



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite
Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 5

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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**



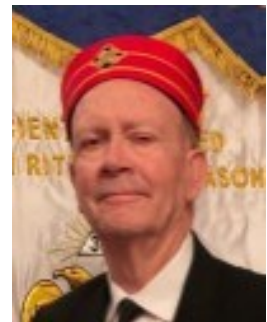
**Clint Atherton, 32°
Venerable Master**



**David Hertzog 32°
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**

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Venerable Master



Dear Brethren

With the passing of April, we experienced the chaos that the festivals bring with over a hundred thousand visitors coming into the Valley. . Although we don't welcome the chaos into our lodge, visitors are always welcome! Many of us regularly attend blue lodge or travel to attend various Masonic events. Please use that as an opportunity to invite our fellow Masonic Brethren to attend or investigate Scottish Rite. As we have discussed many times, our goal is to expand the Valley and get more participation as well as provide the education that Scottish Rite brings. In addition, we want to be able to continue to support and publicize our Childhood Language Center. Fortunately, we are continuing to move toward that goal and have recently received a couple of new applications. I am happy to announce that Brother James Lee has been elected to receive the Scottish Rite degrees. We look forward to having Bro. Lee as a member of the Valley once this process is complete. Please stay tuned for other news regarding the other candidates and help me welcome them as they continue their Masonic journey.

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master



Senior Warden/Treasurer



Dear Brethren,

For those who were not able to attend our March 25, Stated Meeting, you missed a great St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner, prepared by Dawn Gummer. You also missed a very meaningful Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony conducted by Wise Master David Hertzling and Cast Members.

As VM Clint Atherton was out of town, it was my privilege to stand in as Venerable Master for the evening. What an experience! I presented my takeaways from the RiteWorks Leadership Conference that Hon. Shane DaCosta and I attended earlier that month.

March 18, MW Stuart Wright and I attended the DeMolay Legion of Honor dinner in Pasadena. I urge everyone to get involved with our Masonic Youth Groups.

April 11, I attended the Coachella Valley Order of Eastern Star Fashion Show and Luncheon. Fun afternoon, and no didn't model!

At our April 22 Stated Meeting, Hon Leonard Kienzle presented a very insightful look into our 14th degree as part of our Masonic Education, which Lenny and his cast will be performing at our August Reunion in Pasadena.

Almoner, Roger Roberts 32* also provided an informative discussion on the duties and responsibilities of the Almoner.

Since our last meeting, I have joined the Scottish Rite Research Society, to get insight for further Masonic Education topics and ordered the books and study materials for the Master Craftsman Course, as recommended at the Leadership Conference. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to me, or Hon Michael Sekera.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming May 27, Stated Meeting. I will be in the East and Bro Dave Hertzling will be presenting our Masonic Education Program for the evening, so please make your reservation to attend dinner and our meeting.

From the Heart,

Hon. Mark A Flint, 32° KCCH

Senior Warden / Treasurer

RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, May 2026

I would like to start this month by reminding our Valley of the Fundraising Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday October 17, 2026. Details of entry fees, prizes, silent auction, sponsorship availability, auction donation requests, will all be posted through the summer. We will need your help and participation.

Zack Whittet, our SLP at the Language Center, is beginning his plans for the summer. Just because school is out does not mean our language Center closes, it just reorganizes with hours that fit our clients summer activities. He is still evaluating and working with new and existing clients.

Please remember the Language Center is our Charity, and it can't survive without your help. If you have already sent in your dues for this year, you can simply send a check to the Foundation with "Coachella Valley CLC" in the memo line; 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

Chairman,

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley

Message from Almoner

Dear Brethren,

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/

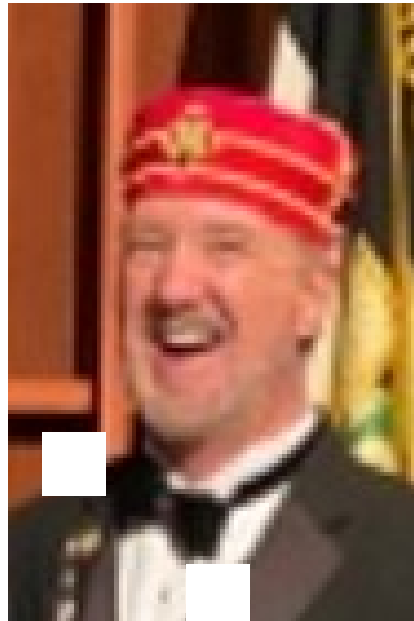
Scottish Rite Journal Podcast

Scottish Rite YouTube Channel

Scottish Rite Research Society



Director of the Work



Dear Brethren,

“Now batting...”

Do you remember that from the call of summer? The start of baseball season. It’s that time of year, when we’ve made it through the harsh realities of winter. Although of course out here, it just means it’s about to get hot!

And our degree team is about to get hot. Well, at least the season is starting.

Wednesday, May 20 at 630pm, begins our first 14th Degree practice preparing for the Statewide Reunion. It will be at Coachella Lodge and food will be provided.

Statewide Reunion - Pasadena

August 21-23, 2026

The ritual and most activities of masonry are scripted. Meaning, everything has already been figured out for us, and everything has been done in the past by others.

Our only real challenge is to show up and play our role. Turns out that is actually quite simple. Show up and play a role. Can you commit to that simple hail?

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.

Director of the Work

I'm happy to announce our confirmed players:

Hon. Roy Pool, 32° KCCH

Clint Atherton, 32°

Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH

Hon. Kurt Handshuh, 32° KCCH

Barry Berg, 32°

Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°

Memo Gallardo, 32°

Roger Roberts, 32°

Hon. Shane DaCosta, 32° KCCH

Hon. Leonard Kienzle, 32° KCCH

We are still 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?

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

Director of the Work



Scottish Rite Education



Much of Scottish Rite Masonic Education takes place through personal initiative. As we all know, at the moment we become Masters of the Royal Secret, we have little knowledge or understanding of the Rite.

What we do have, is a wealth of resources within easy reach. Aside from your copy of *A Bridge To Light*, the resources won't be handed to you. With a Masonic mind hungry for Light beyond the 3rd Degree, you must summon your personal initiative and reach to learn about the treasures of the Scottish Rite.

Morals and Dogma is commonly suggested, but for many of us, myself included, the book can be an intimidating wall of Victorian writing style with arcane religious and philosophical references too lofty for regular folks - at least at the beginning of our Scottish Rite journey..

Let me suggest a couple of books that might smooth your way. Commentaries on the Scottish Rite Degrees (2017) by Darren L. Eastman provides clear, thoughtful interpretations of most of the Scottish Rite Degrees. Through the author's easy-to-read, contemporary writing style, the lessons and messages of the often confounding dramatic presentations are illuminated. For the new or long-time Scottish Rite Mason, this book is a great read. It's available on Amazon.

The history of the Scottish Rite is a fascinating tale as well. Go to the store at ScottishRite.org and pick up a copy of Lodge of the Double Headed Eagle: Two Centuries of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in America's Southern Jurisdiction by William L. Fox, 33rd. It's an excellent and very readable history of the SR in the Southern Jurisdiction. Interesting to see how the Rite grew and the challenges it's faced over the past 200 years...some of which are similar to those we face today. We also learn about the personal characteristics and leadership styles of the Supreme Grand Commanders. This great book is now discounted to 20 bucks, down from the original \$45. Grab it!

Part of the fun and satisfaction of being a Scottish Rite Mason is "diving in" to our Degrees, history, ritual, fellowship and practice. Be propelled by your curiosity and take the initiative to explore the Light!

Fraternally,

Hon. Nick Seneca, 32° KCCH



Supporting Our Future Leaders: JROTC Commitment

Our Valley has always taken great pride in supporting the JROTC program and the young men and women it serves. Year after year, we have stood behind these cadets—recognizing their discipline, leadership, and commitment to something greater than themselves.

This tradition is not just something we did in the past, it is something we continue today.

We are proud to once again support the JROTC Awards Ceremony this year, which will take place on May 7, 2026 (Thursday). Doors open at 6:00 PM, with the ceremony beginning promptly at 6:30 PM, at the La Quinta High School Auxiliary Gym (79255 Blackhawk Way, La Quinta, CA).

It is an opportunity for us to honor those cadets who have demonstrated excellence in character, leadership, and service. These are the future leaders of our communities, and investing in them reflects who we are as a Valley.

We value the principles that JROTC instills responsibility, respect, patriotism, and integrity. These are values that align closely with our own teachings and mission.

Our continued involvement is not just about presenting an award. It is about showing up, being present, and reinforcing to these young individuals that their efforts matter and that they are seen.

As always, we remain committed to supporting programs that shape strong individuals and a better future.



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,

May is a time of growth, renewal, and energy, and that is exactly what I see in our Valley.

We have a strong foundation, dedicated Brothers, and a shared commitment to something meaningful. What makes our Valley special is not only our traditions, but the spirit of fellowship and the willingness to come together and move forward as one.

Our focus continues to be on strengthening connections, creating meaningful experiences, and building a vibrant and active Valley. Every gathering, every conversation, and every effort we make adds to the momentum we are building together.

We are also looking ahead with excitement finding new ways to increase our visibility, connect with our community, and welcome future Brothers into our ranks. The opportunities in front of us are real, and with the strength of this Brotherhood, I am confident we will continue to grow.

At the same time, we honor what makes us who we are. Our values, our traditions, and our shared purpose guide us as we continue to build for the future.

I encourage each of you to stay connected, support one another, and take pride in being part of this journey. Together, we are creating something strong, positive, and lasting.

Fraternally,
Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative



Happy Birthday!!

David D. Hertzing	32°	(May)	4th
Michael J. Bolton	32°		13th
Leonard J Kienzle	32°		15th



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

May Dinner Menu

RSVP please with
Clint Atherton
clitnatherton@me.com

\$20.00
Street Tacos
Enchiladas
Salad
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	2012	III. ARMAN ORDIAN, 33°
1986	*ILL. ALLAN CHAPNICK, 33°	2013	*Hon. JAMES PETERSEN, 32° KCCH
1987	*ILL. HARRY ZEBRACK, 33°	2014	Hon. KURT HANDSHUH, 32° KCCH
1988	*ILL. CURTIS PAXMAN, 33°	2015-2016	Hon. SHANE DAOOSTA, 32° KCCH
1989	*ILL. BEN HACKEL, 33°	2017	*Hon. ROBERT JACOB, 32° KCCH
1990	*ILL. JOHN MAULE, 33°	2018	Hon. DAN OATES, 32° KCCH
1991	*ILL. CHARLES ASH, 33°	2019-2020	Hon. MICHAEL J SEKERA, 32° KCCH
1992	*JACK KARTZINEL, 32°	2021	Hon. ROY POOL, 32° KCCH
1993	*Hon. JOE LA COST, 32° KCCH	2022	*JAMES L RIDLEY, 32°
1994	*Hon. LEN LENHOFF, 32° KCCH	2023	**HECTOR MINON, 32°
1995	*ILL. NORMAN MANDEL, 33°	2024	**STUART RYAN, 32°
1996	*Hon. ED NORTON, 32° KCCH	2025	Hon. LEONARD KEINZLE, 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°		

* *DECEASED*

** *Demitted*

