

LAKE WORTH SCOTTISH RITE
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BULLETIN
October 2026



Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30pm meal and 7:30pm Consistory Meeting
Location: 1896 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Ste. 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Dress: Business attire (dress shirts, dress pants, jacket and tie) – please have your dues card

Sovereign Grand Commander Supreme
Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction of the United
States

Ill. James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General In
The Orient of Florida

Ill. Richard Hoover, 33°

Personal Representative to SGIG

Ill. Garry M. Paxinos, 33°

General Secretary

Ill. Roy D. Strohacker, 33°

Valley Treasurer

Ill. Ramon Voils, 33°

Administrative Assistant

Ill. Nat Smith, 33°

VALLEY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Master of Kadosh: Hon. Stephen Nelson, 32°, KCCH
Prior of Consistory: Hon. Gerald Strohacker 32°, KCCH
Commander of Kadosh: Hon. Evan Sobel, 32°, KCCH
Wise Master Chapter of Rose Croix: Hon. J Reeve Bright, 32°, KCCH
Ven. Master Lodge of Perfection: Hon. Al Flores, 32°, KCCH
Members at Large: Ill. Neil Stegall, 33°
Hon. C Grant Simmons, 32°, KCCH



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK:

Brothers,

Our 209th Reunion is right around the corner, and we currently have eleven candidates signed up. The report from the degree teams is that they are ready for another great session. With the help of several Brothers, we have added six new degree aprons and cordons for the degrees. The Valley purchased one and some brothers purchased five more. Our goal is to hopefully have new aprons and cordons for all the degrees we exemplify by the next Reunion. I am very proud of our Reunions, we may not have a big temple but from brothers who have visited our Reunions and our Brothers who have seen other Valleys perform theirs, we do one of the best. That's to everyone who put us in the top category. I only have one regret, that is that Hon. Harry Bonet will be moving out of state, and he is a big asset to the Degrees. We will be looking for a replacement for him which will be big shoes to fill. If any Brother has some computer knowledge and time to work this important part of the degrees, call the Degree Director Ill Ramon Voils, 33°, or the Valley Office. To the Degree Teams, break a leg.....

The Feast of Tishri was well done again this year, thank you Hon. Al Flores for your hard work on setting this up and appointing all the speakers. A big round of applause goes out to Chef Jerry and his crew; the aloha chicken was delicious.

We have a wonderful Valley of workers; I cannot thank you Brothers for helping with everything we do. From set up to cleanup some Brothers are always there to help and it never goes unnoticed. Speaking of help, as you know we make phone calls every Friday to Brothers for their birthdays. Hon. J Reeves Bright and Hon. Michael Weinberg have been doing this on a regular basis. Does it mean something? Last week I received three phone calls from Brothers thanking the Valley for this personal act of kindness.

Not sure what Chef Jerry and his crew have on the menu for the Reunion but whatever it is it will be fantastic.

DINNER RESERVATIONS:

We must find a way to get better responses to our dinners. I have recently started shopping for food because of my wife being unable to do it and cost of food is something else. At the last Consistory meeting only ten Brothers called and made reservations, yet thirty people ate. PLEASE take a moment and send a message or call if you are coming, the kitchen staff and Chef would really appreciate it.

BULLETIN BOOSTERS:

Roy Strohacker	Rob Gibbons	Garry Kilby	Gary Van Horn
Caroline Strohacker	Robert Eustice	Nat Smith	Stephen Nelson
Jerry Strohacker	Scott Schwartzberg	J. Reeve Bright	Garry Paxinos
Kristen Strohacker	Roy Hernandez, Jr.	Roy Hernandez, II	Bill Paxton
Evan Sobel	Michael Gauger	David Felty	Samuel Berger
Marla Jury	Joel Case	Matthew Reuther	Michael Choman
Larry Choman	John Costello		

Thanks Brothers and friends. Want to be a booster? Send the Valley \$10 and your name and we will add you to our list for the year.

A BROTHER NEVER WALKS ALONE,



ON EARTH OR IN THE CELESTIAL HOME ABOVE

ALL VALLEY DEATHS FOR 2026

Gene Veninga 12/31/25 Edwin Sprowl 04/2026 Ronald Geipel 07/20/26
Demetrious Kirkiles 07/28/26 Robert A. Maddox 06/24/26

“We cherish his memory here. We commend his spirit to God, who gave it. We consign his body to the earth.”

The * indicates this Brother’s death was reported since the last Bulletin.

SICKNESS AND/OR DISTRESS:

Brother David Felty is still under the weather and Hon, Evan Sobel had an outpatient issue, but he is up and running again. Keep our Brothers, our families and our friends in your prayers, it helps.

RAFFLE:

At our October Consistory meeting we will be drawing a winning ticket for a fantastic ‘BIG’ flag holder that holds challenge coins. Again, thanks to Hon. Rob Gibbons for coming up with this fundraising idea. All profit goes to the Children Language Clinic since the flag was donated. I believe we have about twenty tickets left out of the hundred we had. See Ill. Ramon Voils if you would like one. The tickets are \$10 and are tax deductible. It will be nice to donate \$1,000 to the Clinic to help the children.



REUNION CANDIDATES:

Candidates for the 209th Reunion as of the printing of this Bulletin:

Timothy Delaney, Christopher Diaz, Eric Frye, Larry Johnson, Wayne Losee, Jason Orr, Michael Pappas, Francisco Rodriguez, Jordan Valiente, Ramon Viamonte, and Domingo Duran (from the 208th class).

JOKES OF THE MONTH:

It was October, and the tribe on a faraway reserve asked their new Chief whether the approaching winter would be cold or mild.

He had never been taught the old secrets because he was a Chief in modern culture.

He couldn't tell what the winter would be like by looking at the sky.

To be on the safe side, he informed his tribe that the winter would be cold and that the inhabitants of the hamlet should gather fuel to prepare.

But, being a practical leader, he had an idea after a few days. He went to the phone booth, dialed the National Weather Service, and said, "Will the upcoming winter be cold?"

"It appears that this winter will be rather cold," said the weather service's expert.

So the Chief returned to his people and instructed them to gather even more firewood in order to be ready.

He called the National Weather Service again a week later. "Does it still appear that it will be a really cold winter?"

"Yes," said the man from the National Weather Service, "it's going to be a very chilly winter."

The Chief returned to his people and instructed them to gather whatever piece of firewood they could find.

The Chief contacted the National Weather Service again two weeks later. "Are you certain that the winter will be quite cold?"

"Certainly," the man said. "It's looking like this will be one of the coldest winters on record."

"How can you be so certain?" the Chief inquired.

"We're confident it'll be cold since the tribal communities are accumulating firewood like crazy!" said the weatherman.



SCOTTISH RITE QUOTES BY ALBERT PIKE:

"The only true happiness is to learn, to advance, and to improve which could not happen unless we had commenced with error, ignorance, and imperfection."

Albert Pike

DEGREE DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

Still looking for Brothers to participate in the upcoming and future Reunions. Get some acting experience before you go to Hollywood (lol), call Ill. Ramon Voils, 33°, the Degree Director at 561- 797-5133

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Due to our November Consistory meeting falling on Veterans Day, several Brothers have asked for the Valley to change the date due to Veteran activities that evening. Our November Consistory meeting is set for Monday November 30th at 7:30pm at Harmonia Lodge. This is for election of the 2027 Officers and suits and ties will **NOT** be required and there will be no meal since it is a short meeting.

Also, mark your calendar, as usual due to Christmas there will be no Consistory meeting in December.

EDUCATION SECTION:

The 4th Degree of the Scottish Rite is called "Secret Master," and it teaches duty, silence, obedience, and fidelity, symbolized by an ivory key given to the candidate as a trust rather than a reward.

Overview

The 4° (Secret Master) is the first degree of the Lodge of Perfection and marks the beginning of the Scottish Rite journey beyond the Blue Lodge. It follows the death of Hiram Abiff and takes place in a lodge draped in mourning.

Core Teachings

- Duty and Responsibility — The candidate learns that true duty is performed for its own sake, not for reward or recognition.
- Silence, Obedience, Fidelity — These three virtues form the ethical foundation of the degree.
- Self-Knowledge — The ivory key symbolizes introspection and the search for inner truth.
- Respect for Law — The degree emphasizes obedience to just laws that reflect the will and welfare of the people.

Symbolism

- Ivory Key — Represents the “key to self-knowledge” and the trust placed in the candidate.
- Black-draped Sanctuary — Symbolizes mourning for the lost Master and the lost Word.
- Number Seven — Reflects the seven chosen Secret Masters and the symbolic importance of the number in esoteric traditions.

Purpose of the Degree

The 4th Degree lays the philosophical foundation for all higher Scottish Rite degrees. It does not present a dramatic plot but instead prepares the Mason for deeper moral and spiritual work.

The 4° serves as the cornerstone of the Scottish Rite system, introducing the candidate to introspection, moral discipline, and the pursuit of truth.

***** VALLEY ACTIVITY CALENDAR *****

Saturday & Sunday, October 17 and 18, 2026 – 209th Reunion at Bykota Lodge

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 – Consecration of class at open Consistory Meeting

Monday, November 30, 2026 – Election of Officers for 2027

No December Consistory meeting due to Christmas

NOTE: Any additional Valley activities will be sent out on Mail Chimp and if you like something added, call the office with the information.