



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

Volume 40 No. 6 • November - December 2017

www.tampascottishrite.org

Worshipful Master Recognition Night

by Stephen B. Jacobson, 33°

An open meeting will be held at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center Monday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was originally scheduled in September, but due to Hurricane Irma had to be canceled. Please read notice on page 5 that will explain everything.

The Symbolic Degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry are the foundations and cornerstone on which all Appendant bodies, clubs and Masonic organizations are based. In recognition of the outstanding work done by the particular lodges, the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa, is sponsoring a **Worshipful Master “Recognition Night.”** All sitting Worshipful Masters will be individually recognized. All officers and members of the Worshipful Master’s Lodge will also be recognized.

This will be an open meeting. Bring friends, family and Brothers of your Lodge to support these Worshipful Masters. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. This recognition will begin at 7:00 p.m.

As usual, our monthly dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person.

Please allow us to accommodate you, your guests and members of your lodge, by making reservations no later than November 1 by calling Trish at the Scottish Rite office, (813) 886-0578.

My Brothers, with your help, we will make this a memorable evening for **Your Worshipful Master.** 🙏

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°
Chairman

Joseph A. Gonzalez, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Commander - Council of Kadosh

F. Edward Street, 32° KCCH
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Arthur J. Ahrens, III, 32°
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

G. David Walters, III, 33°
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

VALLEY OF TAMPA CONTACTS

Scottish Rite Office

(813) 886-0578

info@srtampa.org

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

Personal Representative (941) 356-7209

personalrepresentative@srtampa.org

John E. Drewett, 33°

General Secretary (813) 886-0578

generalsecretary@srtampa.org

Trish Warhul

Administrative Assistant (813) 886-0578

info@srtampa.org

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 32° KCCH

Treasurer

treasurer@srtampa.org

Coleman L. Hill, 33°

Almoner

almoner@srtampa.org

Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

Director of Work - Member Education

dow@srtampa.org

Louis H. Ortt, 33°

Prelate

lhortt@verizon.net

Brian D. Campbell, 32° KCCH

Webmaster

webmaster@srtampa.org

Bulletin Editor

bulletin@srtampa.org



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 2018. From a financial standpoint, through September, we continue to face challenges. Your Scottish Rite is watching every penny that we spend, but major repair and replacement needs in our Masonic Center have not been nice to us in 2017. To assist us in that matter, thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Brother Mike Pender, 32° KCCH, we have established the **Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa Charitable Foundation, Inc.** This Foundation is recognized as a 501(c)(3) corporation by the IRS and donations are tax deductible (please consult your tax advisor.) The Foundation was established to help preserve and maintain the Tampa and Sarasota Scottish Rite Masonic Centers along with the good work of our Almoner's Fund. If you have questions on the Foundation, please contact the General Secretary. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Even with this new Foundation, we still need to do what we can to increase revenues 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 9,657 members in the Particular Lodges in those Districts. Of that number, 2,270 were Tampa Scottish Rite members, or 23.5%. As of October 2017, Masonic membership is at 9,363 members with 1,991 being members of the Valley of Tampa or 21.26%. If we had a goal of a penetration rate of 25% that would mean another 350 Scottish Rite members. Think of the positive things that would happen with an additional 350 members

... continued on page 4

The Fourteenth Degree Ring

by Ill.: Patrick C. Palmer, 33°

The 14° ring is a reminder of the obligations we owe to God, our families, and our Brethren.

When I am preparing to meet the day, part of the ritual I go through every morning is to slip my 14° Scottish Rite Ring on my finger.



Each time I do, I pause and contemplate the significance of the Ring. The 14° Ring is a simple gold band, not intended to be an ostentatious piece of jewelry readily noticed by others. Rather, it is a reminder to the wearer of certain obligations he owes to God, his family, and his Brethren.

Often, before placing it on my finger, I hold it up and read the Latin words engraved inside the band: *Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit* (Virtue has united and death shall not separate). These beautiful and powerful words are not visible to the casual observer, but should be ingrained in the heart of the wearer, because they are a confirmation of our Masonic belief in life after death and that someday we will be reunited.

The Ring also reminds me of my obligation to God, because He is represented by the yod within the triangle displayed on the Ring. By wearing it, I am declaring to the world that in God I place my trust. Since my trust is in God, it is incumbent upon me to demonstrate to the world that my faith is well founded. I am always proud to reply to questions from curious observers regarding the significance of the yod within the triangle and to inform them that it is an affirmation of my belief in the Deity.

Similarly, the 14° Ring, reminiscent in appearance of a wedding ring, reminds me of my obligation to my family. Many times my wife has expressed to me the pride that she feels regarding my association with the Scottish Rite, which is so firmly based on family values. As such, it has had a strong influence on my life and, therefore, in hers. As I slip the Ring on my finger, I think of her, how the Scottish Rite has become an integral part of our

relationship, and how it has brought us closer together.

Finally, the 14° Ring, simply because it is a circle, reminds me of the universal bond uniting all men. Thus, my Scottish Rite obligations extend not only to my fraternal Brethren, but also to all mankind. Our Order teaches that all men are brothers and that no one is to be excluded from our kindness and assistance.

It matters not whether you wear the 14° Ring, the Double-headed Eagle Ring, the 33° Ring, a Scottish Rite Lapel Pin, or nothing at all, the obligations and the responsibilities are still the same, and the Scottish Rite is reflected to the world through our actions. This is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

Over the years my Ring has become worn. Time has taken its toll. The symbols are still there, faded, but still distinguishable. The newness of the Ring may be gone, but its significance has not changed. By wearing it, not only am I reaffirming the obligations I owe to God, my family, and my Brethren, but also I am declaring to the world that I am proud to be a Scottish Rite Mason. On the ring finger of my right hand, for all to see, is proof of that pride. 🇺🇸

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 a **Re-Affiliation** and a **Dual Member** 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.

Re-Affiliation

Earl W. Dennis Jr., 32°

Dual Member

Jerome N. Fine, 32°

Scottish Rite Clubs

Lake Region Scottish Rite Club

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
IHOP
30200 US 19 N, Clearwater, 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.
Sahib Shrine
(July location TBA)
600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL

1st Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
February, April & October
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) 368-3878
Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway, Tampa, FL

Support your Scottish Rite Club

...continued from Page 2 – Personal Representative

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 66 Blue Lodges that we draw the majority of our membership from. That equates to 5 new members from each Lodge in 2018 to meet the goal of 25%. When you break it down that way, it doesn't seem to be that big of a hurdle. Brethren, we can't wait until 2018 to start working on this. We need to start now. Our Spring Reunion will be held in May of 2018. Let's talk to our brothers starting now about putting those dates on their calendars. Working together we can 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 Lynn Raposa, 32° KCCH, Commander of the KCCH Organization; Brother Rodney Kohler, 32°, Commander of the Scottish Rite Guard; Brother William Sundquist, 32°, Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew; and Brother Gary Cavanaugh, 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 2018.

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 Carl Gilmore, 32° KCCH, North Pinellas Club; Brother Charlie Cheshire, 33°, Pinellas Club; Brother David Boland, 32°, Sarasota Club; Brother Robert Harris, 32° Sun City Club; Brother Robert Latimer, 32°, Lake Region Club; Brother Charles Walter, 32°, Nature Coast Club; and Brother Joey Davis, 32°, Tampa Club. These brothers work hard in their local area

Deadline for Jan./Feb. Bulletin

December 4 - Contributor deadline
December 13 - Office contributor deadline
December 15 - Transmit print file to our printer

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. 🙏

November Monthly Meeting

As you know, our September meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma. This meeting was to honor our Masonic Youth Groups and the sitting Worshipful Masters of the 66 Lodges within the Valley of Tampa. This meeting has been rescheduled for our November meeting (November 13, 2017). We encourage you to attend and show your support for our youth groups and our hard-working Worshipful Masters. Our SGIG and Grand Master will be in attendance to assist in these recognitions. As this meeting was scheduled for September 11, we

will also have a special tribute to those who lost their lives on that dreadful day in 2001.

As in the past, we ask that if you or your lady were members of the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters you are encouraged to wear any regalia from those organizations to this meeting. 🙏

November and December Good for You

The following recently received the following awards:

Fifty Year Certificate & Lapel Pin - Posthumously

W. Bruce Steube III, 33°

Billionaire Certificate & Lapel Pin

Charles K. Idelson, 32°

in Memory of Samuel A. Idelson, 33°

Mark L. Mason, 32°

William G. Niehr, 32°

Millionaire Certificates & Lapel Pins

Ronald S. Kalisz, 33°

John R. Manning, 32°

Richard A. Vogt, 32°

John J. Westerman III, 32°

Richard J. Whalen Sr., 33°

Travelers Lodge No. 390 F&AM 🙏

The Valley of Tampa is pleased to announce our 4th Annual Feast of Kadosh



Saturday, March 24, 2018
at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida

Guest Speaker will be Casey Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Special Guest will be M.:.W.: Richard G. Hoover, 33°,
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

Details to follow.



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 32° KCCH

The 23rd through 26th Degrees are referred to as the mystery degrees and the religious degrees. Each renews the importance of religious tolerance first introduced in

the 18th Degree, Knight of Rose Croix.

Albert Pike, in his rendering of these degrees, considered the 23rd Degree, Chief of the Tabernacle, as an illustration of the lesser mysteries; it addresses knowledge that is available to all men. The 24th Degree, Prince of the Tabernacle, explores knowledge imparted in the Hebraic faith; the 25th, Knight of the Brazen Serpent, that in Islam and the 26th, Prince of Mercy, Christianity.

Our Valley is endeavoring to confer each of these degrees annually. At the Fall Reunion, the 26th Degree was conferred for the first time in a while. A good summary can be found in *Bridge to Light*. This column explores some of Pike's thoughts and teachings in his lecture contained in the Degree in *Morals and Dogma*.

Pike recognizes the doctrinal differences in belief systems and reminds us it is not Freemasonry's role to settle them. Masonry "does not undertake to explain or dogmatically to settle those great mysteries that are above the feeble comprehension of our human intellect." He directs our attention to those great truths on which all belief systems agree.

Further, Pike reminds us that the idea or notion of a Deity is beyond human comprehension. Mere mortals may only attempt to describe His attributes in human-like terms. Throughout the lecture, Pike highlights the context of the triune nature of Deity historically found in religions and belief systems, a nature representing those Truths on which all Masons, and religious belief systems, may agree.

For our consideration, Pike shares these observations.

1. The ancients asserted that the Soul is immortal, as do most Freemasons today. Plato, through the voice of Socrates, advanced the proposition, as did Pythagoras before them.

2. Our impulse to pursue right conduct and morality is divinely inspired and originates from Above. This impulse or inspiration compels "...us to right conduct, and warns us against guilt; right conduct springs out of the nature of things."
3. Moral Truths are absolute, "...like the principles of Geometry." The permanent real truths, said Pythagoras, were the "laws and constancies perceived" or discovered through study and reason. In contrast, said Aristotle, virtue is but the habit or practice of doing the right thing, once it is discovered. Truth exists; it is there for us to discover whether through reason, practice or both.
4. The distinction between good and evil is real and not relative. We have free will to distinguish and choose between Moral Truths and evil.
5. The search for Moral Truth and development of virtue is obligatory. Masonic Obligations are therefore absolute. As candidates, we did not *almost* or *nearly* obligate ourselves but did so *wholly* and resolutely. There are no asterisks or fine print in our Obligations.
6. Charity is a duty. "It is to *give* that which he to whom you give has no right to *take* or *demand*." Known as *Sadaqa* in the Muslim faith, it is a duty to give freely, to honor the vertical relationship between God and man by demonstrating the horizontal relationship between men. Man must "...do good, ...be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share."
7. Harmony reigns in the natural law and order of the Universe as well as among the trinities recognized by different belief systems throughout history. For example, in the Hindu system, harmony is represented among the relationship of *Brahma*, the Creating Power, *Vishnu*, the Preserving Power and *Siva* the Destroying and Renovating Power.

The culmination of Pike's lecture is encouragement to "...to seek the things that are above, and be not content with a world that must shortly perish, and which we must speedily quit..."

Pike admonishes us that we do not conceive of or, much less, create moral truths. They are constituted elsewhere and are imposed upon us. It remains for us to search for, discover and inculcate those Truths. 🐾

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 13, 2017:

Executive Committee Meeting
Dinner and Open Meeting
Worshipful Masters and Youth Recognition Night
Roast Turkey & Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Cranberry Sauce, Apple Pie, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

December 11, 2017:

Executive Committee Meeting
Dinner and Closed Meeting
Program by William Sundquist, 32°,
Venerable Master, Knights of St. Andrew
Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Vegetable Blend, House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Warm Bread
Pudding w/Caramel Sauce, Coffee, Tea,
Lemonade 🐾

Double Eagle Program

We want to thank Brother Carl Gilmore, 32° KCCH for his hard work on our Double Eagle program, keeping track of the points earned and working on the presentation of these awards. Brother Gilmore has asked to be relieved of this job and we are happy to announce that the transition from Brother Carl to Brother Chas Jordan, 32° has started to take place. It is anticipated that this transition will be completed by the end of 2017. 🐾

Prelate



by Ill.: Lou Ortt, 33°



There is something really magnificent about Thanksgiving in our country. Many of us are able to gather with family and friends. In the midst of all those delicious and tasty items we remember that we have been blessed with an abundance of good gifts.

As we observe the holiday we know that things are changing in our culture. Before we even fully digest the scrumptious meal we are thinking about shopping for the next holiday, the football game or the parade. As our minds wander it can be very difficult to stop, pause and reflect on all the blessings we have and to which we owe allegiance.

There are many things in life to which we pledge our allegiance—our flag, our country, our fraternity, our families. If we take our pledges seriously we are promising our loyalty and commitment to those things. How often do we stop and give thanks for all those things we cherish so much and support with our allegiance.

As we become more industrialized and city oriented we tend to become a little less thoughtful of the blessings from our agricultural society and what those who feed us all go through. Think about the anxiety they have with a lack of rain and shriveled crops. Imagine the relief they have when rain finally comes and the earth comes back to life. In Psalm 65 we read, “You crown the year with your bounty” which evokes a picture of an abundant harvest and God's plentiful gifts to us. While we might not be part of an agricultural group we must realize how much we depend on the Creator's on going care.

So, on this Thanksgiving Day let us be very grateful for what we have. It is this gratitude that connects us to the giver of every gift. With this thought I am sure, if we are fortunate, we will be filled with peace and gratitude.

From all the officers and members of the Valley of Tampa we wish that each of you may have a wonderful and joyous Thanksgiving. 🐾

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #1
Manasota, FL

Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 40 No. 6
November - December 2017

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



Charles A. Blich, 32°
September 4, 2017

Pasquale Bendott, 32°
August 5, 2017

Maurice M. Dalton, 32°
October 8, 2017

Donald R. Deigel, 32°
July 6, 2017

Andrew A. De Muro, 32°
August 6, 2017

Byron S. Hill, 32°
May 13, 2017

Frederick Kalkbrenner Jr., 32°
October 6, 2017

Sabino Martinez Jr., 32°
April 19, 2017

Clinton L. Platt, 32°
April 15, 2017

James E. Proctor, 32°
September 1, 2017

Waldo N. Ray Jr., 32°
October 1, 2017

Cecil I. Raymond, 32°
August 24, 2017

W. Bruce Steube III, 33°
September 29, 2017

Rendle F. Taylor, 32°
April 17, 2017

Leslie H. Tucker Jr., 33°
August 20, 2017