

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. 2 - MARCH – APRIL 2024

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG



Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal



During our upcoming meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center, we will be honoring those who have passed away between our 2023 Annual Ceremony of Remembrance and April 2024. Please join Wise Master Donald W. Cowart, 32° KCCH and the Tampa Chapter of Rose Croix in this beautiful and moving tribute to our departed brethren.

This Ceremony, which was formerly called Maundy Thursday, is obligatory to all members of the Chapter of Rose Croix. Ill. Brother Barry Hart, 33°, Degree Master and his Degree Team from the Sarasota Scottish Rite Club have agreed once again to perform this Ceremony for the Valley. The Ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. and in addition to the families of our fallen brothers, all Masons and non- Masons are invited to attend.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OFFICERS**

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°
Chairman

Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Joseph 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

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Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°
Treasurer

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John E. Drewett, 33°

Robert J. Leonard, Sr., 32°

Joseph A. Monday, 32° KCCH

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**PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

During the months of March and April we have three (3) very important events scheduled. I am talking about our 8th Annual Feast of Kadosh, the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, and our Spring Reunion.

The first event will be our 8th Annual Feast of Kadosh which will occur during dinner at our meeting on Monday, March 11th. This Feast celebrates the founding of the Knights Templar in 1119 and more details may be found in a separate section in this Bulletin.

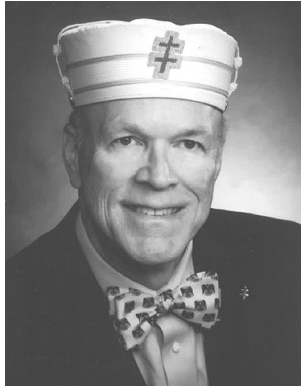
The next event will be the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at our meeting on Monday, April 8th. This is an obligatory observance sponsored by the Chapter of Rose Croix where members of the Chapter of Rose Croix celebrate both the beginning and end of life. The ceremony is open to one and all as we honor those members of the Chapter of Rose Croix who have left our midst in the past year. I encourage you to attend this year. The teachings make this ceremony one of the best that the Scottish Rite has for members and non-members alike.

Finally, we have a one (1) day Spring Reunion named in honor of Illustrious Brother James E. Bradford and scheduled for Saturday, April 27th. During this Reunion we will be conferring the five (5) mandatory degrees (4th – Secret Master; 14th – Perfect Elu; 18th– Knight Rose Croix; 30th – Knight Kadosh; and 32nd – Master of the Royal Secret). Please note that April 27th is less than eight (8) weeks away so I need everyone to make a special effort to bring in those petitions from our Blue Lodge Brothers.

This will be the first time in a couple of years that we will be conferring Degrees. During the last two years we have lost several members of committees that were involved with the Reunions. Perhaps you can help the Credentials & Registration Committee, Stage & Floor Properties Committee, Sound and Light Committee, or Wardrobe & Make-up Committee. I hope you will contact the Scottish Rite Office, if you have any interest in helping these committees.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this Bulletin we will be close to completing the relocation back to the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center. There is still a possibility that we will need assistance in moving some items as well as getting things arranged in the building. If you are called upon to assist, I hope you will be in a position to help us and I thank you in advance for your assistance.

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GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

Brethren,

Do you carry a Scottish Rite petition with you? The Spring Reunion, named in memory of Ill. James E. Bradford, 33° (see page 6) is quickly approaching. As of this writing, we have six petitions. We need more. Talk to you Blue Lodge Brothers who are in search of still further light in Masonry. If you find a Brother who wants to join the Scottish Rite but don't have a petition on you, you can find one on the Supreme Council website at:

<https://scottishrite.org/membership-services/how-to-join/>

and click Download Petition. Fill in all the blanks and click Submit. Once the online petition is submitted, the Supreme Council will notify our office. You can also find a petition in PDF on our Tampa Scottish Rite website at:

<https://tampascottishrite.org/members/become-a-member/>

Petition fees are \$357.00 (a minimum of \$100.00 must accompany the petition). A Brother can either send a check or call our office and use a credit card. The Brother must also provide a copy of his current Blues Lodge dues card to prove that he's a member in good standing.

RITE Way Conferences

The 2024 RITE Way Conferences are coming up:
April 5-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah;
April 19-20 Kansas City, Missouri; and
May 3-4 in Jacksonville, Florida.

This conference is open to all members of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. These conferences are very informative. For more information and to register, go online to:

<https://scottishrite.org/blog/2023/11/01/join-us-for-the-2024-rite-way-conferences/>



- continued from page 2 -

In closing I would like to thank each of you for what you are doing to promote our great Fraternity. I know that each of us have other obligations in our daily lives, but I sincerely believe that Freemasonry is always with you each day. As always, your 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 NOON 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.

March 11, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (4:30 pm)

Feast of Kadosh (5:30 pm)

Meat Loaf,
Mashed Potatoes with beef gravy,
String Beans, Salad, Cookies,
Sodas and Bottled Water.

Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:15 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:15 pm)

KCCH Organization Meeting (6:30 pm)

Open Meeting (7:00 pm)

Council of Kadosh

April 8, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (4:30 pm)

Dinner: (5:00 pm)

Fried Chicken,
Potato Salad, Baked Beans,
Salad, Cookies,
Sodas and Bottled Water.

Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:15 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:15 pm)

Past Masters (6:30 pm)

Open Meeting (7:00 pm)

Remembrance and Renewal

SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

NATURE COAST

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

IHOP
40489 US 19N
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Phone: (727) 403-6511
2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

PINELLAS PARK

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

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

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

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.



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 up dates to
generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org

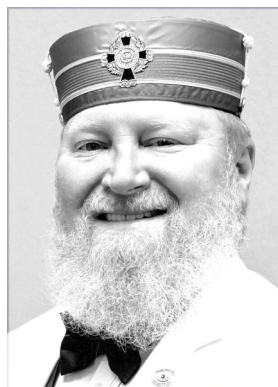


COMMANDER COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Brother Joseph A. Severino was born on March 22, 1942, in Quincey Massachusetts. At the tender age of one (1) year old, he moved to Tampa, Florida, residing here his entire life. He graduated from Jesuit High School in 1960, later earning an

Associate of Arts Degree from Hillsborough Community College. Brother Severino gathered many stories between 1965 and 1978 working for the Tampa Police Department. He authored a book recounting some of these adventures in "Halt Sucker! A TPD Corporal's Official Memoirs." Following his retirement, he worked as a Unit Manager for the Caspers Company, a Supervisor for City of Tampa 911 Communications Center, and in the service department for Lazy Days RV Supercenter.

Brother Joseph Severino was initiated an Entered Apprentice, April 5, 1984; passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft, June 13, 1984, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 6, 1984, within A.W. Windhorst Lodge No. 185. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1990 and again in 2015. He was appointed District Instructor for the 20th Masonic District in 2019; the following year he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master by Most Worshipful Tommy Turlington, Grand Master. He has served as second and first vice president, then president of the Hillsborough County Masters & Wardens Association. He organized three (3) outdoor degrees and headed up two (2) DDGM fundraiser "roasts," both very successful. Brother Severino remains active in his Blue Lodge, Shriner of Egypt Temple, and Zenda Grotto.



VENERABLE MASTER LODGE OF PERFECTION

M.W. Glen Bennett Bishop was born on January 24, 1969, at Bayfront Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. He graduated Northeast High School in 1988 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1989, serving from 1989 to 1999.

-continued next page -

- continued from page 4 -

After graduating from Parris Island, his first duty station was MCAS Cherry Point, NC, where he was deployed for the First Gulf War, a Mediterranean Float, and to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. During the next three years he was stationed in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and promoted to the rank of E-5 or Sergeant where he served as an A Billet on Recruiting duty where he received a Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. In his last three years of service, he was stationed at MCB Camp Pendleton where he served on the General Staff where he was again promoted, this time to E-6 or Staff Sergeant. During this tour of duty, he received a 2nd Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal and a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal. It was at this duty station where he chose not to re-enlist and was Honorably Discharged in 1999. During his tenure with the Marine Corps, M.:W.: Bishop attended Park University where he obtained a BS in Management Computer Information Systems. Additionally, he attended Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Leadership School, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (Staff NCO) Leadership School, and Department of Defense – Systems Administrator School.

Returning to his family in Pinellas County, Florida, M.:W.: Bishop put his Information Technology education to work as a Network Administrator and then further into Project Engineering, where he currently practices today. It was in 1983, when he first met the love of his life Odessa Lee McCabe and then reconnecting again in 2015, thereby finding his true love, proposed marriage on Valentine's Day in 2020, with a small private ceremony held on January 21, 2021.

In 2006, M.:W.: Bishop petitioned Clearwater Lodge No. 127 and was Initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in May of 2006, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft in June 2006, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in September of 2006. He has served as Worshipful Master of Clearwater No. 127 in 2010 and in 2016. M.:W.: Bishop has served our Grand Lodge in various District and Zone Committees as well as on the Masonic Home Board of Trustees and the Corporate Board. In May of 2013, he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the 20th Masonic District by M.:W.: Danny R. Griffith. M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson appointed him as District Instructor in 2016. M.:W.: Richard G. Hoover appointed him as W.: Grand Marshal in 2017 and presented him with the John P. Duval Award in 2018. Also in 2018, he was appointed Grand Representative to The Grand Lodge of State Baja California.

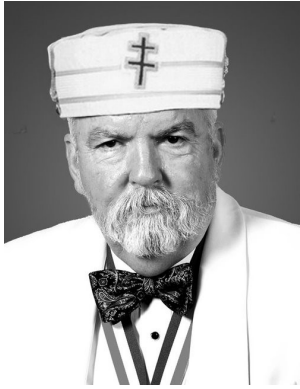
M.:W.: Bishop is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Tampa and has been invested a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor on November 13, 2021. He is also a member of Egypt Shriners; Selama Grotto; Clearwater York Rite Bodies; Queen Ester Chapter No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star; and the Royal Order of Scotland.

M.:W.: Bishop was elected to the station of Junior Grand Warden on May 27, 2020; Senior Grand Warden on June 2, 2021; Deputy Grand Master on June 1, 2022; and installed Most Worshipful Grand Master on May 31,

FEAST OF KADOSH

We will observe the 8th Annual Feast of Kadosh during our dinner before our meeting on Monday, March 11th at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The Feast of Kadosh celebrates the founding of the Knights Templar in 1119.

The Commander of the Council of Kadosh, Brother Joe Severino, 32° will lead us in the usual salutations and toasts. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm and will consist of Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, String Beans, Salad, Cookies and sodas and bottled water. This will be an open meeting, so bring your family and friends. Please remember, however, to make reservations in order for our caterer to know how many meals to prepare. Reservations may be made by contacting the Scottish Rite office at (813) 886-0578 on or before NOON on Thursday, March 7th .



MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

The allegory of Freemasonry, the building of Solomon's Temple described in the Winding Stairs lecture, continues into the Scottish Rite. The Fellow Craft and many Scottish Rite degrees draw on portions of the Volume of Sacred Law that describe the Temple.

That allegory and the saga of the Hiram Legend are expanded in the Lodge of Perfection. We mourn and commemorate the death of our Grand Master in the 4th and 5th Degrees. The relationship of Solomon and Hiram of Tyre is examined in the 6th Degree. The 7th Degree addresses personnel issues among the Craft. Workmen are selected to continue the Grand Master's work in the 8th Degree. Justice is dispensed to the Ruffians, albeit differently than in the Symbolic Lodge, in the 9th through 11th Degrees. Steadily each degree becomes an "enigma to be solved, not a lesson to be read" or heard. A picture develops. It is a picture teaching us that we are not workmen learning to build a material edifice, but men trying to build our character. We have not been using the operative mason's working tools to become proficient craftsmen or skilled workmen; we have been examining them as symbols of what it might mean to be a good, decent human being. We learn "each man has a character of his own choosing." We have been toiling thus far so that we might choose well.

Through the 11th Degree the Masonic narrative employs a building motif. In 12th Degree, Master Architect, something changes. The building motif winds down. The Hiram Legend runs its course having served its purpose. This is a transition degree in the Rite.

Heretofore, our attention has been directed toward demonstrating proper conduct, continuing education, controlling passions, attaining knowledge, exemplifying virtue, and cultivating morality. The 12th Degree suggests that all this preparation, all these endeavors, have had as their aim the pursuit of wisdom.

Our focus is redirected from earthly matters, from the "realm of morality," virtue, and action toward the arenas of philosophy and wisdom. We learn, perhaps, that "what we came here to do," is to be concerned with the nature of reality, the Universe and philosophia, the love of wisdom. Our quest for further light, we learn, is clearly a quest for wisdom.

The instructions of the 12th Degree are largely derived from the Book of Proverbs and other Scriptures and speak to broad issues of life, wisdom, and philosophy. We leave the quarry behind. The allegory of the first Temple is left behind also. The building motif in our narrative ceases and is replaced with a "wisdom motif." The ritual of this Degree paints a clearer picture of what "in search of further light" might mean.

The 12th Degree, Master Architect, will be examined in an upcoming program
at the Tri-County Scottish Rite Club on March 27 in Lake Wales.

297TH REUNION SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE) SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

7:00 a.m. Class Registration
 7:30 a.m. Assembly - Opening Ceremonies - Lodge of Perfection
 7:45 a.m. 4° Secret Master - Confer
 9:15 a.m. 14° Perfect Elu - Confer
 10:50 a.m. Close Lodge of Perfection/Open Chapter of Rose Croix followed by Class photo, Then Lunch
 12:00 p.m. 18° Knight Rose Croix - Confer
 1:15 p.m. Close Chapter/Open Council of Kadosh
 1:45 p.m. 30° Knight Kadosh - Confer
 3:00 p.m. Close Council/Open Consistory followed by Member/Class Education
 3:25 p.m. 32° Master of the Royal Secret - Confer
 4:50 p.m. Close Consistory
 5:00 p.m. Consecration of Class & Closing Ceremony





PRELATE

Richard A. Vogt, 33°

You have heard it said, “You will know the truth and the truth shall set you free”. This is from John 8:32. I will tell you a truth that will surely set you free. But, the required action from this truth is probably the hardest thing that you will ever do in your life. This truth comes from the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6: 12, “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (ESV). Forgiveness! That is what will set you free. Most of us hold grudges to some extent or another. Perhaps even from childhood, you remember that one person that did you wrong and you swore you would never forgive them. Perhaps a family member or another brother from your lodge caused you pain in some way, but in harmony you have kept it bottled inside of you. This leads to anger and possibly hate which will eat you up from the inside. In the Ten Commandments, we are taught “Thou shalt not commit murder”, Exodus 20:13. In Matthew 5:21, we are told that anyone who is angry with his brother has committed murder in his heart. Forgiveness is so important, we are instructed from Matthew 5:23-24, “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

We all have egos and we all like to have things the way we think they should be. And, when that doesn’t happen we take offense. But most of us just keep it inside and let it stew, slowly becoming bigger and bigger, as our mind adds to the mix other perceived slights until finally, one day, we explode over the tiniest nit. And, the target of our explosion probably has no idea what they did to cause this drastic reaction. Then they too get angry and the whole scenario begins anew. But what if, at the first little thing, we forgive them. Know this—forgiveness isn’t for them, it is for us. You don’t even have to tell the person you forgive them—you have to forgive them in your heart and let the anger die inside you. Should you talk out your issues with the person who you think offended you—absolutely. Chances are they don’t even know they offended you. Reconcile with them as Scripture says, and forgive them in your heart. Then you may be healed.

Most of us like to hold onto our grudges. We have been offended in some way and by holding onto our grudge we feel we have power over that person. In reality the only thing we have over them is resentment. Most people don’t intentionally offend others and, unless you tell them, they don’t even know. They just see you pulling away in some fashion and they wonder what is the matter with you—it couldn’t be anything I did. Unforgiveness breaks apart relationships. That anger you are holding onto goes to your very core, and eventually it will erupt like Vesuvius. But forgiveness builds relationships—it sets you free to be loving and kind. See what I did there?

Forgiveness sets you free from hate and anger and malice. It frees you to love and be loved. Matthew 22:37-39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest Commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” When you can free your heart, then you can be truly free.



This publication acknowledges authority and yields allegiance to the
Supreme Council A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of which
Illustrious Richard G. Hoover, 33° is
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in the Orient of Florida



Tampa Scottish Rite Office

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Scottish Rite Bulletin

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March—April 2024

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Organization

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Manasota, FL

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

Vernon A. Bartz, 32°

08/25/23 age 87

Brunswick, ME

Charles T. Hutton, 32°

02/13/23 age 94

Sarasota, FL

Donald R. Saroka, 32°

12/27/23 age 87

St. Petersburg, FL

George M. Christian, 32°

12/01/23 age 81

Joplin, MO

Charles E. Kistner, 32°

03/10/23 age 75

St. Petersburg, FL

Ronald Stanley, 32°

03/13/23 age 95

Wesley Chapel, FL

Paul R. Gott, 32°

12/09/23 age 70

Port Richey, FL

William C. Odor, 32°

12/13/23 age 94

Sun City Center, FL

John R. Thompson, 32°

11/19/23 age 84

Winter Haven, FL

Robert E. Hewell, 32°

11/18/23 age 82

Largo, FL

Theodore J. Quigley, 32°

06/23/23 age 79

Tampa, FL

