



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 43 No. 3 • May - June 2020

www.tampascottishrite.org

Join The Tampa Scottish Rite's Annual **Flag Day** Celebration!

Monday, June 8, 2020

5500 Memorial Hwy. Tampa

5:45 p.m. BBQ Ribs and Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Cupcakes for dessert. The cost is \$10 per person same as at our regular monthly meetings.

Reservations are required for the meal.

7:00 p.m. Patriotic Program

The Heroes of 76 will be presenting a program entitled Building the Flag

- Open to the public

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°
Chairman

Henry A. Echezabal, Jr., 32°
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Carl E. Gilmore, 33°
Commander - Council of Kadosh

Robert D. Davidson, 33°
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

William C. Sundquist, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

Charles R. Jordan, 32° KCCH
Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°
Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Glen B. Bishop 32°

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32°

Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Charles D. Walter, 32° KCCH

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Personal Representative

by Ill.: Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

Brethren: As I write this article for The Bulletin, we are facing a situation that most of us have never seen. Our world as we knew it on February 1 is not the world that we are living in today. In light of the current events, your Valley has had to make some changes in our operation. We are not sure when we will return to a

normal operation, but we all hope that it is soon. Ill.: John Drewett, 33°, General Secretary and Trish Warhul are, for the most part, working from home to keep our affairs in order and are accessible to everyone. In addition, Ill.: Mike Pender, 33°, our Treasurer, is making sure that our bills are being paid.

In light of our world today, we had to make the decision to cancel our 6th Annual Feast of Kadosh that was scheduled for March 21. As you will remember, this event was to be a fundraiser for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, Inc. One hundred tickets had been sold for \$100 each, which would have resulted in a donation to the Foundation of \$10,000. We were very happy that all six of our Grand Lodge elected officers were going to be with us that evening for a great meal, fantastic brotherhood and a wonderful program. Due to scheduling conflicts, we have decided not to try and reschedule this event this year, but are working on our 2021 Feast of Kadosh. Refunds will be made to those who purchased tickets and that process will commence very soon.

We also found it necessary to cancel our Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal that was to be held in April. This event has been rescheduled for our September meeting. Details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Our Spring Reunion that was scheduled for May 2 and 3 was also cancelled. Again, we are not going to reschedule this event. We are planning on holding our Fall Reunion on the weekend of October 24 and 25. I encourage you to please see the article in this issue of The Bulletin that outlines a membership initiative by our Supreme Council that will be a big help to our Fall Reunion.

At the present time, we are still planning on holding our May Consistory meeting on May 11. This is, of course, subject to change if Governor DeSantis extends his Stay-At-Home order past April 30 or if the Grand Master extends his Executive Order past the May 4 date. The same is true for our Annual Flag Day Program on June 8. As we progress, we will do everything that we can to keep you informed. The

This publication acknowledges authority and yields allegiance to the Supreme Council A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of which Ill.: Richard G. Hoover, 33° is the Deputy in the Orient of Florida.

easiest ways for us to accomplish this is via our website, eNews and email. If we do not have your email address on file (if you are receiving The Bulletin through the U. S. Mail, we do not have your email address,) please contact our General Secretary and provide it to him. We do not distribute email addresses to anyone; they are used only for Valley of Tampa business.

In this issue of The Bulletin we are happy to recognize those members of the Valley of Tampa who are currently serving their particular lodge as Worshipful Master. Those who have been the Worshipful Master of their Lodge know the work and dedication to serve in the Chair for one year. Worshipful Sirs, on behalf of the Valley of Tampa, congratulations and thank you for your continued service to the Craft.

In closing, it is our sincere hope that all of our brothers and their families are working through this situation with minimal inconvenience. If there is anything that the Valley can do to assist you, please contact Ill. : Drewett. We will do everything in our power to assist you in these difficult times. 🐾

Membership Incentive

The Supreme Council has recently announced a membership incentive program that is open to all Valleys. Under this program, a brother who is the First-Line signer on 3 Petitions for the Degrees of the Scottish Rite in a calendar year will be exempt from dues the next year. In addition, the Supreme Council will waive that brother's per capita tax (currently \$28.00) to the Valley. The Valley of Tampa will be participating in this program starting now, which means that any brother who brings in 3 new Scottish Rite members at our Fall Reunion, will be exempt from his 2021 dues. For those that are Perpetual Members of the Valley and who secure 3 petitions for the Fall Reunion, a \$50 Gift Card will be awarded.

Now is the time for all of us to be talking about the Scottish Rite, our mission, our degrees and our charitable endeavors to brothers who are not members of the Rite. We have 5½ months to make our Fall Reunion one of the best that we have had in several years. 🐾



General Secretary

by Ill. : John E.
Drewett, 33°

Brother to Brother Program

The Valley of Tampa has a program to assist those brothers who for various reasons are unable to pay their Scottish Rite

dues, and face being suspended for non-payment of dues. The last thing that the Scottish Rite wants to do is to suspend a member because they fell on hard economic times and can't pay their dues. Most of the time the member is too proud to ask for assistance from a fellow member. The contributions from brothers who are willing to help have dwindled down. This program is voluntary, but I would encourage you to contribute if you are able to do so, and help a needy brother from being suspended.

When a request is received by my office, the facts are checked out and if it is determined that the brother is unable to pay his dues, the Secretary will pay his dues.

If you are agreeable to assisting the Valley and the Scottish Rite in this program, please contact the General Secretary's office by a phone call (813) 886-0578 or e-mail me at generalsecretary@srtampa.org. Or mail your contribution in to Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, FL 33634-7336
attn: Brother to Brother Program 🐾

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

Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

Brooksville Elk's Lodge 2582
13383 County Line Road,
Spring Hill, FL 34609
Phone: (352) 686-9319

4th Wednesday every month at 6:00 p.m.
(except November & December)

North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

IHOP

30200 US Hwy. 19 N.,
Clearwater, FL 33761

2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

Denny's Restaurant
4999 34th St. & 50th Ave., N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
(727) 522-1552 to make reservations
1st Friday of the Month at 11:00 a.m.

Sarasota Scottish Rite Club

Sahib Shriners Sahara Room
(July location TBA)
600 N. Beneva Road,
Sarasota, FL 34232
2nd Friday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Club Building
240 S. Tuttle Ave.,
Sarasota, FL 34237

1st Wednesday in Feb., April & Oct. at 6:00 p.m.

Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

Freedom Plaza Club
1010 American Eagle Blvd.,
Sun City Center, FL 33573
3rd Monday every month at 11:30 a.m.
(Dark June, July, August & September)

Tampa Scottish Rite Club

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Hwy.,
Tampa, FL 33634
4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

Support your Scottish Rite Club

The Times They are A-changin'

by Carl Gilmore, 33°

*Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'.*

– Bob Dylan 1989

Freemasonry has lasted hundreds, perhaps even thousands of years. Certainly, one of the foundational reasons for its enduring is its focus on moral behavior, as expressed and exemplified by its members, now and in the past. However, another reason is that it also has demonstrated an ability to adapt to changes in society while, at the same time, maintaining its underlying message of morality.

It is my suspicion that such societal changes have not necessarily been slow smooth things, but rather sudden, as a result of imposed change. An example of this sudden change might well be during World War II, when there were so many Florida members overseas, that several Masonic Annual Conventions were cancelled. Finally, when the war was over and from the US standpoint successfully so, with the return of the GI's, in the mid 1940's, society changed.

The GI's brought with them the positive belief that team effort could overcome all obstacles. Activity levels increased dramatically, including fraternal activity and membership. Lodge memberships changed their long-practiced formula of building their buildings with rentable space below to support the building maintenance and the lodge room above. Instead, the constant infusion of fees from the ever-present flow of new candidates took the place of the rentable space and thus new lodge buildings tended to be designed solely for fraternal use.

Then the 60's came and with them the Vietnam War. While society generally opposed the war, the presiding politicians did not. The resulting conflict here at home and the terrible experiences of the soldiers returning from the conflict to a society that seemed to blame them, produced a generation of largely loners. These men who saw themselves as being rejected by society, in turn rejected participation in such team efforts as Fraternal Life. The flow of new members into Freemasonry slowed dramatically and in 1977, Florida Masonic membership

Deadline for July/August Bulletin

June 1 - Contributor deadline
June 10 - Office contributor deadline
June 12 - Transmit print file to our printer

began to decline. Over the next 40 years, the loss of membership would reduce the fraternity to a fraction of its former size. More and more the lodge financial structure, now based on the constant flow of new membership rather than the earlier rental income, began to fail. Lodges had to merge with other lodges, buildings had to be sold, etc. Change had again been imposed.

Finally, we come to yet another change in 2020, the coronavirus pandemic. As this presently unchecked disease has spread across the country, the phrase “social distancing” or “isolation” has become the dominant concept beaten into our consciousness by a media that, failing any new real message, feels constant repetition is somehow beneficial. Instead of schools bringing children together to learn to work together, among other concepts, they are now taught “virtually” at home. Workers, to the greatest extent possible, are encouraged to work from home, again electronically connecting to their duties. Because of this societal urge/requirement to remain at home and avoid contact with others, gasoline usage and thus its price, has substantially reduced.

The question is: Is this the new normal for the long term? Or is this a just a short-term necessity, that will soon go away? Perhaps more important to the fraternity: If this is the new normal, what does it mean to the membership?

It is easy to believe that the present situation of distancing will have a long-term influence on society. The obvious cost benefits from lower fuel use and personal efficiency from lower travel requirements, argue towards its continuation. So too does the idea of lesser school infrastructure.

Further, we are now being told to expect this illness to be a seasonal problem. And while science will almost certainly eventually find a cure and perhaps a preventive vaccine, the idea that another such virus could suddenly show up and afflict the world is certainly going to be an active concern for at least the present generation. It appears that the “Science Fiction” authors of the 70's and 80', who sometimes dreamed of a society in which individuals were surrounded and served by machines with little direct human contact are being proven right in their predictions.

So, what does this mean to our fraternity? Will the new pressure of society to maintain distancing

and “safe at home” practices, further diminish our meetings, especially considering that our membership is mainly in the “at risk” category? I believe the answer is that it likely will. Although man is by nature a social animal, when faced with the real fear of becoming deathly ill from attending a meeting the rational result will be to avoid that perceived danger.

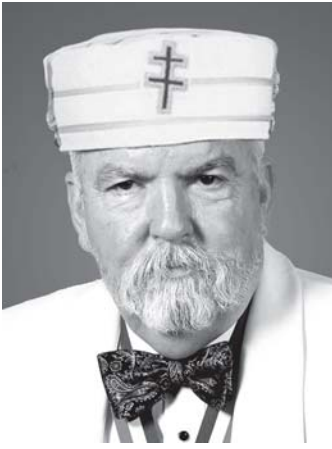
What then can we do to maintain our fraternity? We again must change with society, without losing our grip on the fraternity’s central messages. If society is going to change to less physical and more virtual interaction, then so must we. We must develop ways in which our members can participate in meetings without being physically present at the facility where the meeting is being held. It appears that virtual meetings are presently, by necessity, taking the place of traditional physical ones, especially larger meetings, such as annual conventions. Perhaps this fits with the practice of presently younger society to constantly look at a screen; be it TV, computer or cell phone.

That does not mean we won't have traditional meetings. There are many, including myself, who won't be satisfied without meeting and greeting old
 ... continued on page 6

Good for You

The Valley of Tampa congratulates the following members of the Valley for their dedication to their Blue Lodge by serving as Worshipful Master in 2020:

- Casey A. Fletcher, 33° Tuscan Lodge No. 6
- Billy D. Schmidt, 32° Hillsborough Lodge No. 25
- Richard Vogt, 32° KCCH DeSoto Lodge No. 105
- Melvin L. Sams, IV 32° Tarpon Lodge No. 112
- Roscoe Love, 32° Brandon Lodge No. 114
- Petar Sibinkic, 32° Sarasota Lodge No. 147
- Wissam Itani, 32° John Darling Lodge No. 154
- Ronald C. Mincey, Jr., 32° Fort Meade Lodge No. 160
- Ernesto Hernandez-San Martin, 32° Universal Lodge No. 178
- Robert Addison, Jr., 32° A. W. Windhorst Lodge No. 185
- Tommy E. Thompson, 32° Corinthian Lodge No. 191
- Arthur J. Ahrens, III, 32° KCCH .. Turkey Creek Lodge No. 248
- Gary W. Gordon, 32° Sebring Lodge No. 249
- Richard D. Batchelor, 32° Kathleen Lodge No. 338
- C. Pearce Dreadin, 32° Travelers Lodge No. 390
- Tommy Tyner, 32° Memorial Lodge No. 914
- Kenneth Carolan, 32° KCCH Memorial Lodge No. 918



Freemasonry and Politics

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Our Fraternity stays out of partisan politics; it is proscribed. Yet we do concern ourselves with the functioning of society, good governance, patriotism and good citizenry.

Although we stay removed from the partisan, political fray, we do think about our roles as individuals and the proper role of government.

In the Scottish Rite, the 4th through 6th Degrees allude to the need for an enlightened citizenry. The 7th Degree recommends an impartial judiciary. The Intendant of the Building, the 8th Degree, prescribes a coherent economic order. The 9th and 10th Degrees address governance structures, i.e. bodies of learned citizens and representatives of people, an upper and lower house and a free press. The 11th Degree highlights individual rights, foremost, trial by a jury of peers. The 12th Degree, Master Architect, explores the selection of executive leadership. Finally, the 13th Degree, Royal Arch of Solomon, the necessity for a written constitution, built upon the “settled instincts and habits of the people.”

Democracy is fragile. Its success is not an accident or coincidence. Democracy, or a constitutional republic, as in our country, is demanding work. The citizenry must be involved for a written constitution to have any prospect of usefulness.

Russell Kirk (1918-1994) and Orestes Brownson (1803-1876) wrote on such matters and explored two concepts of constitutions, territorial and unwritten.

Territorial constitutions are based “on the conviction that political power must be centered on a geographic unity, a territory, within which the people participate...” This form of constitution is recognizable in the US. Its application is neither simple nor easy. They observed the tension among and between federal, state and local jurisdictions: “the general government is able to protect individual rights against state oppression, while at the same time...” the states serve “...as a bulwark against an encroaching central government.” Territorial constitutions can protect against what Brownson calls “humanitarian democ-

racy,” which “scorns all geographical lines and effaces all individualities...”

Masonic ritual, though it draws attention to such dilemmas, provides no guidance.

Freemasonry does, however, contribute to our thinking about “unwritten constitutions,” especially in the 13th Degree.

An unwritten constitution includes the “...mores, customs and ways of life... that form” a culture and support the written, territorial constitution. Brownson notes that it “...affirms an enduring moral order of obligation and personal responsibility.” The unwritten constitution highlights and preserves the customs, traditions, practices and behavior that make the “written constitution” work and flourish.

Here it is that Freemasonry may consider politics. It recognizes an unwritten constitution—a constitution that asserts we should honor tradition, be virtuous and moral, pursue truth and practice charity and tolerance. Such an unwritten constitution calls us to service and volunteerism, good conduct and obedience to lawful authority.

Kirk notes, “no matter how admirable a constitution may look upon paper, it will be ineffectual unless the unwritten constitution, the web of custom and convention, affirms an enduring moral order of obligation and personal responsibility.”

So maybe Freemasonry is involved in politics, because it focuses attention on the unwritten constitution, that practice of being an exemplary citizen, seeking to “transmit unimpaired through a succession of ages, the most valuable tenets...” 🐼

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friends. It will be very hard for us with decades of fraternal experience not to want to shake hands or hug. Our continued participation in the fraternity rests heavily upon this renewal of acquaintances. Since 1717 in England, when the meetings were held at the Goose and the Gridiron, congregation, fellowship and the sharing of a meal has been foundational to our activities.

Yet, somehow, both tradition and innovation must have a place at the table of Masonry. The times are indeed Changin’. The important part is to make sure that the central core message of morality remains within the “virtual” delivery. 🐼

2020 Flag Day Program

Tampa Scottish Rite will present our Annual Flag Day Program on the evening of June 8 in lieu of our Regular Tyled Meeting.

A meal will be served in the dining room at 5:45 p.m. The menu this year will be BBQ Ribs and Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Cupcakes for dessert. The cost is \$10 per person same as at our regular monthly meetings.

We are happy to have the Heroes of 76 presenting a program entitled Building The Flag. The Heroes of 76 are an appendant body of the National Sojourners and membership is open to all Master Masons who are veterans of the armed forces.

This program is open to all, family and friends and we encourage you to invite Blue Lodge brethren, your neighbors and all who may wish to celebrate our flag.

Reservations are required for the meal. 🐼

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 7:00 p.m. and cost is \$10 unless otherwise noted. Be sure to make your dinner reservations Thursday prior to the Monday Meeting. Visit the Valley of Tampa Website for the latest information on meetings and events.

May 11, 2020:

Executive Committee Meeting
Dinner and Closed Meeting
Education Program - The 26th Degree "Prince of Mercy." Brother Robert N. Kershner 32° presenting House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Chicken Teriyaki, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls, Chocolate Cake, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade.

June 8, 2020:

Annual Flag Day Program starts at 7:00 p.m.
Dinner at 5:45 p.m.,
Fall off the Bone BBQ Ribs, Slow Cook Chicken Leg Quarters (few Portions as a no pork option,) Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cup Cakes, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade. 🐼

Prelate

by A. Gary
Cavanaugh, 33°



One's Guiding Light

You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light.
2 Samuel 22:29-30 (NIV)

Some time ago, when visiting a museum, a nearby display of ancient lamps caught my attention. The display revealed that they were from Israel. The clay vessels were decorated with carved designs and each had two openings. A placard nearby stated that one of the openings was for fuel and the second one for a wick. It further stated that these were used in alcoves to light walkways, yet each was small enough to fit in the palm of an individual's hand to carry around as needed.

Perhaps it was one of these little lamps like this that was the inspiration for David to write the verses that reads: "You Lord are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light." David sang this as a song after God gave him the victory in battle. The rivals from both inside and outside his own nation had been stalking him, with the intent to kill him and end his reign.

But because of his faith and relationship in God we learn that David did not hide in the shadows. Instead He moved forward and faced his enemies with confidence that comes only from God's presence. With God helping him, he saw things more clearly and could make the good decisions necessary for himself, his troops and most importantly for his nation.

The darkness that David had mentioned in this phase more than likely involved his fear of weakness, defeat and death. Many of us today have similar worries which produce stress and anxieties in our lives. When this darkness overcomes us, we can take refuge and find peace because our faith in knowing God is with us during these times. The divine flame of the Holy Spirit lives in us and serves to light our path for us. 🐼

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
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Tampa, Florida 33634-7336

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Volume 43 No. 3

May - June 2020

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 W. Batten
03/08/20 age 68
Conestoga, PA

Sigmund Liberman, 32°
03/21/20 age 93
Silver Springs, MD

Glen U. Oneal Sr., 32°
02/17/20 age 94
Winter Haven, FL

Leyman I. Bott, 32°
11/30/19 age 91
Bradenton, FL

Carleton T. Lum Jr., 32°
02/01/20 age 91
Dunedin, FL

Frank J. Puglisi, 32°
01/22/20 age 77
Spring Hill, FL

Gustine Butler, 32°
12/24/19 age 88
Tampa, FL

John C. McLaughlin, 32
12/03/19 age 84
New Orleans, LA

Thomas S. T. Sams, 32°
02/17/20 age 96
Tampa, FL