

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



ORIENT OF FLORIDA
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SUMMER 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Happy belated Mother's Day to all moms of the Scottish Rite. Brothers, as all Masons know, our primary responsibility is to our families, which includes all Masonic moms. I hope and pray that all your families are well, as we maybe, possibly, hopefully, start to see the light at the end of this long Covid-19 tunnel.

Our first official Zoom E-Board meeting went fairly well. We had 9 attendees who were able to link in, a couple who, unfortunately, were unable to do so, and at least 1 Brother whose email address was incorrect. Also joining us was Ill Rick Hoover, Deputy of the Supreme Council. The agenda for this eboard meeting was as follows:

Greetings, small talk 6:15 to 6:30.

Pledge, opening prayer

Ill Ben Flynn, 33° gave a report on the wellness checks he made. He attempted to telephone all members and was unable to reach many due to obsolete or disconnected phone numbers, representing out-of-date contact information. Ill Ben also reported on Mrs. Guy Waltman, a widow of one our very good great members, who needed some help around the house. Thank you to Ill Chuck Machell, 33° and Ill. Rich Bayly, 33°, who helped her out. It took Ill Ben almost a full week to call everyone he did.

I reported that we have a preliminary Emergency Action Plan (EAP). We also have a preliminary EAP Committee which will be meeting and polishing it up. It will be presented at the next E-Board Zoom meeting, and then hopefully reviewed and approved, then implemented. Very simply, this plan is a methodology and framework to respond to emergencies both within the Consistory meetings, and within the Masonic Community. It starts with communication to our members, and thanks to Ill, Ben, and Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH, we are starting to roll parts of it out even now.

We had an opportunity to speak to one another, and received guidance on small gatherings from Ill Rick Hoover, 33°, Deputy. Basically groups of 10 or less can meet at a Lodge or other location and do work for the AASR, keeping in mind to meet personal protections and social distancing guidelines.

We will have a newsletter going out soon, with a request by the Foundation Trustee.

We are still attempting to jump start working with Tropical Lodge on the building, and will be working alongside Tropical Lodge on trying to get air conditioning for the storage room on track.

Brothers were happy to see each other, and it was a light, friendly, educational and instructive session.

Ill Rick congratulated Ill Ben on making such an effort on behalf of our members.

We closed with Prayer, and concluded the meeting.

Ill. 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 17th, 6:30 p.m.
Council of Kadosh

Wednesday, July 15th, 6:30 p.m.
Consistory

Wednesday, August 19th, 6:30 p.m.
Consistory

Wednesday, September 16th
6:30 p.m. Consistory

Saturday, October 3rd
7:00 a.m. Fall Reunion (Day 1)

Sunday, October 4th
7:00 a.m. Fall Reunion (Day 2)

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

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.



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



WOW! What can be said about an extended vacation from our Masonic activities? Although the Secretary's work load eased up a bit, I can assure you that all the paperwork, updates on all our Scottish Rite Brothers, transfers in the membership portal, phone calls, and personal visits (if possible) continued.

So, as you know, the Spring Reunion was suspended (thank you, China). All the candidates from then will be available for the Fall Reunion on October 3rd and 4th. We are hoping for nearly 20 candidates. Any Brothers that plan on coming, see if you have an interested Brother that might like to join you that you can sponsor in the Fall.

We welcome two Brothers who are transferring from other Valleys: Brother Dean Smith from the Valley of Miami and Brother David Sucher from the Valley of Honolulu.

Our membership report of 605 members shows

- 232 paid their 2020 dues
- 32 have not paid their 2020 dues
- 35 members owe multiple back dues from previous years
- 264 members are life members where no dues are required

It is important to know that the Valley is required to pay per capita tax on all members whether or not they have paid their dues.

Hopefully, all 67 members will pay their dues soon. Please note: If a member pays their 2021 dues before year end, 50 points will be added towards their Double Eagle points. You can go to <http://www.scottishrite.org> online and pay easily. Here you can sign up for automatic renewal which means it will be taken care of in that manner in the future. You can also go to your member portal and update your phone number, email address, birthplace and more if needed.

Finally, and most important, please help out your Valley by getting a petition. Your blue lodge members are the source. The reunions are called that because it is a gathering of Scottish Rite brothers displaying their skills to the candidates. You will not be disappointed. The remaining 29 degrees are filled with very useful knowledge.

Looking forward to seeing you in October if you have any questions please call me on cell or email (below)

THANK YOU!

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

Illustrious Vern Ellis, 33° is presented a prestigious Double Eagle award for his most generous contributions to the Scottish Rite Foundation over the years.

Pictured: Hon. Ken Jordan 32° KCCH, Hon. Fred Wright 32° KCCH, Ill. Vern Ellis 33°, and Bro. John Troia 32°.



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



Thomas Paine on December 19, 1776 wrote "The American Crisis" which appeared for the first time in the Pennsylvania Journal:

"These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

At that time, Brother George Washington had his troops encamped along the Delaware River opposite Trenton, New Jersey. Washington had faced a series of humiliating defeats; He lost New York City to the British, had accomplished little except retreat, and approximately 11,000 of his troops had quit and gone home to their families. Contracts for his remaining troops were expiring the end of December. He was aware without some victory to grasp on to and improve morale, all would be soon lost. His famous raid on December 25, 1776 across the Delaware is well known and the surprise attack on the Hessian troops provided the rallying cry and needed morale to keep his fledgling army, and our revolutionary values, in the fight.

We see New York under siege again and the entire country and world is facing uncertainty, trepidation, and angst as we face this unseen foe in the form of the Corvid virus. If there was ever a time to see the value of what our Brotherhood is - maybe it is now. The commitment to **Truth, Honor, Virtue, Charity**, and **Brotherly Love** made manifest in our vows cement a security and solid belief and certainty that each of us is there for each other, our families, and our communities. We all are experiencing our own personal challenges during these times and handling them to the best of our abilities. Some will face severe hardship, others may be much luckier, but all of us have had our lifestyles, livelihoods, and Masonic lives affected adversely to a greater or lesser degree. May we all recognize the value of each other and the strength we gain communally as the great Brotherhood we are as we reach out from our places of sequestration. We will persevere.

While we keep our priorities straight and make sure we take care of ourselves, families, those we love, and Brethren during this time, please remember as well some of our ongoing responsibilities that we as Scottish Rite Masons have assumed. We are looked upon to provide support for the Scottish Rite Foundation. Our plaque is proudly displayed on the Ft. Myers Clinic, part of the Johns Hopkin's Network of All Children's Specialty Care that we have committed to support. Currently we stand at about 65% of our annual goal of \$18,900. We need to raise \$ 6,615 by the end of June to meet this challenging goal.

For those of us who have been donating \$10 for a bi-weekly dinner at our lodge meetings, could consider these donations as contributions for the Foundation for the months May and June. It would be of great help toward our goal. If one has been having dinner at least twice a month at a blue lodge and one SR dinner, that would be \$60 for two months. Combine this \$60 with 8.3% of a stimulus check of \$1,200 (roughly \$100) that would be \$160 for the two months. For all who help by contributing \$100 or more from the first of May through all of June, ending June 30th, 2020, I will give another 100 Double Eagle bonus points.

If you find yourself with the means during these trying times, please consider making a donation today. We as an organization have assumed this responsibility. Every contribution will benefit "**Helping Children Communicate**".

To all our friends and Brothers, be safe, be courageous, be charitable. **Remember our obligation for the children.**

Sincere thanks to Brother Gene McManus 32° for his contribution and writing the history in this article, "**The American Crisis**" and for his dedicated support of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida and the Valley of Ft. Myers. Most of all, the Executive Board thanks all the Brethren who have donated to the SR Foundation with their generous donations over the years.

Checks may be made out to **The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida** and mailed to the following address:

Scottish Rite Valley of Ft. Myers
P.O. Box 60691
Ft Myers, Florida 33906-6691

Fraternally,

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



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*	Bro. Chuck Machell, 32°
Minister of State*	Hon.. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Ill. Ken Herald, 33°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. 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

Phone:

Email: 1.jeff.zimmerman@gmail.com

1 st Lt. Commander*	Bro. Kevin Gourley, 32° KSA
2 nd 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°
1 st Deacon	Bro. Scott Peacock, 32°
2 nd Deacon	Bro. Mark Stewart, 32°
Bearer of the Beauceant	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Bearer of the White Standard	Hon. 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

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

*Elected Valley Officers

**Officers elected by the Group

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
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email: 29ddgm2016@gmail.com

Hon. Fred Wright, 32° KCCH

General Secretary—Serving Deputy & All
Bodies
ph: 239-675-6503
email: Wright-Fred@comcast.net

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH

General Treasurer—All Bodies
ph: 239-282-9427
email: pmkolt22@gmail.com

III. Ben Flynn, 33°

Almoner—Serving Deputy & all Bodies
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email: bflynn1073@aol.com

Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH

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

Organist Serving all Bodies
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McKim