



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 44 No. 3 • May - June 2021

www.tampascottishrite.org

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

Monday, June 14, 2021

5500 Memorial Hwy. Tampa

5:45 p.m. Fried 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 History of Military Flags

• Open to the public

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°
Chairman

Charles R. Jordan, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Richard A. Vogt, 32° KCCH
Commander - Council of Kadosh

Kenneth A. Carolan, 32° KCCH
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32°
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

Petar Sibinkic, 32°
Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°
Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

John Wermann, 32° KCCH

A. Gary Cavanaugh, 33°

Glen Bishop 32°

John N. Dragneff, 32°

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Personal Representative

by Ill.:. Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

As I write this article for The Bulletin, I see a light at the end of the tunnel, and I don't believe it is an on-coming train. In other words, I am confident that we are working our way back to normal lives in our day-to-day activities.

With that being said, your Valley continues to conduct the business and traditions of

the Scottish Rite the best way possible and taking into consideration the guidelines established by the CDC and the edict of our Grand Master. I sincerely hope that as you feel more comfortable in venturing out, you will attend our functions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Sarasota Scottish Rite Club for our Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal at our April meeting. They put on a wonderful performance and I think everyone was as impressed as I was with their exemplification of this beautiful ceremony.

Speaking about our Clubs, I would like to congratulate the charter members of our newest Club, the Tri-County Scottish Rite Club. This club will meet at Lake Wales Lodge No. 242. The Club will meet bi-monthly, with their first meeting on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. The Charter Officers of the Club are:

President	Perry D. Batson, 32°
1st Vice President.....	Gary W. Gordon, 32°
2nd Vice President	Jeremy G. Leslie, 32°
Secretary	Gregory A. Fisher, 32° KCCH
Treasurer	William F. Getty, 32°
Prelate	Ill.:. A. Gary Cavanaugh, 33°

The installation of officers will be at our May Consistory meeting on May 10.

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. 🇺🇸

Knight of the Double Eagles Point Totals

Current Knight of the Double Eagles Point Totals may be viewed on the Scottish Rite Web page www.tampascottishrite.org, in the Membership Menu under Members > Honors > Knight of the Double Eagle. 🇺🇸

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.



General Secretary

by Ill. John E. Drewett, 33°

Valley of Tampa Wins Vmap Award for 2020

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

on January 1, 2015. This was a new major grass-roots project coordinated by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction. The program is designed to help each Valley in the Jurisdiction provide the very best experience for its members.

The program is under the direction of Charles "Chuck" Osborne, 32° KCCH. Listed below are the Brothers that have been instrumental in our achieving VMAP qualification every year since the inception of the program:

Ill. John E. Drewett, 33°
 Ill. Casey A. Fletcher, 33°
 Ill. Carl E. Gilmore, 33°
 Bro. Charles "Chas" R. Jordan, 32° KCCH
 Ill. Louis H. Ortt, 33°
 Bro. Jeffrey M. Pick, 32° KCCH
 Bro. Richard A Vogt, 32° KCCH
 Bro. Charles D. Walter, 32° KCCH
 Ill. S. Gilbert Weisman, 33° 🐾

Scottish Rite Foundation

What a great opportunity to put into action the word of our Florida Scottish Rite slogan: "Total Involvement Everyone." Join with us and extend a helping hand. Your tax deductible contributions will brighten the future of a child at a time when it is needed the most. Remember your gift keeps on giving forever.

Each Scottish Rite Valley has a member represented on the Foundation Board of Trustees. If you desire more information, your General Secretary will be delighted to put you in touch with your Trustee. Thank you for sharing the gift of voice.

If you would like to help, you can make a tax deductible contribution to "The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, U.S.A., Inc." by mailing your

donations to: Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 5500 Memorial Highway, Tampa, FL 33634-7336. You can also make a tax deductible contribution securely over the Web: <http://srfof.org/>. 🐾

Membership Incentive

The Supreme Council has recently announced a membership incentive program that is open to all Valleys. Under this program, and 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 \$30) 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 2022 dues. For those that are Perpetual Members of the Valley and who secure 3 petitions for the Fall Reunion, a \$100 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. 🐾

2021 Flag Day Program

Tampa Scottish Rite will present our Annual Flag Day Program on the evening of our Monday Meeting, June 14 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 Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Cupcakes for dessert. The cost is \$10 per person as like at our regular monthly meetings.

We are happy to have the Heroes of 76 presenting a program entitled History of Military Flags. 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. 🐾

Scottish Rite Clubs

Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

Brooksville Elk's Lodge 2582
13383 County Line Road,
Spring Hill, FL 34609
Phone: (352) 678-1019

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

North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

IHOP

30200 US Hwy. 19 N.,
Clearwater, FL 33761
Phone: (727) 937-2649

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) 475-9188 to make reservations
1st Friday of the Month at 10:00 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. & Nov. at 6:00 p.m.

Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

Freedom Plaza Club
1010 American Eagle Blvd.,
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Phone: (813) 758-2787
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
Phone: (813) 368-3878
4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

Tri-County Scottish Rite Club

Lake Wales Masonic Lodge No. 242
660 S. 9th St.,
Lake Wales, FL 33853
Phone: (863) 528-6191

4th Thursday Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.

Support your Scottish Rite Club

Sovereign Grand Commander Southern Jurisdiction

by Ill. : James D. Cole, 33°

Together on a Trampoline



The other night I heard the distinctive chirp from my wife's tablet computer indicating a video call was arriving. Soon I heard my three-year-old grandson call out, "Where's Papaw?"

I walked into the room and learned that he wanted to share with me the news that he and his older sister were going to the trampoline park the next day.

I fondly remember the times when, while watching them bounce on a trampoline, a smile broke onto my face in response to their laughter and joy. It occurs to me that, like in a lot of beautiful scenes, I can use teachings from Freemasonry to "see more." After all, in Freemasonry we try to derive valuable life lessons from everyday situations and objects.

Consider the lowly trampoline—composed of fabric stretched very tightly across an elevated space and connected by springs to a sturdy frame, creating a surface upon which children (and even adults) can entertain themselves by jumping and bouncing.

On a trampoline, one cannot walk easily from one side of the trampoline to the other; the surface is simply too elastic. It is even harder for two or more, as each person's movements affect the balance of everyone else on the trampoline.

As we look around at a world impacted so significantly by a virus, each reader of this article might well agree that we can easily feel out of balance even during a simple walk through our daily lives. More importantly, the fabric of our society seems to be stretched as tightly as the trampoline's

Deadline for July/August Bulletin

June 7 - Contributor deadline

June 16 - Office contributor deadline

June 18 - Transmit print file to our printer

surface. If this is true, then each step we take can affect the balance of everyone near us.

Upon reflection, perhaps this is one thing civilization may have forgotten. Might we now fail to realize that each step we make, each word we speak, each stance we take, impacts someone else?

Do I prefer to prove to someone that “I am right,” or do I prefer to make someone feel just a little better? In my mind, I think the Supreme Architect prefers that we choose to try to improve another person’s feelings or condition in life.

Life is not always an easy walk. In these times, our gaits might be more unsteady than usual. If we jump up and down in a tantrum, the result might be like my grandson’s jumping when his sister is on the trampoline with him: she might fall. One person’s tantrum might lead to the fall of his friend, neighbor, or Brother.

Sometimes my grandchildren hold hands on the trampoline and jump together. Holding each other seems to help them avoid falling.

We can learn a lot from children. We can realize, or maybe remember, that our steps, actions, and especially our words can affect someone else ... and we can remember that holding on to one another can prevent falls.

Our world, our days, and our nerves are stretched in such a way that we need to remember we are still living together on this big trampoline. We need to think about one another.

Source: Reprinted by permission from Scottish Rite Journal SJ Magazine, March–April 2021. 🐼

Scott McAlister, 32° KCCH Appointed Assistant General Secretary

At our March Consistory meeting, Ill.: Rick Hoover, 33°, Deputy in the Orient of Florida, announced that Brother Scott McAlister, 32° KCCH had been appointed Assistant General Secretary for the Valley of Tampa. Brother Scott is no stranger to the Valley of Tampa,



becoming a Master of the Royal Secret on November 9, 1996. Over the years, Scott has been active with several of our degree teams and is currently serving as the Degree Master of the 7th Degree since 2008 as well as playing the part of Chief Provost & Judge. In addition, he is active with the 30th Degree team and is currently the Lector in that Degree. He has also been a member of the 31st Degree. In 2009, Brother Scott served the Valley of Tampa as Master of Kadosh.

Brother McAlister is a member of Holyrood Lodge No. 257 and served as Worshipful Master in 1997. He served Holyrood Lodge as Treasurer for seven years and is in his third year as Lodge Secretary.

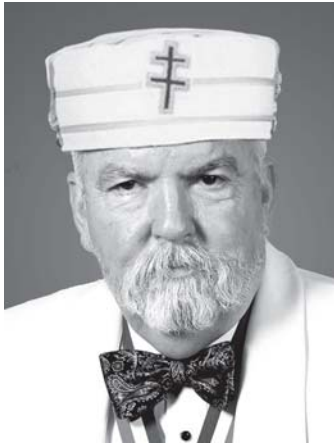
He has served the Grand Lodge as District Instructor in 1998 and 1999 and was appointed District Deputy Grand Master by M.: W.: Glen Phillips. He has been a member of the Grand Lodge Committee On Work for two years, the Public Relations & Publicity Committee, Grand Master’s Charity Committee, and the Jurisprudence Committee.

A Tampa native, Scott is a graduate of the University of South Florida and recently retired from the Hillsborough County Tax Collectors Office. 🐼

Do you shop on Amazon?

Here is an easy way for the Scottish Rite Foundation to receive money from you for shopping on Amazon. So pass the word to everyone who would like to support the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida.

- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com
- By selecting the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. 🐼



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

*“Behold, how good
and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell to-
gether in unity!”*

Psalm 133 KJV

The September-October 2020 bulletin discussed our dissatisfaction when, because of the pandemic, Lodges went dark, Reunions were shortened or cancelled, and any number of Masonic events were postponed or rescheduled. There have been less frequent opportunities to “dwell” together and to learn and grow. That article had some suggestions on how to spend our time that may still be useful.

One suggestion then was to study the Officers’ duties in the Florida Monitor. It made the point that, in reality, they are all our duties, whether we have the title or not. The recital of duties in the Symbolic Lodges describes these duties and prepares us for our work in the Lodge and our lives outside the Lodge.

The Junior Deacon instructs us to rid ourselves of superficial, mediocre and unworthy matters, i.e., those inadequacies of the cowan. The Senior Deacon reminds us of the duty of Xenia, the guest-host relationship advocated by the Greeks (sometimes translated as “ritualized friendship”.) The Junior Warden counsels us to manage and allot our time (think 24-inch gauge) among service, work, and rest. The Senior Warden reminds us of the value and necessity of hard work, persistence, and service. The Master advocates the importance of leadership.

Further, the Senior Deacon instructs us that the pillar Wisdom must communicate plans, instructions, and guidance to the pillar Strength. The Junior Deacon further communicates the pillar Strength’s guidance to the pillar Beauty. This communication promotes a semblance of harmony to develop and maintain among the Craft and, more importantly, within ourselves.

Much ink has been consumed espousing the benefits of attending degrees, reading, completing the Master Craftsman courses, studying philosophy,

etc. Rightly so. They have much to offer and we have much to learn.

Concurrently, we can benefit greatly by listening carefully to the words we recite twice per month by concentrating on what they mean and thinking about how to apply that meaning in our lives.

The recitals teach us our duties. Considered as a whole, they teach of the need and value of finding a harmony among the many parts of our lives. The recitals set us on a journey to becoming wiser, stronger, and balanced.

The Fall Reunion is scheduled for October 16 and 23. Degrees scheduled during year are:

26th Degree, Prince of Merch - May 10

13th Degree, Royal Arch of Solomon - July 12

8th Degree, Intendent of the Building - August 9

25th Degree, Knight of the Brazen Serpent -
September 13

7th Degree, Provost and Judge - December 13 🐼

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 10, 2021:

Executive Committee Meeting

Dinner and Closed Meeting

Education Program - 26th Degree, Prince of Merch House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Chicken Carbonara, Farfalle Pasta, Green Beans, Assorted Cakes, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

June 14, 2021:

Annual Flag Day Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Dinner at 5:45 p.m.,

Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cup cakes, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade. 🐼

Prelate

by A. Gary
Cavanaugh, 33°



When God Gives More Than We Can Handle

And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV)

It's a common saying among Christians: "Don't worry, God won't give you more than you can handle." This is well-meaning in intent, but completely inaccurate. Over and over in Scripture, we see God giving people way more than they could take emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Do you think Paul simply "handled it" when he endured prison, floggings, beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, robbers, abuse, false accusations, hunger, sleep deprivation, dehydration, nakedness and cold, all for the sake of the Gospel? Of course not. Paul wasn't a super-hero. It wasn't that those awful things somehow just didn't upset him. Rather, he learned to look to the true source of his strength—the Lord. He overcame in the strength of the Lord, rather than in his own power. The Lord sustained him in his hour of need.

David also struggled with depression, anxiety, and physical toil in his life. The Psalms are full of his pleadings with the Lord for relief. But he didn't give in to despair, rather, he kept redirecting his focus and attention to the way the Lord had come through for him in the past. He knew to wait for the Lord, to trust His will and His timing, even when times were unbearably hard.

Do you think Gideon was incredibly confident and felt strong when the Lord slowly chiseled away at the number of the men in his army, leaving him with a mere 300?

Do you think Job, when he lost his livestock, wealth, friends, children, reputation and health – all in a matter of days – shrugged and said, "oh well, I can take it?" No. He looked to the Lord and His

power, and focused on God's strength in contrast to his own weakness.

Tough times will come. Divorces happen. Financial strains come and go. Children rebel. Doctor's reports come back with bad news. Our parents age and conflicts occur between friends and people lose their jobs. The Lord promised us they would. He doesn't leave us with tales of doom, however. He promised we'd have peace in Him, and in Him alone. He also gives us instructions on how to be strong.

There are over 247 verses found in the Bible that don't command us to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and figure it out, nor do they call for us to "handle it." They don't tell us that "big guys don't cry" or "it could be worse." Instead they call for us to acknowledge our broken hearts and seek the Lord. Where we are weak, He is strong.

Sometimes, being strong in the Lord and seeking Him means crying out in prayer while taking a long quiet walk. It might mean listening to Bible verses on audio while you walk along the path. As for me, recently when my only and younger brother passed suddenly to the Celestial Lodge above, I felt completely lost and alone, so I started walking the neighborhood where we had grown up together. Soon without realizing, I found myself humming familiar hymns he had enjoyed, which soon changed to quoting the Scripture passages that he often used. Slowly this gentle calm came over me and I felt reassured that although I would never have his mortal being with me again, I would have always have him listening to me.

We're not equipped to handle anything on our own. We're fragile, we're weak, and even on our best days and we can't sustain a "chin-up" attitude for long. The only true peace in adversity is found in God alone.

Will God give us more than we can handle? Absolutely. Not because He's harsh, but because He loves us. He won't leave us in the trial. And there will be purpose worked out through every hard moment – a purpose that is working in us for our good and His glory. 🙏

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Scottish Rite Bulletin

Volume 44 No. 3

May - June 2021

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 H. Abrams, 32°
02/13/21 age 93
Whitesburg, GA

Douglas W. McCaw, 32°
03/23/21 age 63
Sarasota, FL

Deyo W. Swartz, 32°
03/20/21 age 80
Auburndale, FL

George F. Cancro, 32°
02/01/21 age 80
Pensacola, FL

Jerry L. Miller, 32°
02/04/21 age 88
Sun City Center, FL

Thomas A. Thonebe, 32°
03/30/21 age 85
Lakeland, FL

Richard O. Copher, 32°
12/02/20 age 75
Lutz, FL

Charles F. Rozelle, 32°
02/21/21 age 102
Tampa, FL

Charles A. Thompson, 32°
02/11/21 age 79
Clearwater, FL

Don C. Hawley, 33°
04/12/21 age 87
Sun City Center, FL

Wildmer Santiago Sr., 32°
03/25/21 age 70
Riverview, FL

Larry D. Wellman, 32°
12/21/20 age 93
Hudson, FL

David A. Henderson, 32°
02/25/21 age 73
St. Petersburg, FL

Richard W. Schultz, 32°
02/13/21 age 75
Brooksville, FL

Richard J. Whalen Sr., 33°
03/15/21 age 90
Dunedin, FL