



The Voice

A Brotherhood of Honor, Wisdom and Service

The **Scottish Rite of Freemasonry** is more than just an organization— it is the lifelong journey of enlightenment, self-improvement and service. As members of the Scottish Rite, we walk a path illuminated by the core Masonic principles of **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**, deepening by the pursuit of knowledge and the commitment to making the world a better place.

Our Mission & Purpose

The **Scottish Rite exists to inspire, empower, and elevate** men of integrity, strengthening their character and deepening their understanding of Masonic teachings. Throughout the **philosophical moral, and spiritual lessons of the degrees**, we cultivate a higher sense of purpose, challenging ourselves to live as examples of virtue, wisdom, and strength. Our mission is simple yet profound: to seek truth, promote justice, and uphold the values of opportunity, while extending a helping hand to those in need. Throughout our charitable endeavors, educational initiatives, or the bond of brotherhood, we work tirelessly to fulfill the ideals of freemasonry in our daily lives.

What it Means to Be a Scottish Rite Mason

To be a member of the Scottish Rite is to stand among a select group of men, dedicated to personal growth, moral fortitude, and the service of humanity. We are scholars and seekers, guardians of knowledge, and builders of a more just, and compassionate society. We **honor tradition**, while embracing progress, ensuring that the light of Masonry continues to shine for future generations.

Honoring Our Fraternal Love

Brotherhood is the foundation of the Scottish Rite. We are bound, not only by ritual and tradition, but by an unshakable commitment to **each other's well-being, success, and growth**. When one brother rises, we all rise. When one brother struggles, we lift him up. This is the essence of our fraternal love – unwavering support, respect, and unity. Throughout our charitable works, mentorship, and lifelong dedications to our self-improvement, we **honor our obligations to each other, and to the world**. In the Scottish Rite, we do not simply wear the square and compass - we live by the principles.

A Call to Action

As Scottish Rite Masons, we are **charged with a great responsibility – to be beacons of wisdom, kindness, and integrity**. Every day presents a new opportunity to lead, teach, and inspire. Let us continue to strengthen our bonds, uphold our traditions, and leave a lasting impact on our families, our communities, and our fraternity. Together, we are more than just men – we are **Scottish Rite Masons** - brothers, in the highest sense of the world, bound by duty, honor, and love.

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!

The Voice

March 2025



Ill. James D Cole, 33*
Sovereign Grand Commander



Ill. Arman Ordian, 33*
Personal Representative, SGIG



Bro. Raffi Hovhannisyan, 32*
General 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 Oats, 32* KCCH
Master of Kadosh

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.
Onward, my Brothers!

The Voice

Valley of Palm Springs 2025

March 2025



Arman Ordian, 33*
Personal Representative, SGIG

Congratulations to Our Newly Installed Officers

On behalf of the Palm Springs Valley of Scottish Rite, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected and installed officers! Your commitment to our Valley and dedication to service have rightfully earned you these esteemed positions.

As you embark on this new chapter, we anticipate a year filled with growth, unity, and the continued pursuit of enlightenment. Your leadership is vital in guiding our Valley toward new heights, and we are confident in your abilities to uphold the traditions and values we cherish.

We trust that all officers will offer their unwavering support to the Venerable Master, fostering an environment of collaboration.

In the spirit of brotherhood, I would also like to take a moment to wish our Illustrious Frank Loui a swift recovery and continued strength. Let us all keep him in our prayers and send positive thoughts for his healing.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to the Scottish Rite's mission and work collectively to make this year remarkable. Together, we can achieve great things and continue to illuminate the path for those who follow.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Arman Ordian, 33*
Personal Representative to the SGIG of California
Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite
760-541-1020

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!

The Voice

Valley of Palm Springs 2025

March 2025



leonard Kienzle, 32*
Venerable Master

Brethren, we had a wonderful stated meeting with most exceptional, sweethearts dinner. Want me the most special was the wonderful participation of our wives, mothers, daughters, and fairer friends. The atmosphere was splendid, and a harmonious and actually joyous. We've been told the movie screening in the dining hall for those not attending in the meeting was a hit. In fact it's been requested. We do it again so we will!

Some actions of note: we will have practice on Wednesday, March 12 at the Coachella Lodge, to prepare for the celebration of remembrance and renewal, who should be held at our stated, meeting on April 23. Honorable Mark Flint, our wise master of chapter of rose Croix, will be casting and coordinating. He has an exciting script and presentation planned Dash show more participation, the better. We will also review and read through the council of Kadosh's 20th degree Dash - Master of symbolic Lodge. This degree reminds us to Dispense light and knowledge, and to practice the Masonic virtues, both in and out of the lodge. We learn, a most important lesson, that example is the best teaching method known...

And then - we have a reunion to prepare for in May. We will join the brothers in the valley of San Bernardino in Rialto on May 3 and present our 14th degree-perfect ELU. Will keep you all posted.

Most importantly Coachella Lodge number 476 is hosting a rededication and time capsule ceremony on Sunday, March 23 at 12 PM. We have pledged our fully brotherly support and Fidelity. Please plan on attending the entire is business casual: polo shirt, slacks, sports coat/jacket if you have one. Lunch is \$25. Most of us will arrive at 10 a.m. to help. We will see you there brothers!

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!

The Voice

Valley of Palm Springs 2025

March 2025



Mark Flint, 32* KCCH
Childhood Language Center

Dear Brethren,

I am pleased to report the addition of our new Speech and Language Pathologist for our Childhood Language Center. His name is Zack Whittet. Please see his attached bio. We are very fortunate to have him on board. On behalf of the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley Board of Trustees, we thank you for your generous contributions received during our Installation dinner.

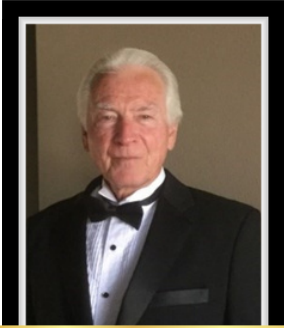
Please reach out to me to answer any questions regarding donations to our language center. Donations should be made out to the California Scottish Rite Foundation. Please remember to write RiteCare CLC of CV on the memo line so your donation goes to the correct location.

Your donations can be mailed to RiteCare Childhood Language Center, 42600 Cook Street, Suite 210, Palm Desert, CA 92211. We are all volunteers in our quest to support our RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Flint, Chairman
Cell: 818 640-3014
E-mail: mflint49@yahoo.com

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.
Onward, my Brothers!



Dave Hertzing, 32*
Junior Warden

Seven liberal arts and sciences of Freemasonry

They are Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, arithmetic, Geometry, music and Astronomy.

Each of these disciplines has its own unique value and importance, and together they form a comprehensive system of knowledge that is essential for the growth and development of the individual.

These seven liberal arts have been an essential part of Freemasonry since its inception.

The roots can be traced back to ancient Greece where Plato and Pythagoras first codified their importance. In the fellowcraft degree we are encouraged to study these arts and sciences.

Each of these areas of knowledge has layers of Masonic Meanings that can be uncovered through study. This study was considered essential for anyone seeking to become a well-rounded individual and was a cornerstone of education for many centuries. By studying these seven subjects, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and become better-rounded individuals.

Grammar is the study of language and its rules. In Freemasonry it represents the foundation for asking questions such as who, what, where and why. It challenges incoming data and information and instead of accepting it at face value, it encourages critical thinking and analysis. Rhetoric is the art of persuasion through language. In Freemasonry, it represents the ability to communicate effectively and influence others. It involves the study of language, grammar and style, as well as the ability to use language to convey ideas and emotions.

Logic is the study of reasoning and argumentation. In Freemasonry It represents the ability to think critically and evaluate arguments. It involves the study of formal and informal logic as well as the ability to recognize fallacies and evaluate the validity of arguments. Arithmetic is the study of numbers and their properties. In Freemasonry, it represents the ability to understand and use numbers in a practical way it involves the study of arithmetic operations, fractions, decimals, and percentages.

Geometry is the study of shapes, sizes and positions of objects. In Freemasonry, it represents the ability to understand and use spatial relationships. It involves the study of lines, angles, shapes and figures, as well as the ability to use this knowledge to solve problems. Astronomy is the study of celestial objects and their properties. In Freemasonry, it represents the ability to understand the universe and one's place in it. It involves the study of planets, stars, galaxies, and other celestial objects, as well as the ability to use this knowledge to navigate and explore the world.

The Voice

Valley of Palm Springs 2025

March 2025



Hon Michael Sekera, 32* KCCH
VMAP Chariman

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 Nine 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.










Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!

The Voice

March Calendar

March 2025

2025 MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 	6 	7	8
9	10	11 	12 	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 	21	22 
23 	24	25 	26 	27 	28	29
30	31					

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.
Onward, my Brothers!



THE SUPREME COUNCIL

(MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD)

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT

SHANE R. DACOSTA

TREASURER

VALLEY OF PALM SPRINGS

ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, JAMES D. COLE, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, (Mother Council of the World), do hereby appoint Bro. Shane R. DaCosta, 32°, K.C.C.H. of Palm Springs, California as Treasurer in the Valley of Palm Springs, Orient of CALIFORNIA, effective January 1, 2025 to be held subject to the will and pleasure of the Sovereign Grand Commander, and do invest him with the power and authority prescribed in the *Statutes of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.*


Sovereign Grand Commander

JAMES D. COLE, 33°, SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
1733 16TH STREET NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20009 • TEL. 202-777-3135 • GRANDCMDR@SCOTTISHRITE.ORG



The Voice

National Scottish Rite Annual and Endowed Scholarship

The application period for 2025 scholarship is open! The deadline to apply is April 3, 2025. Applicants chosen to receive scholarships will be informed of their selection by July 1, 2025.

Through the Scottish Rite foundation, southern jurisdiction, USA, Inc., the supreme council offers two different types of national scholarships:

1. Named One-year/One-time Scholarship
2. Named Endowed Scholarship

If you are interested in financially supporting these initiatives, please visit our scholarship program support page. Thank you!

Eligibility and submission requirements for all national Scottish rite, SJ scholarships

These scholarships are available to United States citizens, and US permanent residence only for study within the US at a Credit The, public or private colleges, universities, or trade schools- depending on the individual scholarship.

Applications must be submitted online each year to the office of the grand executive Director during the application period.

Most scholarships have additional requirements. Please refer to the individual scholarship information at www.Scottishrite.org

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.
Onward, my Brothers!



IT'S TIME

Application opens on January 15th
Deadline for submission is April 15th



Each year thousands of dollars are awarded to new scholarship recipients from the California Scottish Rite Foundation. Here's a few important things you will need to complete the application.



Copy of your recent transcript



Estimated annual cost of school next year*



Copy of your 2025-26 FAFSA report



Personal statements about you in your own words



Two letters of recommendation**

*If you are still waiting on your acceptance letters as the application deadline approaches then use the annual cost of the school you are most likely to attend even if you don't have the letter yet.

** Your letters of recommendation will need to be uploaded by your recommender so be sure to have their email address.

WE CAN'T INVEST IN YOUR SUCCESS IF YOU DON'T APPLY.

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SCHOOL YEAR!

APPLY NOW

CLICK



SCAN





Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite

March 2025

The Voice

CV RiteCare Childhood Learning Center



Zachary Whittet

Speech and Language Pathologist for our Childhood Language Center

Zachary was a student athlete at the University of Redlands, where he earned his Bachelors Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. He received his Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Saint Augustine in Austin, Texas. He worked with children, adolescence, and their families in the school, setting for nearly a decade. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers and Coachella Valley Firebirds! Zachary looks forward to serving the children and families of the Coachella Valley.

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!

COACHELLA LODGE NO. 476

105TH YEAR REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Sunday, March 23RD, 2025

Most Worshipful Arthur L. Salazar Jr., Grand Master Of Masons In California

Worshipful Master Dr. Gary U. Okamoto



**THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
COACHELLA LODGE No. 476
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO A
105TH YEAR REDEDICATION CEREMONY**

**COACHELLA MASONIC CENTER
51100 JACKSON ST., COACHELLA CA
DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD, 2025
TIME: 12:00PM TO 2:00PM**

**RSVP BY: MARCH 7TH, 2025
BRO RAFFI HOVHANNISYAN
TEXT DIRECT: (818)515-6008
EMAIL: RAFFIHMASON@GMAIL.COM**

**LUNCH \$25.00
DRESS: BUSINESS CASUAL**

The Voice

March 2025

In case you missed it...





CELEBRATION

Al Malaikah Shriners Potentate's Official Visit

Valley of San Bernardino
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
260 Palm Ave. Rialto, CA 92376



Cordially invites you to...



To honor our diversity and principles, let's partake in celebrating our brothers' festivities! Cinco de Mayo has a long history of celebration in the United States of America.

Come and learn some historical facts about Cinco de Mayo. We will have a short lecture regarding this celebration. Masonry has been involved in many aspects of Mexican history.

Our brothers' celebration is our celebration!

FIESTA

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

@ 6:00pm Save the Date!

Suggested Donation @ \$20.00

RSVP @ 310.844.2633



Come and meet Potentate Dario Gamboa III and his Lady Cielo. This is his official visit as Potentate to our Valley of San Bernardino Scottish Rite. He has been a long time friend of our Valley. Let's celebrate with him!

Come and join us in this celebration of friendship and brotherly love. With our Cinco de Mayo theme, we are having a Fiesta Mexicana with delicious Mexican and Salvadorian food. We will provide many antojitos Mexicanos, pupusas, traditional refreshments, candies, and all kinds of goodies for grown ups and kids. Bring the whole family to our Fiesta.

Let's Celebrate!



The Voice

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you along in our continued Scottish Rite journey - The Voice is designed to inform inspire, and unites us in our shared commitment to the craft. This publication serves as a beacon of knowledge, Masonic education, and fraternal connection, ensuring that the labors of our Valley are well-known and celebrated.

To achieve this, I call upon each of you to take an active role in shaping the content of our **"Voice."** I encourage submissions that reflect the richness of our work, whether they be articles on Masonic history and philosophy, reflections on the degrees, updates on our Valley events, our words of wisdom drawn from our own experiences in the craft. Additionally, photographs, announcements, and recognition of our brethren and achievements are most welcome, as they allow us to honor the dedication and service within our ranks.

To ensure a timely and well-organized publication, all submissions must be received no later than the **first day of each month - without exception.** This will allow sufficient time for editing, review, and layout before distribution.

Your contributions may be sent to me via email to **juvenalmgonzalez@gmail.com** and I encourage you to each to reach out should you have any questions or wish to discuss potential topics.

Brethren, our Rite is strengthened not only by ritual and by study, but also by the bonds of fellowship and the sharing of knowledge. Let this **"Voice"** be a reflection of our unity and commitment to the values we hold dear. I look forward to your contributions.

Bro. Juvenal Gonzalez, 32*

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.
Onward, my Brothers!



The Voice

Past Venerable Masters

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

Let us carry this light forward with pride and purpose.

Onward, my Brothers!