

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 48 No. 6 - NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2025

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG

**If you cannot attend our monthly Consistory meeting,
There may be a Scottish Rite Club meeting near you.**

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

4th 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.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°

Chairman

John N. Dragneff, 32°

Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

William C. Klinke, 32° KCCH

Commander - Council of Kadosh

Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH

Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Tommy F. Tyner, 32° KCCH

Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

James F. Charrette, 32°

Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

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Joseph A. Monday, 32° KCCH

Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

My Brothers: It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of 2025. As I write this article for the November-December Bulletin, the Valley is busy preparing for our Fall Reunion on October 18th and 25th. By the time you read this bulletin, we will have welcomed sixteen new Masters of the Royal Secret to the Valley of Tampa. While the number of petitions has not yet reached the levels we enjoyed before the pandemic, they continue to improve, as does attendance at our Stated Meetings.

In addition to our Fall Reunion, we are also preparing to host the 2025 Honors Weekend for the Orient of Florida. This year's weekend will be extra special because it is dedicated to the memory of our own Ill. Louie A. King, 33° Past Grand Master of Masons in Florida in 2000.

The 33rd Degree Coronation is set for Saturday morning, November 8th, and is exclusively for 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Masons. The KCCH Investiture will begin about 1:30 PM that afternoon and is open to the public. I encourage you to come out and show your support for these brothers as they receive their honors.

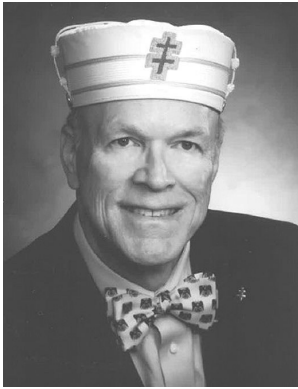
On Monday, November 10th, Ill. Richard G. Hoover, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Florida, will make his Official Visit to the Valley of Tampa. I hope your schedule will allow you to join us that evening to hear Ill. Hoover's words of wisdom.

On Monday, December 8th, we will hold our elections for 2026. This is an important meeting where you will decide the leadership that will guide our Valley in the coming year, as well as approve the budget for 2026. Please plan to attend and make your voice heard.

It's that time again. Please remember to pay your 2026 dues, as well as any outstanding 2025 dues. If you are facing financial difficulties, please reach out to the office. We have several brothers who have offered to provide assistance to those in need, so you don't have to go NPD.

In conclusion, I encourage you to make time for both your Blue Lodge meetings and our monthly Consistory meetings. If you're unable to attend the Consistory meeting, I hope you can join one of our Scottish Rite Club meetings instead. Additionally, when you are at your Blue Lodge, please take a moment to discuss the Scottish Rite with your fellow Masons.





GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°



Online Petition QR Code
\$4.77 Additional Fee
By Supreme Council

As I pen this final article for the Bulletin in my role as General Secretary of the Valley of Tampa, I do so with deep gratitude and reflection.

I extend my sincere thanks to Illustrious Richard G. Hoover, 33°, SGIG for the Orient of Florida, for entrusting me with the responsibility of serving as General Secretary. His confidence and steadfast support throughout my tenure have meant a great deal.

A special word of appreciation goes to Trish Warhul, whose dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts have been invaluable. Any success attributed to me is a direct reflection of her tireless work and commitment.

Serving as General Secretary has been both an honor and a privilege. I am grateful for the opportunity and proud of the time I've spent in service to the Valley of Tampa.

Congratulations to Brother Chuck Bailey, 32° KCCH, who has been appointed as the new General Secretary. I know that you will give him the same support you've given me.

Although I'm stepping down as General Secretary, this is not goodbye. I will still be around and look forward to being involved in other areas.



I find it humbling that Ill. Rick Hoover, 33°, S.G.I.G, has appointed me to serve the Valley of Tampa as General Secretary. To the Brothers of our Valley, I offer my sincere promise to do the best I can. I am grateful for the help offered to me in the next few months as I acclimate to the tasks before me, particularly to Ill. Scott McAlister, Ill. John Drewett, and Trish Warhul, and others who support our Valley regularly.

Chuck Bailey, 32° KCCH



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





MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

The Fall Reunion has just been completed. While we were not able to confer the 29th Degree, Scottish Knight of Saint Andrew, this is the only degree that takes us back to our Scottish roots. I thought it interesting to see who were these knights and how did they originate?

Templar Roots

The Order of the Knights of the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, or the Knights of the Temple was established in 1119. The Templars were the first priestly order of armed knights. The order was created to provide safe transit for Christian Pilgrims visiting the Holy Land from Europe.

Knights swore allegiance to the Pope and took vows of poverty, loyalty and chastity. The order grew in numbers and popularity as they fought to keep the Holy Land open. Their business acumen made the most of the gifts granted them by their grateful patrons in Europe.

One of the true supporters of the Templars was Bernard de Clairvaux (later canonized as Saint Bernard) who described them in 1135 as, "A Templar Knight is truly a fearless knight, and secure on every side, for his soul is protected by the armor of faith, just as his body is protected by the armor of steel. He is thus doubly armed and need fear neither demons nor men."

Despite the sacrifice and devotion of the Templars, in 1307 the order was declared heretical by Pope Clement V acting on the insistence of Phillip the Fair of France. On Friday, October 13, 1307, members of the order in France were arrested. Imprisoned, many were executed, more tortured, and all impoverished. In most of Europe, the Estates of the Order were confiscated and divided between the sovereign, the Knights Hospitalers (Knights of St. John of Jerusalem or Knights of Malta) and the Pope.

When the Grand Master, Jacques DeMolay and the Preceptor of Normandy, Geoffrey de Charney were burned alive, on March 18, 1314, the Templars no longer had a common head, nor could anyone maintain their organization under their old name, which had become so famous.

Their possessions stolen, their leaders incarcerated for life or put to death, the brethren were persecuted in every way. The survivors were compelled to leave their homes to save their lives. They laid aside the garb of the Temple and mingled in the world. Many former Templars joined other orders.

Dispersal to Scotland

In Portugal, they were announced as innocent, and the name of the order was changed to the Order of Christ. In England, King Edward proscribed them and forbade them to remain in the realm, unless they entered the Commandries of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. In Scotland, they found protection and joined the army with which King Robert Bruce met the invasion of his country led by Edward II of England.

The Battle of Bannockburn was being fought on the 24th day of June 1314 when a group of exiled Templars rode into the fray and turned the tide of battle. This intervention may well have tipped the scales in favor of Scottish independence.

In gratitude for the assistance of that group of former Templars, Robert the Bruce created the Order of Saint Andrew du Chardon (of the Thistle) of Scotland.

King Robert reserved the title of Grand Master for himself and his successors forever. He granted a charter of land to the members of his new Order.



PRELATE

Steven Silvers, 32° KCCH

As the final months of the year unfold, November and December bring with them a tapestry of sacred observances that span cultures, faiths, and continents. From the flickering candles of Hanukkah to the solemn gratitude of Thanksgiving, and the reverent celebration of Christmas, this season is rich with meaning. For Scottish Rite Masons, these holidays offer more than tradition—they are profound reminders of the values we hold dear: faith, hope, charity, and the eternal pursuit of light.

Though secular in origin, Thanksgiving resonates deeply with Masonic principles. It is a time to pause, reflect, and express gratitude—not only for material blessings but for the intangible gifts of fellowship, wisdom, and service. In our Lodges, we are taught to be thankful for the privilege of laboring in the quarries of moral and spiritual improvement. As we gather with loved ones, let us not forget the brethren who have shaped our Masonic journeys and encouraged us to become more than that which we were at the beginning.

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple and the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. Hanukkah's central theme—the victory of light over darkness—echoes the Masonic journey from ignorance to enlightenment. Each candle lit on the Menorah is a testament to perseverance, faith, and divine providence. As Scottish Rite Masons, we are reminded that even in the darkest of times, a single spark of truth can illuminate the path forward.

For Christians, Advent marks a season of anticipation and spiritual preparation, culminating in the celebration of Christ's birth. Christmas, with its message of peace, goodwill, and divine love, invites us to embody the virtues of compassion and humility. The Scottish Rite Degrees teach us to seek the divine within ourselves and others, to be builders of moral temples, and to extend charity to all. In the story of the Nativity, we find a call to rebirth—not just of faith, but of purpose.

The Scottish Rite embraces men of all faiths, united by a shared commitment to truth, tolerance, and brotherly love. In this season of sacred observance, we honor the diversity of belief that enriches our Craft. Whether one kneels in prayer, meditates in silence, or sings hymns of joy, the essence is the same: a reverence for the divine and a dedication to living a life of virtue.

As we close the year, may we rededicate ourselves to the Masonic ideals that transcend creed and culture. Let us be lights in the lives of others, builders of bridges, and guardians of the sacred truths that bind us as brethren.

From the Valley of Tampa to every corner of the world where the Square and Compasses shine, may this season bring peace, purpose, and the enduring warmth of fraternal love.



Continued From Page 4

Prince Charles Edward Stuart was the last Grand Master of the Scottish Order and exercised his powers by establishing a Chapter of Rose Croix at Arres, France.

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

When the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was organized in the early 1730s, explanatory degrees were added to those of the Blue Lodge. Degrees of the Rites of Heredom and Perfection along with other degrees and rites from Scotland, France, and Germany were added. The 29th Degree became the "Scottish Knight of St. Andrew." Exemplifying the qualities of the Knights Templars and those of the Order of St. Andrew du Chardon, this degree remains with us today.

In early 1993 the late Ill. Weldon Good, 33°, of the Tulsa Valley in Oklahoma saw a need for assistance during reunions. He also noticed that Masons were joining the Scottish Rite but not returning to help and participate in subsequent reunions. To rectify this, he developed the organization now known as the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) as a service group for the Valley.

The by-laws stated that the KSA are a "black cap" group. The KSA's main duties are to assist, as needed, during a reunion and to be available to the Valley's General Secretary for any assigned duties.

There is no "official" headquarters or central authority of the KSA ... no uniform ... no required procedures or prescribed ritual. The attire and regalia vary from one chapter to another. Most chapters have adopted the insignia developed by the Guthrie Chapter for their recognition lapel pin and badge.





CONSISTORY OF VALLEY OF TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE

Enjoy a delightful Christmas feast, festive decorations, and heartwarming company.

Plus, there will be:

- VISITS FROM SANTA
- EXCITING AUCTION
- RAFFLES
- MUSIC & DANCING
- FUN **\$75**

Seats are limited, so book early to secure your spot at the table!

TEXT OR EMAIL:

352.206.2002

CHRISTMASDINNERVTSR@GMAIL.COM

Join Us for a Festive

Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

VALLEY OF TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE

5500 MEMORIAL BLVD, TAMPA, FL

6:00PM

*Proceeds to benefit the
Scottish Rite Foundation!*





The 300th Reunion Memorial Class
Honoring Illustrious Richard J. Whalen, Sr., 33°

1st Row: Illustrious Brothers:

Stephen B. Jacobson, 33°; Paul R. Evancoe, 33°; Kenneth A. Warner, 33°; Paul D. Barber, 33°; Richard A. Vogt, 33° (Director of Work); Charles C. Osborne, 33° (Personal Representative); Richard G. Hoover, 33° (Sovereign Grand Inspector General); Scott McAllister, 33° (General Secretary); Richard S. Agster, 33°; James J.T. Blum, 33°; John E. Drewett, 33°; Casey A. Fletcher, 33°; Barry D. Hart, 33°

2nd Row Candidates:

Aral Abuhan; Charles F. Allen; Richard C. Anderson Jr; James D. Austin; Miles Christian-Hart; Andrew W. Davenport; Dale W. Linton; Per-Henrik J. Nordstrom; Nelson E. Perez; Girard T. Tabak; Jeremy A. Tabak; Jamie M. Vaccaro; Jossie M. Vasquez; Michael S. Wilson; Stephen C. Wilson; John B. Woodall

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



We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to these Masters of the Royal Secret who have joined us by Affiliation since publication of our last bulletin.

Affiliation

Andrew M. Demers Jr., 32°
 Brian J. Zeppa, 32°

Tampa Scottish Rite Office
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Tampa, FL 33634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 48 No. 6
November—December 2025

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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

Donald R. Bell, 32° 10/16/25 age 86 Tampa, FL	Harold D. Morgan, 32° 12/28/23 age 91 Lutz, FL
Jimmy B. Crowder, 32° 08/13/21 age 89 Tampa, FL	Robert I. Moore, 32° 08/18/25 age 87 Dade City, FL
David C. Crum, 32° 07/26/25 age 91 Plant City, FL	Jess L. Pease, 32° 04/23/25 age 83 Sarasota, FL
Tommy T. Cunningham, 32° 05/14/25 age 86 Sarasota, FL	Harrison R. Ragland, 32° 05/20/23 age 88 Sarasota, FL
Robert L. Hall, 32° 11/24/24 age 89 Leesburg, FL	Donald D. Voss, 32° 02/28/24 age 87 Sarasota, FL
Raynold W. Hulsman, 32° 09/09/20 age 87 Redington Shores, FL	