



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite
Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 4

Newsletter Date April 2026

The Voice

*Happy
Easter*



from the

**Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry**

Palm Springs Scottish Rite

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**



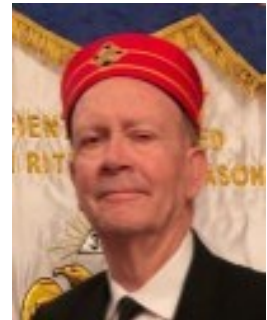
**Clint Atherton, 32°
Venerable Master**



**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**

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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

Venerable Master



Dear Brethren

With the passing of March, we experienced a glimpse into what awaits us in the coming months, with temperatures approaching 110 degrees. As we approach the summer and higher temperatures, so too approaches the time when we go dark in the Valley. The summer is also a time when many of us pursue our travels to escape the oppressive heat and to find some time for refreshment and repose from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives and routines. I am hopeful that one routine that remains constant is our commitment to the craft as well as to our blue lodges and Scottish Rite. As Honorable Mark Flint points out in his article recapping the Leadership Conference, we need to continue growing. I take this in two ways. One is to continue the growth of our Valley and Masonic bodies. We can do this by finding degrees in our surrounding lodges and attending to support the Brethren in their journey in Masonry. Let us continue to represent the Valley by showing up and being visible. The second it to continue our personal growth and own Masonic journey. For example, we recently had a double first degree in Coachella Lodge. Despite witnessing many over the years, including opening and obligating as well as performing the lecture, I am continually surprised at sections of the degree that seem like I am hearing it for the first time or that resonate in new ways. This is the gift that we can continue to provide for men that are interested or newly initiated into our fraternity. Let us continue our growth as well as support others by being the best representatives of the craft that we can be. I hope to see you all at the stated meeting in April for continued fellowship!

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master



Senior Warden/Treasurer



Hon Shane DaCosta and I attended the Rite Works Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, March 5-7, with 160 in attendance.

Takeaways from the meeting:

- 1) Look into the Master Craftsman Course.
- 2) Bring the Valley to the Blue Lodge
- 3) Become an Ambassador to the Blue Lodge and visit their degrees.
- 4) We need to work together.
- 5) Invite guest speakers.
- 6) Join the Scottish Rite Research Society.
- 7) Welcome all visitors with a handshake and thanks for coming.
- 8) Assign a Membership Chairman.
- 9) Increase communications with lots of tools available through AI, Chat GPT and Notebook LM.
- 10) We need to do more than just open, read minutes, pay bills and close.
- 11) Never stop growing.

Congratulations to the California Scottish Rite Foundation on receiving the Public Service Award from the California Speech- Language Hearing Association.

On Saturday April 18, Palm Springs Lodge 693 is hosting a Past Masters Degree. Dinner at 6:30. Please contact Dennis Carole for reservations. denniscaoilejr@gmail.com

Senior Warden/Treasurer

Several people have reached out to me with sympathy and condolences for the loss of my Mother. If you would like to make a charitable contribution in loving memory of my Mom, Zona Parker, please consider The California Scottish Rite Foundation and memo RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, 303 W Lincoln Ave. Ste. 150, Anaheim, CA 92805.

From the Heart,
Mark A. Flint, 32° KCCH
PSSR SW, Treasurer



RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, April 2026

Last month, I announced that the CLC of Coachella Valley would hold a Fundraising Golf Tournament on May 30. Since then, the date has changed. The date is now Saturday, October 17, 2026. The details on the website will be updated as they become available. The Location will remain the same. We still need your participation.

Zack Whittet, our SLP at the Language Center, tells us that all is going well. He has recently completed an evaluation and has already begun working with a new client. Several other evaluations are in the wings, and we have a handful on an active waiting list. He continues to have sessions after school hours and will be making adjustments when school is out for the summer.

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 this year yet, please add a little bit for our Language Center, or 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

Director of the Work



Brethren,

“Coming up Dear next time...”

Do you remember that from any of your favorite shows?

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?

We have two special events to participate in and prepare for:

Statewide Reunion - Pasadena

August 21-23, 2026

Feast of Tishri

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

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

Director of the Work

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?

We will begin practicing in May, and a schedule 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,

Leonard Keinzle, 32° KCCH, PVM

Director of the Work



JROTC Commitment

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



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,
Nick Seneca, 32nd °, KCCH
1st Lt. Commander

Scottish Rite Scholarships

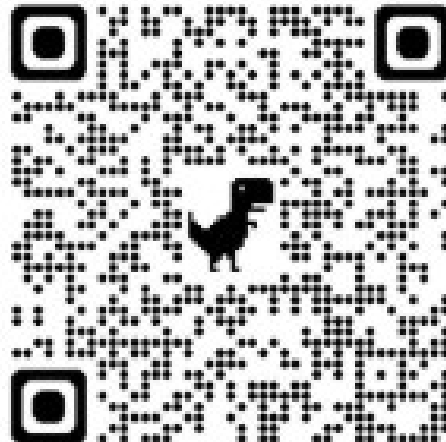


SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS IN FULL SWING!

APPLY HERE!!!



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...



Personal Representative



Brethren,

In March, we came together for our Renewal & Remembrance. It was a meaningful moment, one that reminded us of the men who came before us and the foundation they built.

We didn't just remember... we felt something.

And that matters.

But remembrance alone is not enough.

If we truly honor them, we must carry that spirit forward.

April is about renewal, not just in words, but in action.

The Valley we want will not build itself. It depends on each of us showing up, taking responsibility, and being part of something bigger than ourselves.

At the same time, I truly believe we are moving in the right direction. Step by step, we are rebuilding the energy, the purpose, and the spirit that defines our Valley.

Personal Representative



We don't need observers, we need builders. And I know we have them.

Let us also continue to support our RiteCare Childhood Language Center, which represents the heart of who we are and the impact we make beyond our walls.

The question is simple:

What are we going to do with what we felt in March?

If we turn that into action, we will build something meaningful... and something lasting.

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



Happy Birthday!!

Brian E Tremblay 32°	(April)	7th
Michael J Bahari 32°		9th
Michael D Gibson 32°		12th
David Powell 32°		13th
Sam Jones 32°		30th



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 Celebration & Remembrance
- 4/22/2026 Stated Meeting
- 5/27/2026 Stated Meeting—Mothers Day
- 6/24/2026 Stated Meeting (Luau -Hawaiian)
- 8/22/2026 14th 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
- 11/25/2026 Nominations Stated Meeting
- 12/16/2026 Elections – Stated Meeting

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

\$25.00
Fried Chicken
Potato Salad
Coleslaw
Biscuits
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*

