



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

Masonic Youth Organizations Recognized

The Valley of Tampa honored those Masonic Youth Organizations within our jurisdiction at our September

meeting. We were very pleased to have them along with the Worshipful Masters in attendance that evening.



Pictured above are representatives of the DeMolay Chapters, Squires Manor, Rainbow Assemblies and Job's Daughters Bethels who were recognized at our September Consistory meeting. Also pictured are M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Florida and Ill.: Dale I. Goehrig, 33°, SGIG.

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: Here we are, quickly approaching the end of another year. As in previous years, we had some pluses and some minuses. We continue to have brothers earning Double Eagle points and either being knighted and receiving their medallions or earning points to receive bars or new ribbons. It takes work to

advance in the program and brothers are stepping up to the challenge. I hope everyone will wear their Double Eagle award with pride. We have continued to impart Masonic knowledge to our members through our monthly Masonic education presentations by very learned brothers. These have been well received and we look forward to that continuing in 2017. From a financial standpoint, through September, we are operating pretty much on budget in many categories and we look forward to a good final quarter of the year. That being said, we still need to do what we can to increase revenue and decrease expenses where we can. All of the accomplishments were the result of many brethren stepping up and agreeing to do what was necessary for us to be successful.

On the downside, we continue to see losses in membership in the Valley. We all know that Masonic membership throughout the world has been dropping and it is of vital concern to all of us.

As I have done in the November/December issue of The Bulletin in previous years, I would like to take a look at our membership and where our members are coming from. At this time last year, I reported that Masonic membership in the eight Masonic Districts in the jurisdiction of the Valley of Tampa, stood at 9,999 members in the Particular Lodges in those Districts. Of that number, 2,398 were Tampa Scottish Rite members, or 23.98%. As of October 2016, Masonic membership is at 9,657 members with 2,270 being members of the Valley of Tampa or 23.51%. If we had a goal of a penetration rate of 25% that would mean another 144 Scottish Rite members. Think of the positive things that would happen with an additional 144 members in the Valley of Tampa. To obtain that number, we all need to be talking with our Blue Lodge, Shrine, Grotto and York Rite brothers who are not members of the Valley of Tampa. There are currently 65 Blue Lodges that we draw the majority of our membership from. That equates to two new members from each Lodge in 2017 to meet the goal of 25%. When you break it down that way, it does not seem to be that big of a hurdle. Brethren, we can't wait until 2017 to start working on this. We need to start now. Our Spring Reunion will be held April 22 and 29, 2017. Let's talk to our brothers starting now about putting those dates on their calendars. Working together, we can

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General Secretary

by Ill.: John E. Drewett, 33°

Valley of Tampa wins VMAP Award for 2015

The Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) was rolled out in the Valley of Tampa

beginning January 1, 2015 and it 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 each Valley in the Jurisdiction provide the very best experience for its members.

Listed below are the Topics that VMAP covered and the Chairmen 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 🐾



Ill.: Dale I. Goehrig, 33° S.G.I.G. presenting the 2015 V.M.A.P. Award to the Valley of Tampa.

From The General Secretary

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to those Masters of the Royal Secret who have joined us as an Affiliation or a Reinstatement 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.

Affiliation

Martin J. Jordan, 32° Roy S. Puccini, 32°

Reinstatement

George E. Buck, 32°

Good for You

Brother Mike Pender, 32° KCCH, was recently installed as Chairman of the New College Foundation Board of Directors. New College is the honors college of Florida. 🐾

Valley of Tampa eNewsletter

We encourage you to sign up for our eNewsletter which will keep you informed of news and events at Tampa Scottish Rite. Please visit www.tampascottishrite.org, click on **Publications**, then **Tampa eNews** then sign up under Tampa eNews. 🐾

Scottish Rite Clubs

Lake Region Scottish Rite Club

November 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Red Elephant Pizza & Grill, 5216 S Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33813

March 30, 2017, July 31, 2017

August 30, 2017, October 30, 2017

One hour review and study of an AASR degree.

7:00 p.m. preceded by pizza. Locations to be determined.

Save the dates.

Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

Last Friday at 6:00 p.m.

VFW Post No. 10209, Spring Hill, FL

Phone: (352) 686-9319

North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

2nd Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Reservations preferred, phone (727) 460-1824

Tiffany's Family Restaurant

35000 US 19, N., Palm Harbor, FL 34684

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 Jan./Feb. Bulletin

December 12 - Contributor deadline

December 14 - Office contributor deadline

December 16 - Transmit print file to our printer

November & December Good for You

The following Brothers recently received the following awards:

Twenty-five Year Certificate & Lapel Pin

Dennis Huerta, 32°

Millionaire Certificates & Lapel Pins

Charles G. Cumpstone Jr., 33°

Adam S. Kendall, 32° Derek J. Lynn, 32°

Charles C. Osborne, 32° R. James Rocha, 33°

Derl B. Smith, 32° Lowell S. Smith, 32°

Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

Billionaire Certificates & Lapel Pins

Richard G. Hoover, 33° Richard A. Vogt, 32°

...continued from Page 2 – Personal Representative

accomplish this and probably exceed our goal. If any brother would like to know the “numbers” for your Particular Lodge or District, please let me know and I will be happy to provide them to you.

Many brothers work hard year after year for the benefit of the Valley of Tampa. I am talking of course about our Valley officers, Reunion Committees and our various committees. When you attend our Reunions, you see these names listed in our Reunion Book. Four brothers; however, have been elected by their peers to manage the business of the four organizations within the Valley. A special thank you to Brother Casey Fletcher, 32° KCCH, Commander of the KCCH Organization; Brother Henry Echezabal, 32°, Commander of the Scottish Rite Guard; Brother Arthur J. Ahrens, III, 32°, Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew; and Brother Stephan Korda, 32°, President of the Past Masters Organization. Each of these organizations has contributed greatly to the Valley of Tampa this year. If you are not a member of one of these organizations, I encourage you to get involved with them in 2017.

There is another group of members though, that never seem to get listed anywhere, but nonetheless, are tireless workers on our behalf. I am talking about our Club Presidents; Brother Ken Young, 32°,

North Pinellas Club; Brother Charlie Cheshire, 33°, Pinellas Club; Brother Hampton Crimi, 32°, Sarasota Club; Brother Vernon Bratz, 32°, Sun City Club; Brother Jim Finnegan, 32°, Lake Region Club; Brother Charles Walter, 32°, Nature Coast Club; and Brother Joseph Tarica, 32°, Tampa Club. These brothers work hard in their local area and doing wonderful things to promote the Scottish Rite. We are very fortunate to have seven Scottish Rite Clubs in our area. Please check the listing of each Club and where they meet in this issue of *The Bulletin*. I hope that their meeting dates and times will allow you to attend one of our Club meetings. They are great times and afford a wonderful opportunity to meet new brothers and share in fellowship that the Scottish Rite offers.

Brethren, this is the time of the year that we not only give thanks for everything that we have, but we also celebrate various religious holidays. Whatever your faith, I encourage you to celebrate the appropriate holiday with family and friends and be thankful for everything that we as human beings have been afforded throughout our lives. 🙏

Dues Notices have been mailed

You all should have received your 2017 Dues Renewal notice. You can, of course, detach the notice, write your check, add a postage stamp and mail it in the enclosed envelope today. Or, an easier way is to go to www.scottishrite.org and use your

credit card which is a quicker way with no checks, stamps or mailbox trips. We would also be happy to see you and process your payment when you are at our next meeting. If your dues statement is in error or if there are special circumstances we should know about, please contact the Valley of Tampa at (813) 886-0578. 🙏

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.

November 14, 2016:

Executive Committee Meeting
Dinner and Closed Meeting
Program by RW William Sundquist 32°
House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Roasted Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Apple Pie, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

December 12, 2016:

Executive Committee Meeting
Dinner and Closed Meeting
Program by Casey A. Fletcher 32° KCCH
House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Blend, Warm Bread Pudding with Caramel, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade 🙏

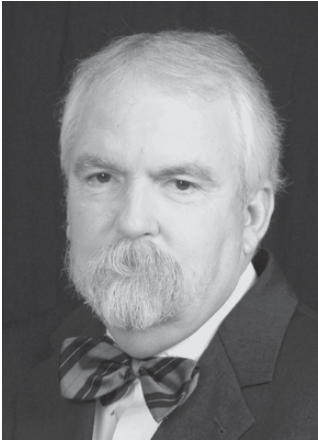
The Valley of Tampa is pleased to announce our 3rd Annual Feast of Kadosh



Saturday, March 11, 2017
at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida

Guest Speaker will be Ill.: Robert Davis, 33°, G.:C.:, retired
General Secretary of the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma.
Special Guests will be M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson, 33°,
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida
and Ill.: Dale I. Goehrig, 33°, SGIG.

Details to follow.



Director of Work & Member Education

by Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

The first three degrees introduce a plethora of symbols for our consideration and thought. Illustrious Albert Pike often complained that the Blue Lodge provided only rudimentary (his word) explanations of the symbols and expressed dissatisfaction that such was the case. His dissatisfaction was in part, simply, that he desired to learn more and it became his lifelong pursuit to do so.

In his book *Esoterika*, he shares some of what he learned. A particular fascination of his was the progressive movement and position of the square and compass through the first three degrees.

We are familiar with the simple explanations received in the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees. Pike thought them weak. He developed some ideas in *Esoterika*.

Pike suggests the square symbolizes material, earthly matters and conditions: passions, emotions, instincts, ignorance, appetites, etc. The compass symbolizes the spiritual and mental: virtue, morality, reason, rationality, thinking, ideas, enlightenment, etc.

An Entered Apprentice becomes (all too) aware that material matters prevail in his life, to the exclusion of reason and morality. The relative position of the square and compass symbolizes this awareness.

As progress is made in education, experience and contemplation, the "...appetites and passions no longer have the entire habitual mastery over..." morality and reason. The placement of the compass and the square in the Fellow Craft degree allude to such progress.

When morality, reason, intellectuality and rationality preside over self-interest, earthly matters and passions, the Master Mason is said to have arrived at a condition of equilibrium, balance or harmony. He has demonstrated "habitual mastery" of himself; this mastery is represented by the placements of the compass and square in the third degree.

While the progressive positions of the compass and square in the Symbolic degrees allude to

progress through the first three degrees, they also establish an expectation, a standard of how we are to conduct the rest of lives.

As Master Masons we are to seek "habitual mastery" over our appetites and passions; we are continually to replace ignorance with knowledge; we are to pursue the spiritual and philosophical over the material. The final position of the square and compass suggests that the third degree is not an end in itself. It suggests we are just getting started. Habitual mastery, continual improvement and growth—the progressive movements of the square and compasses set a high standard.

In the Scottish Rite's Fourth Degree, Secret Master, we are reminded of this high standard—we profess that we have passed from the square to the compass and commit ourselves to rise "above the level of the mundane and to climb the skies of spiritual and philosophical knowledge."

Two seemingly simple objects, briefly described in the Symbolic Lodge, might symbolize a lifetime pursuit—an habitual mastery over ourselves and a continuous search for wisdom and Truth.

We welcome our new Brothers from the Fall Reunion. Our next Reunion is April 22 and 29. We still have Council degrees in need of Degree Masters and teams. Our hope to have ritual teams for all 29 degrees for 2017. Brethren interested in degree work or becoming a Degree Master can contact me at dow@srtampa.org. 🐾

One Day, One Celebration – Scottish Rite!

On November 12, 2016, Valleys, Orients and Councils of Deliberations from both the Northern Masonic and Southern Jurisdictions will come together to celebrate the Scottish Rite. It is the first time the fraternity has held such a nationwide day of honor. More details on the Web at: www.srday2016.org 🐾

Email Addresses

We want you to receive our regular communications, please make sure that the General Secretary's office has your most current email address. Send updates to generalsecretary@srtampa.org 🐾

Prelate

by Ill.: Lou Ortt, 33^c



(Deuteronomy 8:7-18)

What is it about success that makes us forgetful? Have we gotten so wrapped up in having nice things, good health, money in the bank and a nice home in a nice community that we tend to neglect our spiritual being? Do we really start to believe that all our prosperity is strictly from our personal efforts?

It is easy to assume that our strength and efforts alone have made us healthy, wealthy and wise. It is; however, very important that we pause in our daily activity to give thanks for what we have.

Moses, in his address to the Israelites as they were about to leave the wilderness and enter the promised land, warned his people to beware of the temptation to forget the lesson of the wilderness—a complete dependency on the mercy of God—by giving in to pride and self-sufficiency.

We are again reminded of how important it is to give thanks in the celebration of Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of light when the Israelites defeated their occupiers and found one measure of olive oil, normally the amount used in one day, but which lasted for eight days. It is during this celebration that thanks is given to God for delivering the strong into the hands of the weak, the wicked into the hands of the righteous. It is a celebration of light over darkness, of spirituality over materiality.

Even with all the things that are changing in our society, there is still something very special about this time of the year when we set aside one day to remember all our blessings and to give thanks for them. That moment when we pause to say thanks connects us with the Giver of every gift and, if we are sincere, leaves us with a feeling of completeness.

Consider using this prayer written by Benjamin Franklin this November 24.

“For Peace and Liberty, for Food and Raiment, for Corn and Wine, and milk, and every kind of Healthful Nourishment,

Good God, I thank Thee.


For the common Benefits of Air and Light, for useful Fire and delicious water,

Good God, I thank Thee.

For Knowledge and Literature and every useful Art; for my Friends and their Prosperity, and for the fewness of my Enemies,

Good God, I thank Thee.

For all Thy innumerable Benefits; for Life and Reason, and the Use of Speech, for Health and Joy and every Pleasant Hour,

My Good God. I thank Thee.” 

Knights of St. Andrew Fundraiser

The Knights of St. Andrew will be selling Christmas Wreaths as a Fundraiser:

22” Live Christmas Wreaths

Only \$25.00

(Payable when the order is placed)

Grown in the N.W. Cascades, aromatic combination of Noble Fir, Berried Juniper, Incense Cedar, and Red Faux Holly Berries with a Red Bow attached. The wreaths will be delivered the week after Thanksgiving to the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Don't Wait – Order Now!

(from any K.O.S.A. Member) 


Knights of St. Andrew

by Arthur J. Ahrens, III, 32^o, Venerable Master

Your Knights of St. Andrew have been hard at work this year with helping our Valley. The Knights have helped with the reunions, every meeting, helping with work parties and more!

The Knights are the service arm of the Valley and with permission are now proudly wearing the glengarry at all of our functions.

All black hats are members and to become an officer you must fill out a membership form.

There is a lot of fun and fellowship as a Knight of St. Andrew. If you are interested about becoming an officer or learning more about what the Knights are up to please contact either me at email: ajnla1998@gmail.com or any other Knight. 

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

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Manasota, FL

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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



Clinton D. Adams, 32°
July 4, 2016

L. Kelly Dougherty, 32°
August 23, 2016

James W. Sigmon, 32°
September 12, 2016

Donald L. Albertson, 32°
September 21, 2016

Paul M. Keen, Jr., 32°
September 26, 2016

Claude C. Skaates, 32°
August 24, 2016

Roy A. Anderson, 32°
September 26, 2016

Walter H. Kessler, 32°
August 7, 2016

Salvatore Stellato, 32°
September 20, 2016

Segundo A. Carreno, 32°
September 21, 2016

Philip T. Morton, 33°
August 5, 2016

Glenn D. Walters Jr., 32°
August 8, 2016

Frank A. Cothron, 32°
September 6, 2016

James W. Raulerson, 32°
August 12, 2016

Eric B. West, 32°
September 9, 2016

Harold L. Cuthbertson, 32°
July 2, 2016

Alfred M. Rodgers, 32°
September 27, 2016