

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA

SPRING 2021



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Fort Myers, FL 33966

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MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



To all Brethren and Families: Your Scottish Rite is here for you. Our **Executive Board** meetings are generally held both live and with Zoom. They are held on the **1st Wednesday of the month, now at 6 pm**. If you cannot attend in person, please send me an email request to put you on the Zoom list. Send this request to 29ddgm2016@gmail.com. Our **Regular meetings** are held the **3rd Wednesday of the month, meeting time starts 7:30pm, 6:30 pm for dinner if we have one**. Watch for notice in the newsletter

or mass email to let you know what our programs are, and whether we will have dinner prior. Please come join us, we miss you.

Our **Emergency Action Plan, phase 1**, is in place and practice. An Emergency Action Plan committee is in the process of calling all members to do the 2nd wellness check under this Plan. There will be no request for dues, contributions to the Foundation, your participation, or attendance. We are only interested in reaching you in person to ensure you are all right, to verify we have good contact information for you, and to see if you have any special needs with which we can help. Please be ready for a telephone contact from a representative of the Valley, or an email from us if we cannot reach you by phone. You may receive an in-person contact if we don't have current phone or email for you. If you live out of town, we may request your local Blue Lodge to do a wellness check. Your health and condition are important to us, my Brothers. Please help us help you.

Regarding COVID – This is a divisive issue throughout the country. But should it be? We are all individuals with different levels of confidence and comfort when it comes to this. We also have important people in our lives who may have different comfort levels and different opinions than our own. That is quite a few people with quite a few varying opinions. Lots of differences there. What is a common factor? We are SCOTTISH RITE MASONS. As such it is imperative that we respect the confidence levels and opinions of others, even though we might not agree. In many ways the talk you hear is not the walk you see. In order to be better men and Masons, isn't it in the spirit of our OBLIGATIONS to watch our talk, walk on the right path, and to be respectful in the way we approach each other, ESPECIALLY a Brother Mason? Let us set the example to which others should rise.

We are fortunate to be in a country that does care about its citizens and visitors. Many of you might have received either your first or second COVID shot. Congratulations, but that might not mean all precautions can be done away with. **For all who attend the Scottish Rite, please wear a mask, social distance, and wash your hands frequently. We will continue to take temperatures when entering the building.** If nothing else, we have had far fewer cases of the regular flu, which can also be attributed to these safety precautions. Hopefully, we will be able to go back to normal at some point in the future, but in the meantime, please protect yourselves, your brothers, and others in our community.

With prayers for our Brothers and families who have had a rough time either financially or medically, I remain Fraternally yours,

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Personal Representative
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
Valley of Ft. Myers, Orient of Florida



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 17 7:30 pm	Consistory Double Eagle Awards
Saturday, March 20 7:00 am–All Day	Spring Reunion
Wednesday, April 21 7:30 pm	Chapter of Rose Croix Remember/Renewal
Wednesday, May 19 7:30 pm	Consistory 22nd Degree
Wednesday, June 16 7:30 pm	Council of Kadosh Flag Presentation
Wednesday, July 21 7:30 pm	Consistory Special Presentation
Wednesday, Aug 18 7:30 pm	Consistory 24th Degree
Wednesday, Sept 15	Consistory

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°
Personal Representative
ph: 239-693-1332
email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com

Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
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email: Wright-Fred@comcast.net

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
General Treasurer—All Bodies
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Ill. 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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Ill. David Wolffe, 33°
Organist Serving all Bodies
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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



My Scottish Rite Brothers, the 2021 Spring Reunion is here, Please come and visit. The candidates will greatly appreciate your support, as will the degree directors and especially the hard-working backstage crew.


A lot has been going on with your Valley. Of course the Consistory meets the third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Your attendance is welcome. Also, you are welcome to attend the Executive Board meetings each month on the 1st Wednesday. The start time has been changed to 6:00 p.m. Please try to attend either of these meetings.

Do not forget the Naples Scottish Rite Club held at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road; the time for start of meeting is 6:00 p.m. — it is an informal meeting. Tom Budzyn, the president, has some of the most interesting speakers you will ever hear from. For instance: An Air Force fighter pilot (see *Wayne Ogden Smith* below) shot down over Vietnam and was a prisoner of war for five years at the infamous Honai Hilton. Last month we had Chief OB Osceolo of the Seminole Tribe. Both speakers had some pretty amazing questions presented to them. How neat is that!

The Candidates for the Spring Class are


Emanuel Ambrosio (LaBelle)	Phillip Curizo {Tropical}
Brian Ferdon (Peace River)	Reuben Johnson {Peace River}
Felipe Santos (Cypress)	James Rider (Fort Myers Beach)
Timothy Eckert (Prince Edwin/Spring Creek, PA)	Nico Parades (Cypress)
Roger Setter (Redhill Surrey, United Kingdom)	

As you can see we have a varied list of candidates-International group.



Wayne Ogden Smith, born in Richmond, KY in 1943, was a 1965 graduate of the U.S. Air Force and later flew 90 F-4 fighter combat missions over Vietnam and Laos before being shot down in January 1968. He survived over five years as a POW and was repatriated in March 1973 as a Captain. Among Wayne's honors for service in combat include two Silver Stars, The Legion of Merit, Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Two Bronze "V" Stars, Sever Air Medals, and The Purple Heart.

He had a long business career with Air Products and Chemicals in a number of executive assignments. Afterwards, he was recruited as President and CEO of BF Goodrich. Thereafter he became CEO of BOC Gases. In 1999 he retired as President and COO of MidAmerican Energy.



Wayne resides in Naples, FL and is married to Naples Historian, Lois Bolin, Ph.D.

Please try to attend the Consistory Meeting on 17th the Deputy Sovereign Grand Inspector General ILL. Rick Hoover will be attending. Thank you all for the next step in your Masonic travels.

God bless us all,
Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

FROM THE TREASURER



Brothers: In 2020 our financial status had improved significantly over the year. With the "Assist the Valley" program as well as the increased participation in "Assist Per Capita" we have realized an increase in our yearly income. We have reduced some cost during the year by doing our own printing of Reunion Booklets and other informational publications for our Consistory meetings. We have managed to meet our obligations without drawing on our savings account. Hopefully, we can maintain this trend.

This year we drew \$12,000 from the Wells Fargo Cash account. With the unsettled Stock Market, we elected to leave an amount of \$6,000 towards next year's Budget. This money can be accessed at any time during the coming year if needed.

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 this last year we thank you for your loyalty.

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Treasurer

CONSISTORY — MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH



I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. Well, here it is; the second week of March already. By the time you read this, we should be right on top of our Spring Scottish Rite Reunion. Again, we will be doing a one-day reunion because of the Covid situation. This is an opportunity for all to come out to see some of our degree work and visit with each other. Yes, we will be following the mandatory Covid precautions, so don't let Covid stop you from visiting with us on Saturday, March 20th. You will be safe. We want to see you and visit with you. Speaking of Covid...

It appears that masks and social distancing have become mandatory fashion accessories and required procedure. Unfortunately, this is not likely to go away any time soon. Fortunately, this has not dampened our spirits and we have been able to maintain cordial and friendly fraternal activities over the past 12 months.

For the next few months, we have a nice schedule in store for you. Our March Consistory meeting will consist of the visitation of our Supreme Council Deputy, Ill. Richard Hoover, 33°, who will be officially visiting us and participating in our Double Eagle Awards program. April will be our Chapter of Rose Croix night and May will see the exemplification of the 22nd Degree. In June, the Council of Kadosh takes over and will be presenting a Flag Day Program.

Please take the time to visit with us and enjoy the programs we have prepared for you. Our meetings are the 3rd Wednesdays of the month and we meet at 7:30 PM. It's best to check with the office as to the dinner situation beforehand because of the aforementioned problems with Covid.

See you soon!! God bless and be well.

Bro. Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
Master of Kadosh



COUNCIL OF KADOSH — MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



The Council of Kadosh hosts the 19th degree through the 30th. There are several great lessons, as well information, about different orders of Knights that served through history. This year we will exemplify the 19th which is described below. This was quoted from Guthrie Scottish Rite. It is useful to read over the degree information, as many times you will uncover or be reminded of facts and Truths to help with the troubles we encounter through life.

19th: Grand Pontiff

The great lesson of this degree is that life, when lived properly, is but a bridge to eternal life. Once the secret of life after death is known, a man understands that there is no time but eternity. Therefore, calamities which happen are temporary and will not continue. We are not taken down by calamities, but remain strong to fight against oppression and ignorance; we have passed from the Alpha to the Omega, have learned all the letters of the alphabet and understand that Alpha comes after Omega, that life is renewed. There is no end to learning and science.

20th: Master of the Symbolic Lodge

21st: Noachite, or Prussian Knight

22nd: Knight of the Royal Axe

23rd: Chief of the Tabernacle

24th: Prince of the Tabernacle

25th: Knight of the Brazen Serpent

26th: Prince of Mercy

27th: Knight Commander of the Temple

28th: Knight of the Sun

29th: Knight of Saint Andrew

30th: Knight Kadosh

This is the last of the philosophical degrees. To spread the sciences, to apply the virtues, to learn the sublime doctrines which enable humanity to live as one great family-this is the school of which Masonry is engaged. It is not within the realm of Masonry to punish oppressors and tyrants who enact barriers to brotherly love and affection. They are always punished in the course of history. It is our goal to defeat the passions and fanaticism which lead to oppression by spreading love and toleration. The Knight Kadosh is aware of his obligations. He is just, equitable, and respectful of all ideas. He battles for freedom of conscience. He opposes those who would attack these liberties, but material revenge is not in his thoughts and philosophy. He is a lover of great example.

For information of the other degrees, please enjoy this site: <https://www.guthriescottishrite.org/index.php/degrees/council-of-kadosh/>

Thank you and God Bless,
Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
Commander



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX — MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER



As we enter into the Spring season and we enjoy what nature has provided us in scenes of blossoming flowers and plants, beautiful colors, temperate weather etc., let us take some time out of our busy schedules and reflect on the Blessings that the Great Architect of the Universe has granted us,

At our April meeting we will participate in our annual Remembrance and Renewal ceremony. This is a time to remember our Brothers who have passed to the Celestial Lodge above during the preceding year. It is also a great opportunity to visit with Brethren and friends you haven't seen in a while. Perhaps you will consider contacting someone you've lost touch with and renewing your relationship with them. Maybe you could invite them to an upcoming meeting or our Spring reunion, or even a Blue Lodge communication.

The leadership of the Valley of Fort Myers has an exciting and fun year planned and it could be that much better for everyone if you were able to participate in it with us. If you would like to attend any of our events but are unable to get there, please contact any of the Officers who will be more than willing to assist you with transportation and other needs.

Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Wise Master



LODGE OF PERFECTION — MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER



Fraternal greetings from the Lodge of Perfection. Thank you to all who supported me for the Venerable Master position. I look forward to working with the other officers that were elected to serve alongside me in this Masonic endeavor. We will venture to assist all we can to promote and improve our Scottish Rite fraternity.

As I am writing this, the Spring Reunion is very near. Please attend this event to welcome our new members and renew your commitment to the Scottish Rite. This is only a one day event this year.

Support membership in our fraternity. Talk it up in your Blue Lodge. Offer to do a Masonic education during a Blue Lodge Meeting. Have petitions with you. We have a loss of members to that Great Lodge, not built with hands, every year. The members that drop to the wayside because of non-payment of dues is also a diminishing factor every year. Those losses have to be countered with fresh Master Masons.

Share your talents to help the fraternity. Volunteer to help in the kitchen or assist with the meals in other ways. Get involved with a degree for the Reunions. There are many needs and most of these earn points for the Double Eagle award system.

The Lodge of Perfection looks forward to putting on the Feast of Tishri. More information will be published when we are closer to that event in the Fall.

With fraternal friendship and Brotherly love,

Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°
Venerable Master



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.

SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



My fellow Scottish Rite Brothers, it is my duty to inform you that this year's support for the Johns Hopkins All Children's Clinic is not at all where it should be. We are at a total of \$6,800 (approximately 46%) of our goal of \$15,000. We only have four months left to achieve our goal. We need to double our collections in less than half the time!

In an article I read, Christopher W. Douglas of the Norfolk Valley says that one of the lessons of the 32nd Degree is "To work is to worship". We need for you to get to work and help fulfill or obligations to the children. The pandemic has affected everyone and made it difficult to meet, but we can and must still contribute generously and consistently. Douglass concludes, "Our Valley is a living, breathing thing. You are not helping your Valley to grow by sitting at home, ignoring the various lessons and philosophies which have been laid at your feet. You are not helping yourself or any of our Brethren by keeping your light under a bushel."

We now ask for all of you to consider taking a small percentage, at least 8% from your stimulus check and share it with the SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA, for the children and their special needs. One of our Brothers from the Valley of Tampa says "This is our Foundation, yours and mine. When we joined the Scottish Rite, we joined a marvelous organization with benefits including wonderful fellowship and great Masonic education, but we also inherited a responsibility to support our Foundation to the best of our ability."

Presently, our Valley offers Double Eagle points for service and attendance, and we also offer Double Eagle points for charitable contributions. Prior to 2021, Double Eagle points were given for levels of \$50 and \$100, so you could earn either 50 bonus points or 100 bonus points. However, this year, 2021, we are giving Double Eagle points at the rate of 1 point for each dollar given up to \$500. This means that 2021 donations totaling \$250 would earn you 250 Double Eagle points. Donations of \$325 would earn you 325 points, and donations of \$500 or more would earn you 500 points. This could lead to a fantastic increase in your Double Eagle points. So, let's take advantage of this offer while it lasts in time for the Valley to reach its goal this year (*donations must be received by the end of June*).

If 100 generous Brothers donated \$100 in the next 4 months, we would achieve our goal. Give what you can – but please give something. Please make an effort to honor your obligation and help meet our assigned goal. Make checks payable to the SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA and mail to the **Valley of Fort Myers, PO BOX 60691, Fort Myers, FL 33906. Please do not mail your donation directly to the Foundation, as the Valley needs to keep a record of your donations made.**

Thank you all and God Bless each and every one of you. Please stay safe.

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



P.S. Please read the article by Robert Reinhardt, 32° H.G.A. on [page 3 of the March-April Scottish Rite Journal](#).

KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW — MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST KNIGHT OF THE COUNCIL



My Brothers, I invite you to expand your Masonic journey even further and become a Knight of St. Andrew (KSA). We perform various duties and services for the good of our Scottish Rite chapter here in Fort Myers. For example, we are very active during our Spring and Fall reunions filling in as cast members in the various degrees when needed or helping the backstage crew with setup and tear down of the many props. When the kitchen staff is preparing meals, we assist them with serving and cleanup. We assist with miscellaneous other things when the need arises as well. We certainly don't ask anyone to take on an oppressive workload or do anything they can't handle, but we are always looking for dedicated Brothers to keep our Valley moving forward.

You can identify a Knight of St. Andrew by the black shirt and black glengarry hat (with feathers) we wear. The regalia adorning the Scottish military glengarry hat signifies the rank of the Knight. Gold medallions and gold feathers signify an elected officer. All elected Knight officers wear two gold feathers, with the exception of the First Knight of the Council whom wears three gold feathers. Appointed Knight Officers wear silver medallions with one gold feather and one white feather. All Sir Knights wear silver medallions with two white feathers.

Please see me in person at Consistory or [email me](#) if you are interested in becoming a KSA member. I'll give you a petition to fill out. There is a one-time fee of \$100 that should be submitted with your petition to cover the cost of your glengarry hat, shirt & regalia. Another great thing about the KSA is that we do not have any monthly or yearly dues!

Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
First Knight of the Council



2021 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)

Consistory



Master of Kadosh*

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

Prior*	Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Preceptor*	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Acey Edgemon, 32° KSA
Minister of State*	Hon. Tom Elliot, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Carlos Valverde, 32°
Expert	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Assistant Expert	Bro. Damian Perez, 32°
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Gerald Brosseau II, 32°
Color Guard	Ill. Rich Bayly, 33°
Tiler	Bro. Lou Kenyon, 32°

Chapter of Rose Croix



Wise Master*

Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
 Phone: 239-571-0935
 Email: jeffthechef1@aol.com

Senior Warden*	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
Junior Warden*	Bro. Scott Peacock, 32°
Orator*	Bro. Mark Stewart, 32°
Prelate	Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Ken Herald, 32°
Expert	Bro. Kit Weber, 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Corbin Kidd, 32° KSA
Standard Bearer	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Errol Smith, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Bruce Rivera, 32°

Knights of St. Andrew



First Knight**

Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
 Phone: 239-849-1534
 Email: KL.Gourley1971@gmail.com

Knight Grand Councilor**	Bro. Jim Hogg, 32° KSA
Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Allan Goldstein, 32° KSA
Knight Bursar**	Bro. Hugh Forrester 32° KSA
Knight Keeper of the Realm**	Bro. Adam Saucier 32° KSA
Knight Grand Orator	Bro. John Reilly 32° KSA
Knight of the Watch	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo 32° KSA
Knight of Merriment	Bro. Clint Larkins, 32° KSA
Keeper of Heraldry and Regalia	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
Sentinel	Bro. Corbin Kidd 32° KSA

Council of Kadosh



Commander*

Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
 Phone: 239-410-3337
 Email: JHerman3@yahoo.com

1st Lt. Commander*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA
Chancellor*	Bro. Bob Zimmerman, 32° KSA
Orator*	Bro. John Troia, 32°
Prelate*	Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Kit Weber, 32°
Turcopolier	Bro. Gerald Brosseau II, 32°
Draper	Bro. Tony DeOliviera, 32°
1st Deacon	Bro. Jim Phillips, 32°
2nd Deacon	Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH
Bearer of the Beauceant	Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
Bearer of the White Standard	Hon. Harold Simpson, 32° KCCH
Bearer of the Black Standard	Bro. Aldo Vargas, 32°
Lieutenant of the Guard	Bro. John Green, 32°
Sentinel	Bro. Izzy Lopez, 32°

Lodge of Perfection



Venerable Master*

Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°
 Phone: 239-910-8764
 Email: mike@catsprn.com

Senior Warden*	Bro. Luis Tulier, 32°
Junior Warden*	Bro. Daniel Van Alstine, 32°
Orator*	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
Prelate	Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Carlos Valverde, 32°
Expert	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
Assistant Expert	Bro. Damian Perez, 32°
Captain of the Host	Bro. Gerald Brosseau II, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Lou Kenyon, 32°

Knight Commander of the Court of Honor



Commander**

Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
 Phone: 239-410-3337
 Email: JHerman3@yahoo.com

1st Lt. Commander**	Hon. Robert Lippek, 32° KCCH
Secretary	Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH
Treasurer**	Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH

*Elected Valley Officers
 **Officers elected by the Group