

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA

FALL 2020

WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM



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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Welcome to the Fall Reunion of the Valley of Ft. Myers. Scottish Rite is blessed with the unofficial and informal reputation as the University of Freemasonry. If you are interested in transmitting knowledge of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite, or if you are interested in deepening or renewing your knowledge of our work, speak to one of our officers. You can begin, resume, or expand your activity in numerous ways: become involved with our Degrees, in our classroom, as a new officer, or as a mentor to new Masters of the Royal Secret. YOU and I are a part of a remarkable adventure in Freemasonry: our beloved Scottish Rite.

We have had a challenging year at the Valley. Although we have had only a few medical issues related to COVID-19, it has had a material effect on our Valley and Freemasonry in general. Our Spring reunion was cancelled. This reunion has been cut to the mandatory degrees and to one day, despite a recent record number of candidates. We have made our executive board meetings Zoom compliant. We have cancelled dinners prior to our meetings and introduced and encouraged face masks and social distancing. We had a very successful Zoom lecture in our August consistory meeting. We will be expanding our Zoom capability for regular and special meetings in the near future which will be very helpful for those unable to attend.

Our charitable efforts for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida had the greatest turn around between 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 that any of us can remember, thanks to our Foundation Trustee, as well as everyone who contributed. Please join us in making comfortable and enlightened each and every visitor and newer "younger" member who comes to us looking for ever more light. As we show the way to those who seek it, let us renew our own dedication to this truly great institution, and the Masonic Fraternity on which it is based.

III. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 3rd

7:00 a.m. Fall Reunion

Wednesday, October 21st

6:30 p.m. Lodge of Perfection

Wednesday, November 18th

6:30 p.m. Consistory

Wednesday, December 16th

6:30 p.m. Consistory

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

III. Clay W. Taylor, 33°

Personal Representative
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Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH

General Secretary
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Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH

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

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

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

Organist Serving all Bodies
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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY’S DESK



Fraternal Greetings to all the Valley of Ft Myers Scottish Rite Brothers! Your valley, like all other Fraternal Organizations, is keeping our heads above the water line. Without your love, care and support we could not survive—THANK YOU!

The fall reunion is the 3rd of October beginning at 7:00 am with breakfast. It will be a long day with breaks, lunch, and an informal dinner. It will be a 13 hour day (so please no naps). We promise to make it very interesting and moving. The class is in honor of Honorable Richard “Dick” Thurlow Nelson. The class wrangler, Luis Tulier, will guide the class of 20 aspirants from dining room to the Lodge/Degree room:

Kliton Agolli (Cypress)	James Calamaria {Cypress}	Tommy Kolar (Ft Myers Beach)	Paul Puletti (LaBelle)
Wayne Anderson (Labelle)	Frankie Diaz {Cypress}	William Meehan (Tropical),	ILan Rubinsztain (Cypress)
David Bening (Ft Myers Beach)	Chris Geraci (Cape Coral)	Charles Nunezv (Ft Myers)	Osvoldo Santa Maria (Cypress)
James Boles {Ft Myers Beach}	Reuben Johnson (Peace River)	Nico Parades (Cypress),	Roger Setter (Redhill Surrey, UK)
John Brownell (Fairfax, VA)	Lou Kenyon {Cypress}	Diamian Perez (Miami, FL)	Carlos Valverde (Cypress)

We have nine from Cypress, four from Ft Myers Beach, two from LaBelle, one from Tropical, one from UK, one from Peace River, one from Henry Lodge, Fairfax, VA, and one from Cape Coral. The Worshipful Master of Cypress, Steve Jones, is to be commended for the nine new members from his Lodge.

We want to express our sorrow and gratitude to the Scottish Rite members who have gone on to be with the Great Architect of the Universe for their years of service to the Fraternity—RIP, your toils are replete on earth.

Members who want to pay their dues online may do so at scottishrite.org. Your valley has nine members that are desirous of transferring into the valley either by dual membership or affiliation. We have fifteen members that have paid their 2021 dues - please note members that pay before end of year will receive 50 points toward the double eagle program. There are 228 that need paid before end of 2021. There are 259 life members who are not required to pay dues, but suggested help with the per capita tax which is \$30.00 due to Supreme Council by the Valley is appreciated.

Please come out and show your support of your Scottish Rite Valley and let the incoming members of the Royal Secret know you care.

God Bless us all and Safe Travels.

Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

FROM THE TREASURER



Brothers: in 2020 our financial status has improved significantly over the course of this year, We implemented an *Assist the Valley* program along with the *Assist Per Capita* program. The result has increased our donations from \$1,100 in 2019 to over \$6,000 this current year. Although the revenues have increased, we are still having to take from our savings— approximately \$11,000.00 to meet our obligations this year.

The Board is reviewing our financial situation. Discussions included considering approaching local businesses for sponsorship of various events such as golf tournaments. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic these have been delayed in their implementation. Based on our current short falls, another dues increase is being considered as a possible solution.

One of the reasons we are not making much progress with our revenues, is our membership has fallen from 618 members in 2019 to 601 members in 2020. Our perpetual and life members have pretty much remained around the same at 302 members, while our yearly dues paying members have decreased, resulting in a \$2,550.00 reduction in revenue from dues. On the brighter side, we have 20 new aspirants for our Fall Reunion on the 3rd of October. Also, our Per Capita payments to the Supreme Council will increase to \$30.00 in 2021, which will increase our payment to the Supreme Council by \$1,200.

To our Perpetual and Life Members:

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 to this last year we thank you for your loyalty.

Kindest Fraternal regards to all,

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Commander—Council of Kadosh and Treasurer

SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



It is my pleasure to inform the Scottish Rite Brethren of the Valley of Ft. Myers that we had a rather successful 2019–2020 year. Beginning July 1st, 2019 and ending June 30th, 2020 we managed to achieve 91.2% of our goal of \$18,910. Given the fact that we had to deal with the “lockdown” in March, April, May, and June I feel we were blessed to finish the 2019–2020 as well as we did. We fell short by just \$1,711. With all the thanks that I can muster, I can only say “A BIG THANKS” to all who stepped up and contributed to this successful year. That is rather good news eh? Well read on for the rest of the news.

It becomes my duty to inform you that the year 2020-2021 has been ongoing since July 1st, 2020 and the bottom line up until September the 16th, 2020 has been at a sum of ZERO. NADA! We have been given a goal of \$19,900 for the years of 2020–2021. At our first stated meeting Sept. 16th at the Consistory we managed to receive contributions of \$660. This leaves us a balance of \$19,249 to raise in donations by the end of June 2021. Last year we had a total of 113 members who donated an average of roughly \$20 per month. We really need to concentrate on committing to donating a monthly pledge of \$20 or more for the next 9 months to achieve our goal. However, we really need more than 113 members to donate.

Sometimes It becomes difficult to continue to ask to for donations to support the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. If one would just consider the good it does for the children who cannot afford the health care they need then it becomes a little easier to ask. Please remember your charity obligation and be more charitable. Give what you can and do it from the heart. However, please make a monthly commitment of any amount and stick with it for the next 9 months.

Remember, it is for the children.

God bless you all.

Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH
Representative/Trustee for the Scottish Rite Foundation
Valley of Fort Myers



KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW—FIRST KNIGHT OF THE COUNCIL



It's that time of the year again – Fall reunion. You will find details elsewhere in this newsletter, so I do not need to repeat them here. One thing is for certain: We need as many Knights of St. Andrew to show up as possible for this special one-day reunion. I do believe we have all the needed slots filled; however, we always need that replacement Brother for someone who cannot make it at the last minute. Some of the places we may need substitutes for are: meal ticket sales, meal ticket collection, candidate registration, dining room clean up, kitchen clean up, fill-ins for missing degree cast members, etc. So, PLEASE come out to be with us. We need you.

The other piece of business we have to deal with is our annual election and appointment of officers for the ensuing year. We will have our slate of officers for your final approval at the next Knights of St. Andrew meeting, which will be **October 21, 2020, at 6:45 p.m.** This is the THIRD WEDNESDAY, right before the Consistory meeting. It will be a quick meeting, so please come out a little earlier that evening. This meeting time is predicated on no meal being served before Consistory because of COVID-19.

On another note: We still do not have our constitution and by-laws back and approved by our local valley leadership and the Deputy to the Supreme Council. Hopefully, that will happen sometime this year and our new corps of officers will have them as a guide for next year.

Bro. Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
1st Knight of the Council—KSA



2020 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: 29ddqm2016@gmail.com

Consistory



Master of Kadosh*

Hon. Harold Simpson 32° KCCH

Phone: 239-560-7423

Email: haroldsimpson412@yahoo.com

Prior*	Bro. Jim Hogg 32° KSA
Preceptor*	Bro. Chuck Tanner, 32°
Chancellor*	Ill. Chuck Machell, 33°
Minister of State*	Hon.. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Ill. Ken Herald, 33°
Master of Ceremonies	Hon. Sam Scardina, 32° KCCH
Expert	Ill. Harold Abelson, 33°
Assistant Expert	Ill. Frank Logan, 33°
Captain of the Guard	Hon. Tom Elliot, 32° KCCH
Color Guard	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Tiler	Bro. Tom Knafel, 32° KSA

Council of Kadosh



Commander*

Hon. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH

Email: 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. Fred Natoli, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Acey Edgemon, 32° KSA
Orator*	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Prelate*	Bro. Bob Zimmerman, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Gordon Paltza, 32°
Turcopolier	Hon. Ed Lanham, 32° KCCH
Draper	Bro. Tom Knaffel, 32°
1st Deacon	Bro. Scott Peacock, 32°
2nd Deacon	Bro. Mark Stewart, 32°
Bearer of the Beauceant	Hon. 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. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA

Chapter of Rose Croix



Wise Master*

Hon. Tom Elliot, 32° KCCH

Phone: 239-793-3467

Email: capttom3@aol.com

Senior Warden*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. Bob Zimmerman 32° KSA
Prelate	Bro. John Troia, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Vincent Abbatiello, 32°
Expert	Bro. Aldo Vargas, 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Kit Weber, 32°
Standard Bearer	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Guardian of the Temple	Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH
Tiler	Bro. Corbin Kidd, 32°

Lodge of Perfection



Venerable Master*

Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA

Phone: 239-961-3104

Email: j.reilly1956@live.com

Senior Warden*	Bro. Scott Peacock, 32°
Junior Warden*	Bro. Mark Stewart, 32°
Orator*	Bro. John Troia, 32°
Prelate	Bro. Bob Zimmerman, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Gordon Paltza, 32°
Expert	Hon. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Assistant Expert	Hon. 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: bossjogg55@yahoo.com

Knight Grand Councilor**	Bro. Acey Edgemon, 32° KSA
Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
Knight Bursar**	Bro. Alan Goldstein, 32° KSA
Knight Keeper of the Realm**	Bro. Fred Natoli, 32° KSA
Knight Grand Orator	Bro. Hugh Forrester, 32° KSA
Knight of the Watch	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Knight of Merriment	Bro. Richard Keyes, 32° KSA
Keeper of Heraldry and Regalia	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
Sentinel	Bro. Clinton Larkins, 32° KSA

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor



Commander**

Hon.. Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH

Email: 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

1st Lt. Commander**	Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Secretary/Treasurer**	Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH

*Elected Valley Officers

**Officers elected by the Group