

EL PASO SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN



NO. 669

EL PASO VALLEY
TEXAS ORIENT

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2ND QUARTER 2025



Message from the Wise Master



Brethren all,

It is an honor to have been elected Wise Master of the El Paso Chapter of Rose Croix this year and I pledge to do my best for the Valley. The Wise Master is responsible for the obligatory Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony which was recently held. I want to thank the participants for the excellent work they did in performing the Ceremony. As we honor our deceased Brethren, it brings back many memories for some and the realization that time passes faster than we realize. We had a respectable turnout and a great dinner following the Ceremony.

The restoration work on the Temple continues. The major work has been accomplished, there remains a great deal of detail work to attend to and we are addressing these as time permits. Hopefully in the near future we will have new furniture in the lobby and library. Thanks go out to Ill. Nicholas Quarm for obtaining donations of an antique player piano and two vintage bars which are in excellent condition and fit the style of the era in which the Temple was constructed. Brother Quarm and Chairman Navarro have also upgraded our sound system and we hope this will enhance our Reunion Degree work.

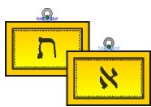
The El Paso Scottish Rite Temple recently hosted a successful blood drive for Masonic District 60 and our Scottish Rite members participated in the Masonic District 60, Adopt a Highway clean-up project and attended a Masonic Family Day at an El Paso Chihuahuas baseball game. Congratulations to the current leadership of Masonic District 60. They are coming up with activities to keep the membership active.

Our Fall Reunion is only about 4 months away and we ask all members to help recruit candidates. If you are aware of a new member, or old member who is not a Scottish Rite Mason, please approach him and invite him to join the Scottish Rite Bodies.

I want to thank each and every member that is able to attend our Stated Meetings and events. There are so many other and important obligations each member has in this day and time and we know your time is valuable. We appreciate your attendance and dedication.

Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.

Ernesto Rodriguez, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
El Paso Chapter of Rose Croix



From Microwaves to Machines That Think: Reflections on AI and Freemasonry.



In the March/April 2025 edition of the *Scottish Rite Journal of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction*, I came across an article that struck a chord with me. Written by Brother Peyton Anderson, 32°, and published on pages 24 and 25, the article dives into the timely and ever-evolving topic of artificial intelligence (AI).

What caught my attention wasn't just the subject itself, but the thoughtful way Brother Anderson compared it to something most of us now take for granted: the microwave.

Back in 1947, the microwave was seen as something almost *dangerous*—a foreign technology people didn't understand, and therefore, feared. There was even serious talk of banning it altogether. Fast-forward to today, and you'd be hard-pressed to find a home without one. We heat up leftovers, pop popcorn, and make coffee without a second thought, using a technology that once caused widespread concern.

Brother Anderson draws a parallel that's hard to ignore. In 2025, AI is generating the same kind of alarm. People are anxious. Some are outright terrified. And honestly? I understand why.

I'm Writing This Because...

I was born in 1985—an '80s kid. That means I grew up in the analog world. We played outside until the streetlights came on. We listened to music on cassette tapes and watched movies on VHS. I still remember the crackle of dial-up internet, the thrill of burning my first CD, and the wonder of seeing Google for the first time.

We didn't just live through a transition—we *are* the bridge generation. From black-and-white TVs to streaming in 4K, from encyclopedias to smartphones, from a disconnected world to one that's always online. Now, we're facing yet another leap: artificial intelligence. But here's where my story takes a turn. After serving and working for years, I decided to study in the field of technology, focusing on Cyber Crimes. That path gave me a unique lens through which to see this technological revolution—not just from the user's side, but from the backend, the underbelly, the architecture behind the magic.

So what do I think about all this AI talk? I think it's time we breathe, pause, and remember how all change feels at first: uncomfortable.

Fear of the Unknown, Sound Familiar?

If there's one thing we humans are naturally wired to do, it's to fear what we don't understand. And AI, for many, feels like something *beyond* understanding. The biggest concern I hear? "AI is going to replace my job." And that's a legitimate worry. Like every technological advancement, AI *will* replace some things. But it can also *elevate* others—if we let it.

This brings me to Freemasonry.

Since I joined our fraternity, I've heard time and again how today's younger generations "aren't interested in Masonry." The data may reflect a decline, yes. But I think we're focusing too much on the *problem*, and not enough on the *opportunity*.

Where AI Meets the Craft

Let me be clear: AI will never replace the human experience. It can write poems, compose music, and even give advice. But it cannot offer the *fraternal embrace* of a Brother, or the silent strength you feel when sitting in Lodge beside men who share your values.

It cannot replicate the joy of seeing a new Brother's eyes light up when he finally *gets it*. It cannot offer the mentorship, the laughter, or the unspoken understanding we find within our Temples.

That is something **only we** can provide.

And ironically, in a world where people are more connected digitally than ever—but more *isolated* emotionally—Freemasonry offers a sacred space for *real* connection. We are the antidote to superficiality. We are the quiet room in a noisy world.

As people grow tired of shallow interactions and curated lives, I believe we'll see more young people (and older ones too) searching for meaning. For wisdom. For connection. They might Google "life advice," but what they're really craving is a mentor. A guide. A Brother.

Embrace the Tools, Protect the Heart

Just like we learned to use microwaves without letting them define our diets, we can learn to use AI without letting it define our humanity.

We can use AI to help organize events, manage Lodge communications, enhance educational materials, and even explore Masonic history in creative ways. But the *essence* of our Craft must remain human.

Freemasonry has always been a gatekeeper of knowledge, a place where the curious, the wise, and the kind come together to build not just themselves—but each other.

If we embrace the best of this new age while holding fast to the values that made us strong, I truly believe we can usher Freemasonry into a new golden era.

And if you're reading this brethren, maybe that future starts with you.

Bro. Jean Carlo Sanchez, 32°



*Our most sincere
sympathies and condolences
to all the families of our members
who have passed on to a better life*



Tommy L. Arthur, 32°
Dennis R. Gensman, 32°
Melvin D. Hayes, 32°
James M. McCoy, 32°
Charles M. McGehee, 32°
Paul A. Wade, 32°
David P. Wheeler, 32°

08/07/1944-05/02/2025
08/15/1952-09/30/2024
06/16/1935-07/17/2024
11/05/1952-02/24/2024
11/10/1938-04/22/2025
02/03/1940-07/28/2022
11/20/1946-03/14/2025



The Two Hundred-Sixty-Sixth

El Paso Scottish Rite Fall One-Day Reunion

Honoring

Ill. Joe Don Melton, 33°

October 18, 2025

El Paso Scottish Rite JROTC Medal presentations



The Scottish Rite JROTC Medal recognizes outstanding cadets in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) for their academic excellence and promotion of Americanism.

It is awarded to one cadet, typically in their second or second-to-last year of the program, who demonstrates leadership, good citizenship, and patriotism.

The medal features the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry's heraldic logo and the words "JROTC Education and Americanism".

Presenting for the El Paso Scottish Rite:

Saad Sheikh, 32°; Tony Villa, 32° KCCH; Michael Sevilla, 33°; Pete Loaiza, 32°; Jean Carlo Sanchez, 32°



Bro. Pete Loaiza is wearing his Heroes of '76 uniform - part of the National Sojourners organization, comprised of Master Masons who have served or are serving in the United States armed forces, continues its mission of promoting patriotism, Americanism, and support for our military personnel.

The El Paso Lodge of Perfection
El Paso Scottish Rite Bulletin
Editor- Nicole Moran

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Regular Meetings of all bodies

Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.,

El Paso Lodge of Perfection

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ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry sitting in the Valley of El Paso, Orient of Texas, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon, of the Thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of South Carolina, now sitting at Washington, D.C. of which

ILL. James D. Cole, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Commander
and

ILL. Michael L. Wiggins, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas,
and

Hon. Juan M. Navarro, 32° KCCH
is Personal Representative of SGIG
And Chairman of the Executive Committee
Valley of El Paso

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**A kind request to the family or friend
of the addressed Member:**

Please notify us at the above address or
Phone number if our member
is in the hospital or Nursing home,
or is incapacitated in any way.

NO Stated Meeting in October
September 08, 2025
August 11, 2025
July 14, 2025

Stated Meetings:

Upcoming Events in 2025:
Feast of Tishri
October 17, 2025
Fall Reunion
October 18, 2025



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We will add you to our mailing list - please also let us know if you prefer not to receive our printed bulletin.