Bursar**	Bro. Alan Goldstein, 32° KSA
Knight Keeper of the Realm**	Bro. Kevin Gourley 32° KSA
Knight Grand Orator	Bro. Hugh Forrester, 32° KSA
Keeper of the Watch	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Keeper of Merriment	Bro. John Herman 32° KSA
Keeper of Heraldry and Regalia	Bro. Fred Natoli 32° KSA
Sentinel	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor



Commander**

Bro. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Phone: 239-560-4873
Email: donazeuli08@comcast.com

1st Lt. Commander**	Bro. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Secretary/Treasurer**	Bro. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH

*Elected Valley Officers **Officers elected by the Group

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



Petitions-Petitions-Petitions Let's work on the spring reunion!

Hello to all my Scottish Rite Brothers! I hope you are doing well. We will have 10 candidates for the Fall Reunion.

(I will list them later in the article).

I would like to honor Brother Ed Behringer; his Masonic History is above the board. Brother Ed was giving the prayers for the Scottish Rite Club in Englewood before and after each meeting. He was active in so many of the Masonic Bodies. A gentle giant by all means.

R.:W.: Ed Lanham is the Director of work. All of you know Brother Ed as he delivers the Lectures for all over inside and outside of the district. An excellent job will be done by him and his teams. Come and support your fellow candidates and the degree teams who are putting on the work for all to enjoy.

The Valley had to send out letters to the Life Members for a little assistance with the per capita tax recently and the return has been very good special thanks to those who have helped with the aid. You do make a difference, no matter how small, we thank you.

The candidates for the Fall Class are as follows: Corbin Elliott Kidd, Gene McManus, Kevin Nelmes—all from Cypress Lodge; Robert Antkiewicz from Lehigh Acres; Chris Geraci from Tropical; and David & Jacob Ray—a father and son team (David Ray is a retired FBI Agent who spoke at a Consistory meeting earlier this year) his son David is a teacher: Harry Bargdill, John Green, and Tony DeOliveria—all from Fort Myers Beach Lodge. Welcome new members!

Your Valley has been honored with the names of members to receive honors in Tampa on the 9th of October. For the 33rd Degree, it is Rich Bayly from Punta Gorda. For KCCH we have Thomas Elliott from Veritas, John Herman, Kenneth Jordan, and Peter Kolthammer from Fort Myers Beach, Robert Lippek from Lehigh Acres, Robert Holland from Peace River, Jeff Nowak from Cypress and Robert Miller. If you see the Brothers congratulate them on their service to the fraternity.

The valley clubs are starting back up. Please attend a club near you. There are four in all corners of the district that are easy to get to; they are informative.

Consistory meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month, dinner at 6:30pm with the meeting following shortly thereafter. We do have speakers, some of which are members of the valley sharing their career highlights.

Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
Cell: 239-675-6503
Personal Email: Wright-Fred@comcast.net



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



HEY! I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The good news is that we achieved 71.18% of our 2018-2019 allocated goal of \$18,820 by raising \$13,396 in donations. This far exceeded our previous year, 2017-2018 of 18% and \$2,500. Out of 600+ members we did this with 119 members and four Scottish Rite Clubs in Southwest Florida. The Executive Board of the Valley of Ft. Myers is very appreciative of this achievement and many, many thanks go to all who donated. However, we must remind you all that our yearly dues only pay for the operation of the Valley of Ft. Myers. For our perpetual members, the per capita tax nor our donations are not included in our dues. Our obligation to support The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida is a separate donation.

Some more good news is awaiting to be told by me, Bob Zimmerman, Fred Wright, John Troia and most of the executive board members. In short, there is the Millionaire and Billionaire's club that can earn you many more points for the Double Eagle Awards. This I did not discover until this past July. However, I went back five years of past donations that were made by our members and added up the points which have been earned by our members and they will be posted on a bulletin board soon. Several of you are very close to being in the millionaire club. Please do not hesitate to ask how things work with this special program. It will be too difficult to write just how this program works. But, it's guaranteed to be exciting. All donations are cumulative, as far back as five years.

Now, for the bad news. I must inform all you Brethren that I will be on your backs once again this year to assist you in helping us achieve our goal of \$18,910. Just remember your obligation to support the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. Remember, it's the children who are counting on us to assist them in their need of making them a better life.

Take advantage of the pledge card that you received in the mail and donate as much as you can. If only 119 of us donate again this year it will take \$159 per 119 members per year to achieve our goal of \$18,910. That's only \$13.25 per month. However, if 150 of us contribute \$2.42 a week OR \$10.49 we would achieve our goal. We now have 611 members; if ALL were to donate just \$34 for the year we would achieve our goal. We know that some will not donate at all. But, WE CAN DO THIS, SO LET'S DO IT!

God Bless Everyone and Especially the Children,
Ken Jordan, 32°
Representative—Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida



COUNCIL OF KADOSH AND TREASURER
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



Brothers: 2019 has been a financial improvement over the previous years. In 2018, we as a body had to withdraw \$36,000.00 from one of our savings accounts. This year we will have to make another withdrawal from savings in the region of \$10,000.00.

Although the Board has not taken up the issue, it is very likely we will be discussing the possibility of raising the 2021 dues in order to live within our financial means, preventing the use of next year's revenue to pay this year's bills, "which has been done for many years past".

The Executive Board raised the yearly dues in 2019 to \$135.00. Unfortunately, the Board had recommended and approved to once again raise the dues in 2020 to \$150.00.

The reason for these increases has been the accumulative effect of lower yearly dues, creating short falls over the past 9 years.

As the Board reported last year, the Board had tried to keep the yearly dues low by absorbing the additional cost of Per Capita Taxes, thus keeping the Consistory cost manageable to the Brothers.

Following is a table showing membership, yearly dues and Per Capita costs:

- ◆ 2010: 793 Members. Dues \$75.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$14
- ◆ 2011: 793 Members. Dues \$75.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$14
- ◆ 2012: 752 Members. Dues \$75.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$16
- ◆ 2013: 795 Members. Dues \$75.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$18
- ◆ 2014: 645 Members. Dues \$125.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$20
- ◆ 2015: 645 Members. Dues \$125.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$20
- ◆ 2016: 645 Members. Dues \$125.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$20
- ◆ 2017: 670 Members. Dues \$125.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$22
- ◆ 2018: 640 Members. Dues \$125.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$24
- ◆ 2019: 618 Members. Dues \$135.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council were \$26

Projected 2020 Membership

2020: 635 Members. Dues \$150.00 of which the Per Capita Tax to the Supreme Council will be \$28

To our Perpetual Brothers:

Once again the Executive Board will be reaching out to the Perpetual and Life Members of the Valley to voluntarily make a donation toward the Per Capita Taxes. For those who donated this last year we thank you for your loyalty.

The Board is in the process of expanding our ability to be able to raise revenues by being able to accept monies directly from the Public from fund raising events. We are considering sponsoring a Golf Tournament and other events next year.

Kindest Fraternal regards to all,

Peter Kolthammer, 32°

Commander—Council of Kadosh and Treasurer



CONSISTORY

MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH

My Brothers, I would like to thank all the members of the Valley for giving me the privilege of serving as Master of Kadosh for 2019. This will be a very productive year. We have maintained the high quality of our Reunions and guest speakers and brought in many new members who have become active in the Valley's activities. In addition, we have greatly improved our ability to create, in house, booklets and flyers for recruiting, information, and newsletters. With this in-house capability, we can economically and quickly generate the paperwork we need. This year, we will have mailings for both the Foundation and a newsletter as well as booklets for the reunions and special meetings.

Many of the new Brothers have enthusiastically joined in, helping to relive the workload carried by the elected officers. This is so very important. Many hands make light work and as our current leaders age, we need new Brothers to take their places.

In closing, I would like to once again thank all the Brothers who have worked so hard to make this a great year.

Fraternally,
George A. Baliotis
Master of Kadosh—Consistory



LODGE OF PERFECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER

It is hard to believe that another year has almost come to completion. If you aren't sure of this check out the Christmas trees in Lowes, next to the pumpkin display and the deep fryer for your turkey.

October will be a special month for our fraternity. On the 5th and 6th our fall reunion will give us the opportunity to meet new Scottish Rite Brothers and help them to begin the journey towards more light. Please take time to greet and welcome all the candidates.

On October 16th The Valley of Fort Myers Scottish Rite will celebrate the Feast of Tishri. The Feast of Tishri celebrates God's rescue of the Jewish people from captivity in Egypt and symbolizes Scottish Rite Masonry's dedication to brotherly love and human progress. A Succoth or shelter will be erected in the parking lot.

As the children of Israel were led through the wilderness, God decreed the celebration of a seven-day feast in the Jewish month of Tishri, during which they were to live in "sukkahs." The History of the Feast of Tishri and the symbolism of the Succoth will be explained by our friend Rabbi Diamond.

The Lodge of Perfection is blessed to have Brother Scott Peacock standing in as the Venerable Master, as I will be on vacation in Hawaii.

There have been many questions regarding the Double Eagle Points. Thanks to Brother George Baliotis. The glitch I couldn't fix in the spreadsheet has been corrected and current standings and the corresponding Double Eagle Awards are listed in the report. Brother Ken Jordan has enabled us to add your generous donations to the Scottish Rite Foundation to accumulating additional Double Eagle points. Watch for Brother Ken to explain this further in the future.

Enjoy the upcoming reunion and the year to come.

Fraternally,
Bob Zimmerman, 32°
Venerable Master—Lodge of Perfection



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER

The Officers and appointed Officials of the Chapter of Rose Croix wish you all well. We are excited for the fall reunion and hope to see you there.

The Chapter of Rose Croix is not just the middle child in the Scottish Rite, in between the Lodge of Perfection and Council of Kadosh and Consistory. We bring you degrees 15 – 18 and with the assistance of the KCCH the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. Only the 18th degree is exemplified in the Valley of Ft. Myers. However, these degrees cover an important time historically and spiritually from the rebuilding of the Temple to John the Baptist and to the time of Jesus. There are many great lessons to learn, below is the list of degrees and the main lesson as highlighted by "A Bridge to Light" by Rex. Hutchens.

15. Knight of the East, of the Sword or of the Eagle: Fidelity to trust, honor and duty. Perseverance and constancy under difficulties and discouragements.

16. Prince of Jerusalem: Build Temples of the Living God in our Hearts by following Masonic Truth – justice, equality, morality, wisdom, labor, fidelity, brotherhood – to achieve immortality.

17. Knight of the East and West: An army of martyrs have offered up their lives to prove their faith or benefit mankind.

18. Knight of the Rose Croix: We should have faith in God, mankind and ourselves. We should hope in the victory over evil, the advancement of humanity, and a hereafter. Charity is relieving the wants and toleration the errors and fault of others.

Perhaps, this note will invigorate you to dust off your copy of A Bridge to Light or Morals and Dogmas. Or perhaps come and enjoy or take part of the degrees during the reunion. For those who can't make it, we miss you.

Take care and God Bless.
John Herman, 32 KSA
Wise Master—Chapter of Rose Croix



THE KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW

MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST KNIGHT OF THE COUNCIL

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we still have many Scottish Rite activities before us. By the time you have read this, our Fall Reunion will be history and we will have welcomed new Masters of the Royal Secret to our midst.

The Knights of St. Andrew have an important chore to perform in October. On Wednesday, October 16th, right before the Consistory's dinner, we will have a special called meeting. At this meeting, we will be voting to adopt a new Constitution and By-laws for the Fort Myers Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew. Also at this meeting, we will be adopting a new slate of officers for the year 2020. All Knights of St. Andrew should have received notice of this meeting, along with the new Constitution, By-laws, and officer slate for 2020 last month.

For any Master of the Royal Secret reading this message who is NOT a member of our Knights of St Andrew, we would welcome you to join our ranks in service to the Fort Myers Scottish Rite. This is one of the best ways to get involved in the activities of Scottish Rite here in Fort Myers. Let's all do our best, enjoy one another's company, and work to make the rest of the year productive and satisfying.

Fraternal best wishes to all,
Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
1st Knight of the Council—KSA



