

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. 5 - SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2024

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG



WORSHIPFUL MASTER RECOGNITION NIGHT



An open meeting will be held at Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 5500 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Florida, on Monday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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. and the price is \$12.00. The menu will be baked ziti, salad, desert, and drink. Please allow us to accommodate you, your guests and members of your Lodge, by making reservations no later than Monday, September 2nd, 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°

Chairman

Jeffrey T. Sklet, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Josesh 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

Scottish Rite Office

(813) 886-0578

adminassistant@tampascottishrite.org

Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Personal Representative

rwchuckosborne@gmail.com

Scott McAlister, 33°

General Secretary

(813) 886-0578

generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org

Trish Warhul

Administrative Assistant

(813) 886-0578

adminassistant@tampascottishrite.org

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

treasurer@srtampa.org

Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Director of Work – Member Education

dow@srtampa.org

Richard Alan Vogt, 33°

Prelate

rick.flyer1@gmail.com

Brian D. Campbell, 33°

Webmaster

contact@tampascottishrite.org

Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH

Bulletin Editor

glwynn@gmail.com



PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

My Brothers:

Well, summer's over and the kids are back in school. Our attendance is usually down during the summer, so hopefully the numbers will increase as we get into the fall months. I miss seeing the sidelines filled with lots of Scottish Rite Brothers.

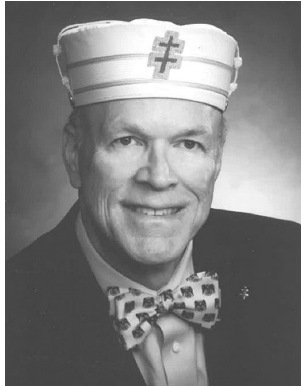
This year we have moved our Worshipful Master and Masonic Youth Recognition Night from our November meeting to our September meeting. Since this is an open meeting, I encourage you to invite your Lodge Brothers to come that night to support their Worshipful Master and our Masonic Youth.

On Saturday, October 19th, we will be holding our Fall Reunion, the last scheduled one-day reunion. Beginning with the Spring Reunion in 2025, we will return to our usual two-day Reunion schedule.

Please remember to pay your 2025 dues and your 2024 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 become NPD.

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





GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

Brothers, the Tampa Scottish Rite now has an online petition! You can access the online petition by scanning

the QR Code (below) with your smartphone's camera. The online petition saves time, it eliminates human input error, and feeds directly into our database, Sentinel. The QR code is especially helpful in that any Valley officers/members can have it on their phone or tablet and share with prospective candidates to scan and fill out, along with providing payment. So, the next time you're with a prospective candidate and don't have a paper petition with you, you can pull up this QR Code on your phone and have him scan it with his smartphone.

You can also get to the online petition from our website on the Become a Member page:
<https://tampascottishrite.org/members/become-a-member/>



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 Brother Paul Ippolito 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.

September 9, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

Dinner (5:30 pm)

Baked Ziti, Meatballs,

Salad, and Dessert

Sodas and Bottled Water

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

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

Open Meeting (7:00 pm)

**Worshipful Master &
Masonic Youth**

Recognition Night

October 14, 2024:

Executive Committee Meeting (5:00 pm)

Dinner: (5:30 pm)

Chicken Marsala

Fettuccine Alfredo and Salad

Dessert

Sodas and Bottled Water

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

KCCH Organization Meeting (6:30 pm)

Scottish Rite Guard Meeting (6:30 pm)

Open Meeting (7:00 pm)

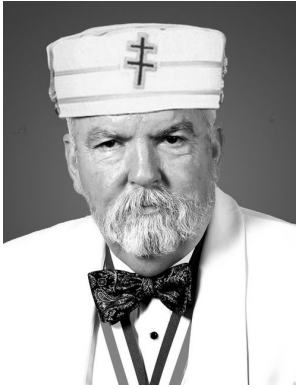
Feast of Tishri

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



Our reunion will be Saturday, October 19, 2024



MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

“To the Greeks therefore, and not to the Romans, we are indebted for what is great, judicious and distinct in architecture.” This assertion is part of the Fellow Craft lecture’s instruction about the five orders. What should we make of it? Is it really that important to know the details and differences of the five kinds of columns?

Two things (at least) come to mind. First, architecture - the building of columns, pilasters and Temples - is a metaphor. A metaphor asserting we’re here to build (our) character and improve ourselves so that we can be contributing members of society. We pick a column, study its structure and details, what it is and how it differs from the others. We can then think symbolically about what we’ve learned and apply it to our conduct and life. It is doubtful that our ancient brethren really thought it was important to know the literal difference between Doric and Ionic columns – perhaps our task is to examine their distinctions symbolically and discern differences in matters?

Secondly, what do we make of the contrast between the Greeks and Romans? We are indebted to the Romans for many things. Indeed, the 30th degree reminds us of their virtue, civic commitment, and virtue (ability and character).

Our ancient brethren may be reminding us that the foundation and history of western intellectual thought began with the Greeks. It is remarkable that it is so. Greece is a small country; its economy was nothing special compared to say, the Pharaohs in Egypt. Other countries had good armies and navies, conducted trade, built equally monolithic structures; Greeks were no more nor less religiously inclined than any other people. Yet it was Greek culture that produced Pythagoras around the 6th century BCE, Parmenides in the 5th and then Plato, Aristotle, and many others thereafter. The Greeks seemed to have “invented” philosophy -- the pursuit of wisdom.

We indeed have much to learn from the Romans, but the Greeks seemed to have been the first to make us to think, to encourage us, by example, to learn, question, examine, contemplate and search for Truth.

Greek and Hellenic thought appears in many places in our ritual – our ancient brethren saw to that. Perhaps this one line in the Fellow Craft lecture indicates that our journey in search of Light and Wisdom begins with, and will call heavily upon, Greek thought and philosophy. We are indeed indebted to Greeks.

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

Reunion Tentative Schedule

7:30am

Opening Ceremonies

7:55am

4th Degree

Secret Master

Followed by

Member Education

9:25am

14th Degree

Perfect Elu

Class Photo & Lunch

11:58am

18th Degree

Knight Rose Croix

Followed by

General Reports

2:14pm

30th Degree

Knight Kadosh

Followed by

Member Education

3:59pm

32nd Degree

Master of the

Royal Secret

5:24pm

Consecration &

Closing

PRELATE

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

DOES GOD ACTUALLY CARE FOR YOU?

**1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God
so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”**

Because He cares for you, He wants you to be made in His image. That means He wants you to be more like Him. How can we do that? We know, or we should know, that we are all sinful men. We may not want to be that way, but we are. Adam and Eve saw to that thousands of years ago. When we exalt ourselves over other people, that's a sin. When we think unkind thoughts about the guy that just cut us off in traffic, that's a sin. We were made in the image of God, but sin entered the world, and we have been under its power since we were born. But there is good news; and that good news is the love, mercy, and grace of God. We have a forgiving God who is merciful and understands our human weaknesses. We have only to confess that we are sinful and ask His forgiveness. Scripture tells us, if we do this, He will cast our sins away as far as the East is from the West. Does this mean that we can commit a sin, ask forgiveness, receive it, and then go out and commit a sin again? Rinse and Repeat? You could, and God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins; but is this the life we really want? It surely is not the life God wants for us.



How should we live to bring honor and glory to the Lord? 1 Peter 5 gives us a great clue.

1 Peter 5:1-11, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’. 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

God cares for us, and we are asked to care for each other. In that way, His kingdom truly is on earth. How does this apply to Masonry and Scottish Rite? Remember your obligations. Our promise to help and assist; Our promise never to wrong, cheat, or defraud, nor allow it to be done. We, who have been around a long time, particularly in Masonry, owe it to our newer members to pass on all of the lessons we have learned over the years that they may become wiser. Being a Mentor is a great way to do this, while ever remembering that humility is to be our base. No one wants to be talked down to or shamed because they don't know as much as we do. If that is the case, it is our failure because we have not taken the time to educate them. The elders in Masonry are the shepherds of those who came behind us. And as all good shepherds do, they lead from the front. They don't push their flock along, but rather, they call them from the front and lead by example. This is servant-leadership. This is what we are all called to do. This is the image of God. And a servant-leader is foremost humble. You cannot serve if your leadership style is dictatorial or monarchical. You serve from a position of power, not to laud your power over anyone, but to help build up those who are coming behind you. And to those not yet in a position of authority, be subject to those currently ahead of you. Learn from them, the good and the bad. Become wise so that when it becomes your turn you will act humbly and kindly to all. The devil seeks a stronghold, don't give him that opportunity. Always remain faithful, and the God of grace will be faithful to you.

Blessings to you all!



Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, U.S.A., Inc.

The value of this philanthropy has long been apparent. Thousands of youngsters across the state of Florida have been helped significantly. With the good work of dedicated clinicians and parents, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida, Inc. 501(c)(3), has achieved successes that could only be imagined a few years back. Children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead productive lives.

FLORIDA SABAL PALM PROGRAM

- All donations made through the Florida Sabal Palm Program for the benefit of the Florida Scottish Rite Foundation are 100% tax-deductible as allowed by law.
- For **\$50.00**, a Florida Sabal Palm can be purchased in Honor of a distinguished individual that you admire and wish to recognize, in memory of a deceased brother, friend or family member or in the name of another organization.
- For each Florida Sabal Palm you purchase, you will receive a beautiful certificate signed by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General.
- With the purchase of your first Florida Sabal Palm you will receive a special lapel pin that can be worn at any time. You can purchase as many Florida Sabal Palms as you'd like. In increments of five (5) you will receive a fob to attach to your lapel. When you have purchased enough to qualify for your next fob, you will be required to turn in your current fob to receive your new one.



Helping school-age children who have difficulty learning to read



Helping children who have difficulty speaking or understanding the spoken word



Our reunion will be Saturday, October 19, 2024

September Monthly Meeting

Again this year we are continuing our Worshipful Master and Masonic Youth Appreciation Program, but at our September instead of our usual November meeting. At this meeting we will be honoring Masonic Youth Groups as well as the sitting Worshipful Masters of the fifty-nine (59) Lodges in the Valley of Tampa. We encourage you to attend and show your support for our youth groups and our hard-working Worshipful Masters.

Just as in the past, if you or your Lady were members of the Order of DeMolay, the International Order of Rainbow for Girls or Job's Daughters International, you are encouraged to wear any regalia from those organizations to this meeting.

The Feast of Tishri

On Monday, October 14th, the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite Bodies, will have an open meeting during which we will have a presentation about the Feast of Tishri. As of this writing I do not know who will be our speaker that night.

The 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.

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 Wed. Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.



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

Volume 47 No. 5

September—October 2024

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Organization

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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

Daniel A. Allen, 32°

02/04/24 age 85

Land O’Lakes, FL

Coleman L. Hill, 33°

07/28/24 age 85

Seffner, FL

Thomas R. Hitchcock, 32° KCCH

06/27/23 age 69

Hazel Hill, AL

Andres Lopez Morin, 32°

07/04/24 age 71

Tampa, FL

Louis H. Ortt, 33°

08/14/24 age 86

Venice, FL