

Hello All,

A big thanks to all who have been very supportive this year. Especially the presiding officers, Clint Atherton, Bon Munar and Kirk Weiss. And least not forget our Senior Warden Hector Minon, General secretary Roger Roberts and our Treasurer Mike Sekera. I have been very blessed to have the leadership of Illustrious John Heisner, PGM as our Personal Representative and his assistant Arman Ordian.

I would like to quote a Japanese proverb “ no naka no kawazu, taiki wo shirazu” Which translates “A frog in the well knows not the ocean”. I know your thinking where is this guy going? Stay with me. This proverb derives from a fable about a frog who lived his entire life in a well. One day he was visited by a sea turtle. The frog could not believe all that the sea turtle told him. The takeaway here is that we all have a limited view of the world, and there is always, inevitably, more than we are able to see or experience. How small is our world? That’s the beauty of Scottish Rite Masonry. Our world can be so expansive through our teachings. Why do we stay in our little world when there is so much more we can see and learn from? I want to encourage everyone to think about expanding our minds. We HAVE the tools and guidance to be so much more in life. First, we have each other to learn experiences from. The members of the Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite are so diverse it is unbelievable. One of the rules that I live by is to be a student AND a teacher every day. Second, we have the history of our fraternity to learn from. So much of the ancient mysteries goes deep in to life meanings. It just takes time to understand and interpret the true teachings and how do we apply them to our lives. When we understand the true meaning of charity then we can understand what our mission as Scottish Rite Masons are. Charity is not only money, but how we help others in general. Yes, the kids that we help are important, but we must extend that charity to each other as well.

Be safe and share your knowledge and talents with others,

Fraternally,

Jim Ridley

V.M. 2022