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**Mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
In the Orient of Florida**

IS TO BE THE PREMIER FRATERNITY OF MEN OF INTEGRITY AND GOOD CHARACTER BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION BASED ON THE VALUES OF FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY, PATRIOTISM, TOLERANCE, INTEGRITY AND BELIEF IN A SUPERIOR BEING. TO THAT END, WE COMMIT TO MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON HUMANKIND, PROMOTING OUR COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING A VALUE TO THE MASONIC FRATERNITY.

The Scottish Rite Creed

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission and guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

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Phone (850) 494-0801 / Fax (850) 476-0120
E-mail: gensec@pensacolascottishrite.org
Editor in Chief
Ill. Kurt P. Larson, Personal Representative
Publications Committee
Hon. Ronald L. Parks, Master of Kadosh
Hon. Alex Carambas, Commander
Hon. James A. Gazaway, Wise Master
Bro. Dwight A. Wilson, Venerable Master
Managing Editor
Ill. James A. Salisbury, Jr.
Creative Director
Diane Palermo

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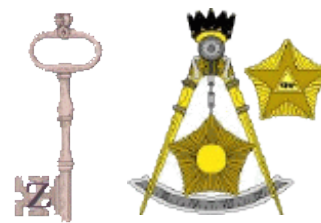
Attention wives, family and care-givers:

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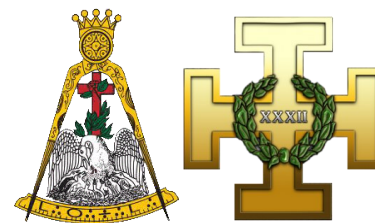
Kurt Larson: prsgig@pensacolascottishrite.org
Bobby Kickliter: treasurer@pensacolascottishrite.org
Diane: admin@pensacolascottishrite.org



The Outlook

Valley of Pensacola, Orient of Florida

JANUARY—MARCH, 2022
ISSUE NO. 94



NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Ill. James A. Salisbury, Jr.

As we approach the end of another year, one that had many ups and downs, Covid is still around affecting all aspects of our lives. Many Brothers laid down their Working Tools this year and went to the Celestial Lodge above. They will be missed very much. We, as Masons, must pick up the Baton they left us and move forward with Masonry. If we do not, then we will not be around very long. It is up to us.

Honours Weekend was held over Veterans Day weekend at the Valley of Tampa; 18 Inspector Generals Honorary were crowned, and 51 new Knights Commander Court of Honour were invested. The Valley of Pensacola was well represented. Be sure to congratulate Hon. David York, Hon. Timothy Kennedy, and Hon. Donald Rife when you see them; well deserved!

I would also like to give a Big Shout Out to the KCCH for a successful fundraiser this Fall. You will see a major improvement in the coming weeks as a result of their work. All who contributed are to be commended. Thank you! ✘

STAYING FOCUSED, MOVING FORWARD

Ill. Kurt P. Larson, Personal Representative

GREETINGS FELLOW MEMBERS, Brothers, Sisters, partners, colleagues, and friends. It is my distinct honor and pleasure to bring greetings once again on behalf of the Ill. Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Richard G. Hoover, the Valley Executive Committee, and staff.

The Scottish Rite is strong, out front, respected, relevant, leading, and ready to serve its members.

We continue to provide leadership, education, and advocacy for the Fraternity. We have an engaged membership, competent and capable staff, and never have we demonstrated more the importance of our voice and mission than we have over the past five years. I have discussed the challenges facing the Rite and what we were doing to meet those challenges head-on. The Scottish Rite has bounced back. Although COVID-19 affected us like many other organizations, we were able to come back strong.

Hosting our monthly gatherings was a welcome sign of some normalcy returning to our lives. Although some of our “family” were unable to be present, the events are very well attended, including some virtual sessions we have had.

Now that the Biennial Session and Honours Weekend are behind us, we will be engaging our stakeholders as we update our strategic directive to ensure we stay focused on our members' needs and remain relevant in these changing times. Stay tuned for additional information on our engagement strategies post COVID-19.

The summer of 2021 has drawn to a close, and while we are starting to plan beyond COVID-19 for the future, we would be remiss not to mention the anniversary of 9/11. September 11, 2021, marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. On that day, two planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, District of Columbia, and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This was the most lethal terrorist attack in U.S. history, killing almost 3,000 people; 343 of those people killed were members of the New York City Fire Department (people I had gotten to know well during the fall of 2000). As a leader for those who've served their Country, it is essential that we take a moment to reflect on the lives lost and the heroism displayed during those difficult hours and days. And the many days since when our men and women were deployed overseas, preventing such a tragedy on our soil again.

COVID-19 is not over yet, and we all may have a new normal, but there is one thing I am confident about: we, as the Scottish Rite, are respected advisors, we are leading through adversity, and we are relevant and evolving because of you, our members, our staff, and our partners Lodges.

You may notice in our calendars and meetings, some things are getting moved around. While some feel reading of the bills is what this organization was established for, whether you hate what I am about to say or not, I do not believe that is a valuable use of our time. Yes, we should review our expenditures. As a matter of fact, we are striving for more transparency in all areas of the Valley. But reading the electric and water bill, I believe, can be handled by the men you have elected to see to the good of the order. Instead, we intend to focus on what makes us special. That singular Masonic bond that cannot be found at the VFW, Elks or other groups.

While we are a body of Masons, we are not a Craft Lodge and need to try even harder to gain the support of our Brothers and Sisters. That



Our 2021 Honours Men with Ill. Kurt Larson, PR

Ill. James Salisbury, Hon. David York,

Hon. Timothy Kennedy and Hon. Donald Rife

Congratulations!

means doing what you find interesting. Perhaps a degree instead of a “formal” opening? A lecture on a topic of interest? Not being as stringent on dates – i.e. the BBQ Sandwich Sale or moving the Education and Sandwich Supper to a time when those who choose to participate in Grotto can learn here. We are examining EVERYTHING we do, to see why we are doing it and if it makes sense today. These are serious challenges. Illustrious Harry Kuckenbrod did this when he tasked a group of our members to update the Strategic Plan. That was in 2009. It’s well past time, we reexamine what we are doing, since the outside World seems to be spinning faster as each day comes and goes.

So as we move forward, we cannot forget our past. Some of the things we have done have made a huge impact on Pensacola, our Valley and ourselves. We have honored some wishing we could honor others. We have buried some wishing we could have had another day with them. We have created a singular experience, that can be replicated if others choose to do so. As this year kicks off, I look forward to hearing the tales of the good and the bad, the trials and tribulations of our Valley, and most of all – from each of you. You continue to give me hope that we can, in our little way, make this a better world with better people.

In closing, I would like to thank our members involved in our committees, lines, Lodges, and of course our staff. Without all of you, the Scottish Rite could not have made it through this past year. You are why we exist. Having worked with many of you over the years and witnessing the extraordinary efforts we have achieved together - I am incredibly optimistic about the future of the Rite and proud to be part of such a great organization.

Together we are better! Thank you. ✨

THE SANDS OF TIME

Kurt P. Larson, Personal Representative and
Diane Palermo, Administrative Assistant

The drive up into the higher elevations took fifteen minutes and required strong nerves and good brakes. They followed the directions they had been given and eventually caught sight of the crumbling priory, resting on an intersection of paths, its shattered square tower flanked by a merciless precipice. The road ended about half a mile from the ruins and the hike up, along a trail of emaciated rock flowered with thyme, beneath a canopy of great pines, took another ten minutes.

They entered the site.

Signs of neglect lay everywhere. The thick walls were bare and the man allowed his fingers to slip along the gray-green granite schist, each stone surely quarried from the mountains and worked with faithful patience by ancient hands.

A once grand gallery opened to the sky with columns and capitals that centuries of weather and light had tarnished beyond recognition. Moss, orange lichens, and gray wiry grass littered the ground, the stone floor long ago returned to sand. Grasshoppers sang a loud castanet.

The rooms were hard to delineate, as the roof and most of the walls lay collapsed, but several stood out. A large hall and another spacious room that might have been a library or scriptorium. He knew life here would have been frugal, thrifty and austere.

The man sat atop one of the chucks of stone and stared up at the sky. He glanced farther into the decayed temple. Bees hummed in the shadows. Dusty shafts of light poured through slits cut through the rock at varying angles, apparently designed to take advantage of the drifting sun. Something caught his eye. He stepped close to one of the rock walls, hewn smooth now bare of any decoration except a carving about ten feet above him. The crest of a helmet with a swathe of linen dropping on each side of a male face. The features were gone, the nose worn smooth, the eyes blank and lifeless. On top was a sphinx. Below was a stone shield with a splayed cross pate.

While the story above is pure conjecture, should a tragedy befall our society and anarchy erupt, it is not far from reality. During the events of the month of November, we lost three good men. One decorated with the rank and dignity of Inspector General Grand Cross. And two others Inspector General Honorary. That’s not to say that these men are the only ones to be singled out. Just that they had achieved significant milestones in our Fraternity. Which brings us back to our story.

The man was at a fallen temple. This could have been any Masonic Lodge, or even our beloved Valley. The only reason this hasn’t happened yet, is the hard work of the members, their families and friends. Masonry could very well go the way of the story above and all that would be left would be the markers we used to guide our paths through the lessons we learned.

But it is also much more. There is no mention of those who came before. As a Valley we strive to remember our past, live in the present, and cement a future by working hard today so that we have a future tomorrow. So let’s mention those men. The Grand Cross belonged to a longtime supporter of the Valley. His name was Ferris Eugene Booker. Now granted he had those that loved him or didn’t. Yet he did so much for this Valley that most will not remember. There was a time when our building was about to cave in on itself. Not many knew that. He procured grant money to save a local heritage site, which has deep meaning to the Valley of Pensacola and the men who had led not just Masonry, but government and business alike. Making Pensacola a long term community which could have been lost to the sands of time with Destin and Mobile jockeying for the attentions of the military and US Government for seats at the table.

When the work was begun on our “home” at 2 East Wright Street, so many things were learned that many of us had no idea about. Sure there were pictures, but did you know besides the “Widow’s Walk” the roof joists were burned through in several areas? Or that the building was one of a handful in town that had a basement. When hurricane Ivan came ashore in 2004, it did significant damage to the building. So much so, we could not meet there for several months until things were repaired or secured. Ask Illustrious Harry K. about all the work that went on to let us back into our home. Illustrious Harry was instrumental in making that possible along with Illustrious Jim Holland, our Personal Representative at the time. Illustrious Gene, worked long hours for weeks making sure our home would be there for the next generation.

And then again, when the church next door declared their interest in our building, he worked on expanding the then York Rite Center to accommodate the larger crowds of the Scottish Rite. Those larger crowds were due to the hard work of the properties committees, the work committees, and dining room staff.

Another member who has been lost to the sands of time used to be very active in the Valley in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. He ran a private business and contributed to the successful business operations of the Valley. He worked to maintain our treasury and keep us in the black. Over time, he fell away from the hard work of the Scottish Rite having to work more diligently during business downturns in the 80s and 90s. Charlie Sherrill gave his heart and soul to this Valley at a time when the need was great. Is he less of an outstanding Mason because his focused changed in later years? I for one resoundingly say NO! He gave of his talents for a long time. But now we have lost him too. Do you remember his smile, hearty laugh and the “smack” on the back? If not, you are evidence that the sands of time flow faster than anyone wants.

Lastly, Illustrious Greg Smith. For a long time he served as our Director of Work. An outstanding ritualist and mentor when it came to the degrees of Freemasonry. There was a time when no matter what Masonic body you belonged to, you knew Greg. His efforts on behalf of the Valley are legendary, and he was at times bigger than life. But, today, we have lost him too. There are some who can share stories of times when Escambia 15 needed a little extra help, or York Rite and even our Valley. He never shied away from hard work, fellowship and getting his two cents in. I had the pleasure, or displeasure of replacing him when he stepped aside. I say displeasure, but I only say that because they were such big shoes to fill.

Share your story today with the members of the Valley. While these are only three of the men who we have lost, there are so many more. At the end of this article will be listed everyone we have lost in the last year. Don’t let the sands of time bury our memories of these Brothers and Sisters. For if we do, we will be like the story that started this article “once grand gallery opened to the sky with columns and capitals that centuries of weather and light had tarnished beyond recognition. Moss, orange lichens, and gray wiry

grass littered the ground, the stone floor long ago returned to sand.”

It is now in our care, to keep our memories alive, the tales of the victories and the challenges, knowing that you too will one day disappear into the sands of time in our members’ memories. How many will remember all the things you did for the Valley or will they only lament, that you were here and then you were gone. Rest easy my Brothers and Sisters. The torch has been passed and a new challenge has been put down. ✨

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Brother”

Ill. Ferris Eugene Booker GC	Bro. Jerry Stanley Kosowski
Bro. Bob Keeling Burt	Bro. Vernon Lebar Lowe
Bro. Bob V. Carambas	Bro. Phillip Vincent McCoy
Bro. William Earl Carroll	Hon. Chester Leon Miller
Bro. Arthur Lee Cook Sr.	Bro. Leo Cranford Nelson Sr.
Bro. Leonard LaRue Crawford	Bro. David Vinson Radford
Bro. Boyce Cropper Jr.	Hon. Edward H. Scheye
Bro. Robert Winston Dennard	Ill. Charles Carroll Sherrill
Bro. Fredric Joseph Eckrich	Ill. Gregory Daniel Smith
Bro. Odie McClane Eddins Jr.	Bro. James Harold Speed
Bro. Otis McDonald Galloway Jr.	Bro. Gerald Wayne Stanfill
Bro. Larry Frederick Grindrod	Hon. Cris Lazo Villanueva
Bro. Charles Edward Hard	Bro. Ernest Wilson Waldroup
Bro. Robert Elmore Hill	Bro. J. T. Wilson
Bro. Herman Kenneth Keenan	Bro. Eddie Gene Woodle
Ill. Ronald Bruce Killary	Bro. Jay K. Wray
Bro. Harmon Luther Knight	Mrs. Estrella Villanueva - SRWA

Scottish Rite Women’s Association Mrs. Lois Thiergart, President

I am always so proud of our Scottish Rite Ladies who take the time to come to meetings with their men. You are a blessing and serve the Valley of Pensacola so well!

It is the time of year when Officers are installed for the coming year. If you would like to serve in an office, please let me know (850-453-6336).

Christmas time always brings happy memories of when the children were small. Stockings were hung from the mantel and cookies left for Santa. I wish you and your families a peaceful, blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. ✨

On December 2, 2021, the Valley held our Installation of Officers for the year 2022. We also recognized Hon. Carl Kirtley and Hon. Jerry Garner as 2021 Scottish Rite Masons of the Year. Well Done!

Our new leadership: Master of Kadosh - Hon. Ronald Parks; Commander - Hon. Alex Carambas; Wise Master - Hon. James Gazaway; Venerable Master - Bro. Dwight Wilson; Master and Commander - Bro. Shawn Johnson, KSA; Commander KCCH - Hon. Alan Cox; and SRWA President - Mrs. Lois Thiergart. ✨

Congratulations to all!

Masonic Corner:

- Fellowship Breakfast, Ensley 278, biscuits & sausage gravy - every second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Breakfast, Myrtle Grove 352, second Saturday of the month 7-9:00 a.m.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 6	Executive Meeting KCCH Meeting – Conference Room KSA Meeting – Library Invocation followed by Dinner Program – Feast of Kadosh, KSA Squiring Ceremony KSA Honor Guard Host - Master of Kadosh, Consistory	4:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM
Jan 17	Office Closed	
Jan 22	KSA/ROS Robert Burns Night (Open to all)	6:00 PM
Jan 26	Education & Sandwich Supper	5:30 PM
Jan 27	Knights of Saint Andrew	6:00 PM
Feb 3	Executive Meeting KCCH Meeting – Conference Room Invocation followed by Dinner Program – Double Eagle Awards, Ring and Patent Awards KCCH Honor Guard Host – Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection	4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM
Feb 21	Office Closed	
Feb 23	Education & Sandwich Supper	5:30 PM
Mar 3	Executive Meeting KCCH Meeting – Conference Room KSA Meeting – Library Invocation followed by Dinner Program- TBD KSA Honor Guard Host – Commander, Council of Kadosh <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	4:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM
Mar 5 & 19	228th Reunion – Spring	
Mar 15	Newsletter Production	9:00 AM
Mar 15	Scottish Rites Ladies Group Luncheon	12:00 PM
Mar 23	Education & Sandwich Supper	5:30 PM

SPECIAL MENTION

Do you know the word “centenarian”?

Well, we just learned we have two *centenarian** members here at the Valley. Special “thank you” to members, Hon. Curtis Jones (70 year member) and Bro. Roderic Dugger (41 year member) for their faithful service to the Valley. ✨

*A person who is 100 years or more in age.

Circle of Concern

Bro. Robert Arrazattee
Ill. Bill Bonifay
Hon. Russell Burgin
Ms. Milda Castleberry
Bro. Carl David
Ill. Jimmy Lindt
Hon. Robert Matteson
Hon. John Mick
Bro. Ronald Naumowicz
Bro. Ronald Price
Ill. John Rogers
Ill. Gene Rosenbaum
Bro. Don Spears



Please remember our Brothers and Sisters during their sickness and distress. Privacy issues prevent us from printing addresses and telephone numbers here. Please contact the General Secretary’s office for more information.