



SCOTTISH RITE **Bulletin**

VALLEY OF TAMPA – ORIENT OF FLORIDA

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Check the Calendar for Meeting Locations • (813) 886-0578

Meets 2nd Monday of Each Month

Volume 46 No. 2 • March - April 2023

www.tampascottishrite.org



Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal

On the Monday, April 10, 2023 meeting at the Tampa Scottish Rite, we will be honoring those who have passed away after our 2022 Annual Ceremony of Remembrance up to April 2023. Please join Wise Master Joey Davis Jr., 32° and the Tampa Chapter of Rose Croix in this beautiful and moving tribute to our departed brethren.

This Ceremony, which was formerly called Maundy Thursday, is obligatory to all members of the Chapter of Rose Croix. Ill. Brother Barry Hart, 33°, Degree Master will begin this Ceremony at 7:00 p.m. at John Darling Lodge No. 154, 4601 N. Habana Ave., Tampa, FL 33614. The families of our fallen brothers and all Masons and non-Masons are invited.

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°

Chairman

Weldon C. Harrison, 32°

Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

John A. Baldwin, 32° KCCH

Commander - Council of Kadosh

Robert J. Davis, Jr., 32°

Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32°

Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Perry D. Batson, 32°

John E. Drewett, 33°

Robert J. Leonard, Sr., 32°

Joseph A. Monday, 32°

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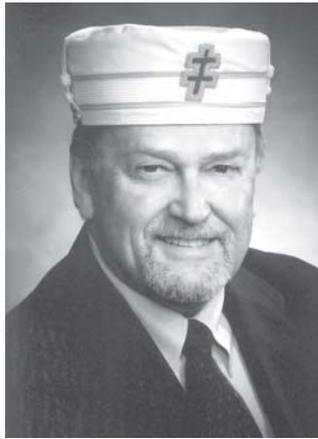
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Personal Representative

Ill.: Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Effective February 1, 2023, Illustrious Brother Charles (Chuck) C. Osborne, 33° was appointed the Personal Representative to the Valley of Tampa by Ill.: Richard G. Hoover, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Florida.

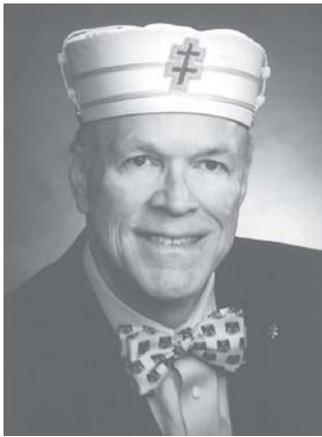
Brother Osborne is a native Floridian born and raised in Eustis, Florida. He graduated from Eustis High School in 1969 and attended Stetson University in Deland, Florida for two years before transferring to the University of South Florida in Tampa. He has been involved in the Employee Benefits Industry since 1978, specializing in the self-funding of Group Medical Benefits since 1983. In 2004, he founded Excess Risk Solutions, Inc. where he continues to serve as its President.

Ill.: Osborne began his Masonic journey in May of 2009 when he petitioned J. F. Swartzel Lodge No. 251 in Lutz, Florida. In February 2010 he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by his son, Patrick C. Osborne, also a member of the Valley of Tampa. Ill.: Osborne served his Lodge as Worshipful Master 2015 and in 2017 he was installed District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th District by M.: W.: Richard G. Hoover. That same year he also served as a member of the Grand Lodge Insurance Committee and has been Chairman of that committee since 2022.

Ill.: Brother Osborne petitioned the Valley of Tampa and became a Master of the Royal Secret in 2010 as a member of the Ill.: L. V. White Memorial Class. He joined the Knights of St. Andrew in 2010 and served as its Venerable Master in 2015. He has served on the Degree Teams of the 4th, 16th and 29th Degrees. For his work and dedication to the Rite, Brother Osborne was invested with the Rank and Dignity of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 2017 and Coronated a 33° Inspector General Honorary on November 9, 2021. He has served as the Chairman of the Valley of Tampa's VMAP Committee from 2015-2022 and continues to serve as a member for the Supreme Council's VMAP Advisory Board

Ill.: Brother Osborne and his wife, Amy, will be celebrating their 44th Wedding Anniversary on April 7 this year and are blessed with three adult children and seven grandchildren all living in the Tampa Bay area. 🐾

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 Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida.



General Secretary

by Scott McAlister, 33°

Petition Guidelines

Ill. : Richard G. Hoover, 33°, SGIG in the Orient of Florida, has issued a statement regarding petitions. The statement says that for the protection of the Scottish Rite

and the Grand Lodge of Florida:

- a) First and foremost, a petitioner must be a member of a verified Blue Lodge recognized both by the Supreme Council and the Grand Lodge of Florida.
- b) Both top and bottom-line signers must see verification of the petitioner's current Blue Lodge dues card.
- c) Both signers must know the petitioner before they sign the petition and verify the above mentioned.
- d) NO General Secretary will receive a petition without 2 verified signatures on the petition. Any General Secretary who signs a petition must know the petitioner.

If the petitioner is not a member of the Grand Lodge of Florida, he must show a Certificate of Good Standing from his home Lodge.

Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly. 🐾

From The General Secretary

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to these Masters of the Royal Secret who has joined us by Affiliation, 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

Merle R. Shreffer, 32°

Meeting Locations and Schedules for 2023

Here are the changes in the meeting places for the rest of the year.

John Darling Lodge No. 154

4601 N. Habana Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33614

Meeting dates: April 10, 2023 May 8, 2023
July 10, 2023 Aug. 14, 2023
Oct. 9, 2023 Nov. 13, 2023

Clearwater Lodge No. 127

705 S. Hercules Ave.,
Clearwater, FL 33764

Meeting dates: March 13, 2023 June 12, 2023
Sept. 11, 2023 Dec. 11, 2023

Other important dates:

Spring Reunion May 6, 2023
at Egypt Shrine
Fall Reunion Oct. 14, 2023
at Egypt Shrine
Honors Weekend Nov. 10 & 11, 2023
at Hillsborough
Lodge No. 25 🐾

Feast of Kadosh

The Seventh Annual Feast of Kadosh will be held Monday, March 13 at Clearwater Lodge No. 127 located at 705 S. Hercules Ave., Clearwater. The Feast of Kadosh celebrates the founding of the Knights Templar in 1119. The Commander of the Council of Kadosh, Brother John A. "Drew" Baldwin, 32° KCCH will lead us in the usual salutations and toasts. Our guest speaker will be Brother Andrew S. Gluchov, 32°. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. This will be an open meeting, so bring your family and friends. Because this will be an open meeting, reservations are a must so that we can let the Lodge know how many meals to prepare. Please contact the Scottish Rite office at (813) 886-0578 to make your reservation. 🐾

Scottish Rite Clubs

Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

VFW Post 10209
14737 Edward R. Noll Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34609
Phone: (352) 678-1019
4th Friday 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.

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.

Tampa Scottish Rite Club

Village Inn
215 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.,
Tampa, FL 33609
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

Robert "Joey" Davis, Jr., 32° Wise Master Chapter of Rose Croix



Brother Joey Davis Jr., 32° will serve as the Valley of Tampa's Wise Master in the Chapter of Rose Croix in 2023.

Brother Davis was born in Charlotte N.C., but grew up in Easley S.C. He was a Shrine kid from the age of 9 months to 21 years old. He attended the University of South Carolina. Majored in Marketing.

Brother Davis moved to Tampa in 1989 and worked in several sales positions and then into his lifelong career in financial services in 1996. He started his own company, Harbour Financial Group, Inc. in 2000 where he has helped clients for over 22 years developing and maintaining budgets, financial and retirement planning, life insurance and investment advisory services by growing and maintaining assets under management. He holds both a Life and Health insurance license from the state of Florida and twenty other states and a Series 65 securities License from the Securities Exchange Commission. He is also a licensed Real Estate Agent.

Our Wise Master became an Enter Apprentice on April 17, 2012; a Fellowcraft on September 18, 2012 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 20, 2012 at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. He was appointed to Tyler in 2014, Senior Deacon in 2015, elected Junior Warden in 2016, Senior Warden in 2017 and Worshipful Master in 2018. I became a 32° Mason of the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite on April 27, 2013 and a member of the York Rite bodies. He is also the current Treasurer of Egypt Shrine.

Brother Davis has been married to his lovely wife for 24 years and most importantly, he has the full support of his Lady Marcia in all his Masonic endeavors. He currently lives in Apollo Beach. They have three dogs Audie Murphy, Lily and Dean "Dino" Martin. In his free time, he and Marcia enjoy boating and traveling. He is also an avid reader, mostly reading history. 🐾

Deadline for May/June Bulletin

April 6 - Contributor deadline
April 10 - Office contributor deadline
April 14 - Transmit print file to our printer

Rick Wendling,
32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection



Brother Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH was elected to serve as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for the Valley of Tampa for the year 2023.

Brother Wendling was born in Toms River, New Jersey, and moved to Pinellas County when he was 2 years old. He was a Firefighter Paramedic for a local fire department for 22 years and retired in 2014 when he took over his father's business when he became ill.

Brother Wendling was Initiated to the Fraternity on Nov. 29, 2010, Passed on Feb. 17, 2011, and Raised on March 29, 2011 through the chairs and became Worshipful Master in 2017.

Brother Wendling joined the Scottish Rite in 2014, once out of the East for his Blue Lodge and joined the Lodge of Perfection. During this time he served as Committeeman for several DDGMs and Zone Chairman on a few Committees as well. He served as DDGM in 2019 and as District Instructor for 2020 and 2021. In his off time, he enjoys riding his Indian motorcycle and fishing, and as many know, he enjoys a nice glass of bourbon with a cigar! 🍷

Can Virtue be Taught?

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

“Then let us imitate this good man in his virtuous ... conduct.” Referring to the life and character of Hiram Abiff, the Master Mason Lecture thus instructs us.

Freemasonry offers moral lessons so that we can learn to “... live virtuous and upright lives ...” This is, perhaps, the point of our existence and what separates us from any other fraternal, civic, or service organization.

In the Entered Apprentice Degree, we learn about and examine the four cardinal and three theological virtues. In the 2nd Degree, a plan of education and self-development to inculcate them is offered. The Fellow Craft lecture implicitly assumes that virtue can be both learned and taught, and we seem to take for granted that it can be learned and taught without much thought.

The Socratic dialogue Protagoras examines the question “can virtue be taught?” The dialogue between Socrates (469-369 BCE) and Protagoras (490-429 BCE), which is often humorous, begins with a simple definition that virtue is “moral excellence” and proceeds to consider the parameters and conditions under which it might be both taught and learned.

Such a pursuit is differentiated from those into medicine, mathematics, and science. In each of these disciplines, one need only find a learned professor in the specific field. But where does one find a teacher or school for developing virtue and moral excellence? Socrates notes that there is something here that defies academic studies, scholarly exercises, and professorial lectures.

In the exchanges with Protagoras, Socrates explores some key ideas about virtue that seem to have found their way into Freemasonry.

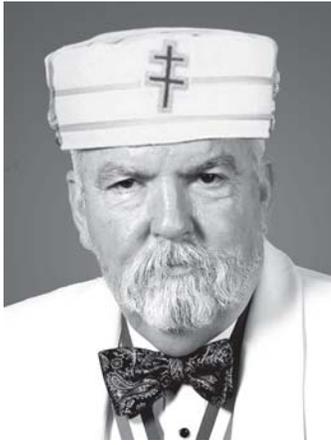
First, the actions of a virtuous person seem to be guided by some principles or precepts that are both universally applicable and unified. Freemasonry identifies many universal precepts, among them brotherly love, relief, truth and friendship, a belief in Deity. Such principles are unified in that they describe a quality of a person in almost every context, not just occasionally. We don't think of a person being virtuous only in the morning hours. Moral excellence should describe a Mason continuously, not just inside the Lodge.

Second, the practice of virtue presupposes knowledge and education. Courage, for example, cannot be demonstrated by one who is ignorant of risks and dangers. Whether to dispense justice or mercy requires full knowledge of facts and circumstances. Hence, the Winding Stair lecture sends us on a lifetime journey of observation, learning and contemplation.

Third, Socrates asserts, one's soul must be prepared and of the right disposition to receive and examine both the universal principles and to acquire and absorb knowledge. In this sense, a “student” must have a proper background and propensity to accept instruction. To pursue virtue and moral excellence, one must be both receptive to and prepared for growth, much as an Entered Apprentice makes his decision to leave the west and travel east.

In the end, Socrates concludes that for virtue to be teachable (and learnable), a foundation of universal principles, knowledge and personal receptivity must be present.

... continued on page 7



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Last month's missive introduced a book by James Hankins (1955-), "Virtue Politics - Soul Craft and Statecraft in Renaissance Italy." The book describes the efforts

during the "Humanist" period of the 1400-1500s to revitalize virtue in both religious and political leadership and in the citizenry.

The humanists asserted that the basic means to rebuild the "... depleted reserves of good character, true piety, and practical wisdom" was to return to the study of classical antiquity, the humanities, and, specifically, the seven liberal arts and sciences.

Hankins' book, in places, reads like a Masonic manual. Its themes, concepts and ideas are prominent in our ritual and lectures.

In a section "How the King May Become Virtuous," Hankins summarizes a curriculum found in the writings of Francesco Patrizi (1529-1597.)

First, he must master grammar to become "... the artisan of speech ... [grammar being] the commander and chariot of all other disciplines." The king was next to study poetry, e.g., Homer and Virgil, to learn "... what nobility and virtue look like in action." To acquire prudence, he should then study history, what Cicero (106-43 BCE) called "the witness of time, the mistress of life, the life of memory and messenger of truth."

The king's attention should next focus on the study of orators, a discipline Masons know as "rhetoric." Both Patrizi and Cicero cautioned that "eloquence is vain without the study of moral philosophy."

These basic, core studies laid the foundation for the examination of mathematics, geometry, music and astronomy.

Such a curriculum would, Patrizi wrote, help the king "... acquire the virtues, especially prudence ..." and teach him "... to quell the passions that will lead him astray, blackening his honor."

Finally, Patrizi asserts "... the best way [for the king] to spend his leisure is to frequent the company

of learned men ... to consort with men from whose company he will not depart without having learned something of value."

In a very real sense, we frequent the company of learned men in our fraternity and the Scottish Rite—the learned men speak to us from our degree ritual and lectures. And it is doubtful any of us ever departed from a symbolic degree or a Scottish Rite reunion without having "learned something of value."

Our next Scottish Rite reunion is May 6 at the Egypt Shrine in Tampa. The five mandatory degrees will be conferred. Hope to see you. 🐼

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.

March 13, 2023:

at Clearwater Lodge No. 127

705 S. Hercules Ave., Clearwater, FL 33764

Dinner and Open Meeting

Feast of Kadosh

Double Eagle Awards

April 10, 2023:

at John Darling Lodge No. 154

4601 N. Habana Ave., Tampa, FL 33614

Dinner and Closed Meeting

Executive Committee Meeting

Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal 🐼

Shopping on Amazon?

Amazon used to donate a percentage of your purchase to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. That program has been discontinued by Amazon. 🐼

Prelate

by Richard A.
Vogt, 32° KCCH



Psalms 39:7,

“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.”

We have just started another “new” year. We have installed in our lodges and our valley “new” officers to lead us this year. We celebrate all things “new,” even the coming of Spring for the promise of “new” growth. Every year we await the “new” to come. Why? Because the “new” is filled with Hope. Hope is what keeps us going day-in and day-out. Even in our darkest times, we have Hope that things will get better. And where does this illogical hope come from? It is a gift from God to each of us. He is our strength and our Hope.

Have you ever wondered why, in your bleakest moments, there is always that glimmer of hope that we cling to? We know that we are doomed, but yet we still hope. I believe this is one of the greatest gifts that God has given to man. Without it, we would just give up and quit. But we, inexplicably, make ourselves go on because there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow. Can you explain it? Can the scientists come up with a natural cause for this phenomenon we call Hope? NO, they cannot! God instills this hope in us because He made us, and He alone knows what we need. He has promised us: “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Deut. 31:8 (ESV)

Hope defined is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. It is also a feeling of trust. Take, for example, the man Job. There are eighteen (18) instances of the word hope in the Book named for him. If ever there was a man that should have been without hope, Job was he. He lost everything—his family, his wealth, his health—yet he kept his hope and trusted in God when all around him told him to curse God and die. But Job responded in Job 4:6 with, “Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?” The wise King Solomon says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and

the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” Prov. 9:10 (ESV). Job feared God and kept his trust in Him and was rewarded for his steadfastness with an even greater family, wealth and health.

It is human nature to always hope for better things, a brighter tomorrow. But give thanks to God who created us and instilled in us this Hope that we cannot live without.

Peace be with you my Brothers. 🐼

296th Reunion Schedule

One Day - Saturday, May 6, 2023

- 7:00 a.m. Class Registration
- 7:30 a.m. Assembly - Opening Ceremonies - Open LofP
- 7:50 a.m. 4° Secret Master - Confer
- 8:40 a.m. Member/Class Education
- 9:10 a.m. Break
- 9:20 a.m. 14° Perfect Elu - Confer
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:55 a.m. Close LofP/Open Chapter
- 11:07 a.m. Class photo then lunch
- 12:37 p.m. 18° Knight Rose Croix - Confer
- 1:53 p.m. Close Chapter/Open Council - Elect Officers
- 2:08 p.m. Break
- 2:18 p.m. 30° Knight Kadosh - Confer
- 3:36 p.m. Close Council/Open Consistory
- 3:51 p.m. Member/Class Education
- 4:01 p.m. 32° Master of the Royal Secret - Confer
- 5:26 p.m. Close Consistory
- 5:26 p.m. Consecration of Class & Closing Ceremony
- 5:56 p.m. End of 296th Reunion 🐼

...continued from Page 5 – Can Virtue be Taught?

Protagoras, like most philosophical writings, contains some pretty heavy stuff. (Nobody said these virtue and mortal excellence things would be easy.) Our ancient brethren were well-acquainted with many philosophical treatises and included their ideas when establishing our Fraternity and developing our degree work.

Can virtue be taught? Can we learn to live virtuous and upright lives; achieve some semblance of moral excellence? Freemasonry thinks so—it is what we came here to do.

The writer observes that Freemasonry may be one of the few, if only, institutions in our society where a man may go to reflect upon and consider issues of philosophy and virtue. He finds this both gratifying and worrisome. 🐼

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Scottish Rite Bulletin

Volume 46 No. 2

March - April 2023

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



H. Ronald Foxworthy, 33°
01/13/23 age 90
Sarasota, FL

James J. Hiller, 32°
11/30/22 age 78
Sun City Center, FL

Denver J. Stutler, 32°
09/26/22 age 79
Sun City Center, FL

Craig A. Gieseke, 32°
11/27/22 age 75
Oldtown, FL

Ray N. Rich, 32°
12/03/22 age 86
Pinellas Park, FL