



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. 6 • November - December 2023

www.tampascottishrite.org

Worshipful Master Recognition Night

An open meeting will be held at Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 5500 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Florida, Monday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. Please read notice on page 5 that will explain everything.

The Symbolic Degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry are the foundations and cornerstone on which all Appendant bodies, clubs and Masonic organizations are based. In recognition of the outstanding work done by the particular lodges, the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa, is sponsoring a **Worshipful Master “Recognition Night.”** All sitting Worshipful Masters will be individually recognized. All officers and members of the Worshipful Master’s Lodge will also be recognized.

This will be an open meeting. Bring friends, family and Brothers of your Lodge to support these Worshipful Masters. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. This recognition will begin at 7:00 p.m.

As usual, our monthly dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. As of this writing, the menu has not been decided, it will be communicated to by email, on or about November 1.

Please allow us to accommodate you, your guests and members of your lodge, by making reservations no later than Monday, November 6 by calling Trish at the Scottish Rite office, (813) 886-0578.

With your help, we will make this a memorable evening for **Your Worshipful Master.** 🦅

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°

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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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Ill. Charles C. Osborne, 33°

My Brothers: It is hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of 2023.

Well, it's Monday October 9 and I'm in my hotel room in Phoenix finishing up my article for the November - December Bulletin, but wishing I was back in Tampa to experience with you our first meeting back at our Scottish Rite Masonic Center since

we moved out in April of 2022. I want to thank the Brothers that have worked very hard to get our building ready for our meeting tonight. I expect there will be a few "hiccups" tonight, but I'm sure they will pale in comparison to the overwhelming joy you will feel being home.

As we get ready to close out 2023, we still have several important events for the Valley of Tampa.

Once again we are honored to be chosen to host the Honors Weekend for the Orient of Florida. This year's weekend is extra special because it is dedicated to the memory of our own Ill. Russell B. Glendinning, 33° Personal Representative to the Valley of Tampa and Special Assistant to Ill. Richard G. Hoover, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Florida.

The 33rd Degree Coronation on Saturday morning, November 11 is only open to all 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Masons, but the KCCH Investiture that afternoon is open to the public. I hope you will all come out to support these Brothers as they receive these honors. I'm confident Ill. Rusty will be enjoying the festivities from his honored place above.

On Monday, November 13 we will be honoring our Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in our jurisdiction as well as our Masonic Youth. I hope you can find it in your schedule to join us that night to show your support for these dedicated Men and our Youth. Remember this is an Open Meeting so you can invite your family and friends to join us.

On Monday, December 11 we will have our elections for 2024. This is a very important meeting as you will be deciding the leadership to guide our Valley in the coming year. Please plan to attend and make your voice heard.

Finally, please remember to pay your 2024 dues as well as your 2023 dues if they are still outstanding. If you find yourself in a financial bind, please contact the office. We have several Brothers that have offered to provide funds for those Brothers rather than allow you to go NPD. 🐼

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: The year is rapidly coming to a close. This is a reminder that renewals for 2024 are due by December 31, 2023. We don't want to lose any Brother due to non-

payment of dues. If you're having financial difficulty, please contact the office and we can work something out.

After a year and a half absence, we're now meeting back in the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center! Our first meeting back was our October 9, 2023 meeting and was well attended (see photo below.) This was our Annual Feast of Tishri. Brother Steve Silvers, 32° KCCH, gave a talk on the history of the Feast of Tishri what it means for Scottish Rite Masons.

Now that we're back home, there are some changes of which you need to be aware.

Our caterer, Brother Luis Rovira, 32°, has moved on to other pastures. That means for the time being, dinners are going to be catered from outside. Because of that, it is imperative that you call to make dinner reservations no later than the Thursday before the meeting. We need to have an accurate head count as to how many dinners we need to order.

That also means that prices for dinners are going up slightly to \$15.00/person. With the rise in prices, we can't cover the cost of the meals by paying what we used to pay. I apologize for the inconvenience.

Moving Day

On Tuesday, September 26, members of the Valley of Tampa got together to begin the process of moving us back into the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center from our temporary office/warehouse location. Thanks to Brothers Paul Barber, 32° KCCH, Mike Griffin, 32° KCCH, Rick Wendling, 32°



After a year and a half absence, we're now meeting back in the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center! Our first meeting back was our October 9, 2023 meeting and was well attended. This was our Annual Feast of Tishri.

Until we have a new home in which to move, all meetings will be held in the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center. That includes Honors Weekend. The 33rd Degree Coronation as well as the 32nd Degree KCCH Investiture.

KCCH, and John Vogt, 32°, for their hard work in moving furniture for the Lodge room and dining room.

A lot was accomplished in one day, but there is still more moving to be done. Any Brother able and willing to help should contact the General Secretary. 🐼

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 Jan./Feb.

December 4 - Contributor deadline
December 13 - Office contributor deadline
December 16 - Transmit print file to our printer



Building Project Update

by Chas Jordan, 32° KCCH,
Project Manager

My brothers, here we come into the final quarter of 2023, and I feel heavy with the fact that this project has not moved forward as we had hoped and planned. As many of

you know by now, we have been informed by our development partner, The Onicx Group, that the original proposal and development agreement terms that we entered, would no longer work for the development of our property and construction of our new temple. This was a personal body blow to me; due to the time I and the Valley office and executive staff have committed over the past two years to seeing this project be a success. When Rusty asked me to work on this project with him, I knew that the road to completion would not be a straight or easy one, but to have to start from the beginning again was not something I expected.

This summer, after this notification was given, and the added information that the value that could come from the development was much less than originally agreed upon, I recommended to the Temple Association, the Executive Committee, and the SGIG that we needed to move back into our existing facility and seek alternative options. Thank you to those brothers, and to the Valley in general, for agreeing with those recommendations.

So where do we go from here? I will say, that while this was a huge speed bump, that is all that it is. We already have multiple parties interested in discussing the purchase or development of our property in similar or new agreement terms than those we found favorable with Onicx. I am very optimistic that this may mean an even better situation for us, than the one we previously agreed to. That being said, that process will again take time, and we will probably be back in our existing building for a while again, which I am personally happy to see us home to continue to grow our Valley.

As we move forward, it is my goal that as we continue this project, we meet the financial expectations of the Valley in completing this deal, that we

can stay in our facility until we can move into a new one, instead of using a secondary location, and that we can move into a facility our Valley can truly be proud of. This probably means we will need to move to a different property location, which based upon the experiences we had during this process, is probably best for our Valley anyway.

I look forward to continuing to move this project forward (even if I am losing hair by the year with it now) and I sincerely hope my brothers of the Valley of Tampa accepts my apologies for this inconvenience, and continues to trust I will do my utmost to guarantee our Valley has a great home for many years to come. 🐾

November Monthly Meeting

We are again this year, continuing our Worshipful Master and Masonic Youth Appreciation Program at our November meeting. At this meeting we will be honoring our Masonic Youth Groups and the sitting Worshipful Masters of the 59 Lodges within the Valley of Tampa. We encourage you to attend and show your support for our youth groups and our hard-working Worshipful Masters.

As in the past, we ask that if you or your lady were members of the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters you are encouraged to wear any regalia from those organizations to this meeting.

It is also the Official Visit of Ill. : Richard Hoover, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida. Please make your plans to be with us on November 13 as we receive Ill. : Hoover. 🐾

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.

Knight of the Double Eagle Awards will be presented at the December 11 Closed Meeting. 🐾

Meeting Locations and Schedules for 2023

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

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center

5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7336

Meeting dates 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. 🐾

Check your Dues Card

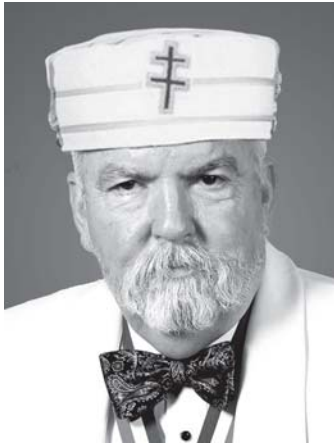
Brothers if you have not attended a Scottish Rite meeting or activity lately, please take this moment to verify that your dues card is current. You may make payment online at www.tampascottishrite.org or by calling the office at (813) 886-0578. We accept Visa, Discover and Master Card. Purchases at the Valley Emblem Shop may be paid with credit or debit cards also. 🐾

Editor Wanted

Ill. Gary Schweinshaupt, 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. Schweinshaupt, 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. 🐾



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Masonic presentations at our Consistory meetings this year have included a series of three programs examining the 9th, 10th, and 11th Degrees, named Elus of 9, 15, and 12,

respectively. In these degrees, the role and symbolism of the Ruffians is addressed. The Blue Lodge deals with the Ruffians in the second section of the Master Mason Degree. The Scottish Rite does so in these three degrees.

Their plots plainly present a tale of crime and punishment, but our ancient brethren probably did not offer them for their entertainment value—hidden within are allegories and symbols that require thought and reflection. Action is encouraged on our part.

The 9th Degree deals with Jubelum. Parts of it can be troubling to the discerning mind. It seems to be about retribution and vengeance—not Justice. However, a deeper look reveals that he symbolizes our ignorance. Pike observed that “Ignorance, symbolized by Jubelum ... is the principal enemy of human freedom. It is ... to be everywhere smitten with the ... dagger of Truth.”

In other interpretations, Jubelum represents Tyranny.

The 10th Degree, Elu of the 15, continues the saga with the apprehension of the other two Ruffians, Jubela and Jubelo. These assassins symbolize our ambition and fanaticism.

Taken together, the three ruffians are the chief enemies of freedom. Ignorance impedes, ambition denies, and fanaticism imposes. To this list of vices, other commentators add intolerance.


The degrees also offer political ideas. A free press is alluded to in the 9th. The 9th and 10th Degrees together suggest a government should possess an upper and lower house of legislators. The 11th Degree highlights an independent judiciary and espouses the right of trial by jury—a right that, Pike asserts, is more important than the right to vote.

Weaving together the symbolism of the Ruffians with the political ideas, it appears implausible that any form(s) of government will achieve liberty,

equality and fraternity in the face of ignorance, unbridled ambition, intolerance and fanaticism. This reminds us that *individual* virtue, morality and character matter.

There is much more to ponder in these three degrees; many metaphors, visual symbols, allegories, numerology, mystical ideas, religious references ... continued study will reveal lessons of value.

We all have some ruffian in us. Perhaps, what we learn from the ruffians and glean from the political narrative of the 9th through the 11th Degrees is: individual conduct and action matter. What we do matters to us and our communities. Who we are matters, too. These three degrees are a call for our individual action.

At a future meeting, the 12th Degree, Master Architect will be examined. 

Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry

The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) commissioned the most comprehensive, data-driven analysis of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry in more than 20 years. The results of that study are outlined by former Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton in his seminal work, *Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry*. The book forms the strategy that will guide the Scottish Rite as our fraternity creates new resources for members, completely revamps its use of technology, and inspires all Brothers to feel deep pride in the organization.

“According to the data, we can be sure, finally, that this is not an organization out of step with society. In fact, trends point to the opportunity for a renewed interest and period of growth.” – John Wm. McNaughton, Past Grand Commander NMJ

To design and execute this research, the Supreme Council (NMJ) worked with Cercone Brown Company (CBC), an independent research and marketing firm with national and international clients, specializing in mission-based organizations. Surveys were conducted on two groups:

Group I: Scottish Rite Membership

To better understand member retention and satisfac-

tion, The member survey was offered to more than 24,000 Scottish Rite Masons throughout the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 3,000 members responded.

Group II: Non-Masons

A second survey was developed and administered to 1,000 men across the United States (ages 21-65.) This phase of research allowed us to better understand American men today and inform member recruitment by gauging interest in the values and lifestyle of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry.

Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry is available on Kindle. <https://www.amazon.com/Reclaiming-Soul-Freemasonry-John-McNaughtonebook/dp/B075RFVXF9>

Editor's Note: When I first published this article, the book "*Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry*" was only available from Amazon on Kindle or via the NMJ for \$19.95, it is now available online for free at: https://issuu.com/srnmj/docs/reclaiming_freemasonry_kindle_final.docx 🐼

Master Craftsman Symbolic Lodge

The Master Craftsman Symbolic Lodge Zoom Study Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. During the meetings we go over the quiz for that lesson and provide the page number where the answers can be found in the reading material. The session last about 45 minutes, but will never go over 60 minutes. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Lesson 5 - November 22, 2023

Lesson 6 - December 27, 2023

Lesson 7 - January 24, 2024

(Last lesson for Symbolic Lodge)

We will start our Zoom Study Group for Master Craftsman - Ritual & History on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

If you would like to join our study group, please email me at RWChuckOsborne@gmail.com so I can send you the login information for the zoom meetings. 🐼

Prelate

by Richard A.
Vogt, 32° KCCH

Romans 8:5. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."



What do we mean by "the flesh" and setting your minds on things of the flesh? The flesh is all those earthly things that make us who we are apart from God. It is all those things that the "Ten Commandments" warn us about. It is the sin that has come into the world through the man "Adam" and therefore, has condemned all men to death. The Law was given that we may know what sin is. And try as we may, none of us can ever be completely sinless. It is only through the power of God that we can overcome our sin natures. And the power of God comes to us who believe by the Holy Spirit. Paul writes, "For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." Romans 8:6 (ESV).

To live according to the Spirit and to set our minds on the things of the Spirit means that we are a new creation. Our very wants and desires will change from our earthly lusts, covetness, anger, etc. to the things that please God: Love, Charity, Faith, and Hope. All the things that will bring us life and peace. For those who believe, the Spirit of God dwells in you and, "the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Romans 8:10 (ESV). The fruit of the Spirit according to Gal. 5:22 is, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of God." Gal 6:1-2 (ESV). This is exactly what Masonry is all about. It is why the Bible is the first of the Great Lights. I'll leave you with one last quote: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:14-15 (ESV) 🐼

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Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 46 No. 6
November - December 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



Larry L. Brown, 32°
10/03/23 age 81
Clearwater, FL

Robert B. Heinly, 32°
08/31/23 age 95
Brandon, FL

Richard D. Riley, 32°
05/11/23 age 89
Bradenton, FL

Richard S. Cowan, 32° KCCH
09/19/23 age 93
Tampa, FL

Joseph P. Morgan, 33°
09/09/23 age 79
Palm Harbor, FL

Ray B. Saxton, 32°
08/16/23 age 92
Plant City, FL

William Ewald, 32°
06/06/23 age 95
Hudson, FL

George A. Neukom Jr., 32°
09/05/23 age 88
Dade City, FL

Larry J. Wooten, 32°
09/15/23 age 79
Wesley Chapel, FL

Barney D. Hall, 32°
04/10/23 age 84
Auburndale, FL

John F. Riggle Jr., 32°
02/17/23 age 88
Pinellas Park, FL