



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. 3 • May - June 2023

www.tampascottishrite.org

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

Monday, June 12, 2023

at the Clearwater Lodge No. 127,
705 South Hercules, Clearwater

5:45 p.m. Menu To Be Announced. 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
Program To Be Announced.

• Open to the public

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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Personal Representative

Ill. Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Brethern: As I write this article for The Bulletin, I want to thank Brother Drew Baldwin, 32° KCCH for putting together on very short notice our Annual Feast of Kadosh. I want to thank Brother Andrew S. Gluchov for his presentation as well as the members of the Council of Kadosh that participated in leading the toasts during the

Feast. While it was not as fancy as in previous years, it was well received by all. In the past we have used the Feast of Kadosh as a fundraising opportunity to benefit the Foundation and hopefully, next year we will be in a position to do that again.

I also want to thank Ill. Barry Hart, 33° and the Brothers of the Sarasota Scottish Rite Club for our Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal performed at our April 10 meeting. Unfortunately, I was out of the country and unable to attend that night, but the feedback I have received was that their performance of this Ceremony was well received and meaningful.

I also want to remind everyone that our Spring Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 at John Darling Lodge in Tampa. Ill. Casey Fletcher, 33° Director of Work will be communicating the 29 Degrees as he did in the Fall Reunion last year. Registration is tentatively scheduled to start at 7:00 a.m. that morning with the Degrees starting at 8:00 a.m. and lunch around 11:30 a.m. The lunch menu will be hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, iced tea and cookies.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that our Annual Flag Day Celebration will be on Monday, June 12 at Clearwater Lodge. As usual this will be an open meeting so be sure to invite your family and friends to come join us that night. I'm confident Ill. Jerry Lee 33° will once again provide us with both an interesting and educational program.

Thank you for your continued support of the Valley of Tampa and I hope to see many of you at Grand Lodge in Orlando May 29 - 31.

Illustrious Gene Sizemore Endowment Scholarship Fund

I want to thank all the Brothers of the Valley of Tampa who have generously contributed to the Gene Sizemore Endowment Scholarship Fund. As of April 12 the Valley of Tampa had contributed \$23,780 and money is still coming in. While our initial fund raising campaign was scheduled to end on March 31, you can still contribute to the scholarship fund. 🐾

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°

Scottish Rite Masonic Funeral/Memorial Service

The Scottish Rite has an absolutely beautiful funeral/memorial service that is available to its members. Most members are unaware that it exists

and are only aware of the basic Masonic Service available from the Blue Lodge. The service is available to all Scottish Rite Masons who are current with their dues.

Unfortunately, we have attended way too many funerals and/or memorial services where it wasn't even mentioned that the deceased was an active Mason. This occurs because the Brother has not properly expressed his wishes for a Masonic Service in writing to members of his family.

Please do not let this happen to you. If you would like to have a Scottish Rite Funeral or Memorial Services, document it in writing and give it to your loved ones. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Scottish Rite office.

Office Assistance Needed

The Scottish Rite office needs help filing away the files that were moved from the old building on Memorial Hwy. Thanks to those Brothers who've already put in their time to start the process of going through the storage boxes and putting the files in order in the filing cabinets, but more remains to be done. You can earn one Double Eagle point for every hour worked.

If you have some spare time and would like to assist the Valley with some filing, please contact the office at (813) 886-0578. 🐼

Email Addresses

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

Meeting Locations and Schedules for 2023

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

Brandon Lodge No. 114

203 N. Moon Ave.

Brandon, FL 33509-0816

Meeting dates: May 8, 2023

Egypt Shrine

5017 East Washington St.

Tampa, FL 33619

Meeting dates: July 10, 2023

Other important dates:

Spring Reunion May 6, 2023

at John Darling

Lodge No. 154

Honors Weekend Nov. 10 & 11, 2023

at Hillsborough

Lodge No. 25 🐼

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida

The Scottish Rite Foundation is managed by Scottish Rite Masons, motivated by Masonic principles and administered with Masonic integrity. One of the two missions of the Scottish Rite Foundation is to support the many Scottish Rite Language Disorder clinics located in major cities throughout our beautiful State of Florida.

Mission #1 is to provide adequate funding for our highly efficient and desperately needed clinics. Our Foundation support consists of furnishing the clinics with necessary funds to operate the facilities and to hire and teach speech pathologists on staff.

Mission #1 is to provide adequate funding for our highly efficient and desperately needed clinics. Our Foundation support consists of furnishing the clinics with necessary funds to operate the facilities and to hire and teach speech pathologists on staff.

With the scope of the foundation being statewide and its diligent Board of Trustees, infused with renewed spirit and vigor, there will be an ever-expanding number of children being reached for treatment in new clinics being opened. Learn more at: <http://srfof.org/> 🐼

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 Wednesday Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.

Support your Scottish Rite Club

Deadline for July/August Bulletin

June 5 - Contributor deadline
June 14 - Office contributor deadline
June 16 - Transmit print file to our printer



April Update - Building Project

by Chas Jordan, 32° KCCH,
Project Manager

Brothers, it has been a long few months, but I am happy to report that things are moving forward once again. To give an update on what has happened first, the zoning

process has been put on hold for the time being. This is due to our developer, Onicx, needing to reformat their planned development on the south portion of our current property. This means hopefully all of us who emailed in support won't need to get a bunch of emails on changing meetings for a while.

This will change the timeframe for the Onicx development, but it will not impact their proceeding with our temple reconstruction. Since our property is already zoned appropriately, the new building can be built regardless of the rezoning on the south portion of the property. We are currently working with Onicx to update our development agreement with new information on their development and to incorporate our additional operating expenses being incurred by the delay. During this process, Onicx also must implement two provisions of the agreement for property ownership transfer to occur so they can proceed with financing. They are currently working on these items now and hope to be ready to move forward in April or May.

Once this transfer occurs, things start moving quickly again. We will restart our design process with WJArchitects and move to design development drawings for the new building. At the same time, the current temple will proceed with demolition and we can start prepping the site for the new facility. We are very optimistic that we will hopefully be able to move into our new facility sometime around the 1st or 2nd Quarter of 2025. Let's all keep our fingers crossed and say a little prayer to the GAOTU to keep us on this new schedule.

Thank you Brothers for your patience and understanding through this project so far. Like I said when we started, the plan can and WILL change. It did. But any project requires flexibility, so to my brothers, I say "SEMPER GUMBY!" 🐼

2023 Worshipful Masters

The Valley of Tampa would like to congratulate the following Masters of the Royal Secret on being installed as Worshipful Master of their respective Lodge for the year 2023:

Sebastian Carnevale, 32° Tuscan Lodge No. 6
 Ritch A. Carroll 32° Hillsborough Lodge No. 25
 Ricky Caravona, Sr. 32° Dade City Lodge No. 48
 Joseph Rogers, II, 32° Lakeland Lodge No. 91
 Kevin J. McArdle, 32° Clearwater Lodge No. 127
 Valentino F.M. Pine, 32° St. Petersburg Lodge No. 139
 Christopher G. Burns, 32° Sarasota Lodge No. 147
 Dwight E. Brown, 32° John Darling Lodge No. 154
 William R. Hughes, 32° Sutherland Lodge No. 174
 Douglas W. Harrell, 32° Poinciana Lodge No. 227
 George E. Buck, 32° Lake Wales Lodge No. 242
 Teddy F. Watson, 32° Sebring Lodge No. 249
 David E. Anderson, 32° Holyrood Lodge No. 257
 Jeremy G. Leslie, 32° Kathleen Lodge No. 338
 Conrad P. Dreadin, 32° Travelers Lodge No. 390
 Robert J. Leonard, 32° Liberty Lodge No. 412
 V. Kirk Hinote, 32° Memorial Lodge No. 918 🐾

2023 Flag Day Program at Clearwater Lodge No. 127

Tampa Scottish Rite will present our Annual Flag Day Program on the evening of our Monday Meeting, June 12 in lieu of our Regular Open Meeting at Clearwater Lodge No. 127, 705 S Hercules Ave., Clearwater, FL 33764

A meal will be served in the dining room at 5:45 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person as like at our regular monthly meetings.

The program itself, is yet to be determined.

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 8, 2023:

at Brandon Lodge No. 114

203 N. Moon Ave., Brandon, FL 33509-0816
 Executive Committee Meeting
 Dinner and Closed Meeting

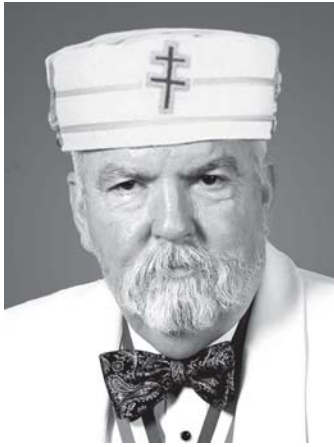
June 12, 2023:

at Clearwater Lodge No. 127

705 S. Hercules Ave., Clearwater, FL 33764
 Annual Flag Day Program starts at 7:00 p.m.
 Dinner at 5:45 p.m. 🐾

296th Reunion Schedule One Day - Saturday, May 6, 2023

Start	Description
8:00 a.m.	Introduction to AASR
8:21 a.m.	4th - 11th Degrees
9:05 a.m.	Break
9:20 a.m.	KSA and Foundation Reports
9:26 a.m.	12th-14th Degrees
9:45 a.m.	Chapter Introduction 15th-18 Degrees
10:23 a.m.	Council Introduction
10:25 a.m.	19th-26th Degrees
11:01 a.m.	Break
11:21 a.m.	27th-30th Degrees
11:39 a.m.	Close Council and Lunch
12:27 p.m.	Open Consistory 31st and 32nd Degrees
12:55 p.m.	Close Consistory and Summary
1:10 p.m.	Class Election & Picture
1:30 p.m.	Consecration of Class & Closing Ceremony
2:00 p.m.	Scheduled end time 🐾



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Attending Scottish Rite Degrees, absorbing their lessons, contemplating their symbolism, and investigating their origins involves sustained, committed effort. Our

ritual is called Labor or Work. Sometimes that Work (plus all the meetings we attend) may overwhelm and distract us from addressing a simple question we heard early in Freemasonry ... “what came you here to do?”

We need to keep asking that question. Our answer may change over time, but asking ourselves regularly may help us focus our energy and allocate our time.

A return to the symbolic degrees may be helpful. Taking a step back sometimes facilitates making two steps forward.

The simplicity of the degrees does not render them irrelevant. We came to learn, to subdue our passions and improve ourselves. Each of these pursuits is foundational to the succeeding degrees in Masonry.

Illustrious Albert Pike, in *Esoterika*, highlights a particular visual aid that appears in symbolic degrees and helpful to our question—the progressive movement and position of the square and compass through the first degrees.

Explanations of the positions are offered in the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees. Pike thought them weak. He developed some ideas in *Esoterika*.

Pike thought the square symbolized material, earthly matters and physical conditions, the compass spiritual and intellectual.

As an Entered Apprentice we are (all too) aware that material matters govern our lives, often to the exclusion of matters that may be much more important. The relative position of the square and compass symbolizes this awareness.

As progress is made in education and experience, the “... appetites and passions no longer have entire habitual mastery over ...” us. The placement of the

compass and the square in the Fellow Craft Degree suggests progress has been made.

When morality, reason, spirituality, and virtue begin to overshadow self-interest, earthly matters and passions, the Master Mason is said to have arrived at a place of equilibrium, balance, or harmony. We’re now focused on what is really important. Our acquired, “habitual self-mastery” is symbolized by the arrangement of the compass and square in the third degree.

Our arduous endeavors to understand ritual, symbols, allegories, and metaphors (and attending many meetings) may sometimes impede our ability to produce a simple answer to our question “what came you here to do?”

The progressive positions of the compass and square remind us—we came to learn, to rise above earthly, mundane matters and to focus on higher things. The position of these working tools symbolizes not only what we came to do, they guide our steps.

What came you here to do?

The answer can be simple, but the journey remains Work.

The Spring Reunion is May 6 at John Darling Lodge No. 154, 4601 N. Habana Ave., Tampa, FL 33614.

As did the Fall Reunion, the Work will take the form of an education presentation. Commencing with the usual history and explanations about the Scottish Rite, each degree of the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory will be described and discussed. The presentation will conclude with a summary of basic lessons and a discussion of our roles and duties as Scottish Rite Masons.

The presentation utilizes an approved Supreme Council syllabus developed when in-person reunions were inadvisable due to public health concerns.

Although passwords and other esoteric matters will be omitted, the format will qualify candidates as 32nd Degree Masons. Obligations will be administered by our Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Most Worshipful Richard G. Hoover 33°.

The candidates will be receiving the degrees in the same manner as did Albert Pike. Albert Mackey

communicated the degrees to Pike, explained their respective lessons, and obligated Pike as a Master of the Royal Secret. The theatrical mode of instruction now used did not then exist and commenced after Pike's death. So, this format is a return to an earlier tradition.

This Reunion format affords a valuable educational opportunity to existing members of the Valley. The presentation will journey through all 29 degrees in sequence, exploring each's plot, lessons, and symbols and the relationship with preceding and succeeding degrees. Members are encouraged to attend with pen and paper in hand. Bringing "Bridge to Light" to follow along is recommended. 🐼

Prelate

by Richard A.
Vogt, 32° KCCH

Exo. 20:12

*Honor your father and
your mother, that your
days may be long in the
land that the Lord your
God is giving you.*

May and June bring us the reminder and the opportunity to honor our mothers and our fathers. The verse above is from the "Ten Commandments" that we all probably learned as young children. But, as we age and have lives of our own with our own families and cares, we tend to forget some of these lessons. We all generally have great intentions to call and/or visit our parents more often, but, well, life gets in the way and we say, "next week I'll call." How often have we said that to ourselves until it was too late—God had called them home. And then you remember all the things that you wanted to say and do with them, but never got the chance. I know, I have been there; I suspect a lot of you have as well.

That is why Mother's Day and Father's Day were created. Because God thought it was so important to honor your father and your mother that He gave us this commandment—read that, it is a command!—the very next commandment right after His commands about Himself. It was put above you shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery,

you shall not steal—you get the idea. It is also the first commandment with a promise. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long." In *Deuteronomy 5:16* it also goes on to add, "... and that it may go well with you ..." God tells us that honoring our parents is second only to honoring Him.

The word Honor means to treat someone with the proper respect due to the person and their role. With regard to parents this means treating them with deference and providing for them and looking after them in their old age. God promises that if you do this, not only will your days be long, but they will be filled with God's presence and favor. The wise King Solomon, in *Proverbs 1:8*, tells us as children we should, "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching." Solomon goes on in *Proverbs 23:24*, "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him." Throughout Scripture we find these same thoughts expressed to remind us of this particularly important commandment.

The final Scripture I want to quote is from *Ephesians 6:1-4*. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2Honor your father and your mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. 4Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

I lost my father twenty-two years ago and my mother eleven years ago and I miss them everyday. After my father passed, all I could think of were the things I wished I had told him, but never got around to. I know a lot of you have also lost your parents; but, there a lot of you still blessed with their presence. For those of us that have lost our parents, remember them and the good times you had together. For those of you who still have your parents, enjoy them, talk to them and tell them how much you love them. Don't let anything go unsaid because none of us know when God will call us home. God Bless you all. 🐼



Tampa Scottish Rite Office
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Tampa, FL 33634

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Scottish Rite Bulletin

Volume 46 No. 3

May - June 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



James W. Benjamin, 32° KCCH
12/31/22 age 77
Lakewood Ranch, FL

William M. Hardee, 32°
9/05/22 age 74
Lakeland, FL

Craig E. Knight, 32°
11/27/22 age 88
Clearwater, FL

Charles P. Brewer, 33°
02/10/23 age 86
Brooksville, FL

Steiner M. Humerick, 32°
4/01/23 age 95
Clearwater, FL

Joseph L. Varnadore, 32°
11/28/22 age 90
Arcadia, FL

Raeburn C. Foster, 32°
02/18/23 age 92
Lakeland, FL

Thomas E. Johnson Jr., 32°
02/11/23 age 83
Tampa, FL

Ray M. Watson, 32°
02/08/23 age 84
St. Petersburg, FL

Ned D. Harbert, 32°
02/26/23 age 93
Cody, WY