

# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Fort Myers



## ORIENT OF FLORIDA SPRING 2023

WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM



10868 Metro Parkway  
Fort Myers, FL 33966

Office: 239-332-2311  
Secretary: 239-675-6503

[ScottishRite.ValleyofFortMyers@gmail.com](mailto:ScottishRite.ValleyofFortMyers@gmail.com)

### MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Hi Brothers all! I have introduced three potential goals for the Valley over the last two months. These goals are designed to improve the overall experience at our Scottish Rite meetings. Why? Our officers work very hard at providing a good experience at the Valley of Ft. Myers. However, there is always room for improvement.

The first improvement, which sometimes doesn't feel like an improvement, is actually starting to use the RSVP system set up for the Valley. If you are planning on coming to the Scottish Rite, please send in your RSVP to: [vofmrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:vofmrsvp@gmail.com). This simple email will enable the valley to plan for better, higher-quality meals, to purchase food in advance at a better price, and to improve our overall dining experience. Because so many sent a quick email detailing the name and number in your party, we were able to provide a roast pork dinner with fixins and not have an issue with the quantity of food or breaking the bank! Thank you kitchen staff! We are looking for volunteers for the kitchen, as our normal chefs will be unable to continue starting June. We are looking for a kitchen committee, a group willing to plan and execute safe, quality meals over the next year. If you have any experience cooking for 30-60 persons, please volunteer! This will become critical in a couple months, and we would like to have a smooth transition.

The second improvement is the intention to receive suggestions for our monthly programs. We have a strong and dedicated history of patriotic programs, which we will continue to feature. Our goal is to hear from some of our newer and younger Brethren, to see what would interest them in the line of programs. These suggestions (we hope) will include suggestions for programs that highlight a portion of our Scottish Rite degrees, and tie some aspect of the lessons learned to the suggested program. We would like to provide quality programs to our entire membership.

The third area of improvement is to encourage the Scottish Rite member ladies to attend our evenings, and even potentially reestablish a ladies group. For years the Scottish Rite had families attend our meetings. The ladies would gather in the dining hall, while the Brothers would have a tiled meeting. In the last few years, we have opened up our meetings to visitors, but we cannot always do that for an entire meeting, or guests and ladies would be waiting outside with little to occupy them. There are regular occasions where it is required to perform some Masonic tiled business, and guests and ladies would have to be asked to remain outside, or leave early. A strong ladies group would go a long way to alleviating boredom for our visitors and ladies. It would be tremendously beneficial to the Valley, either by fund raising for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, or providing ideas and activities for membership, friends and family for action and activation.

The Master of Kadosh will include his annual plan for programs with this newsletter, and keep it updated for any changes. As in all years, things happen to change our stated plan, and hopefully, we can include a recommendation or two in the near future should the need

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



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Wednesday, March 15 7:30pm	Consistory Double Eagle Awards
Saturday March 18, 7am Saturday March 25, 7am	Spring Reunion
Wednesday, April 19 7:30pm	Rose Croix Remembrance/ Renewal
Wednesday, May 17 7:30pm	Consistory 12th Degree
Wednesday, June 21 7:30pm	Council of Kadosh Flag Building/ Sojourners
Wednesday, July 19 7:30pm	Consistory 9th, 10th, and 11th Degrees

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Ill. Clay W. Taylor, 33°**  
Personal Representative  
ph: 239-693-1332  
email: [29ddgm2016@gmail.com](mailto:29ddgm2016@gmail.com)

**Ill. Fred Wright, 33°**  
General Secretary  
ph: 239-675-6503  
email: [fredwright807@gmail.com](mailto:fredwright807@gmail.com)

**Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH**  
General Treasurer—All Bodies  
ph: 239-282-9427  
email: [pmkolt22@gmail.com](mailto:pmkolt22@gmail.com)

**Ill. Ben Flynn, 33°**  
Almoner—Serving Deputy & all Bodies  
ph: 239-275-0021  
email: [bflynn1073@aol.com](mailto:bflynn1073@aol.com)

**Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH**  
Representative—Scottish Rite Foundation  
ph: 410-739-5080  
email: [ken4kaps4kids@aol.com](mailto:ken4kaps4kids@aol.com)

**Ill. David Wolffe, 33°**  
Organist Serving all Bodies  
ph: 239-246-2748  
email: [davewolffe3327@gmail.com](mailto:davewolffe3327@gmail.com)

## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



Fraternal Greetings from your Valley Secretary, III. Freddie Louis Wright!

God Bless America! This is a wonderful country and the fraternal brotherhood that is promoted is outstanding, as many of us are still struggling to get our homes back in order. What a chore.

The Spring Reunion is in honor of Hon. Cecil O. Akin, 32° KCCH and is rapidly approaching on 3/18 and 3/25. There are a couple of new degree directors as well a few degrees we have not seen in a while, so please come out to revisit and reacquaint yourself with what you may have forgotten from your last visit. We are hoping to have about thirteen candidates and an international candidate from France (Bro. Thierry Carrasoa) who is living here in America.

These candidates were voted on at the Executive Board Meeting on March the 1<sup>st</sup>. I am looking forward to seeing a large group of side liners.

Thank you in advance for attending.

Fraternally,  
III. Fred Wright, 33°



- Justin Rhodes (Okeechobee)
- Dagoberto Barcelo (Cape Coral)
- John Connor (Cape Coral)
- Gary Marvel (Cape Coral)
- Jeffery Mosher (Noah)
- Ronold Cadet (Noah)
- John Champion (Cape Coral)
- Austin Williams (Fort Myers Beach)
- Jeffery Ariens (Punta Gorda)
- Robert Gaitens (Englewood)
- John Yates (Cypress)
- Wesner Jean-Michel, Jr. (Cypress)
- David M. Vistica (Fort Myers Beach)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER



Brothers: Even more exciting news this year, With the advantage of the more aggressive investment portfolio we undertook two years ago we have increased our investment return income by \$12,000.00 over last year and deposited \$44,000.00 this year.

The Executive Board made the decision at the February Executive Board Meeting to retain \$16,000.00 of the \$44,000.00 in our operating account, and reinvest \$28,000.00 in the Valley of Fort Myers Savings Account.

With the increase of income we are now able to self-sustain and can continue to maintain our current yearly dues, and are taking advantage of the additional monies by reinvesting for the future of the Valley.

Brothers it is the aim of the leadership of the Valley to aggressively support and promote the investment program to attain financial stability to the Valley. Prior to 2010 the Valley had in excess of \$1.5M in the bank, (not including the Perpetual Fund). In 2017 the Valley had accumulated a deficit of \$36,000 in the operating account, We were forced to withdraw money from the Valley's Saving account and increased the yearly Due's to maintain a financial break-even operating point.

By building up our reserves, we will be able to update and replace our office equipment, kitchen equipment and utensils, lodge room and backstage props and costumes.

As a Valley we were able to assist 18 fellow Brother Masons in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian with the Almoner's Fund, and also assisted some of the local Blue Lodges in our area. We would like to have been able to contribute more. As a Valley we will be able to provide additional financial assistance when needs dictate, without material injury to ourselves. Charity, is the foremost part of our Masonic Obligation.

We were notified by the Supreme Council that the Per Capita Tax will increase in 2024 by \$1.00 to \$31.00, and then 2025 through 2028 raised by \$1.00 per year until the Per Capita Tax will be reach \$35.00 in 2028.

**To our Perpetual and Life Members:** Once again, the Executive Board will be reaching out to you, our Perpetual and Life Members of the Valley, to voluntary donate toward the Per Capita Taxes. For those who have donated over the years we thank you and look forward to your continued loyalty and support.

Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH  
Treasurer



**CONSISTORY**  
**MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH**



Brethren, it is an honor to sit as the Master of Kadosh for Consistory this year. So far, I think we are off to a good start with the great attendance we had last month and with the excellent program about "Masons in Space" presented by our very own Bro. John Gavin, 32° KSA.

We have some degrees planned this year that we have not seen exemplified here before. In particular, we have the 9th, 10th and 11th degrees planned by [Degree Master] Hon. George Baliotis, 32° KCCH. Also, planned are the 12th degree by [Degree Master] Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA and the 25th degree by [Degree Master] Bro. John Troia, 32°.

In addition to these degrees, there are a couple of different presentations planned and in the works. I'll keep you posted as we continue our journey through the year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,  
Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH  
Master of Kadosh



**COUNCIL OF KADOSH**  
**MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER**



Brothers of the Valley of Fort Myers, It is indeed an honor to be elected Commander of the Council of Kadosh for 2023. What makes it even more rewarding to me personally is without question - I have the privilege of presiding over what I consider one of the most sacred and amazing tributes our Valley can offer.

Our program for the month of June will be fortunate to have the Sojourners deliver their program on the history of our Flag. In addition, we will be honoring our members who are Veterans. To be able to show our respect, love, and devotion to our Flag and to our Veterans is the easiest task I have ever been asked to do.

Please join your Brothers in June for this event. I don't have a menu as yet and would welcome your suggestions.

Fraternaly,  
Bro. Robert Zimmerman, 32°  
Commander



**CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX**  
**MESSAGE FROM THE WISE MASTER**



Good day Masters of the Royal Secret. I hope this finds you well and getting ready to enjoy this year's reunion coming up soon; hoping to see you all there.

This is an important time as the our new members look to us for guidance in our valley. As this year's Wise Master in the Chapter of Rose Croix, we will be opening our meeting in April which will be followed by the Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal. This is a somber time for all of us as we remember those that have departed and have moved to the Celestial Lodge above. Please try your best to attend.

Wishing all safe travels, and remember to attend your blue lodges.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Hon. Eduardo (Eddie) Sanchez, 32° KCCH  
Wise Master



**LODGE OF PERFECTION**  
**MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER**



Brothers All: I pray this note finds you well and blessed of God. Greetings from the Lodge of Perfection! W.T. Bill Maddox and the word "perfection" is an oxymoron....at best, but I will do my best. Thank you for your confidence.

Last year's Lodge of Perfection was cancelled. We pray that it will not be the case this year. I am humbled as I read and study the meaning and backstory of this Lodge. I will do everything I can to have this Lodge live up to its billings. Good Lord willing!

I will be getting with all who hold an office in the Lodge of Perfection, as well as anyone who will be playing a role in the feast on the evening of October 18, 2023.

May the Good Lord bless you and keep you. May He hold you in the hollow of His hand, and breathe down His peace upon you, one and all.

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. Bill Maddox, 32°  
Venerable Master





**KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW  
MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST KNIGHT**



Welcome to 2023!

If you have any suggestions for speakers or ideas to get more people to attend, please contact me or one of the other officers. Let us know how we can help.

Also, need more members to join our ranks in the KSA. You can [read more about what we do](#) and [print an application](#) directly from our website.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA  
First Knight



**KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR  
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER**



Hello my Brothers and Knights,

The Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) brothers have continued to meet regularly prior to Consistory. We are working on restarting some of our fun events that have been cancelled over the past few years because of various events out of our control. We will communicate these as we re-establish them with dates and times.

Honorable Eddie is heading up this year's team for the Remembrance and Renewal ceremony at the Chapter of Rose Croix in April. This is one of our Valley's most important ceremonies where we not only remember our brethren who have departed us to be with the Great Architect of the Universe but also to re-energize ourselves to better fulfill our duties as Masons and God's children.

We are also quite excited to welcome new members to our order coming this November.

May God Bless you and your families.

Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH  
Commander



Bro. John Gavin, 32° KSA presents his "Masons in Space" presentation.

(Photo courtesy of Bro. Tim Eckert, 32°)



Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32 KCCH was presented the JFK (John, Fred, Ken) award for his culinary skills in the kitchen.



## SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE



We achieved a fantastic 4th year of meeting and exceeding our goal of \$15,000. This is quite an accomplishment for you who have so generously donated to our number one charity: The Johns Hopkins All Children's Clinic.

The Executive Board and me as the Representative/Trustee of the S. R. Foundation Valley of Fort Myers, thank all of you with gratitude and a major amount of humility, for what you have done to accomplish this feat. It has taken a great team effort to achieve what we have succeeded in doing these last 4 years.

While visiting the Johns Hopkins Clinic at Cleveland and Winkler, I asked the Director how most of the Children and their families fared out with Hurricane Ian. She informed me that more than 25% of the patients and families had experienced total losses of their possessions (and) house and home. In the past few months, we have seen many examples of "CHARITY" through the giving of others in the craft and community. Monetarily and physically. With "FAITH", "HOPE" and "CHARITY" the possibilities are endless to help bring us back to normalcy for those who suffered these tremendous Losses. Let us be reminded, even though some of us were not affected to the point that we lost everything, a lot of other people have suffered great losses. However, some of us can afford to give a little more than others. We "humbly" ask for you to give what you can afford to give and to be as generous as you can. At this point in the fiscal year of 2022-23 we are at about midway to our Goal of \$15,000. We are at 55% and we need 45% or better in the next few months to reach our goal.

### Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida

C/O Valley of Fort Myers, PO Box 60691, Ft. Myers FL 33906-6691

Make Checks Payable to: Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida

Donations made here in the Valley of Ft. Myers remain here and support the local Fort Myers Clinic

Hon. Ken Jordan, 32° KCCH

Representative/Trustee for the Scottish Rite Foundation



## ALMONER'S REPORT



Your Almoner has had a busy year. On top of all the Covid-related problems we had a visit from Hurricane Ian which really caused a lot of harm to many of our brothers in SW Florida. Many times we, as the Valley of Fort Myers, were able to help through our Almoner's Fund; no we can't re-build a home or replace a flooded car, but we can help with day-to-day expenses like a hot meal after the storm or the tow truck. This is all well and good but it depletes the fund which we need to rebuild before the next disaster.

Do you remember, once upon a time being alone and completely destitute and swearing that you would stand ready to help, aid and assist a brother Mason whom you found in that condition? Well, my brothers, this is one of those times. The need is as close as this very afternoon. When the basket of Fraternal Assistance is passed at the next meeting, please give generously. Of course, if you can't make the meeting, or don't want to wait, our Treasurer will gladly accept donations by mail or dropped off at the office.

In addition to monetary aid, your Almoner is supposed to spread comfort and cheer by visits and calls. That is great, but if the almoner doesn't know about the situation, he cannot act to work on it. If you or a brother you know has need of the Almoner, PLEASE let me know by e-mail or 'phone or by personal contact. Remember, we are YOUR brothers and we stand ready to help!

Ill. Ben Flynn, 33°

Almoner



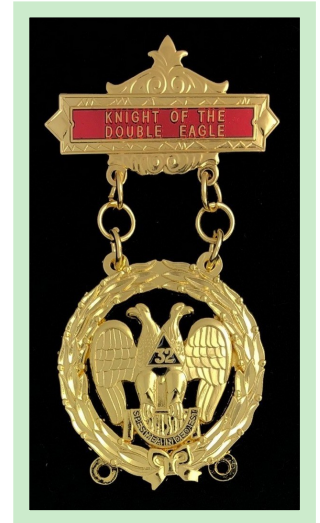
# KNIGHT OF THE DOUBLE EAGLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

To the Brothers listed below: It is important that everyone listed be present at our March Meeting, the 3rd Wednesday in March. This is an important evening for you and your families! Make sure to bring them so we can honor you and them! Your efforts on behalf of the Scottish Rite are a reflection of their support for you. Please bring them, so we can show our appreciation of them and of you.

As an additional honor, Ill Rick Hoover, 33rd degree, SGIG of the Orient of Florida will be participating in our presentations. To everyone attending, please make sure to use our reservation system: [vofmrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:vofmrsvp@gmail.com). Just send a quick email with your name and number attending.

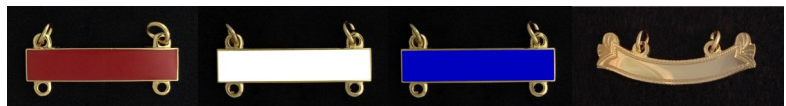
- GERALD BROUSSEAU II
- DUVALL DON
- DUNSON FLOYD
- TIMOTHY ECKERT
- ERICK GARCIA
- ROBERT GELTZ
- BILL JONES
- JIM KERSHAW
- KYLE LAMBERT
- WIHELM LIANILLO
- BILL MADDOX
- JOE MCARTHUR
- PATRICK MEEHAN
- JAMES MORROW
- MOYER RICHARD
- CHARLES NUNEZ
- LARRY ORNSBY
- JOSE PAREDES
- DAVID PRESTON
- GARY PRICE
- DOUGLAS RANKIN
- JOHN SCHLITTER
- JONAS SEDA
- ANDREW SILIVA
- ROBERT SWEET
- JOHN TROIA
- BRIAN WRGHT
- JOHN YATES
- ROBERT ZIMMERMAN
- KENNY VINCE

*Points for the Award are accumulated on a continuing basis with a cutoff date of December 31st each year for the level of recognition to be presented at the following annual Double Eagle awards nights, the regular Consistory meeting held in the month of March.*



*It is the responsibility of each participant to sign attendance sheets by printing in a legible manner your name for each qualified event, at the time the event takes place. Names must be legible for points to be issued.*

*Organization leaders are responsible for reporting attendance at their respective meetings and special events to the secretary.*







# 2023 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

	<b>Master of Kadosh*</b>	Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH Phone: (239) 849-1534 Email: <a href="mailto:KLGourley1971@gmail.com">KLGourley1971@gmail.com</a>
	Prior*	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
	Preceptor*	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH
	Chancellor*	Hon. Bobby Lippek, 32° KCCH
	Minister of State*	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA


## Council of Kadosh

	<b>Commander*</b>	Bro. Robert Zimmerman, 32° Phone: (480) 600-3100 Email: <a href="mailto:bobzimm@comcast.net">bobzimm@comcast.net</a>
	1st Lt. Commander*	Bro. John Troia, 32°
	2nd Lt. Commander*	Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
	Chancellor*	Bro. John Reilly, 32° KSA
	Orator*	Bro. Mike Meehan, 32°


## Chapter of Rose Croix

	<b>Wise Master*</b>	Hon. Eduardo Sanchez, 32° KCCH Phone: (239) 878-0341 Email: <a href="mailto:esanach320@gmail.com">esanach320@gmail.com</a>
	Senior Warden*	Bro. Jonas Seda, 32°
	Junior Warden*	Bro. Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
	Orator*	Bro. Daniel Van Alstine, 32°


## Lodge of Perfection

	<b>Venerable Master*</b>	Bro. Bill Maddox, 32° Phone: (863) 673-2192 Email: <a href="mailto:billmaddox@embarqmail.com">billmaddox@embarqmail.com</a>
	Senior Warden*	Bro. John Donohoo, 32°
	Junior Warden*	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
	Orator*	Bro. Charles Nunez, 32°

## Knights of St. Andrew

	<b>First Knight**</b>	Bro. Adam Saucier, 32° KSA Phone: (941) 218-3061 Email: <a href="mailto:money55511@hotmail.com">money55511@hotmail.com</a>
	Knight Grand Councilor**	Bro. Wilhelm Llanillo, 32° KSA
	Knight Chief of Staff**	Bro. Brian Ferdon, 32° KSA
	Knight Bursar**	Bro. Barry Denton, 32° KSA
	Knight Keeper of the Realm**	Bro. Roger Geltz, 32° KSA

## Knight Commander Court of Honour

	<b>Commander**</b>	Hon. John Herman, 32° KCCH Phone: (239) 410-3337 Email: <a href="mailto:JHerman3@yahoo.com">JHerman3@yahoo.com</a>
	1st Lt. Commander**	Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
	Secretary**	Hon. Acey Edgemon, 32° KCCH
	Treasurer	Hon. Peter Kolthammer, 32° KCCH
	Chaplain	Hon. Kurt Wagner, 32° KCCH



## 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.