

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF TAMPA—ORIENT OF FLORIDA

TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

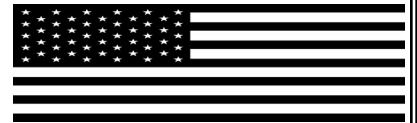
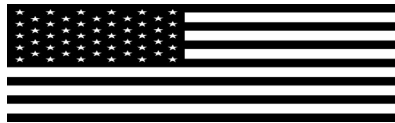
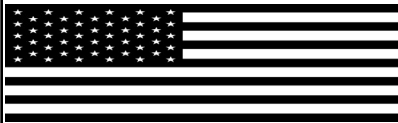
TAMPA, FL 33634

(813) 886-0578

MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

VOLUME 47 No. 3 - MAY - JUNE 2024

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG



JOIN THE TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE'S ANNUAL FLAG DAY CELEBRATION!

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, TAMPA

5:30 p.m. Hot Dogs, Potato Chips, Baked Beans, and Cookies

No cost for the meal, **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Reservations may be made by contacting the Scottish Rite office at

(813) 886-0578 on or before NOON on Thursday, June 6th

7:00 P.M. PATRIOTIC PROGRAM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°
Chairman

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

Joséph 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

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Brethren,

We are finally back in our building at 5500 Memorial Highway. I expect it will probably be a few months before we get all the boxes unpacked and sorted out, but at least all our property is back “home”.

The last two months have been very busy for the Valley of Tampa as we once again observed the Feast of Kadosh on March 11th, the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal on April 8th and the Spring Reunion in honor of Illustrious James Bradford on April 27th. I especially want to thank the Brothers of the Sarasota Scottish Rite Club Degree Team for their excellent presentation of the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal.

Wise Master

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Orator

Almoner

Master of Ceremonies

Guardian of the Temple

Secretary

Organist

Petar Sibinkic, 32° KCCH

Barry Hart, 33°

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32° KCCH

W. Allen Sorbie, 32° KCCH

Jeffrey M. Snyder, 32° KCCH

A. Paul Woodman, 32° KCCH

Bryan Pullman, 32° KCCH

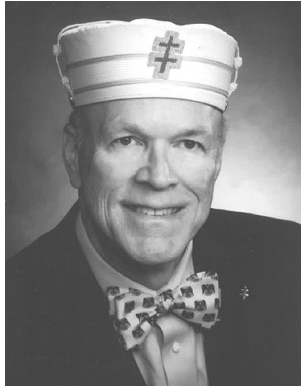
Charles A. Wolbert III, 32°

Charles F. Allen

At the time of this writing our Spring Reunion has not occurred. This will be the first time in 24 months that the Valley of Tampa will be conferring Degrees and will be limited to the five (5) mandatory Degrees (4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, and 32nd). I am confident that the Degree Teams did an excellent performance for our new Masters of the Royal Secret.

On June 10th we will once again celebrate Flag Day. I know Brother Richard Whitmyer is putting together another interesting program that includes a presentation by the National Sojourners.

Thank you my Brothers for your continued support of the Valley of Tampa. Our Valley does not exist without your participation. Please remember that your ideas and suggestions are always welcome and my door is always open to you.



GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

"We're baaaaack"

After two years of being away, we're back home in the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center at 5500 Memorial Hwy. Here we will stay until we have a new Temple in which to move. Thanks to those Brothers who facilitated moving our paraphernalia back.

Beginning May 13th, the start time of the Executive Committee meeting will be 5:00 PM. This will allow Brothers who work not to have to leave work as early, and reduce the gap between the Executive Committee meeting and dinner.

Speaking of dinner, don't forget to make your reservations no later than noon the Thursday before the meeting by calling the office at (813) 886-0578. That way we can give the caterer the proper headcount."



We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to this Master of the Royal Secret who has joined us by Affiliation 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 the Scottish Rite in particular.

Affiliation

Gregory V. Morilla, 32



COMING MASONIC EVENTS

Please note ALL Scottish Rite Masons may attend the Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee Meetings will now start at 5:00 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.

Please note that there is no charge for dinner prior to our Flag Day program on Monday, June 10th, but we still need you to make your reservations no later than NOON on Thursday, June 6th.

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.

May 13, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

Dinner (5:30 pm)

Lasagna

Salad and Dessert

Sodas and Bottled Water

Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:00 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

KCCH Organization Meeting (6:30 pm)

Consistory Meeting (7:00 pm)

June 10, 2024:

Flag Day Celebration

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

Dinner: (5:30 pm)

Hot Dogs

Potato Chips

Baked Beans

Cookies

Sodas and Bottled Water

Knights of St. Andrew Meeting (6:00 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

Open Meeting (7:00 pm)

Patriotic Program





SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS 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

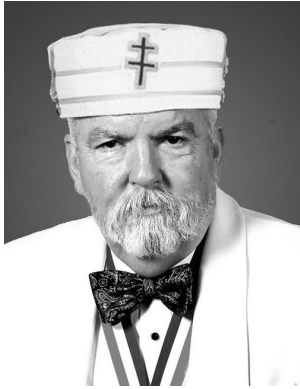
2024 FLAG DAY PROGRAM

At 7:00 pm Monday, June 10th the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite will present our Annual Flag Day Program in lieu of our Regular Tyled Meeting. The program this year is being chaired by Brother Richard Whitmer, 32° KCCH. As of the time this article is being written, Brother Whitmer has not finalized the program, but I have no doubt it will be as informative and entertaining as in prior years.

A meal consisting of hot dogs, potato chips, baked beans, and cookies will be served starting at 5:30 pm. There will not be a charge for the meal, but it is imperative that you make reservations with the office by NOON on Thursday, June 6th so we can be assured that we have sufficient food for everyone,

As in the past our Flag Day Program is open to all, family and friends and we encourage you to invite your Blue Lodge brethren, your neighbors and all who may wish to celebrate our Flag.





MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Freemasonry's system of degrees dwells in the realm of philosophy. The Greek word for philosophy loosely translates as "love of wisdom." Philosophy studies and critiques beliefs, values, and convictions; it assesses and examines fundamental assumptions about life, conduct, virtue, and morality. It aims to "get things right." The philosopher works to discover answers to great questions in life, well-knowing that many will remain unanswerable.

The earliest philosophers appeared in the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. We recognize some of the names: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Xenophon. While their pursuit of knowledge and wisdom covered much territory, there is a theme common to all of them. They searched for an ideal form of government, for the best political theory of how society should be organized and how it should operate.

From Plato and Socrates came the Republic and the Laws, contemplating a political theory of the best form for a government for a city-state. Aristotle, Plato's student, wrote the book Politics; he refuted much of his teacher's ideas and offered alternatives. Xenophon, also a student of Plato, examined King Cyrus' Persian empire and offered entirely different political theories. These philosophers, and others, had differing ideas, but their topic was similar—Theory. Philosophy for several centuries concentrated on finding good Theories addressing societal or political matters.

Advancing a couple of centuries, philosophy's aim changed, because the world changed. Alexander the Great, Aristotle's pupil, had conquered much of the world. Rome took over and replaced its republic with an empire. The city-state no longer existed as it once did.

Philosophers could have argued until they were blue in the face, they could write, contemplate, and pontificate all they wanted about political theory and the proper form of government – but nothing was going to change. The world was ruled by an emperor and a big, centralized government. Get over it.

Philosophy did. It made a significant turn in its focus and the origins of Masonic thought can be detected. Philosophy turned its focus from Theory to Therapy. Therapy in this sense – philosophy began to focus on the individual. It began to focus on questions like, what does it mean to be a good human being? What is virtue? How should one live? How can we be free, be happy? What are our duties? What is duty? What does "just" behavior look like?

This is an important transition: Theory involves study and thought and the accumulation of knowledge. Therapy requires action and transformation.

In the period from the 1st century BCE to about 3rd century CE, we meet entirely diverse kinds of philosophers: Cicero and Plutarch (Roman Statesmen), Marconius Rufus (Rome's Socrates), Seneca (advisor to Nero) and Epictetus (a slave). Four schools of thought developed: Platonic, Aristotelian, Stoic and Epicurean. (Each school has its strengths and weaknesses, and all can be found in Masonic ritual. They are summarized, though unnamed, in the lecture to the 27th Degree, Knight of the Sun.)

The work of these teachers did not displace those of the ancients, they built upon it. But the object of the schools was different – the focus was the individual, not society. Their object was Therapy not Theory – Action not Debate.

As an example, Cicero developed the ideas of Socrates and Plato about the four cardinal virtues to author a book called On Moral Duties. But the book was not about political theory, and its audience was not the emperor nor the empire. The book was about individual behavior, and the audience was his son. We find a lot of Cicero's words and ideas in the EA Lecture and in Morals and Dogma (as well as these missives).

- continued next page -

2024 WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

The Valley of Tampa would like to congratulate the following
Masters of the Royal Secret on being installed as
Worshipful Master of their respective Lodge for the year 2024:

Sebastian Carnevale, 32°
William Dowden, 32°
Bradly Ranney, 32°
Charles Chancey, Jr., 32°
Cy Havron, 32°
Cory Jones, 32°
Clifford Wright, 32°
Robert Pittman, 32°
Zachary Wiegele, 32°
James Blum, 33°
Douglas Ray, 32°
Christopher Jones, 32°
Frederick Maixner, Jr., 32°
Alan Chancey, 32°
Kenneth Tutor, 32°
Gregory Riddell, 32°
Mark Tishman, 32°
Thomas Romanishin, 32°
Robert Leonard, 32°
Robert Tester, 32°
Dana Oldenburg, 32° KCCH
Steven Reed, 32°
Royce Yancey, 32°



Tuscan Lodge No. 6
Wauchula Lodge No. 17
Manatee Lodge No. 31
Olin S. Wright Lodge No. 79
Tarpon Lodge No. 112
Brandon Lodge No. 114
Clearwater Lodge No. 127
Trilby Lodge No. 141
Sarasota Lodge No. 147
John Darling Lodge No. 154
Ft. Meade Lodge No. 160
Nitram Lodge No. 188
Zephyr Lodge No. 198
Poinciana Lodge No. 227
Holyrood Lodge No. 257
Kathleen Lodge No. 338
Phoenix Lodge No. 346
Travelers Lodge No. 390
Liberty Lodge No. 412
Nature Coast Lodge No. 418
Memorial Lodge No. 914
Memorial Lodge No. 918
Memorial Lodge No. 920

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We begin to see the connection between philosophy and Freemasonry. Freemasonry deals little with theory, it deals with personal action and behavior. The correction and elimination of personal vice, the development of virtue, the practice of good habits, the performance of duty. Much more than the accumulation of knowledge, our journey is one searching for wisdom – practical wisdom.

Ours is a system of philosophical therapy, a pursuit, and a lifetime endeavor to “get things right,” morally and otherwise. It is a system that captures and transmits the collective wisdom of the ages.

It is not easy, nor it is intended to be. We use the word “labor” for a reason.

We may conclude Freemasonry’s “system of morality” is philosophical, personal Therapy. We need it. And our society needs us; it needs more virtuous men and more philosophers of the Masonic kind.



The Fall Reunion is October 19, 2024, during which the five mandatory degrees will be conferred.



PRELATE

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

God Himself Is Judge

Psalm 50 (a psalm of Asaph) from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016):

- 1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- 5 “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah
- 7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.
- 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- 9 I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.
- 10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.
- 12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.
- 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,
- 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”
- 16 But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to recite my statutes
or take my covenant on your lips?
- 17 For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.
- 18 If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.
- 19 “You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.
- 20 You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son.
- 21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself.
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
- 22 “Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
- 23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;
to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

This Psalm can best be described as an Oracular Hymn. Worshipers would sing about God’s pronouncement of how they should live as part of His covenant people. The God who speaks and summons all the earth will judge His people. He is telling them that it is not the sacrifices they offer Him that will save them; but, rather, a living, loving relationship with Him.

God is not interested in your sacrifices and works, He is interested in your heart! It is your attitude, and not your words, that is important. This Psalm should serve as a reminder that God looks inside of us, not our outside self, to see what kind of person we are. We are told in the Entered Apprentice degree that we, as Masons, are not to be concerned with the outward appearance, but the inward heart of a man. Where were you first made a Mason? In my Heart!

God Bless you all.



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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Tampa, FL

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Scottish Rite Bulletin

Volume 47 No. 2

May — June 2024

Non-Profit

Organization

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Permit #1

Manasota, FL

SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION DONORS

We extend a hearty, “Thank You,” to the several brothers in attendance that recently received particular and special recognition for their support of the Scottish Rite Foundation. “The Scottish Rite Foundation Helps Children,” please support this worthwhile philanthropy.



IN MEMORIAM

We deeply regret that due to a computer issue (being corrected) this edition of our bulletin will not contain the names of the most recently deceased brethren. Be assured our departed brethren were honored at our April meeting during the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. This news of importance will return to our newsletter in subsequent bulletins.
