

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 47 No. 1 • January - February 2024

www.tampascottishrite.org

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida

SOTTISH RITE MASON

Current Needs & Future Plans

Thanks to the generosity of Scottish Rite members throughout the national and local Foundations,

which provide financial support for our Childhood Language Disorder Clinics and Programs, thousands of children have been evaluated and successfully treated in a nurturing environment.

Miracles CAN happen and with skillful evaluation and treatment, miracles are happening in Scottish Rite facilities in

HELPHILDREN COMMI Florida and throughout the United States. However, more clinics and programs are needed to help all the

children with these problems.

Also, Scottish Rite Clinics already in existence continue to need donations for additional therapists, instructional materials, special equipment and improved facilities.

Report Card To Donors

We place a high priority on ensuring that donations are used wisely, and we are proud of the fact, as illustrated by the graph above 97 cents of every dollar contributed went directly to our mission: "Helping Children Communicate."

We pride ourselves on being faithful stewards of the funds that have been graciously donated by individuals, corporations and organizations nation-

> wide. In all, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, Inc, 501(3)(c), has generated more than nine million dollars in support of our clinics since its inception in 1962.

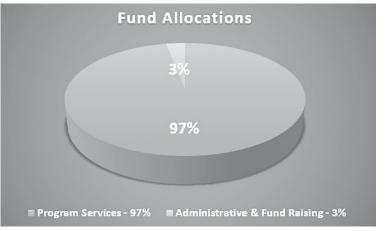
A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free within the state (1-800-

435-7352). Registration does not imply endorsement, appproval or recommendation by the state.

> For more information, visit the The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida website at: http://srfof.org

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

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



Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°
Chairman
Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory
Josesph A. Severino, 32°
Commander - Council of Kadosh
Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix
Glen B. Bishop, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection
John N. Dragneff, 32°

Prior
Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH John E. Drewett, 33° Robert J. Leonard, Sr., 32° Joseph A. Monday, 32° KCCH

VALLEY OF TAMPA CONTACTS

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Trish Warhul

Administrative Assistant (813) 886-0578 adminassistant@tampascottishrite.org

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Charles D. Walter, 32° KCCH

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treasurer@srtampa.org

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Director of Work – Member Education dow@srtampa.org

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contact@tampascottishrite.org

Gary C. Schweinshaupt, 33° *Bulletin Editor* bulletin@srtampa.org



Personal Representative

Ill∴ Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Brethren: Happy New Year!!!!
I hope you and your Family had a very enjoyable Holiday and are now looking forward as I am to more normalcy in 2024 since we are back in our building at 5500 Memorial Highway. The last eighteen (18) months have been a challenge, but now that we are "home," it's time to get excited again

about being a Scottish Rite Mason.

This year we are once again conferring degrees during our Reunions. Initially we will be conferring the mandatory five (5) Degrees so if you are a cast member of the 4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, or 32nd Degree, now is the time to start reacquainting yourself with your part. The Spring Reunion will be honoring Illustrious James E. Bradford, 33° and is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, which is about four (4) months away. Now is the time to start talking about the Scottish Rite with your Blue Lodge Brothers and getting those petitions submitted. We have started using a new caterer for our meals and so far the feedback I have received has been very positive. The menus for our January and February meetings are listed in the coming events section of the bulletin and it is my understanding that our caterer can prepare just about anything we want. So... if you have some suggestions for future meals, please forward them to the office so we can discuss them with the caterer. Our cost is currently \$12 per plate, but that could increase to \$15 per plate based on the menu we request.

I want to congratulate the Brothers elected to serve the Valley of Tampa for 2024. Specifically, I am talking about our new Master of Kadosh, Brother Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH, our new Commander of Kadosh, Brother Joseph A. Severino, 32°, our new Wise Master, Brother Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH (Deputy Grand Master of Masons of Florida), and our new Venerable Master, Brother Glen B. Bishop, 32° KCCH (Grand Master of Masons of Florida.) These Brothers along with the members of the Executive Committee will be working hard during 2024 to provide the leadership and new ideas necessary for us to have a successful year. To accomplish this goal we will need the support and participation of as many of our members as possible.

I also want to thank the many Brothers that worked hard in 2023 for the benefit of the Valley. I especially want to thank our outgoing heads of the Bodies, Brother Chase Harrison, 32°, Brother Drew Baldwin, 32° KCCH, Brother Joey Davis, 32° KCCH, and Brother

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.

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH. I hope we can continue to count on your leadership and participation in the activities and functions we will have going forward at the Valley Tampa.

In closing with the words of Ill.: Russell B. Glendinning, 33°, "brethren I ask again that you do what you can for your Scottish Rite in 2024. That may be attending Consistory meetings, Club meetings, volunteering your time for projects that need to be accomplished or encouraging your Blue Lodge brethren who are not members of the Scottish Rite to take that next step in Freemasonry. As always, ideas and suggestions are always welcomed and encouraged."

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. with Dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. The cost for the Dinner will be \$12 per person unless otherwise noted. Since we are currently using an outside caterer for our meals, it is very important that you make your reservations no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the Monday meeting so the caterer has sufficient time to purchase the food for the Monday night meeting.

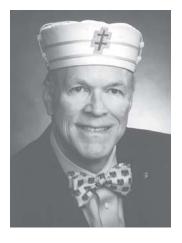
Regular meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Visit the Valley of Tampa website for the latest information on meetings and events.

January 8, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting
Knights of St. Andrew Meeting
Scottish Rite Guard Meeting
Annual Installation of Officers - Open Meeting
Dinner - Piccadillo with yellow rice, black beans,
plantains, salad and cookies

February 12, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting
Knights of St. Andrew Meeting
Scottish Rite Guard Meeting
Knight Commander Court of Honour Meeting
Closed Meeting
Dinner - Cuban fried pork chunks, moro rice, yuca, mixed sala, and cookies



General Secretary

by Scott McAlister, 33°

Brethren, Happy New Year! I trust you enjoyed the holidays in the company of family and friends.

The 2024 dues payments are to have been paid no later than December 31, 2023. If you have

not already done so, please remit \$122 to the attention of the General Secretary at your earliest convenience.

There are several ways you can pay. One is through the Supreme Council's website at www.scottishrite.org. Click Member Login, enter your usename and password, and click View and Pay Dues.

Another is to go to the Tampa Scottish Rite website at www.tampascottishrite.org. Go to the Membership dropdown and click on Payments and Contributions.

Or you can mail a check to the office, or call us and we can take your credit card info over the phone.

If for some reason you are having problems with making your dues payment, please contact the General Secretary for assistance at (813) 886-0578. We will work with you in arranging a payment schedule.

If you went through a Reunion in the past couple of years and have not received your patent, please call the office and let us know if you would like us to mail it to you or present it to you at one of our meetings.

From The General Secretary

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

Michael J. St. Laurent, 32° KCCH

Dual

Charles A. Dyer, 32° Paul R. Evancoe, 33°

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

40489 US 19N Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 Phone: (727) 403-6511

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 March/April

February 5 - Contributor deadline

February 13 - Office contributor deadline

February 16 - Transmit print file to our printer

2024 Valley Officers

Tampa Consistory

Master of Kadosh	Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH
Prior	John N. Dragneff, 32°
Preceptor	James F. Charrette, 32°
Chancellor	John K. Bush, 32°
Minister of State	Perry D. Batson, 32° KCCH
Marshal of Ceremonies	Charles A. Wolbert, III, 32°
Expert	Richard R. Whitmyer, 32° KCCH
Asst. Expert	Kenneth E. Ammons, 32°
Capt. of the Guard	Kenneth L. Tutor, 32°

Tampa Council of Kadosh

Commander	Joseph A. Severino, 32°
1st Lt. Commander	William C. Klinke, 32° KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander	Gary W. Gordon, 32°
Chancellor	V. Kirk Hinote, 32°
Orator	Jack W. Hampton, Jr., 32° KCCH
Marshal of Ceremonies	Roy A. Chattelle, 32°
	Glenn H. Guterman, 32°
	John H. Eaton, 32°
First Deacon	John D. Vogt, 32°
Second Deacon	Ernesto Hernandez-San Martin, 32°
Bearer of Beausant	Charles A. Dyer, 32°
Bearer White Standard.	Samuel McPhearson, 32°
Bearer Black Standard.	
Lt. of the Guard	TBD

Tampa Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Michael E. Manning, 32°
Orator	Gary R. Roane, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Rusty B. Valle, 32°
Expert	Jamal J. Redfurn, 32°
Asst. Expert	Billy D. Scott III, 32°
Standard Bearer	Reginald J. Guier, 32° KCCH
Guardian of the Temple	Anthony L. Sauls, 32°

Tampa Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Glen B. Bishop, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Tommy F. Tyner, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Charles R. Bailey, 32° KCCH
Orator	James R. Mc Kiney, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	William R. Hughes, 32°
Expert	Michael J. Acosta, 32°
Asst. Expert	Nicholas Ferrario, 32°
Captain of the Host	Michael S. Griffin, 32° KCCH

For the Four Coordinate Bodies

General Secretary	Ill: Scott McAlister, 33°
Treasurer	Ill: Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°
Almoner	Charles D. Walter, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Ill: Richard A. Vogt, 33°
Tiler	Andres L. Morin, 32° KCCH

Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH Master of Kadosh

Brother Sklet was born in New Jersey, but was raised in Oklahoma. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, he moved around for work with stents in Texas and Arkansas



before finding his way to Florida in 2006. Currently he is the Executive Director at the Pasco County Housing Authority. The Housing Authority manages 399 units of low-income housing through various programs as well as around 1,500 housing choice vouchers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He serves as a board director for the Coalition for Homeless of Pasco County and the Pasco County Housing Finance Authority as well as the Masonic Park and Youth Camp.

In June 2009, he petitioned J.F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on June 11, 2009, passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on September 29, 2009 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on December 10, 2009. He joined the Lodge's officer line in 2010 as the Tyler. He worked his way up the line and served as Worshipful Master in 2014. He currently serves as the Lodge's Treasurer.

Brother Sklet became a Master of the Royal Secret in 2016. He joined the Consistory Officer Line the next year and work he way up the various positions to eventually become the Master of Kadosh. During his time at the Valley of Tampa, Brother Sklet has enjoyed participating in several of the Degrees. While Brother Sklet is an active Scottish Rite Mason, he is also very active with his Lodge, the York Rite, the Shrine, the Grotto, Knight Masons, the Red Cross of Constantine and the Allied Masonic Degrees.

In recognition of his commitment to the Scottish Rite and to Freemasonry, Brother Sklet was invested with the Rank and Dignity of a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 2023.

In his spare time, Brother Sklet enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, cooking, eating at new places and an occasional round of golf.

Donald (Don) W. Cowart, 32° KCCH Wise Master

Brother Don Cowart, 32° KCCH will serve as the Valley of Tampa's Wise Master in the Chapter of Rose Croix in 2024.





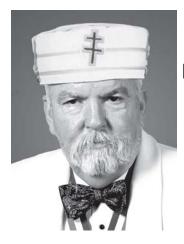
Florida. He spent his formable years growing up in Alachua County. He attended elementary, junior, and high school in Gainesville. He moved to Brandon, Florida in the summer of 1966. While living in Brandon, he attended Brandon High School. He graduated from Brandon in June of 1969. He attended Hillsborough Community College for two years.

In September of 1969 he started a 41-year career with General Telephone and Electronics. He was a Cable Splicer for about 3 to 4 years before being promoted to Management as an Outside Plant Construction Manager. He retired in November of 2010. Brother Cowart is married to Lady Dell.

Our Wise Master was initiated an Entered Apprentice on November 1, 1977, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 31, 1978, and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 7, 1978. Brother Cowart became a Scottish Rite Mason on May 11, 1985, at the Valley of Tampa. Brother Cowart was installed as Worshipful Master of Brandon Lodge No. 114 in 2013, installed as District Deputy Grand Master in 2015, Senior Grand Steward in 2017, Worshipful Grand Marshal in 2019, elected Junior Grand Warden in 2021, Senior Grand Warden in 2022, and Deputy Grand Master in 2023.

Brother Cowart is a member of the following Allied and Appendant Bodies: Royal Order of Scotland, Maxwell Clan, Egypt Temple Shrine, Brandon Shrine Club, Zendah Grotto, Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County, York Rite-Plant City Chapter #16 R.A.M., Tyler Council #4 R&SM, Plant City Commandry #6 KT, and Order of the Eastern Star- DeSoto Chapter No. 201.

In his spare time enjoys promoting Masonry and Scottish Rite Masonry.



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

The 31st Degree, Inspector Inquisitor or Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries, is derived from the Book of the Dead. Generically, the Book of the Dead refers to multiple ancient papyrus

scrolls written in Egypt from about 1700 BCE to about 1200 BCE. They include discourses about funeral rites, justice, right conduct and the afterlife. Written in hieroglyphics, the scrolls were discovered by Europeans during the Middle Ages in coffins and burial chambers.

Some modern scholars suggest a better title for the scrolls should be something like "Coming Forth into the Light." That translation, "coming forth into the Light," has a Masonic ring to it. It might remind us of a scene at the brow of a small hill.

Many of the scrolls include scenes in which a departed soul is examined and ultimately judged by Egyptian deities. The 31st Degree draws upon and adapts several versions of the examination.

In one version of the examination, the gods begin by saying to the soul, in effect, "make your case. Convince us that you are pure and noble; fit and worthy" to dwell with the gods in the realm of Light.

So, the soul gives it his best shot. He offers positive affirmations of his deeds, character, and conduct—an explanation of his life. He has obeyed the laws, lived properly and soberly; not neglected the worship of the gods, honored contracts; paid debts, taxes, and tributes; undertaken only lawful usury, committed no crimes; harmed or oppressed no man; he has contributed to charity; he has followed the rules and performed his prescribed duties. He has been fair in all dealings.

And the response of the gods? In effect, they say "... is that it? You have done your duty—but we cannot help but notice that you merely refrained from doing unlawful activities and that you did absolutely nothing more than is expected of any decent human being." Ouch!

The gods further question the Candidate, question us—remember we are all candidates. They

inquire about what is in the heart by asking twenty questions. As usual in the ritual, a guide answers for the candidate—but we must answer for ourselves.

Some deal with vices that are not unlawful e.g., anger, envy, selfishness, but they are vices, nonetheless. Though the gods do not use the word they inquire about schadenfreude. Schadenfreude is feeling pleasure about another person's misfortune, perhaps because they are disliked, deserve misfortune, or are a rival of some kind. It is a vice unhealthy for the individual and for society at large. As Masons, we endeavor to remove such a vice from our thoughts and conduct—a tall order.

The Book of the Dead and the degree remind us, indeed admonish us, that adherence to ethical codes, commandments, civil regulations, moral creeds, and even Masonic obligations, are just a starting point—they are a minimum standard. We should not expect recognition, medals, certificates, or jewels for simply doing what is expected of us. Performance of our duty, whatever we perceive it to be, is a minimum standard for life.

The 31st Degree therefore raises the bar for our conduct. It challenges us to remove all vices from our character and to be "eager to do more than strict duty requires," that we might someday rise up from the brow of that small hill and Come Forth into the Light of Day.

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.

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

Prelate

by Richard A. Vogt, 33°

Another year has come and gone. We rejoice at the opportunity that a new year brings us. We look back on 2023 and we think about all the things we woulda, coulda, shoulda done. We think back on our losses—



perhaps family and loved ones, our Masonic Brothers, missed opportunities—and we vow to do better in the new year. After all, isn't that what New Year's Resolutions are for? We also look back on what is happening in our communities and our country, and we perhaps become downhearted for all the tragedies we see occurring every day. How can we be helping to fight two wars at the same time? How can crime and racial hatred be so rampant and mass murders happen almost daily? Why can we not afford our groceries anymore and our life saving medications? Why is there so much homelessness, especially among our veterans? IS THERE NO GOD?

I assure, my Brothers, that there is a God; and He is a loving God. Bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to bad people. That is the way of our human existence. Sin came into the world because of a bad choice made in the Garden of Eden, and we are still experiencing the consequences. God does not cause our difficulties in life—We do! Or at least we suffer because of what other humans do. We are all connected in one way or another. Keep that in mind—what we do probably will affect someone you don't even know. But I digress.

Now that I have rained on your parade a little, let me get to the good news. God has promised to be with us throughout ALL of our lives if we but put our faith in Him. Let's look at Psalm 121, a Song of Ascents, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber not sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ The sum shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore."

God has promised He will never leave us or forsake us. And He promises this for all eternity. Bad things happen, good things happen. God is with us through all of it. Do you need help, ask Him who created the heaven and the earth. Is life going good right now, praise Him for watching over you and your family. Make God the center of your everyday life. Thank Him when you awaken for giving you a new day. Thank Him when you go to sleep for watching over you that day. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." As Masons we all swear that we believe in one Supreme Being—by whatever name you call Him. Don't just believe that He exists, but have faith in who He says He is!

Annual Installation of Officers

On January 8, 2024, we will install the officers who will lead the Valley of Tampa for the 2024 year. Along with the officers of the four coordinate bodies, we will also install the officers of the Knights of St. Andrew, Knight Commander Court of Honour Organization, Past Masters Organization, Scottish Rite Guard and our Scottish Rite Clubs. The installation is open to all members, their families, and friends. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the Installation to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that when you accept an elected or appointed position, you take an Oath to attend our monthly meetings and any Scottish Rite activity. You are to call the office prior to monthly meetings to be excused due to work or health problems. You will be required to wear a white jacket, black trousers, black shoes, a black bow tie and your Scottish Rite Cap. Please be sure to have your 2024 Scottish Rite Dues Card to show the Tyler when requested. If you have not paid your 2024 dues, please call the office at (813) 886-0578 to arrange payment.

The installation is open to all members, their families, and friends. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the Installation to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center 5500 Memorial Highway Tampa, Florida 33634-7336

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Scottish Rite Bulletin Volume 47 No. 1 January - February 2024

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 E. Bradford, 33° 12/03/23 age 95 St. Petersburg, FL

Charles W. Campbell, 32° 08/30/23 age 83 Homosassa, FL Barnes G. McDonell, 32° 10/02/23 age 7 4 Lakeland, FL

C. Donald Prosser, 33° 11/07/23 age 89 Tampa, FL

Kenneth N. Shepherd, 32° 1/31/23 age 81 Zephyrhills, FL

Russell H. Snively ,32° 09/19/23 age 82 Winter Haven, FL