



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite Scottish Rite News

Volume 3 Issue No. 12

Newsletter Date December 2025

The Voice



Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Officers for 2025



**Ill. James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander**



**Ill. Arthur Salazar Jr., 33°
Deputy of California**



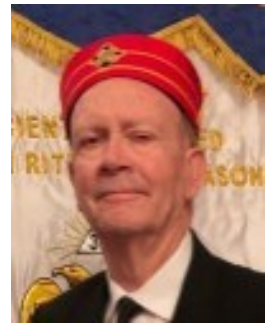
**Hon.. Leonard Kienzle, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master**



**Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH
Wise Master**



**Hon. Kurt Handshuh, 32° KCCH
Commander**



**Hon. Daniel Oates, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh**



**Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH
Treasurer**



**Hon. Shane DaCosta, 32° KCCH
General Secretary**



**Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative**

Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Office: 51-100 South Jackson, Indio Ca. 92202

Hours: Monday – Friday 10 Am-4PM

Voice/Text: (760) 409-1206

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Venerable Master

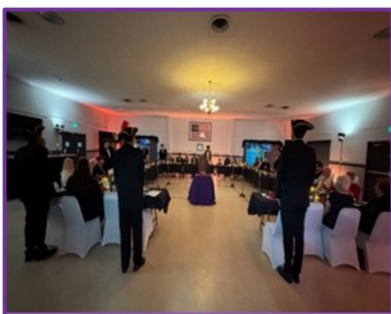


Brethren,

The Valley of Palm Springs celebrated our Feast of Tishri on Saturday, October 11th, at Coachella Lodge in Indio. The Order of Eastern Star of course provided a wonderful, thematic and savory dinner – some said the best ever and I'd agree – Thank you!!!



It was a spectacular gathering capped off with the best speech many of us can recall presented by Illustrious and Most Worshipful Stu Wright, 33° - Thank you!!!



Venerable Master

Then on Saturday, November 1, at the Valley of San Bernardino in Rialto, the Valley of Palm Springs Degree Team including Hon Kurt Handshuh KCCH, Hon Mark Flint KCCH, Hon Roy Pool KCCH, and Bro Clint Atherton, 32° performed the 14th Degree, Perfect Elu for new candidates. The feedback from San Bernardino's leadership was most positive. I won't share it verbatim as some egos may grow further and...



Brothers... thank you!!! It is that time of year to give thanks – Thank all of you!!!

Proudly and fraternally,

Leonard Kienzle 32° KCCH

Venerable Master

Senior Warden



Brethren,

I would like to thank all of you that were able to attend our stated meeting in November, and you trusted in electing me as Venerable Master for the year 2026! In addition, I would like to thank all the officers who volunteered to serve the Valley as well.

Lastly, I would like to thank Illustrious Arman Ordian, Hon. Shane DaCosta, Hon. Mark Flint, Hon. Leonard Kinzele, and Hon. Mike Sekera for all their help in preparing a budget and schedule, as well as all helping me with the other items that needed to be completed.

I look forward to a productive year and working with our excellent team of members to help grow the Valley. Speaking of growth, on Saturday, November 1st, I had the pleasure, as part of our ritual team, to participate in a 14th degree in Rialto to add another member to the Scottish Rite family. Inspired by our fearless leader, Hon. Leonard Kinzele, the team executed another excellent degree. We look forward to 2026, when we will perform the degree in Pasadena with members from all over the state scheduled to be in attendance.

As we close out 2025, I hope that all of you and your families have a festive holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2026.

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master Elect

Treasurer



Dear Brethren,

November was another busy month. I hope everyone had a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

November 1st , Venerable Master Leonard Kienzle, Clint Atherton, Kurt Handshuh, Roy Pool and myself participated in the 14th degree in Rialto for the San Bernardino Scottish Rite. Look forward to next year in Pasadena.

November 19th , was our Stated Meeting and a wonderful dinner prepared by Dawn and Izzy. Bills to date were paid and if all goes well, I look forward to serving our Valley as Treasurer again next year. I have signed up to attend the 2026 Rite Works Leadership Conference, with our Secretary, Shane Da Costa.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2026 Membership Dues early. Special thanks to those who donated to our CLC as well as our Almoners Fund.

November 22nd , I attended the Coachella Valley Chapter No 360 OES Officer Installation.

Wishing all HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Mark A. Flint, Treasurer



RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, November 2025

Your Language Center is running smoothly. Zack, our SLP, is working with our students and on the lookout for and evaluating new students as they are brought to us. We received a Grant from the City of Indian Wells in September, and we are hoping to receive more. Please remember that the Language Center is our Charity, and it can't survive without your help. If you haven't sent in your dues for next year yet, please add a little bit for our Language Center; every little bit helps.

Thank you for all your past and future support in giving speech a chance; the children deserve it.

Hon. Dan Oates 32° KCCH

Chairman,

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley



Message from Almoner

Dear Brethren,

Thank You, for contributing \$44.00 to the fund this November.

I want to thank all the brethren for your continued support of the Almoners Fund. It's up to us. Your contributions help keep our Almoners Fund at the ready to aid and assist those in financial distress. Let's keep up the good work.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance. All referrals to the Almoners Fund are completely confidential.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all the brethren.

Thank You,

Roger Roberts 32°

Almoner Phone 760-777-0796

E-mail: RogerRoberts_PSSR@outlook.com



New from the Supreme Council

Master Craftsman Online College

www.craftsmancollege.org

Request Online Petition for your Valley

www.scottishrite.jotform.com/

Scottish Rite Journal Podcast

Scottish Rite YouTube Channel

Scottish Rite Research Society



Scottish Rite Education Website

Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your service to your Mother Council SJ, California, and Valley of Palm Springs. You are a key part of our Gentle Craft. One of the key factors of building our Fraternity is educational work. The lessons that are taught throughout all the aspects of the 29 Degrees are ones that can deeply enrich our service to God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

I would like to encourage the Master Craftsman Courses that are available for all members of the Scottish Rite to help strengthen your knowledge and education.

<https://mastercraftsmancollege.org>

There are Eleven Courses in total, ranging from Symbolic Lodge, Scottish Rite Education, Scottish Rite Blue Degrees, and Scottish Rite Philosophy. The vast amount of education is at your fingertips. There are books that are attached to courses and links are available on the website for purchase. A small fee is attached to the courses but, for the cost, the educational return is far and above the cost.

Small steps create large bounds. The time has come to apply the knowledge to the advancement of our Gentle Craft. Each course, question, chapter, and essay are steps in the positive direction. Celebrate your victories and be proud of where you came from to where you are. As you complete these courses, you will have become an example among your Valley and encourage others to follow on the same path. As you complete many of the courses, there is a Certificate and Pin that will be issued to you on behalf of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction. Display and wear them with honor.

Be the example you needed; we are all humble servants.

Hon. Michael J Sekera, 32° KCCH

VMAP Chairman, Valley of Palm Springs



Personal Representative



Brothers,

As we conclude another meaningful year in our Valley, I want to extend my gratitude to each of you for your participation, support, and the renewed spirit we have all felt these past months. December is an important month not only because it closes the year, but because it sets the foundation for the next one.

At our December Stated Meeting, we will present the 2026 Proposed Valley Budget for discussion and approval. This budget reflects our priorities for growth, member engagement, degree excellence, and responsible stewardship of our resources. I sincerely encourage every Brother to attend, ask questions, and take part in the decision-making process. Your voice matters, and your vote shapes our direction.

In addition, the slate of Officers for the upcoming 2026 Masonic Year will also be presented for election. We have been working diligently with our incoming Venerable Master to prepare a team that reflects commitment, energy, and consistency — Brothers who are ready to serve, lead, and continue strengthening the legacy of our Valley.

These two items — the 2026 Budget and our 2026 Officers Election — are not simply procedural votes. They represent our direction, our goals, and the way we choose to invest in the future of Scottish Rite Masonry in our region.

I hope to see all of you in attendance as we set the stage for a successful year ahead.

May God Bless you and your loved ones during this holiday season.

With warm fraternal regards,

Ill. Arman Ordian 33°

Personal Representative of the Deputy of the S.G.I.G.

The Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite

760-541-1020

aordian@verizon.net



Happy Birthday!!

Robert C Wieland 32°	(December)	7th
MW & Ill. Stuart A Wright 33°	PGM	9th
Kurt Handshuh 32°	KCCH	18th
Thomas R Johnson 32°		24th
Laurence I Pitts 32°		28th
William A Sullivan 32°		31st



We are always open to welcoming new candidates to the Valley of Palm Springs. Interested Masters Mason can contact me directly or let one of you know of their interest.

PSSR 2025 Calendar

December 20th - Holiday Stated Meeting

January 21th - Installation of Officers



December Dinner Menu

**RSVP please with
Dawn Grummer
1-760-799-4942**

**Green Salad
Christmas Ham
Au gratin and Sweet
Potatoes and Vegetables
and Desert**

\$20.00



PSSR Proposed Officers 2026



LODGE OF PERFECTION

Clint Atherton, 32° *Venerable Master*
Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH *Senior Warden*
Guillermo Gallardo, 32° *Junior Warden*
Hon. Roy Pool, 32° KCCH *Prelate*



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

Dave Hertzinger, 32° *Wise Master*
Ill. Mert Gayler, 33° *Senior Warden*
Matthew Sibert, 32° *Junior Warden*
Hon. Roy Pool, 32° KCCH *Orator*



COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Hon. Kurt Handshuh, 32° KCCH *Commander*
Hon. Nick Seneca, 33° KCCH *1st Lt. Commander*
Randy Viscovich, 32° *2nd Lt. Commander*
Daniel Yacoubian, 32° *Chancellor*
Hon. Roy Pool, 32° KCCH *Orator*



CONSITORY

Barry Berg, 32° *Master of Kadosh*
Gary Okamoto, 32° *Prior*
Hon. Dan Oates, 32° KCCH *Preceptor*
Hon. Michael J Sekera, 32° KCCH *Chancellor*
Roger Roberts, 32° *Minister of State*
Hon Leonard Kienzle, 32°, KCCH - *Captain of the Host*

PAST VENERABLE MASTERS

1984	*ILL. BEN LANE, 33°
1985	*Hon. RICHARD McDERMOTT, 32° KCCH
1986	*ILL. ALLAN CHAPNICK, 33°
1987	*ILL. HARRY ZEBRACK, 33°
1988	*ILL. CURTIS PAXMAN, 33°
1989	*ILL. BEN HACKEL, 33°
1990	*ILL. JOHN MAULE, 33°
1991	*ILL. CHARLES ASH, 33°
1992	*JACK KARTZINEL, 32°
1993	*Hon. JOE LA COST, 32° KCCH
1994	*Hon. LEN LENHOFF, 32° KCCH
1995	*ILL. NORMAN MANDEL, 33°
1996	*Hon. ED NORTON, 32° KCCH
1997	*ILL. LLOYD GRAY, 33°
1998	*ILL. DONALD SANDERS, 33°
2000	*Hon. HOWARD KOCHMAN, 32° KCCH
2001	*Hon. JOHN BOWLEY, 32° KCCH
2002	ILL. JOSEPH DiPUZO, 33°
2003-2004	*Hon. ELBERT McKINNEY, 32° KCCH
2005	*Hon. HENRY KERCE, 32° KCCH
2006	*ILL. JIM LEIGHTON, 33°
2007	*ILL. DAVE BERG, 33°
2008	*ILL. BILL HAWTHORNE, 33°
2009-2010	*Hon. STAN ADAMS, 32° KCCH
2011	** ILL. MICHAEL POWELL, 33°
2012	ILL. ARMAN ORDIAN, 33°
2013	*Hon. JAMES PETERSEN, 32°, KCCH
2014	Hon. KURT HANDSHUH, 32° KCCH
2015 -2016	Hon. SHANE DACOSTA, 32°, KCCH
2017	*Hon. ROBERT JACOB, 32°, KCCH
2018	Hon. DAN OATES, 32°, KCCH
2019-2020	Hon. MICHAEL J. SEKERA, 32°, KCCH
2021	Hon. ROY POOL, 32°, KCCH
2022	*JAMES RIDLEY, 32°
2023	** HECTOR MINON Jr. 32°
2024	**STUART RYAN, 32°



* *DECEASED*

** *Demitted*