



SCOTTISH RITE  
**Bulletin**

VALLEY OF TAMPA – ORIENT OF FLORIDA

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
5500 Memorial Highway • Tampa, FL 33634 • (813) 886-0578  
Meets 2nd Monday of Each Month

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[www.tampascottishrite.org](http://www.tampascottishrite.org)

**Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry**  
**Valley of Tampa, Orient of Florida**  
**283rd Reunion October 17 and 24, 2015**  
**Memorial Class honoring Ill.: David Blate, 33°,**  
**Ill.: Sidney Gilbert, 33° and Ill.: Mark Clayton Hollis, 33°**



Officers of the Bodies and Distinguished Brothers Front Row - Left: C. Donald Prosser, 33° - Director of Work Emeritus; Kenneth D. Balsley, 33°; Gerald M. Lee, 33° - Class Room Assistant; John E. Drewett, 33° - General Secretary; Russell B. Glendinning, 33°, Personal Representative; David A. Eschrich, PGM 33°; James E. Bradford, 33°; James W. Long, 33°;  
Second Row: Left: Richard C. Hollie, Sr., 32° KCCH - Commander;  
Right Side: Brian D. Campbell, 32° - Master of Kadosh; Louis H. Ortt, 33° - Chairman, Class Room Director

**Class Members**

John R. Burrus; Colin D. Campbell; Tommy T. Cunningham; Mark A. DeStefano - Class President; Matthew J. Fisher; Ramon A. Hernandez-Ron; David A. Hobbs; Adam S. Kendall; Justin D. Letner; Russell E. McNeill; David B. Millendorf - Class Orator; John F. Mushinski; Robert A. Norman; John D. Oldja; Albert J. Racette, Jr.; Melvin L. Sams, IV; John D. Vogt; Mark D. Yates.

## Executive Committee

### OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°  
*Chairman*

Norman F. Newcomb, 32° KCCH  
*Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory*

Benjamin J. Raposa, 32° KCCH  
*Commander - Council of Kadosh*

James W. Ford, PGM, 33°  
*Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix*

Leonard J. A. Smith, 32° KCCH  
*Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection*

Joseph A. Gonzalez, 32° KCCH  
*Prior*

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 32° KCCH  
*Treasurer*

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

James W. Benjamin, 32°

Lynn C. Raposa, 32° KCCH

William C. Sundquist, 32°

A. Gary Cavanaugh, 32° KCCH

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## Personal Representative

by Ill. : Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

Brethren, HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2016 has arrived. 2015 was a challenging year in some ways, but your Scottish Rite came through with a lot of successes. Perhaps the highlight of the year was our First Annual Feast of Kadosh. This event was attended by 190 brethren, family and friends. If you missed this event, please mark your

calendars for January 23, 2016 for the Second Annual Feast. You will find more information on this in this issue of The Bulletin.

In addition to our Reunion, your Scottish Rite also sponsored open events honoring the sitting Worshipful Masters in the Valley of Tampa along with recognizing the DeMolay Chapters, Rainbow Assemblies and Job's Daughters Bethels in our area. We were honored to have with us for these two events, M. : W. : Steven P. Boring, Grand Master and R. : W. : Rick Hoover, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

Our Scottish Rite Clubs continued this past year in promoting the Scottish Rite in their respective areas. It seems that at every monthly Consistory meeting there is at least one Club representative who is making a donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. If you are not able to attend our monthly meetings, please accept this heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Foundation and the kids that are the beneficiaries of your generosity.

Finally, we held two very successful events where we celebrated the Feast of Tishri and the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. These two programs are mandatory events in the Scottish Rite to be held each year and our Venerable Master and Wise Master organized them to perfection.

To begin 2016, congratulations are in order to those who have been elected to serve the Valley of Tampa in 2016. Of course, I am talking about our new Master of Kadosh, Brother Norman (Woody) Newcomb, 32° KCCH, Commander of Kadosh, Brother Benjamin J. Raposa, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Ill. : James W. Ford, PGM, 33° and Venerable Master, Brother Leonard J. A. Smith, 32° KCCH. These four brothers along with the other members of the Executive Committee will be working hard during the year to provide the leadership and new ideas that will make us successful this year. For these programs to be successful, we will need the support of as many of our members as possible.

Many brothers worked hard in 2015 for the benefit of the Valley. A special thanks go out to our outgoing heads of the Bodies, Brother Charles C. Osborne., 32°, William F. Wyllie, 32° KCCH, Brother Carl Gilmore, 32° KCCH and Brother Ed Street, 32° KCCH for everything that they did in 2015. I would also like to thank Brothers Jeff Pick, 32° KCCH and Ill. : Rick Hoover, 33° for their years of service on the Execu-

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## General Secretary

by Ill. John E.  
Drewett, 33°

### Annual Installation of Officers

On January 11, 2016, we will install the officers who will lead the Valley of Tampa in the New Year. Along with the

officers of the four coordinate bodies, we will also install the officers of the Knights of St. Andrew, KCCH Organization, Past Masters Organization, Scottish Rite Guard, and our Scottish Rite Clubs.

The installation is open to all members, their families and friends and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Prior to the installation, dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. in the Banquet Hall (cost is \$10.00 per person). Mark your calendars to be there and please notify the Scottish Rite office if you are planning to have dinner with us.

### Valley of Tampa Completes VMAP

By the time that you are reading this, the completed VMAP binder with documentation of what the Valley has done this past year will have been shipped up to the Supreme Council for their review. The Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) was rolled out in the Valley of Tampa beginning January 1, 2015 and ran through December 31, 2015.

This was a new major grassroots project coordinated by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction. The program was to help the Valley provide the very best experience for its members. Listed below are the Topics that VMAP covered and the Chairman of those Programs:

#### Membership Recruitment

Stanley H. Rakita, 32° KCCH

#### New Member Engagement

S. Gilbert Weisman, 33°

#### Degree Conferral Proficiency

Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

#### Reunion Experience

Jeffrey M. Pick, 32° KCCH

### Scottish Rite Education for Candidates

Louis H. Ortt, 33°

### Scottish Rite Education for Members

Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

### Officer Responsibilities and Engagement

John E. Drewett, 33°

### Philanthropy and Public Image

Stephen B. Jacobson, 33°

### Membership Retention

L. Edward Villiaume III, 32° KCCH

### Valley Organizations

Carl E. Gilmore, 32° KCCH

As you can see there was a lot of activity going on in your Valley this past year. I hope you had an opportunity to attend a meeting or an event and get to experience one of the new programs.

### The Scottish Rite Library

The Library is now open to all Brothers who are in search of more "Light." The Library contains a variety of books that range from Masonry, literature, history and many other topics.

The Library hours are 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the second Monday of the month, and on the days of Reunions from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Brother Ippolito will be in the Library to assist you in any way.

Brother Paul Ippolito 32° has spent many countless hours cleaning and organizing the books for your reading pleasurer. Thank you Brother Ippolito for stepping up to the plate. 🙏

## From The General Secretary

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to those Master of the Royal Secret who have joined us as an Affiliation/Dual since publication of our last bulletin. Scottish Rite Freemasonry welcomes all its members and visitors within its portal - visit us as often as time permits, we guarantee good fellowship, new friends and an opportunity to work with us for the benefit of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite in particular.

### Dual Member

Moises Rosado II, 32°

## Scottish Rite Clubs

### Lake Region Scottish Rite Education Sessions

All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

#### Tuscan Lodge No. 6

June 29, 2016

#### Sebring Lodge No. 249

March 29, 2016    September 29, 2016

### Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

Last Friday at 6:00 p.m.

VFW Post No. 10209, phone (352) 686-9319

Spring Hill, FL

### North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

2nd Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Reservations preferred, phone (727) 460-1824

Kally-K's Steakery Fishery

1600 Main Street, Dunedin, FL

### Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

1st Friday, 11:00 a.m.

Perkins Family Restaurant

8841 Park Blvd., N, Largo, FL

Information & Reservations (727) 577-5923

### Sarasota Scottish Rite Club

2nd Friday, 11:30 a.m. (dark July)

Sahib Shrine

600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL

1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in even numbered months  
(dark December)

Scottish Rite Club Building

240 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL

### Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

3rd Monday, 11:30 a.m.

(dark June, July, August and September)

Freedom Plaza Club

Sun City Center, FL

### Tampa Scottish Rite Club

4th Wednesday, 12:00 noon

Reservations preferred (813) 888-6385

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center

5500 Memorial Highway, Tampa, FL

*Support your Scottish Rite Club*

### Deadline for March/April Bulletin

February 1 - Contributor deadline

February 10 - Office contributor deadline

February 12 - Transmit print file to our printer

## 2016 Valley Officers

### Tampa Consistory

Master of Kadosh ..... Norman F. Newcomb, 32° KCCH  
 Prior ..... Joseph A. Gonzalez, 32° KCCH  
 Preceptor ..... G. David Walters, III, 33°  
 Chancellor ..... W. Allen Sorbie, 32°  
 Minister of State ..... Henry A. Echezabal Jr., 32°  
 Marshal of Ceremonies ..... Charles R. Jordan, 32°  
 Expert ..... John G. Cunavelis, 32°  
 Asst. Expert ..... H. Paul Schweikhart, 32°  
 Capt. of the Guard ..... George E. B. Brooks 32°

### Tampa Council of Kadosh

Commander ..... Benjamin J. Raposa, 32° KCCH  
 1st Lt. Commander ..... Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH  
 2nd Lt. Commander ..... Edward Villiaume, III, 32° KCCH  
 Chancellor ..... Carl E. Gilmore, 32° KCCH  
 Orator ..... David T. Agster, 32°  
 Marshal of Ceremonies ..... Richard S. Cowan, 32° KCCH  
 Turcopilier ..... Stephan Korda, 32°  
 Draper ..... Richard A. Vogt, 32°  
 First Deacon ..... Paul D. Barber, 32°  
 Second Deacon ..... John A. Baldwin, 32°  
 Bearer of Beausant ..... Joseph Tarica, 32°  
 Bearer White Standard ..... John W. Westerman, III, 32°  
 Bearer Black Stand ..... William C. Klinke, 32°  
 Lt. of the Guard ..... Charles D. Walter, 32°

### Tampa Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master ..... James W. Ford, PGM, 33°  
 Senior Warden ..... F. Edward Street, 32° KCCH  
 Junior Warden ..... Herbert H. Atwood, 32°  
 Orator ..... Steven J. Silvers, 32°  
 Master of Ceremoies ..... Robert D. Davidson, 32° KCCH  
 Expert ..... Kenneth A. Carolan, 32°  
 Asst. Expert ..... Paul A. Ippolito, 32°  
 Standard Bearer ..... Robert J. Davis, Jr., 32°  
 Guardian of the Temple ..... Donald W. Cowart, 32°

### Tampa Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master ..... Leonard J. A. Smith 32° KCCH  
 Senior Warden ..... Arthur J. Ahrens, III, 32°  
 Junior Warden ..... Robert L. T. Phillips, 32°  
 Orator ..... Charles C. Osborne, 32°  
 Master of Ceremonies ..... William C. Sundquist, 32°  
 Expert ..... David L. Douglas, 32°  
 Asst. Expert ..... Rodney W. Kohler, 32°  
 Captain of the Host ..... Richard R. Whitmyer, 32°

### For the Four Coordinate Bodies

General Secretary ..... Ill. : John E. Drewett, 33°  
 Treasurer ..... Michael R. Pender, Jr., 32° KCCH  
 Almoner ..... Ill. : Coleman L. Hill, 33°  
 Prelate ..... Ill. : Louis H. Ortt, 33°  
 Associate Prelate ..... Mark A. DeStefano, 32°  
 Tiler ..... Andres Morin, 32° KCCH  
 Associate Tiler ..... Stephen C. Murphy, 32°

## Good for You

The following Brothers recently received the following awards:

### Scottish Rite Master

#### Craftsman's Certificate & Lapel Pin

Joseph A. Monday, 32°

#### Fifty-Year Cap Pin

Richard S. Cowan, 32° KCCH

#### Fifty-Year Certificates & Lapel Pins

Julian S. Hook, 32° Glenn D. Walters Jr., 32°

#### Perpetual Member Certificates

Joseph A. Monday, 32° Norman F. Newcomb, 32° KCCH

#### Twenty-Five Year Certificates & Lapel Pins

Juan F. Alayon, 32° Virgil Reed, 32°

#### Billionaire Certificates & Lapel Pins

Knights of the Eagle,  
Widows' Masonic Motorcycle Riders  
Richard G. Hoover, 32°

#### Millionaire Certificates & Lapel Pins

James W. Ford, 33° North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club  
Pinellas Scottish Rite Club  
Lynn C. Raposa, 32° KCCH Richard J. Whalen, Sr., 33°

## Coming Masonic Events

Please note ALL Scottish Rite Masons may attend the Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee Meetings start at 4:30 p.m., Dinner time is 5:45 p.m. and regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. and cost is \$10 unless otherwise noted. Visit the Valley of Tampa Website for the latest information on meetings and events.

### January 11, 2016:

Executive Committee Meeting  
Dinner and Open Meeting  
Annual Installation of Officers  
Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, House Salad,  
Dinner Rolls, Pudding Cups, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

### February 8, 2016:

Executive Committee Meeting  
Dinner and Closed Meeting  
Program by Brother AJ Ahrens  
Roasted Chicken, Yellow Rice, Black Beans, House Salad,  
Dinner Rolls, Cupcakes, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade 🍷

## Norman F. Newcomb, 32° KCCH

### Master of Kadosh

Brother Norman F. (Woody) Newcomb will serve as the Valley of Tampa's Master of Kadosh in 2016. Woody was born and raised in Virginia, until joining the Air Force in 1957, serving in Texas, Greenland and MacDill AFB in Tampa. Upon getting married in 1960, purchasing a home, and starting a family, he was transferred to Homestead AFB. After leaving the Air Force in 1963, he went to work for the US Postal Service as a clerk working nights and attending college during the day. After working in all departments, he became a supervisor in 1980, and retired as Manager of Window Services at the Tampa Airport Post Office in 1994.



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## Benjamin J. Raposa, 32° KCCH

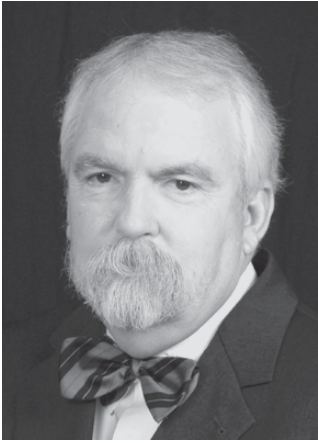
### Commander of the Council

Brother Benjamin J. (BJ) Raposa, 32° KCCH was elected to serve the Tampa Council of Kadosh as its Commander for the year 2016.

Brother Raposa is a fifth-generation Floridian having been born in Dade City, FL. After graduating from Pasco High School as Salutatorian in 2001, he earned a Bachelor Design in 2005 and a Master of Architecture in 2007 from the University of Florida. During his time at UF he spent two semesters in Italy, which expanded his appreciation for the rich Italian cuisine and even richer culture. He has an intense appreciation for academia and returns to UF twice a year to represent his company on end-of-the-semester Design Juries.



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## Director of Work & Member Education

by Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

The rituals of the Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite are packed with symbolism, philosophy, history and mystery. We might wonder what our ancient Brethren

read and studied to create them.

For brethren of Judeo-Christian heritage, the Volume of Sacred Law might be an obvious answer. Our Degrees generally follow a Biblical narrative through about the 17th Degree, Knight of the East and West. Masonry does insert a great deal of imagination, myth, legend and creative license, but a Temple and Biblical motif are clearly recognizable.

But our Degrees also contain many topics that seem to rely on other sources: the cardinal virtues, the liberal arts and sciences, architecture, duty and various notions of education and justice—many “secular” notions. A little investigation suggests our ancient Brethren read Plato, Aristotle, Seneca, Locke, Enlightenment period philosophers and even a little Confucius. Our 31st Degree, Inspector Inquisitor, is derived from Egyptian writing circa 2000 BCE.

Our ancient Brethren probably read *On Obligations* by Marcus Cicero (106-43 BCE). Just the name of his book arouses curiosity—most of our Degrees have an obligation or vow. This book is a letter of advice from a father to son. It contains many ideas and themes appearing in our rituals and Degrees. For example, Cicero espouses two contrasting concepts of charity familiar to Masons.

First he advises a narrow application: “...our munificence should take account of men's worth...we are to assess the character of the recipient of our kindness.” This sounds very much like a portion of our obligations in the 2nd and 3rd Degrees and a declaration in the 14th Degree, Perfect Elu.

But a few paragraphs later Cicero counsels his son, “...our greatest obligation...is to lend help above all to the person in greatest need.” This advice reminds us of one of the principal steps of Jacob's ladder in the EA Degree and to the great Law espoused in the 18th Degree, Knight of Rose Croix.

*On Obligations.* Perhaps our ancient Brethren read it.

During 2016 we will confer three Degrees at Consistory meetings, between dinner and the regular meeting. The Degrees are the 27th, 8th and 13th in April, July and August, respectively. These Degrees are about 30-40 minutes in duration. The first two have not been conferred in over a decade. Our Spring Reunion is April 9 and 16. 🐼

## Feast of Kadosh

Our Second Annual Feast of Kadosh will be Saturday, January 23, 2016 at the Masonic Center. This event is open to the public so family and friends are invited. Deadline for reservations is Friday, January 15, 2016. Tickets are \$38.00 per person. Your choice of entrees are either Prime Rib or Chicken Flora Maria. Dress for the Feast is a suit and tie for the gentlemen and a nice dress for the ladies. Scottish Rite members should wear their Scottish Rite cap.

We are pleased and honored to have Ill. Brent Morris, 33° GC as our featured speaker for this event. Brother Morris is the managing editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, the largest circulation Masonic magazine in the world. He is also an accomplished author of several books on Freemasonry including the Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry. We are also pleased that our SGIG and his wife and the Grand Master of Masons in Florida and his wife will be joining us. 🐼

...continued from Page 2 – Personal Representative

Committee. All of our Committee Chairmen and their committees spent many hours this year getting ready for our Reunion, Flag Day, our monthly meetings and our efforts on behalf of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. Brethren, THANK YOU for all that you have done this past year.

In closing, brethren I ask again that you do what you can for your Scottish Rite in 2016, That may be attending Consistory meetings, Club meetings, volunteering your time for projects that need to be accomplished or encouraging your Blue Lodge brethren who are not members of the Scottish Rite to take that next step in Freemasonry. As always, ideas and suggestions are always welcomed and encouraged. 🐼

...continued from Page 5 – Norman F.

Newcomb, 32° KCCH

Brother Newcomb started his Masonic journey when he petitioned Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 in 1976. He was raised a Master Mason on January 20, 1977 and served as Worshipful Master of Palma Ceia Lodge in 1980 and again in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Since that time, he has served as Lodge Instructor since 1981 and Secretary from 1981-1985. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 22nd Masonic District by M.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig in 2009 and District Instructor by M.: W.: Jorge Aladro and M.: W.: Danny Griffith. Brother Woody also holds the Silver and Blue Proficiency Cards from the Grand Lodge of Florida.

He became a Master of the Royal Secret in the Valley of Tampa in 1980, serving in several positions including Secretary of the Knights of St. Andrew, an officer in the Past Masters Association and as a member of the 30th Degree for the past six years. Woody has served on the Valley Credentials & Registration Committee since 2008 and was invested with the Rank and Dignity of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on November 9, 2013. Our new Master of Kadosh is also a 30+ year member of Egypt Shriners. 🐾

...continued from Page 5 – Benjamin F.

Raposa, 32° KCCH

Brother Raposa received the Three Degrees of Freemasonry in Trilby Lodge No. 141 in 2007. He has served in the Officer line of Trilby Lodge since 2008 and served as Junior Warden in 2015. He is a holder of the Silver Proficiency Card from the Grand Lodge of Florida.

Our new Commander became a Master of the Royal Secret in the Valley of Tampa in 2007, and was appointed Assistant Floor Manager in 2008 for our Reunions. In 2010, he assumed the responsibility of Floor Manager, making sure that our Degree teams have everything they need to confer the Degrees of the Scottish Rite. Brother BJ was elevated to the Rank and Dignity of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on November 9, 2013. 🐾

## Prelate



by Ill.: Lou Ortt, 33°

Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come.”

The New Year has come and its new and powerful rays are illuminating us at this time. The appearance of the new light rejuvenates us. It gives us a chance for a new start, revealing many new opportunities. In Masonry when we talk about light we are implying that we are seeing something for the first time. Light changes things by giving us a better understanding of what we are looking at or hearing. It helps us to find our way and transforms us into more knowledgeable individuals.

As God brought the Israelites to the edge of the promised land, his message to them was, “This is what I dreamed for you, have ordered for you and have brought you to. Don't ever forget who you are, where you have come from. Remember: stay connected so that you may live and increase.”

As I was thinking about our two Scottish Rite Reunions this past year I could only rejoice in the new light with which we were illuminated. These additional lessons provided new insights into the meanings and purposes of Masonry. How fortunate it was for Scottish Rite to provide its members and candidates with this new light and transform them into more enlightened Masons.

We have led our candidates to the 32nd Degree and, as in the message God gave to the Israelites before they entered that wonderful land of promise, we have brought them this far. May they never forget who they are (Masons), and where they have come from (the Blue Lodge). Remember: Stay connected.

On behalf of Scottish Rite we wish you all a very happy, bright and joyful New Year; and may the Lord bless you and give you peace in 2016. 🐾



## Masons in the Community

Brian D. Campbell, 32° KCCH was elected to the Board of Directors for the Tampa Bay Chapter of InfraGard, an FBI/private sector alliance. 🐾

Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
5500 Memorial Highway  
Tampa, Florida 33634-7336

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## In Memoriam

“Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea, but such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home. Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; for tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.” – Tennyson



William A. Adams, 32°  
November 17, 2015

Merton O. Koch, 32°  
April 29, 2015

James H. Shiflett Jr., 32°  
November 25, 2015

Russell F. Bareford, 32° KCCH  
June 1, 2015

Frederick W. Koops, 32°  
July 27, 2015

Ralph D. Springer Sr., 32°  
November 28, 2015

Joseph Castellano, 32°  
November 6, 2015

James A. McDermott, 32°  
October 11, 2015

Donceal Strickland, 32°  
November 15, 2015

Donald L. Deaton, 32°  
September 25, 2015

Charles C. Moore, 32°  
November 30, 2015

Samuel L. Upton, 32°  
November 22, 2015

David A. Eschrich, 33°, PGM  
December 10, 2015

John F. Risher, 32°  
November 29, 2015

Robert Windgassen, 32°  
September 30, 2015

Harold D. Hall, 32°  
November 1, 2015

Charles A. Rodgers, 32°  
November 3, 2015

Thomas J. Yarbrough, 32°  
October 30, 2015