



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. 5 • September - October 2023

www.tampascottishrite.org

Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida

by Douglas W. Dobbs 32°, Trustee, Valley of Tampa

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida helps children with learning disabilities by supporting 15 clinics located throughout the entire state of Florida. It depends upon donations made by corporations and individuals, most of whom are members of the Scottish Rite, their families, or friends.

The current annual commitment made to these clinics is \$250,000 with \$100,000 of that earmarked to the 7 clinics run by John Hopkins/All Children's Hospital. The balance goes to the other 8 various clinics. This means we need to raise \$269,500 to cover our commitment to the clinics plus the minimal necessary expenses.

The fiscal year just ended on June 30, 2023. Our Valley of Tampa managed to achieve 100% of our \$85,000 goal. We were able to meet our goal thanks to a donation from our Almoner's Fund.

I'd like to thank all of those who have given in the past and especially thank you for continuing your support in the future. Our commitment to the children is ongoing. Our pledge as a Valley, and as individual members of the Scottish Rite, is ongoing. Our Valley's goal for this fiscal year, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, is \$85,000. Everyone is encouraged to help in any way possible.

Some ways you can help:

Leave a bequest in your will for either a specific amount or the "remainder" of your estate after all of your named beneficiaries' bequests have been

satisfied. (NOTE: If you do not have a Florida Will or it has been years since it has been updated you are advised to see a qualified advisor for information about Wills).

Ask a corporation to make a donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, a 501(c)3 non profit charity. Most large corporations are very generous about helping local charities.

Support the direct mail campaign (if you don't take the free gift, it helps the Foundation).

There is a line on your dues bill for an optional donation to the Foundation—add what you can.

Mail a check to the office in Tampa, or present it at a monthly Consistory meeting

Ask your family to request, upon your passing, that donations be made to the SRF in lieu of flowers

If you are a Major Donor, proudly wear your Major Donor lapel pin, everywhere. It may start a discussion which will let you talk about the Foundation.

Speaking of recognition, donors who are Scottish Rite members can earn some Double Eagle points each year for making a donation to the SRF. Members AND NON MEMBERS can also gain Major Donor recognition for reaching different levels of total lifetime giving to the Foundation. Recognition includes (for members) double eagle bars, (for members and non members, the following) different lapel pins depending upon level reached, and a nameplate on the Major Donor plaques in the lobby.

... continued on page 5

Executive Committee

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Joseph A. Monday, 32°

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Bulletin Editor

bulletin@srtampa.org



Personal Representative

Ill. : Charles C. Osborne, 33°

My Brothers: As you are aware about 18 months ago we agreed to sell our property at 5500 Memorial Highway to the Onicx Group for \$10,800,000. The payment would be made in the form of a new smaller Masonic Center that they would build on the Northeast corner of that property (valued at \$8,000,000) and a cash payment of

\$2,800,000 upon completion of the building. The construction was supposed to be completed around November of 2023. In order for them to meet this timeline, they required that we vacate the building before April 1, 2022 so we secured temporary office/warehouse space nearby and vacated our building.

Now at a time when we should be close to moving into our new building, we are in fact moving back into our old building at 5500 Memorial Highway. The developer was not able to secure the permits needed to develop the property to their satisfaction and now the original Development Agreement has expired. The Onicx Group has come back with another offer, but that offer was \$2,800,000 lower than their original offer so we have decided to start negotiations again with other developers.

Over the next few weeks we will be taking the steps necessary to ready our building to once again host our monthly meetings with the goal of having our October 9 meeting at our Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center. We cannot get out of our lease for the temporary office/warehouse space until April 2024 so we will be moving the office and the rest of our property back into the Masonic Center over the next 6-8 months. From time to time we will be asking for volunteers to help us with the move and I hope you will consider assisting us if you are able.

My Brothers, I greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we deal with these issues. We still need to downsize our building and I am hopeful we can negotiate an acceptable agreement with a new developer on or before the end of the year.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Please continue to support your Blue Lodge, the Valley of Tampa, and Scottish Rite. 🙏

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°

Brethren, plans are being made to move back into the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center at 5500 Memorial Hwy. We are hoping to be back in the building in time for our October 9, 2023, meeting.

We will be able to host Honours Weekend in November and hold Reunions again next year. We will remain there until a new Temple is ready for us to occupy (in about two years.) Volunteers will be needed to assist with moving our paraphernalia back, so if you're willing and able, contact the Scottish Rite office.

Delinquent Members

We are underway with our 2024 dues season; however, as of this date we have 1,265 paying members, 1,242 who have not paid their 2022, 2023 or 2024 dues. All of these dues are to be paid by December 31 of each year. For the members that are in arrears for two years, they will be suspended at the end of this year for non-payment of dues.

If you have financial difficulties and wish to discuss a payment plan, please call the Office for assistance, at (813) 886-0578. 🐼

The Feast of Tishri

On Monday, October 9, the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Tampa will have an open meeting during which we will have a presentation by Brother Stephen Silvers 32°, KCCH featuring the Feast of Tishri.

Book of Leviticus tells us that the Feast of Tishri (also known as the Feast of the Tabernacle and/or The Feast of Succoth) was started when God commanded Moses that "... in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye shall have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days." Thus it was originally a harvest or gathering festival, and a time to give thanks. This feast was still held in the time of King Solomon to the extent that he timed the dedication of the Temple

to coincide with it. As Scottish Rite Masons, it is considered an obligatory observance under the Statutes of the Supreme Council, as a sharing of our fraternal spirit, and a reaffirmation of our dedication to the principles of the Scottish Rite. 🐼

2023 Honors Announced

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we formally announce and congratulate the following brothers for being elected by the Supreme Council to receive the following Scottish Rite Honors at Honours Weekend in November.

Thirty-third Inspectors General Honorary - Elect

Brian B. Campbell, 32° KCCH

Charles R. Jordan, 32° KCCH

Richard A. Vogt, 32° KCCH

Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour - Elect

Charles R. Bailey, 32°

Perry D. Batson, 32°

Robert J. Davis, 32°

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32°

Andrew S. Gluchov, 32°

Reginald J. Guier, 32°

Paul A. Ippolito, 32°

Joseph A. Monday, 32°

Petar Sibinkic, 32°

Jeffery T. Sklet, 32°

These honors will be conferred on November 11 in the Valley of Tampa. While the Thirty-third Coronation is open to 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Masons only, the KCCH Investiture is open to anyone who would like to see it. Please contact the General Secretary for details on these events. 🐼

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 🐼

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.

Pinellas Park Scottish Rite Club

Masonic Home of Florida
3201 1st St., NE,
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Phone: (727) 243-7355
2nd Wednesday of the 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 Nov./Dec. Bulletin

October 2 - Contributor deadline
October 11 - Office contributor deadline
October 13 - Transmit print file to our printer

2023 Fall Reunion

The Fall Reunion for 2023 has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Candidates will be given the opportunity to hold their application over to the 2024 Spring Reunion, or go to either Orlando, Ocala or Ft. Myers for their Fall Reunions. Contact the General Secretary for information. 🐾

Meeting Locations and Schedules for 2023

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

Egypt Shrine

5017 East Washington St.
Tampa, FL 33619
Meeting dates: Sept. 11, 2023

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center

5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7336
Meeting dates: Oct. 9, 2023 Nov. 13, 2023
Dec. 11, 2023

Other important dates:

Honors Weekend Nov. 10 & 11, 2023
at Tampa Scottish Rite
Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7336. 🐾

Editor Wanted

Ill. Gary Schweinsaupt, 33° has been the Editor of the Valley of Tampa's Scottish Rite Bulletin for almost 14 years and has recently indicated a desire to retire. He has graciously offered to stay on for a little longer while we look for his replacement and he has also offered to help the new Editor during the transition.

Please contact the General Secretary if you know someone that you believe would be a good candidate for this job or if you would like to be considered for this position.

The next time you see Ill. Schweinsaupt, please take a few moments to shake his hand and thank him for the time he has volunteered and the work he has put into our Bulletin over these past 14 years. 🐾

**Sovereign
Grand
Commander**
Southern Jurisdiction
by Ill. J. James D. Cole, 33°



It was a beautiful day, though cold and windy. As I entered the dining room of our home, a flash of light caught my eye, darting back and forth across the far wall.

I realized that the phenomenon was caused by sunlight reflecting off the light fixture on the front porch; the movement of the reflection was caused by its movement in the wind. Such a simple moment contained so much symbolism for an observer experienced in the teachings of Freemasonry.

The sun, an element of nature, never moved, and the intensity of its glow only was affected by any interference between it and the object receiving its light. The relatively fragile light fixture was swayed easily by the strong wind, and the resulting reflection was entirely at the mercy of the combination of the other factors.

As members of this Fraternity, we all share a common belief in the existence of Deity, regardless of our chosen religious path. We sometimes refer to that supreme power as the great source of light or enlightenment. We realize that we cannot change the light itself, but we can impact its intensity in our lives. Often we create obstacles for the light, much like tree limbs might shade the light fixture on my porch. At other times, the clouds of life float by, and we can find ourselves focusing on the relative darkness of such cloudy days rather than realizing that somewhere the sun remains visible.

In the greater scheme of things, humans are probably as fragile as that glass light fixture. In reality, we are also as transparent as the clear glass from which the fixture is constructed. Both the good and the bad shine through us, to be viewed easily by others, more than we realize.

Perhaps the light fixture never realized that it was reflecting the sunlight. Certainly, the fixture was unaware of the erratic appearance of the moving reflection that resulted from the effect of the wind. Sometimes humans do not realize how the

stress or wind of their daily concerns affects their impact on the lives of others. Even a gentle breeze moved the reflection significantly on the dining room wall. Perhaps we forget that even a small problem we encounter might then reflect on, and/or impact, the next person we meet.

Unlike the light fixture, as humans, we do have the ability to observe the impact of our reflection on our neighbors. Unfortunately, we too often spend little time contemplating this important reality. However, we as Freemasons, more so than others, should appreciate the role we play as reflectors of the Light from above.

The next time a cloud darkens our day or a small wind of change or despair disrupts us, we should remember our role and choose to be more thoughtful stewards of the Light. 🦉

...continued from Page 1 – Scottish Rite Foundation

Again, there are different plaques depending upon level of lifetime donations. Recognition starts at only \$1,000 in cumulative life-time donations.

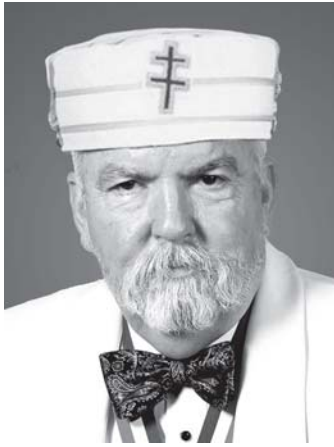
This is our Foundation, yours and mine. When we joined the Scottish Rite we joined a marvelous organization with benefits including wonderful fellowship and great Masonic education, but we also inherited a responsibility to support our foundation to the best of our ability.

Please note: our foundation is the Scottish Rite Foundation of FLORIDA. There are many other Scottish Rite Foundations, but as members in FLORIDA, we want to help the kids in FLORIDA.

As a 501(c)3 non profit charity, the Scottish Rite Foundation is a perfect choice for those individuals over the age of 70 1/2 who are required to make annual disbursements from their individual IRA accounts. It is most definitely a WIN-WIN opportunity for the Foundation and the individual who by law needs to make an annual disbursement.

Please note that 97 cents out of every dollar donated goes directly to the programs at the clinics to help the kids. That means that the Scottish Rite Foundation's total expenses is only 3%, a remarkable achievement!

For more information please feel free to contact me at: 23rd.ddgm2018@gmail.com Thank you for your consideration of support for your Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida. 🦉



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

The first two issues of this year's bulletin included discussions of a recent book, "Virtue Politics—Soul Craft and Statecraft in Renaissance Italy" by James Hankins (1955-).

Generally, "Renaissance" refers to the period 1400-1500 and is associated with Florence. It gave rise to what is sometimes called the "humanist" period. Sages such as Petrarch (1304-74) and Leonardo Bruni (1370-1444) reflected on the corruption and travails of the times and the loss of virtue and moral character of governments, leaders, clergy, and, importantly, the citizenry.

The humanists agreed that a revival of classical antiquity and the study of the seven liberal arts and sciences was needed. The two earlier articles discussed the congruence of humanist thinking and Masonic philosophy. Both "systems" are replete with references to the four cardinal virtues, three theological virtues, and the liberal arts and sciences.

Hankins latest book is "Political Meritocracy in Renaissance Italy—the Virtuous Republic of Francesco Patrizi of Siena." Patrizi (1413-1494), a Bishop, was an important political philosopher of the time. He was the first theorist in European history to have access to almost the entire corpus of ancient Greek political thought and history possessed today. He made good use of them. His aim was to describe and define what a virtuous society should look like—and how to build and maintain it.

Like all humanists, he advocated for the study of the classics, the development of virtue and immersion into the seven liberal arts and sciences.

Patrizi prescribes a system of civic education for a stable republic and its citizens. His views of the liberal arts and sciences are organized differently than Masonic work and are styled as formative, curative, and transformational.

Grammar was foundational and the basis of all other disciplines. Progress in any discipline depends upon the capacity to read and write with comprehension and understanding. He grouped arithmetic, geom-

etry, astronomy, and music into a category "Mathematics." Together, Grammar and Mathematics were considered "formative" for the education of the soul. Through such studies one gains access to a "world of certainty and reality beyond the realm of the senses."

Eloquence (rhetoric) was curative. All deliberations require persuasion and dissuasion "to dig out the truth." Eloquence, Patrizi asserted, healed diseases of the soul, "anger, avarice, fear and excessive" passions. Logic was a sub-category of Eloquence. Employed alone logic may "compel the mind by force of argument," but it often fails to "convince the heart and alter conduct." Perhaps that is why rhetoric is listed before logic in the Fellow Craft Degree.

To his scheme of public education Patrizi added Philosophy and Poetry as liberal arts. He considered these disciplines "transformative." Poetry was "in fact the earliest form of philosophy." "The fables of the poets are really moral tales, rendered far more memorable by the mythical garb and beautiful ... speech."

Masonic ritual is more in the form of legend and myth, rather than of "fable." But our work is certainly full of "moral tales" and at times poetic. Like the poets of ancient times, of Homer and Virgil, we teach and learn through our ritual.

Our ancient brethren wrapped many formative, curative, and transformative lessons about virtue, morality, conduct, education and philosophy into our stories.

We can do well by participating in the Poetry of Masonic ritual. Perhaps, Poetry is our eighth liberal art and science. 🐼

Worshipful Masters & Youth Appreciation Program

At the November Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023 we will again continue our Worshipful Masters and Youth Appreciation Night. We will be honoring our current sitting Worshipful Masters and our Masonic Youth Groups within the Valley of Tampa. We encourage you to attend and show your support for the hard working Worshipful Masters and our Youth Groups. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, November 10, 2023 at (813) 886-0578. 🐼

Prelate

by Richard A.
Vogt, 32° KCCH

King David—A man
after God's own heart!

That is how David has
always been known. He
is revered as, perhaps,
the greatest King that
ever lived. Even greater
than Solomon, the wisest
King that ever lived.

Besides being father and son, they had something
even more important in common. They both trusted
and revered God.

It is normal when we know that our time on this
earth is coming to an end, to speak from our hearts
what is most important and dear to us. King David
was just like us. Here are his words from his death
bed: “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my
deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my strong-
hold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from
violence. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be
praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” 2 Samuel
22:2-4 (ESV). David knew the most important thing
in his life was a personal relationship with God. He
doesn't say the Lord is a rock or a fortress or a
deliverer, etc. Note my underlining. David said God
is his rock, fortress, deliverer, etc. God wants a
personal relationship with all of us. We can read the
Scriptures, attend church, participate in small
groups—this is great and necessary, but that only
lets us know about God. To know God is to get
personal with Him. Prayer!! We need to talk to God
on a daily basis. The Apostle Paul tells us we
should “pray without ceasing.” 1 Thess 5:17.
Praying to God, and having faith that He hears and
answers, makes God personal in your life. Moses
tells us in *Deuteronomy* 6:5, “You shall love the
Lord your God with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind.” Note my underlining
again. YOUR GOD! He is not some god or a god,
but the Living God, Your God. Personal.

Back to the story of David, as he was about to
pass from this world, he called his son Solomon to
his bedside to give Solomon his final advice as a
father. “When David's time to die drew near, he
commanded Solomon his son, saying, “I am about



to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show
yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord
your God, walking in his ways and keeping his
statutes, his commandments, his rules and his
testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses,
that you may prosper in all that you do and wher-
ever you turn.” 1 Kings 2: 1-3(ESV). On his death-
bed, the most important thing to David was his
relationship with God and he wanted desperately to
pass this most important lesson on to his son.

God wants us all to have that same level of
commitment to Him as David did. He wants us all
to be men after God's own heart. He promises us He
will never leave us or forsake us. We just have to
put our faith and trust in Him—on a daily basis.
Prayer is a great way to start—and then—Pray
without ceasing! 🙏

Illustrious Gene Sizemore I Scholarship update

We have received notification from the Scottish
Rite Foundation that \$128,593 in gifts have been
received to fund a Scholarship honoring Illustrious
Brother W. Gene Sizemore I, 33° GC.

Brother Sizemore is recovering from illness, so
the Foundation was not able to have the type of
announcement and presentation they wanted to
have. Instead our current Grand Executive Director,
Illustrious Brother Bill G. Sizemore II, 33° GC
delivered the news to him personally. “Gene” sent
word through “Bill” that he was deeply honored by
this gesture and thankful that his Brothers put forth
this effort.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the
Brothers of the Valley of Tampa for your generous
contributions to the Sizemore Scholarship. Because
of you and other Brothers, the Foundation surpassed
their goal to endow this with at least \$50,000. Because
of you, worthy students will have help with achieving
their dreams of higher education for years to come.

Thank you again for your service to our commu-
nity and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love
and Charity, while actively embracing the values of
fellowship, compassion and dedication to God,
family and country. 🙏

Tampa Scottish Rite Office
George Road Business Park
4515 George Road, Suite 370
Tampa, FL 33634

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Scottish Rite Bulletin
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September - October 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



Jack B. Berthy, 32°
06/21/23 age 83
Largo, FL

George Kosan, 32°
06/23/23 age 96
Brandon, FL

Curtis J. Timm, 32°
07/26/23 age 94
Sarasota, FL

John R. Harden Jr., 32°
06/25/23 age 94
Winter Haven, FL

Parker C. Payne, 32°
01/01/22 age 78
Lakeland, FL

Chris E. Trakas, 32°
06/15/23 age 73
Winter Haven, FL

Donald L. Hawkins, 32°
07/31/23 age 91
Mulberry, FL

Joseph L. Reed, 32°
11/20/22 age 90
Jacksonville, FL

Michael E. Woodley, 32° KCCH
06/18/23 age 57
Frostproof, FL

Sherman L. Hendry, 32°
06/18/23 age 93
Englewood, FL

David L. Skinner, 32°
05/23/23 age 90
Clearwater, FL

Joe M. Wright, 32°
09/18/22 age 90
Bradenton, FL