



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 2

Newsletter Date February 2026

The Voice



Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Officers for 2026



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



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



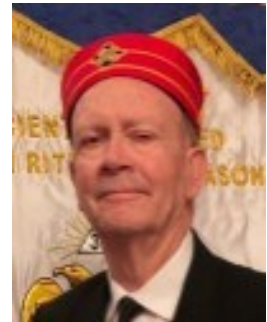
**Clint Atherton, 32°
Venerable Master**



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



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



**Hon. Dan 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

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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

Installation of Officers 2026



Venerable Master



It seems strange to be writing this article as the new Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection in our Valley! I started my Scottish Rite journey during the era of Covid and attended a reunion via Zoom and later received my cap and ring with a couple other Brothers at the house of a member. Since then, I have sat in the East as the Wise Master of Rose Croix, the Commander of Kadosh and Senior Warden, listening to the education provided to try and learn more about the informational richness that Scottish Rite provides.

I have also been lucky enough to participate in several degrees out in Rialto with our fantastic degree team lead by Bro. Kienzle. I am not sure if that prepares me for being the new VM, but I am grateful for all the support of the Brethren. I would especially like to thank all the Brethren and their families as well as our guests that came out for the installation.

A fantastic meal was provided by Brother Mike Gayler that proceeded the installation along with opening comments from our PR, Arman Ordian and Past VM, Leonard Kienzle. During the ceremony itself, I was humbled to have two Past Grand Masters (Illustrious Stu Wright, PGM and Illustrious Art Salazar, PGM) as part of the installation team as well as our own past VM, Roy Pool. To be surrounded by these great men as well as listening to the words accompanying the installation helped me in putting my upcoming year into perspective as well as setting the tone for our purpose.

I hope this encourages other Brothers to continue to come out this year and join us for stated meetings and events. Please make sure to check The Voice monthly for our calendar of events and the stated meeting meals. I hope to see you all there!

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master

Senior Warden/Treasurer



Dear Brethren,

Most Worshipful Stu Wright and I attended a Cap and Ring Ceremony and Celebration of Service for Ill John Nolan at San Bernardino Scottish Rite on January 20th, in recognition of his 12 years of service as Personal Representative.

For those of you who were not able to attend our Palm Springs Scottish Rite Installation, you missed a wonderful dinner and Installation conducted by Ill Art Salazar, Ill Stuart Wright, and Honorable Roy Pool.

Congratulations to Brother Clint Atherton VM and all the new officers appointed and elected to serve our Valley for 2026.

Thank you to Dave Hertzing, who presented Most Worshipful Art Salazar a donation for our Childhood Language Center.

On January 23rd, I attended the Pasadena Scottish Rite Installation. Great prime rib dinner with Most Worshipful Garret Chan, his wife JoMay, and Ill Art Salazar.

On January 25th, PR Arman Ordian, PVM Leonard Kienzle, VM Clint Atherton, and PVM Michael Sekera and his wife attended the San Bernardino Scottish Rite Installation.

On January 27th, I attended the OES Chapter dinner meeting at Coachella Masonic Lodge. Another great dinner prepared by Dawn Gummer. Thank you, Dawn, for all your service to our Valley.

Thank you to everyone who paid their 2026 Scottish Rite dues, and special thanks to those who included a donation for our Language Center as well as our Almoner Fund.

From the Heart,

Hon. Mark A Flint, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden/Treasurer

RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, January 2026

This month at your Language Center, Zack, our SLP, has 5 students, with an additional one scheduled for evaluation in February. I mentioned last month that your Board was beginning work on a fundraiser for the Language Center. Well, hold on to your hats and take out your wallets because the Chairman of our Fundraiser will be Margo Heisner, and she is planning a Golf Tournament for May 30, 2026, at Sun City's Santa Rosa Golf Course! There will be good times, prizes, and more! You can be sure we will be coming to you for your assistance in making it a success. Please remember 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; everything helps.

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

Hon. Dan Oates 32° KCCH



Message from Almoner

Dear Brethren,

Thank You for contributing \$74.00 to the fund this January.

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. Let's keep up the good work.

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



Director of the Work



Dear Brethren,

“For under certain kingdoms... others find form” – anonymous.
It’s the beginning of a new working year for the Valley. We have three special events to participate in and prepare for:

Celebration of Remembrance and Renewal
Statewide Reunion - Pasadena
Feast of Tishri

March 25, 2026
August 21-23, 2026
October 24, 2026

A special focus will be on the Statewide Reunion of course. For years, the Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite has traditionally performed the 14th Degree, Perfect Elu. We have traveled to the Valley of San Bernardino Scottish Rite, in San Bernardino then to Rialto where they are now located. A few years back we traveled north to Oakland to perform – and for me that was one of the grandest experiences of my masonic life.

This opportunity to travel to Pasadena for the Statewide Reunion and perform our production is one of the highest honors we’ve been bestowed.

I’m happy to announce our confirmed players:

Hon. Roy Pool, 32° KCCH
Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH
Barry Berg 32°
Memo Gallardo 32°
Hon. Shane DaCosta 32° KCCH

Clint Atherton 32°
Hon. Kurt Handshuh, 32° KCCH
Ill. Arman Ordian 33°
Roger Roberts 32°
Hon. Leonard Kienzle, 32° KCCH

Director of the Work

We are looking for 2 more for a total of 12. What a great number that would be!

Two alternates would be ideal as well.

Please join us, not just to support your Valley and Brothers, but to treat and give yourself a gift you will never forget. Don't you deserve it?

A schedule of practices shall be forthcoming. Our Valley goes dark for the summer months, yet I have gained permission from our Venerable Master Clint Atherton to hold practices during those times as it will be most beneficial leading up to our travels.

Please also contact our P.R. Arman Ordian, regarding hotels, lodging, etc. He will have the contact info for such.

One last note, as we get closer we will arrange same-day carpooling and the like.

There will be Valleys and brothers from all over the state – it really will be an amazing event and one you will never forget.

See you soon,

Hon. Leonard Kienzle, 32° KCCH, PVM

Director of the Work



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 **Thirteen 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



Brethren,

As we enter the month of February, I would like to congratulate all of our newly installed officers. Thank you for stepping forward to serve and for your willingness to give your time and energy to our Valley.

I am confident that this officer line will lead with dedication, teamwork, and respect for our traditions. Leadership in the Scottish Rite is true service, and I look forward to working together as we continue to strengthen our Valley.

I encourage every Brother to stay involved, attend our meetings, and support our upcoming degrees and events. Thank you as well to those who quietly serve behind the scenes—your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Together, with unity and a positive spirit, we will continue to move our Valley forward.

Thank you, Brothers, for your continued commitment and support.

Fraternally,

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



Coachella Lodge #476



Installation of Officers - 2026



**Sunday February 15
12pm**

LEONARD KIENZLE - MASTER-ELECT
MICHAEL GAYLER - SENIOR WARDEN-ELECT
TIM GAYLER - JUNIOR WARDEN-ELECT

MOST WORSHIPFUL STUART WRIGHT,
PAST GRAND MASTER OF MASONS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA -
INSTALLING OFFICER

WORSHIPFUL ROY POOL,
PAST MASTER -
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

WORSHIPFUL THOMAS JOHNSON,
JUNIOR GRAND DEACON OF MASONS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA -
INSTALLING CHAPLAIN

**LIGHT LUNCHEON SNACKS AND
ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW**

RSVP TO LEONARD KIENZLE
(760)485-8880
LENNYJAMES69@GMAIL.COM

**Coachella Lodge #476
51100 Jackson St.
Indio, CA 92201**





OASIS OF LIGHT

MASONIC LODGE
 U.D. 2060, P. Q.M.

CONSTITUTION CEREMONY & FESTIVE BOARD

**ILLUMINATING
 BROTHERHOOD:
 AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP,
 TRADITION, AND LIGHT**

 **FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026**

Ceremony of Constitution
 6:30 – 7:15 PM • Palm Springs Masonic Center
 450 S. Avenida Caballeros • Palm Springs

Festive Board Dinner
 7:45 – 9:30 PM • Eight4Nine Restaurant
 849 N. Palm Canyon • Palm Springs
Formal or Cocktail Attire Encouraged

About The Evening...

Join us for a landmark night as Oasis of Light Masonic Lodge is formally constituted by the Grand Master of Masons in California.

Following the ceremony, we will gather for a traditional Festive Board at Eight4Nine — a seated dinner marked by ceremony, music, five formal toasts, and the fellowship that defines our Craft.

An evening worth being present for

Ceremony. Conversation. A well-timed toast.

Reserve Your Place

\$150 per guest.
Dinner and drinks included.

Event Highlights

- Witness Oasis of Light being **formally constituted** by the **Grand Master of Masons** in California
- Gather for a traditional Masonic Festive Board, featuring **five formal toasts, music, and fellowship**
- Share an elegant **multi-course dinner** in one of Palm Springs' most iconic restaurants
- Close the evening in good company — **conversation lingering, glasses raised — and the work begun.**



Happy Birthday!!

Clint E Marshall 32° (February)	2st
Joseph S Kingsbury 32°	3rd
William M Pace 32°	4th
Warren L Bachtel 32°	5th
Joseph DiPuzo 33°	7th
Mark A Flint 32° KCCH	7th
Michael J Sekera 32° KCCH	10th
Bobby J Burks 32°	13th



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 2026 Calendar

1/21/2026	Installation - Stated Meeting
2/25/2026	Stated Meeting
3/25/2026	Stated Meeting
4/25/2026	Celebration & Remembrance - SGIG Meeting
5/27/2026	Stated Meeting
6/24/2026	Stated Meeting (Luau -Hawaiian)
8/22/2026	14 th Degree Team
9/23/2026	Stated Meeting
9/26/2026	First Responders BBQ
10/24/2026	Feast of Tishri
10/26/2026	Stated Meeting
11/18/2026	Nominations – Stated Meeting
12/16/2026	Elections – Stated Meeting

February Dinner Menu

RSVP please with
Clint Atherton
clitnatherton@me.com

\$20.00

Salad
Lasagna
Desert

To Register & Pay for
events please scan the code
below.



PAST VENERABLE MASTERS

1984	*ILL. BEN LANE, 33°		
1985	*Hon. RICHARD McDERMOTT, 32° KCCH	2025	Hon. Lenard Keinzle, 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*