



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite

Scottish Rite News

Volume 3 Issue No. 6

Newsletter Date June 2025

The Voice

SON
FATHER
BROTHER
FRIEND

H A P P Y
*Father's
Day*



Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Officers for 2025



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



Ill. Leonard Proden, 33°
S.G.I.G. in DC



Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative S.G.I.G



Bro. Raffi Hovhannisyan, 32°
Grand Secretary



Hon. Shane DaCosta, 32° KCCH
Treasurer



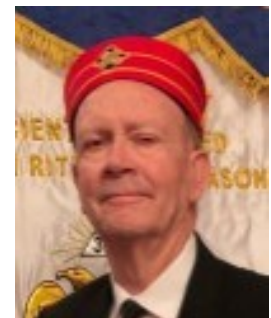
Bro. Leonard Kienzle, 32°
Venerable Master



Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH
Wise Master



Hon. Kurt Handshuh, 32° KCCH
Commander



Hon. Daniel Oates, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh

Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Office: 51-100 South Jackson, Indio Ca. 92202
Hours: Monday – Friday 10 Am-4PM
Voice/Text: (818)515-6008

Valley of Palm Springs, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, The Scottish Rite News Monthly.
No Subscription Price

Palm Springs Scottish Rite

51100 Jackson Street, Coachella, Ca. 92202

Reception for
Ill. Leonard Proden, 33° SGIG in D.C.



Wednesday, June 25th, 2025

5:30—6:30pm Social

6:30 Dinner Followed by Reception

\$25.00 for all other attenders

Dress: Business Suite and Tie

For RVSP Contact

Bro Raffi Hovhannisyan 32°, General Secretary

Text: (818) 515 - 6008

Email: PSSRsecretary@gmail.com



Personal Representative



Let's Walk the Walk: Bringing Our Valley to Life Through Real Leadership

Every time I think about what really moves Masonry forward, it comes down to one thing: leading by example. Not just saying the right things — doing them. And right now, our Valley is in a great place. We've got momentum, opportunity, and a solid brotherhood that's ready to do something meaningful.

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about how we can turn that energy into action. If we want more engagement, more excitement, and a stronger presence — it has to start with us. Especially those of us in leadership roles. If we want our members to show up and get involved, we've got to walk the walk.

That means showing up — not just physically, but with purpose. It means taking the lead in degree work, mentoring our newer Brothers, bringing our families to events, and genuinely supporting each other's work.

Because here's the truth: when leadership is active and visible, members respond. When members are inspired, things start to grow. It's not a secret formula — it's just consistency, presence, and putting some heart into what we do.

Personal Representative

There's a lot to be excited about:

- Monthly education nights and the Master Craftsman program
- More degree work and chances to support our neighboring Valleys
- Events that welcome families and friends into our Masonic world
- Stronger ties and collaboration with our local lodges
- To commit to supporting the Childhood Language center - sustain it through fundraising, awareness, and active involvement. The success of the Center reflects our commitment.

This isn't about checking boxes or doing what we "have to." This is about what we get to do. We have the opportunity to build something great — together. To grow as men, to lead with purpose, and to leave a legacy our Valley can be proud of.

So, let's do it. Let's back each other up. Let's bring a little more focus, a little more energy, and a lot more brotherly love to everything we're building.

Let's walk the walk — and show what's possible when we lead with action.

Ill. Arman Ordian 33°

Personal Representative of S.G.I.G.

The Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite

760-541-1020

aordian@verizon.net



General Secretary

Brethren,

Wising all the brethren a Happy Father's Day this month. Brethren summer is here, and it is getting warm out here in the Desert, please be cautious, drink plenty of water, keep hydrated and stay in the shade. And most of all let's not forget, The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry typically has events and celebrations related to their 100th anniversary on June 14th, which is also Flag Day in the United States. While not a specific Scottish Rite holiday, it's a day of recognition and celebration, especially as it coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Masonic obligations

are voluntary pledges made during the initiation ceremonies, binding members to specific actions and principles. These include keeping secrets, adhering to Masonic principles, and supporting fellow Masons. Essentially, they create a framework for moral behavior and brotherhood within the fraternity.

Here's a more detailed look: Key Aspects of Masonic Obligations:

Secrecy:

- Masons are obligated to protect Masonic secrets from outsiders and those in lower degrees. This includes the rituals and teachings of their degree.

Adherence to Principles:

- Obligations require adherence to the square and compasses, which represent moral integrity and ethical conduct.

Fellowship and Charity:

- Masons are bound to support fellow Masons in need, offering assistance and companionship. This is a key tenet of Freemasonry, known as "Relief".

Brotherly Love:

- Obligations emphasize the importance of brotherly love and unity among Masons.

Obedience and Respect:

- Masons are obligated to respect the laws of the land and obey the lawful commands of their Lodge.

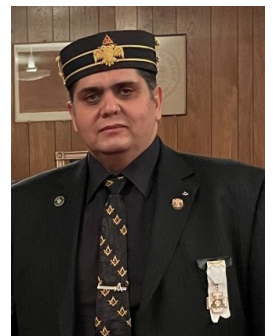
Moral Conduct:

- The obligations guide Masons to live a life of integrity, honesty, and fairness.

In Essence:

- The Masonic obligation is a moral compass, guiding Masons in their personal lives and within the fraternity. It's a voluntary pledge that binds members to specific actions, principles, and a code of conduct. Breaching these obligations can lead to disciplinary actions within the fraternity.

Sincerely & fraternally,
Bro Raffi Hovhannisyan, 32°
General Secretary Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite
Direct: (818)515-6008
Email: PSSRSecretary@gmail.com



Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,

What a month!

First, our Degree Team went out to the Valley of San Bernardino Scottish Rite in Rialto on Saturday, May 3rd, to perform our 14th Degree, The Perfect Elu production. What a great job Roy Pool, Clint Atherton, Mark Flint, Barry Berg and Kurt Handshuh did!



Then on Thursday, May 15th, we had the honor of supporting Coachella Lodge #476 for the reception of our P.R. Arman Ordian, 33°. He is also the Senior Grand Steward of Masons of California. As a Grand Lodge officer we were joined by several other Grand Lodge officers, including the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Art Salazar. The Order of Eastern Star helped us all shine! What an event!



And then on Wednesday, May 28th, we had our Stated Meeting followed by a wonderful dinner and reception for the Grand Master of Masons of California, again Most Worshipful Art Salazar. Two visits by the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers in as many weeks. And once again, our best friends from the Order of Eastern Star, particularly Dawn Gummer, helped us shine!

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And once again, our best friends from the Order of Eastern Star, particularly Dawn Gummer, helped us shine!

What could we possibly have in store for June, other than some relaxation? Well, we may have a surprise or two... we'll keep you posted. A happy summer is on the way.

Thank you most sincerely to all that participated this past month – you are all most impressive!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Leonard Kienzle, 32°

Venerable Master



Senior Warden



Brethren,

as we move into the summer and will be dark for July and August, we look for ways to stay connected. In fact, although we have a purpose for meeting in educating ourselves more in Freemasonry by exploring the degrees in the Scottish Rite, we also have a purpose in creating and strengthening our relationships through fun and good fellowship. Recently, I put together a small golf outing open to all the Brethren of the Valley.

Although the information and requests for participation was through Coachella Lodge 476, the purpose of the get together was twofold. One, was to see if we could generate enough interest to potentially hold a small golf tournament as a fundraiser for the Language Center next year when I am Venerable Master and the second was to get Brothers from the other lodges together who might have otherwise remained at a perpetual distance.

Although we only had twelve participants, we had Masons from several lodges including Coachella and Palm Springs and multiple members of the Valley of Palm Springs. We also had some non-Mason golfers who played and joined us for lunch after the round. A great time was had by all (bad shots included), and it was more than an outing, but a time for us to bond in a casual setting and remind ourselves why we are a part of this fraternity. Many requested that we do it again and I am exploring a quarterly golf outing at various locations.

I am hopeful that we will gain more participation over time and even the non-golfers that don't play will join us after lunch for some good times and fellowship. If you are interested in participating in the future or helping organize, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you all at the next outing!

Clint Atherton, 32°

Senior Warden

Junior Warden



Saint John the Baptist's Day

In the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice occurs when the sun reaches its highest and northernmost point in the sky. It marks the start of summer and is the longest day of the year.

The first Grand Lodge in England was formed on June 24th, the summer solstice in 1717, which is the feast day of John the Baptist. This was a deliberate act, and pays tribute to the Saint who was widely regarded as the patron of stonemasons through the Middle Ages.

Every year, Brothers come together to celebrate St. John's Day and celebrate his life. But it is equally important to recognize St. John the Evangelist's Day, which appears just as prominently on the Masonic Calendar around the 27th of December. The two saints continue to be widely respected and revered figures for brothers studying the Craft.

On June 24th, 1717, the first official grand lodge of Freemasons was formed in London, England, known as the Premier Grand Lodge of England. It was later unified with the Antients Grand Lodge in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Festival of St John should serve as a renewal and strengthening of fraternal ties and a celebration of Masonry from olden times. It functions as a connection between the past and the future.

From the Masonic perspective, we can understand the balanced dualism of John the Baptist on one side and John the Evangelist on the other. Together, they represent two sides of a coin: the passionate zeal of the Baptist and the knowledge of faith as the apostle. A Masonic Lodge dedicated to the two patron saints of Freemasonry can be seen as a space to both reflect on and channel our passion. Taken as an abstract compilation of symbols, they represent a well-balanced path toward enlightenment. Even more, their feast days are closely associated with the summer and winter solstice, underscoring the symbolic duality of the two figures.

Let's keep Saint John the Baptist in our thoughts as we break bread this month during our Stated Meeting.

Dave Hertzling, 32°

Junior Warden

Greater Coachella Valley Childhood Language Center

Dear Brethren,

We are a small Valley in the State of California, doing remarkable things for our RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley.

I am very proud of our Board of Directors who have served this Board as well as those who have mentored me on this journey.

It has been an honor to serve as a Board Member, Secretary and Chairman for the past three years.

I am grateful for all of your support and contributions to our CLC.

As we move forward, please continue to be a part of this great Fraternity and part of philanthropy for our students of the Childhood Language Center.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Mark A. Flint, Past Chairman

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley

42600 Cook Street, Suite 210

Palm Desert, CA 92211

Cell Phone: 818 640-3014

E-mail: mflint49@yahoo.com



Scholarships

Dear Brethren,

The Scholarship Committee of the Palm Springs Valley has selected Riley Burnett as the selection of this years scholarship. Thank you all for your submissions, we wish you the best of luck in your endeavors.

Dan Oates, 32° KCCH
Chairmen Scholarship Committee



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



Social/Fellowship

COACHELLA LODGE NO. 476

Free & Accepted Masons California



\$40
PER PERSON

BOWLING & FELLOWSHIP

Time To Relax and Have Some Brotherly Fun

Saturday, July 19th, 2025 / 11:30am - 2:30pm

FANTASY LANES @ FANTASY SPRINGS CASINO

84245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, CA

Please RSVP by July, 10th, 2025

WS Dr. Gary Okamoto Text: (760)567-8175

Bro. Leonard Kienzle Text: (760)485-8880

Ice Cream Social



BLYTHE - NEEDLES LODGE No. 473

WILL HOST AN ICE CREAM
FELLOWSHIP AND SOCIAL

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

COME & COOL DOWN
WILL BE SERVING ICE CREAM
FROM NOON - 3:00PM

BRING
YOUR
FAMILY &
FRIENDS

ICE CREAM
PARTY

DONATIONS
ARE
WELCOME
\$\$\$

ALL
DONATIONS
WILL BE USED
FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS



RSVP
SECRETARY
KEVIN CRAIN
TEL. (760)922-9253

LOCATION ADDRESS

BLYTHE - NEEDLES MASONIC
LODGE NO. 473
100 E. MURPHY ST.
BLYTHE, CA 92225

Happy Birthday!!

Richard Shalhoub	(June)	9th
Donald Griffith		23rd
David Essex		27th
Raffi Hovhannisyan		30th

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.



Message from Almoner

Dear Brethren,

May 28, 2025 the Valley of Pam Springs had the honor of holding a reception for Most Worshipful Arthur L. Salazar Jr. We hope you come and visit again real soon.

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

Please reach out to me if I may be of assistance. All referrals to the Almoners Fund are completely confidential.

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 Scholarship Info

Freewill online Will Creation Platform

2025 Officers

Palm Springs Scottish Rite

2025 Officers

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

Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Leonard Kienzle, 32°

Venerable Master

Clint Atherton, 32°

Senior Warden

Dave Hertzing, 32°

Junior Warden

Hon Roy Pool, 32° KCCH

Prelate

CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

Hon Mark Flint, 32° KCCH

Wise Master

Ill. Mert Gayler, 33°

Senior Warden

Barry Berg, 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

Hon Daniel H Oates, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh

Gary Okamoto, 32°

Prior

Sutton Miller, 32°

Preceptor

Hon Michael J Sekera, 32° KCCH

Chancellor

Guillermo Gallardo, 32°

Minister of State

GENERAL OFFICERS SERVING ALL BODIES

Raffi Hovhannisyan, 32°

Grand Secretary

Hon. Daniel H Oates, 32° KCCH

Asst. Secretary

Hon. Shane DaCosta, 32° KCCH

Treasurer

Roger Roberts, 32°

Almoner

Guillermo Gallardo, 32°

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°
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*