



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 6

Newsletter Date June 2026

The Voice

J **B**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

TO OUR MASONIC BROTHERS
AND ALL HONORABLE FATHERS

A FATHER BUILDS MORE THAN A HOME — HE BUILDS CHARACTER, FAITH, AND A LEGACY THAT LASTS.

As Freemasons, we are taught to be better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better brothers.

May we lead our families with love, live with integrity, and leave behind a light that guides the next generation.

- LEAD WITH EXAMPLE
- TEACH WITH WISDOM
- LOVE WITH PATIENCE
- BUILD WITH PURPOSE

THE GREATEST WORK YOU WILL EVER DO IS WITHIN THE WALLS OF YOUR HOME.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.
WE SEE YOU. WE HONOR YOU. WE APPRECIATE YOU.

BROTHER • FATHER • LEADER • BUILDER
That is the Work. That is the Way.

FAITH • HOPE • CHARITY

FROM YOUR MASONIC FAMILY
ONE TEAM. ONE FAMILY. ONE PURPOSE.

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER SINCE TIME IMMORTAL

BROTHERLY LOVE TRUTH

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**



**Berry Berg 32°
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

Voice/Text: (760) 409-1206

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

Golf Tournament

COACHELLA VALLEY RITECARE

GOLF TOURNAMENT



October 17th, 2026 • 8:00am Shotgun Start

**Mountain Vista Golf Club, Santa Rosa Course
38180 Del Webb Blvd., Palm Desert, CA 92211**

Register soon - player slots are limited!

Suggested Donation: \$175 per player

Donations may be made at the course on tournament day.

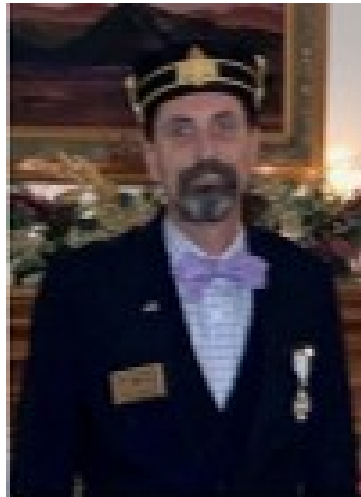
Net Proceeds benefit the California Scottish Rite Foundation's RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley

SCAN TO JOIN



CASRF.ORG/COACHELLAVALLEY

Venerable Master



Dear Brethren

I would like to thank all the Brethren that filled in during my absence last month. I was able to take a nice vacation and get some much-needed R&R after a long season at work! Speaking of work, I sometimes hear from Brethren that attending stated meetings and some Scottish Rite functions feel like work. I know I have been guilty coming into a meeting in the past thinking, “I hope this goes quick” or “when will be out of here.” Meetings can also feel like a perfunctory obligation, when in reality it is a privilege. We are fortunate to be able to come together as Brothers, dine and converse about our shared interests. Why then, do meeting sometimes or even often feel like an obligation or chore. I can guarantee that if you have ever felt that way, many of our Brethren that are no longer attending have felt or are feeling the same. At the June stated meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to have an open discussion among the Brethren regarding this topic. I would also like to explore some more committee options. I realize that means some additional work, but I believe it is an important step in advancing Scottish Rite in the Valley. Two committees that I would like to explore is an entertainment committee as well as a membership/outreach committee. In my mind, the entertainment committee would help to create some events that would bring the Brethren closer together and also give us an opportunity to invite prospective members. These can be as standalone events but also combined with other Masonic bodies. As for the membership/outreach committee, I believe it is time to reach out to our local members to see why they are not attending and what will entice them to come back to Scottish Rite. I would like to discuss both of these and any other ideas that the Brethren may have at June meeting. Please come prepared to discuss and be prepared to volunteer as well! This will be a great opportunity to get some ideas started as we move into our non-meeting time and return with some plans in September. As a reminder for June, it will be a Luau theme so wear your best Hawaiian shirts and be prepared for a great time and meal! Please read further down in the Voice for dinner and RSVP information.

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master



Senior Warden/Treasurer



Dear Brethren,

It was again my privilege to stand in the East, for VM Clint Atherton during our May 27th Stated Meeting, providing another great learning opportunity.

On May 7th, Arman Ordian, PR and I attended the La Quinta High School JROTC Awards Ceremony. Together we presented the Jack London Supreme Council JROTC Award and Certificate to Cadet Trenton Bahr, in recognition of scholastic excellence and Americanism in supporting the United States, as a member of the JROTC. So many sharp, clean cut looking students in their uniforms and their very proud parents in the audience, I look forward to participating again, hopefully next year. Special thanks to Hon Shane DaCosta for ordering the awards for presentation, in a timely manner.

May 19th, I attended the San Bernardino Scottish Rite Stated Meeting for their official visitation of PGM Art Salazar, Deputy of California. SBSR currently has eight candidates scheduled for the August Reunion Ceremony in Pasadena.

The following evening, I attended our 14th degree practice. PVM Leonard Kienzle is doing a great job in preparation for our part in the August Reunion Degrees. Please contact him if would like to get involved.

In July, in support of our Masonic Youth Orders, I look forward to receiving the Southern California DeMolay Honorary Degrees in Pasadena.

From the Heart,

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



JROTC Presentation at La Quinta High School



Ill. Arman Ordian 33° Personal Representative,
Hon. Mark Flint 32° KCCH, Senior Warden/Treasurer
Presenting the
Jack London Supreme Council JROTC Award and Certificate to
Cadet Trenton Bahr



RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, June 2026

Ensuring the success of our Valley's Fundraising Golf Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026, will require the help of all our members. As you are aware, because I've been shouting it from the rooftops, details of entry fees, prizes, silent auction, sponsorship availability, and auction donation requests will all be posted through the summer. Margo Hiesner, the event Chair, has been busy securing donations and planning this event to support our Language Center. We will need your help and participation.

School is out for most of the Coachella Valley, but Zack Whittet, our SLP at the Language Center, is still working. Just because school is out does not mean our language Center closes; it simply reorganizes its hours to 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

RiteCare Childhood Language Center

RiteCare Chairmen, Hon. Dan Oates 32° KCCH
Personal Representative Ill. Arman Ordian 33°
Attended the Desert United
Luncheon to represent the
Childhood Language Center



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,

On Wednesday, May 20 at Coachella Lodge we held our first 14th Degree practice preparing for the Statewide Reunion. Statewide Reunion - Pasadena August 21-23, 2026

Our next practice will be Wednesday, June 10 at Coachella Lodge. We will have a team dinner at 6:30pm. Then the fun begins.

Our confirmed players:

- Guillermo "Memo" Gallardo 32°
- Clint Atherton 32°
- Barry Berg 32°
- Hon. Shane DaCosta 32° KCCH
- Hon. Michael Sekera 32° KCCH
- Ill. Arman Ordian 33°
- Hon. Kurt Handshuh 32° KCCH
- Hon. Mark Flint 32° KCCH
- Hon. Leonard Kienzle 32° KCCH

- Captain of the Host
- Master of Ceremonies
- Expert
- Assistant Expert
- Prelate
- Moses
- Junior Warden
- Senior Warden
- Venerable Master

Director of the Work

We could still fill in 3 more spots, but we will be just fine with this team! In other words, if you can't commit to the practices or lack enthusiasm – let's not waste the team's time and energy.

The initial overview and run-through went better than expected and the newer members of the team certainly added spark.

Please join us, if you'd like to bring some positivity. This opportunity is 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 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,

After thoughtful consideration and discussion, we have decided that our Valley will remain in Coachella. We believe this decision is in the best interest of the Valley, our membership, and our future. Stability, unity, and continued growth are important, and we feel remaining in our current location allows us to continue building on the work already started.

It is also essential that we continue supporting our RiteCare Childhood Language Center. The CLC remains one of the most meaningful parts of our mission, and I would like to personally ask Ill. Dan to continue assisting and supporting this important effort for the benefit of the children and families we serve.

I would also like to congratulate Hon. Shane DaCosta on receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. This is a wonderful accomplishment, and we are proud to see one of our brothers continue advancing both personally and professionally.

In addition, during our next gathering I would like to have a short discussion forum about the Double-Headed Eagle and its symbolism within Scottish Rite Masonry. I encourage everyone to bring their thoughts, interpretations, and ideas. It will be a good opportunity for fellowship, education, and meaningful discussion.

And finally, this will also help me see who is actually reading these articles.

Fraternally,
Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative



Happy Birthday!!

Richard M. Shalhoub	32°	(June)	9th
Donald B. Griffith	32°		23rd
David S. Essex	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	Mothers Day
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
10/28/2026	Reception for Ill. & MW. Art Salazar 33° PGM
11/18/2026	Nominations – Stated Meeting
12/16/2026	Elections – Stated Meeting

June Dinner Menu
RSVP please with
Clint Atherton
clitnatherton@me.com

\$20.00
Kahlua Pork
Hawaiian Macaroni 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*

