

Valley of Fort Myers Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

ORIENT OF FLORIDA

SPRING 2026



WWW.SCOTTISHRITEFORTMYERS.COM



Physical Address:
10868 Metro Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33966

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 60691
Fort Myers, FL 33906

Office: (239) 332-2311
secretary.vofm@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



I am both honored and humbled to have been appointed as Personal Representative of the SGIG for the Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Myers by Illustrious Rick Hoover, SGIG for the Orient of Florida, at our Consistory in March.

I would like to personally thank Illustrious Clay Taylor, 33°, for his many years of dedicated service to our Valley and to Freemasonry as a whole. His leadership brought about countless improvements to our administration and operations, and his steady presence at our meetings ensured the Valley functioned smoothly. He has represented us with distinction and dignity wherever he has traveled.

Congratulations to the approximately forty Brothers who received Double Eagle Awards at our March Consistory. These awards were presented by Illustrious Rick Hoover and Illustrious Clay Taylor. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Brother Kenny Vince for his continued dedication as our Foundation Representative and Double Eagle Points Coordinator. There are many Brothers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of our Valley, and while it is impossible to name them all, their efforts do not go unnoticed.

Our recent picnic was well attended, with a strong showing of Brethren and guests. Thanks to the many helping hands, the event was both enjoyable and easy to coordinate. We look forward to continuing similar events as we move forward.

In closing, please remember that this is your Valley. If you have an interest in participating in any of our activities, I encourage you to let us know—we will do our best to make it happen.

Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Personal Representative—Valley of Fort Myers AASR



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday April 15 7:30 pm	Chapter of Rose Croix Remembrance & Renewal KCCH Ceremony
Wednesday May 20 7:30 pm	Consistory Lee County Sheriff Department Presentation
Wednesday June 17 7:30 pm	Council of Kadosh Sojourners Flag Etiquette Presentation
Wednesday July 15 7:30 pm	Consistory 31° Inspector Inquisitor Degree
Wednesday August 19 7:30 pm	Consistory 21° Noachite or Prussian Knight Degree

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Hon. Jeff Nowak, 32° KCCH
Personal Representative
phone: (239) 571-0935
email: ddgm292013@aol.com

Hon. Tim Eckert, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
phone: (717) 519-7034
email: secretary.vofm@gmail.com

III. Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Serving all Bodies
phone: (239) 443-0193
email: pmkolt22@gmail.com

Hon. Robert Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Almoner—Serving all Bodies
phone: (480) 600-3100
email: bobzimm@comcast.net

Bro. Kenny Vince, 32°
Scottish Rite Foundation Representative
phone: (239) 292-9593
email: kennyvince79@gmail.com

III. David Wolffe, 33°
Organist—Serving all Bodies
phone: (239) 246-2748
email: davewolffe3327@gmail.com

Hon. Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
Social Media & Web / Digital Communications
email: KLGourley1971@gmail.com



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK



2026 is off to a strong start, with many exciting opportunities ahead for the Valley of Fort Myers. We were honored to welcome Illustrious Richard Hoover, SGIG for the Orient of Florida, and to recognize many deserving Brothers with Double Eagle Awards. Our recent family picnic was a great success, and we now look forward to the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at the April Consistory.

The new year has also brought change. We extend our sincere thanks to Illustrious Clay Taylor for his many years of dedicated service as Personal Representative, and we wish him continued health and happiness. We are equally excited to move forward under the leadership of Honorable Jeff Nowak and encourage all Brothers to continue offering their time and talents in support of the Valley.

The Scottish Rite provides a meaningful path for Masons seeking further light. While our degrees and teachings are rich with value, the true strength of our Valley lies in the Brothers themselves. I encourage each one of you to be an ambassador for the Scottish Rite throughout the Blue Lodges.

Together, let us continue to grow our Valley, perform quality ritual work, and build a strong and lasting Masonic community throughout Southwest Florida and beyond.

Tim Eckert, 32° KCCH
General Secretary—Valley of Fort Myers



CONSISTORY

APPOINTED
ELECTED

Master of Kadosh Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH

Prior John Herman, 32° KCCH

Preceptor Jeff Zimmerman, 32° KCCH

Chancellor Bill Maddox, 32° KCCH

Minister of State Mike Meehan, 32° KCCH

Prelate Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH

Master of Ceremonies Robert Graham, 32°

Expert Rafael Morales, 32°

Assistant Expert Bob Bennett, 32°

Captain of the Guard Luis Tulier, 32°

Color Guard George Benjamin, 32°

Tyler Keith Carrington, 32°

CONSISTORY / MASTER OF KADOSH



First and foremost, I am grateful to the confidence you have placed in me allowing me to be the Master of Kadosh for our Consistory. It is indeed an honor and I will try to continue to earn that.

This year is flying by faster than I would have imagined. We are off to a good start.

The Lodge of Discussion raised several areas where we can improve the Scottish Rite experience. The E-Board is looking forward to addressing those in the near future. By the way, any Scottish Rite Member is invited to E-Board the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. We look forward to you attending and making your voices heard.

The Awards banquet with SGIG Hoover, hosted by Brother Kenny Vince, was successful and we saw many Brothers advance. Your participation is appreciated and as Ill. Taylor liked to say, "We need to share the wealth." We are looking for Brothers to help with our degrees. It is your Scottish Rite. Cast members and understudies are needed.

April is our annual Remembrance and Renewal conducted by the KCCH to honor our Brothers who have passed to the Celestial Lodge. Please join us in honoring their families and memories. This is an open ceremony for all Masons, their friends and families.

May should prove to be an excellent program presented by the Lee County Sheriff Office. Again, this is an open meeting for friends, families, neighbors; all are welcome.

June you are going to have a great presentation from the Council of Kadosh.

July we are having a tiled meeting with the 31st degree being presented by Punta Gorda Lodge AASR members. I haven't seen this one and I am really looking forward to it.

August will be another tiled meeting; Hon. John Herman's Degree. If you haven't seen it, it is an exciting one to say the least.

I think the year will be a good one and hope you will all take advantage of what we have to offer and get more involved. Please reach out to me or Hon. Jeff or any of the other officers if you have suggestions for the open topic meetings or anything else you would like to share or discuss.

Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh—Consistory



BLUE LODGES IN THE VALLEY OF FORT MYERS

LODGE	STATED COMMUNICATION
Tropical No. 56	First & Third Tuesday
Moore Haven No. 61	Second & Fourth Thursday
Peace River No. 66	Second & Fourth Tuesday
Punta Gorda No. 115	First and Third Thursday
Sugarland No. 281	First and Third Thursday
Cypress No. 295	Second and Fourth Thursday
Noah No. 357	Second and Fourth Monday
Englewood No. 360	First and Third Tuesday
Fort Myers Beach No. 362	First and Third Thursday
Cape Coral No. 367	Second and Fourth Thursday
LaBelle No. 379	Second and Fourth Tuesday

Turn in those Petitions!

We're eagerly looking for candidates to attend the 2026 Fall Reunion. If you're sitting in Lodge with a Brother, let's get him interested in Scottish Rite. They can [petition directly from our website](#).



Scottish Rite Foundation
of Florida, U.S.A., Inc.



COUNCIL OF KADOSH

ELECTED
APPOINTED

Commander Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH

1st Lt. Commander Jonas Seda, 32° KCCH

2nd Lt. Commander Joe McArthur, 32° KCCH

Chancellor Bob Sweet, 32° KSA

Orator J. Champion, 32° KSA

Prelate Charles Machell, 33°

Marshall of Ceremonies Bruce Rivera, 32°

Turcopolier George Baliotis, 33°

Draper Rick Pennewaert, 32°

First Deacon Kenny Vince, 32°

Second Deacon Noah Parry, 32° KSA

Bearer of the Beauseant Chris Purdy, 32° KSA

Bearer of the White Standard Rafael Morales, 32°

Bearer of the Black Standard Guy Henning, 32°

Lieutenant of the Guard Miguel Aguilar, 32° KSA

Sentinel Reuel Rivera, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH / COMMANDER



Brothers, It's starting to get a bit tight out there in finding candidates to fill spots in our reunions. I understand we have made a lot of new masons, but after speaking with a few, the outlook seems like they want to do a bit more in Blue Lodge before making any commitments to others bodies. I also feel that they are getting hit from the other masonic bodies as well. It might be a good idea to let them see a presentation at a lodge without any pressure to jump right in, and perhaps leave them with a simple line: "When your ready, our doors are open for you!"

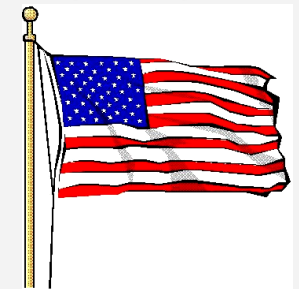
Hope everyone has a happy Easter.

Ed Sanchez, 32° KCCH
Commander—Council of Kadosh



Masonic America 250 Flag Program

Show your pride in Masonic America by purchasing [an American Flag](#) flown over the House of the Temple in Washington D.C. Proceeds from all purchases will go to the Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc. to support philanthropic efforts such as the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, grants, scholarships, and national disaster relief.



NOTE FROM THE TREASURER



Brothers: Our investments for 2026 started off very aggressively, but with recent events have started to decline in the last two weeks of March.

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Orient of Florida elected to move the Perpetual Membership Funds from Wells Fargo to Morgan Stanley. Morgan Stanley will charge less fees compared to Wells Fargo.

The Valley of Fort Myers finance committee made a proposal to the Executive Board to see if the Valley could get better fees than Wells Fargo was offering. The proposal was approved by the brethren at the March Consistory meeting, we are in the process of moving the Valley's investment accounts to Charles Schwab.

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 voluntarily, 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.

Peter Kolthammer, 33°
Treasurer—Valley of Fort Myers



Naples Scottish Rite Club

Meets 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m.
at Perkins on Pine Ridge Road in Naples.

President: Tom Budzyn, 32°
Email: budzyn32@gmail.com

Punta Gorda Scottish Rite Club

Meets 2nd Monday at 6 p.m.
at Punta Gorda Lodge.

President: Noah Parry, 32° KSA
Email: noahsark24@gmail.com



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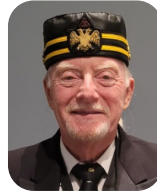


CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

APPOINTED ELECTED

- Wise Master** Gary Marvel, 32°
- Senior Warden** Rick Pennewaert, 32°
- Junior Warden** Chris Purdy, 32° KSA
- Orator** Kenny Vince, 32°
- Prelate** George Baliotis, 33°
- Master of Ceremonies** Ed Lanham, 33°
- Expert** J. Champion, 32° KSA
- Assistant Expert** Tim Eckert, 32° KCCH
- Standard Bearer** Rafel Morales, 32
- Guardian of the Temple** Ed Aiello, 32°
- Tyler** Luis Tulier, 32°

CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX / WISE MASTER



The Chapter of the Rose Croix will be doing the opening and closing on April 15th. All elected and appointed officers of Rose Croix will be notified in a separate email or text in reference to that evening's activities. The program of Rose Croix begins at 7:00 p.m. in the lodge room.

The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal by the KCCH will also take place that evening. It will be an open to all. This is a time of reflection and of thought, honoring our Brothers that are no longer with us.

Thank You,

Gary Marvel, 32° KSA
Wise Master—Chapter of Rose Croix



LODGE OF PERFECTION / VENERABLE MASTER



Brothers, this year's Lodge of Perfection will be held on October 21st. First, I would like to say I feel honored and very Humbled to have been elected Venerable Master for this Year. I am also very fortunate to have a Great group of elected and appointed officers who will be assisting me with the planning and presentation for this year's event in October. I'm very proud to say all my officers are members of the

Punta Gorda Scottish Rite Club and in the last two years we have grown the club to fifty-one Members strong and growing! We will continue to honor and show respect for this celebration.

We will gather to observe the ancient victory celebration known as the Feast of Tishri—a remembrance of the freedom won by the Israelites through the guiding hand of Providence, despite the chains of Egypt and the might of the Philistine armies. This triumph, commemorated in the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, is kept ever-living in our hearts through our faithful observance of the Feast of Tishri.

"May Light and wisdom ever shine upon the Scottish Rite, strength and peace rest within our families, and God's enduring hand protect and bless the United States of America."

Fraternally,

Noah Parry, 32° KSA
Venerable Master—Lodge of Perfection



LODGE OF PERFECTION

APPOINTED ELECTED

- Venerable Master** Noah Parry, 32° KSA
- Senior Warden** Rafael Morales, 32°
- Junior Warden** Brian Ferdon, 32° KSA
- Orator** Miguel Aguilar, 32° KSA
- Prelate** Phil Harris, 32°
- Master of Ceremonies** Christ Purdy, 32° KSA
- Expert** Jim Jones, 32° KSA
- Assistant Expert** Mickey Mullins, 32°
- Captain of the Host** Guy Henning, 32°
- Tyler** Colin McLaughlin, 32°

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.



Recent Happenings in the Valley



THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED

March 19: After many years of distinguished service as Personal Representative for the SGIG in the Valley of Fort Myers, Illustrious Clay Taylor has decided to step down and pass the torch to someone else, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, commitment, and unwavering dedication to the Scottish Rite.

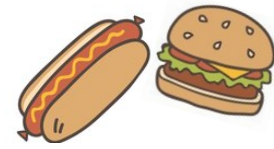
During a recent visit to the Valley, Illustrious Richard Hoover, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Florida, formally appointed Honorable Jeff Nowak as the new Personal Representative. This transition marks not only the continuation of strong leadership, but also the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Valley of Fort Myers.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

March 21: Illustrious Clay Taylor reserved Pavilion A-1 at Lakes Park for a day of fun & games and friendly fellowship. It was not a fundraiser; no money was asked for. It was simply a day to celebrate our fraternal brother, eat some good food and enjoy each other's company.

The Valley of Fort Myers provided hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, as well as plates and utensils. Others brought special dishes of their own to share with everyone.

Illustrious Clay Taylor and Honorable Kevin Gourley even brought kayaks for everyone's use on the lake.





KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

ELECTED
APPOINTED

- First Knight** J. Champion, 32° KSA
- Knight Grand Council** Noah Parry, 32° KSA
- Knight Chief of Staff** Brian Ferdon, 32° KSA
- Knight Bursar** Gary Marvel, 32° KSA
- Keeper of the Realm** Miguel Aguilar, 32° KSA
- Knight Grand Orator** Bob Sweet, 32° KSA
- Knight of the Watch** Chris Purdy, 32° KSA
- Knight of Merriment** Daniel Larson, 32° KSA
- Knight of Heraldry and Regalia** William Mullins, 32° KSA
- Sentinel** James Jones, 32° KSA

KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW / FIRST KNIGHT



As First Knight of the KSA in the Valley of Fort Myers, my heart is full seeing our group quietly make a difference. We greet visitors warmly, escort dignitaries, assist with degrees and reunions, present the Colors, and step up wherever needed. This meaningful work brings us closer and helps our Scottish Rite family shine.

We're grateful for every Knight, but we could use more helping hands. Many brethren face mobility challenges or busy schedules, so a smaller core carries much of the load.

If you're a 32° Scottish Rite Mason who enjoys fellowship and giving back, we'd love to have you. Roles are flexible — some light and seated, others involve greeting or hospitality. Every smile and hand counts.

Serving together deepens bonds, builds friendships, and brings joy. If this speaks to your heart, reach out to me or any current Knight. We welcome you with open arms — no pressure, just good fellowship.

Thank you for all you do. Together, we keep our Valley strong

J. Champion, 32° KSA
 First Knight—KSA
 Email: champije73@gmail.com



KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR

ELECTED

- Commander** Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
- 1st Lieutenant** Bob Zimmerman, 32° KCCH
- Secretary** John Herman, 32° KCCH
- Chaplain** Kurt Wagner, 32° KCCH

KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR / COMMANDER Social Media & Web / Digital Communications



Brothers: Sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances we need to make last minute program changes. I try to make sure the most up-to-date information about our monthly programs is posted on the main page of our website at ScottishRiteFortMyers.org. In addition, we also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ScottishRiteFortMyers where we are always posting in-

formation and promoting special occasions. Be sure to visit either of these options to stay informed on current happenings .

Also, if you are not receiving our quarterly newsletters, please send me a message at my email address below so I can add you to the distribution list. We put out a Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter newsletter. These can also be found on our website above — including past issues.

Kevin Gourley, 32° KCCH
 Commander—KCCH
 Social Media & Web / Digital Communications
 Email: KLGourley1971@gmail.com

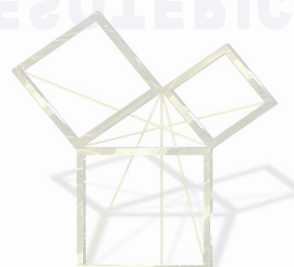


2026 Fall Reunion



October 3rd & 4th
Saturday & Sunday

ESOTERIC STUDY GROUP



There is an esoteric study group on the fourth Wednesday every month at 5:00 p.m. It is held upstairs in the classroom. All 32° Scottish Rite Masons are invited to attend. Hosted by James Record, 33° and Ed Lanham, 33°.