



Orange County Scottish Rite

ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

Volume 45, Issue 09

October 2025

October at the Orange County Scottish Rite



Remember we now meet on the fourth Monday of the month!

Our next meeting is **Monday, October 27th.** See you there!



From Record Petitions to Lifelong Memories: A Landmark Month for Our Valley!

**Russ Hennings, 32°
Venerable Master**

We have a reunion on the horizon, and it's shaping up to be one of our biggest yet. On October 3rd and 4th, our Valley will welcome what looks to be a record number of new candidates. I'm telling you, the energy is real. These are not cold applications falling out of the sky—they are coming from real conversations, personal invites, and brothers who are excited about what we're doing here. A large portion of these petitions were brought in thanks to the work and commitment of our Master of Kadosh, Brother Josh Price. He's been a driving force in engaging with prospective members, and his effort is making a tangible difference. Let's take a moment and recognize what that means: our Valley is alive with growth, and that doesn't happen by accident.

And while we're on the subject of powerful moments—this past month, I had the profound honor of being knighted a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour alongside my father. The ceremony was held in San Francisco, and standing there on stage next to him as we were both knighted is something I will never forget. I was asked to remain on stage and witness him receiving the accolade from none other than Illustrious Arthur Salazar, our Deputy for California. It's difficult to describe how much that meant to me—sharing such a significant moment with my dad, in front of so many brothers. Honestly, it rivals my Blue Lodge degrees in terms of personal impact. Thank you, Illustrious Salazar, for making that memory possible.

We also made a change last month that I want to make sure everyone is aware of: our Stated Meetings will now take place on the fourth Mondays of the month. This is a shift that we believe will better accommodate our members' schedules and allow us to continue growing without unnecessary scheduling conflicts. So please mark your calendars: our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th.

And as fall approaches, we're going to close the month with something special. We're taking the spirit of the season and giving it a Scottish Rite twist with our Día de los Muertos-themed Haunted House fundraiser. This will benefit our RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County. There's a lot of work happening behind the scenes, and if you've got ideas or just want to lend a hand, we'd love to have you involved. It's going to be spooky, it's going to be fun, and it's for a great cause.

We have momentum right now, and that's something to be proud of. But it's also something to build on. Whether you're involved in ritual, helping set up tables, bringing in a friend, or simply showing up—you're part of this wave. And trust me, your presence matters.

See you at the reunion.





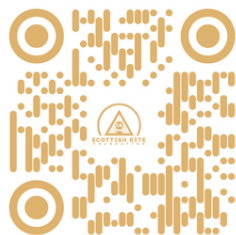
RiteCare Childhood Language Center
of Orange County Fundraiser

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL

- 🎃 Haunted House
- 🎃 Professional Makeup Artist
- 🎃 Fortune Teller
- 🎃 Great Food
- 🎃 DJ & Dancing
- 🎃 Costume Contest
(HALLOWEEN AND DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS)
- 🎃 Silent Auction

Suggested donation is \$80; every ticket helps children receive life-changing speech-language therapy. Dress in Halloween or Día de los Muertos-inspired attire (festive and respectful), bring friends, and make a difference for local kids and families.

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS



Saturday 11/01/2025
Orange Grove Masonic Center
71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866
6:30pm-10pm

[CASRF.ORG/ORANGECOUNTY](https://casrf.org/orangecounty)



Freemasonry and The Scottish Rite: The Importance of Laboring Together as One

Alejo Velarde, 32°

Wise Master

Freemasonry has always thrived on unity, fellowship, and a shared devotion to building better men and better communities. Within the greater Masonic family, the Scottish Rite stands as a vital path of deeper learning, ritual, and enlightenment. Yet it is not apart from Craft Masonry it is an extension of it.

The Scottish Rite and the Blue Lodge are not competing bodies, but complementary branches of the same great tree. Each provides a unique light, yet together they illuminate the full path of Masonic growth. The Lodge teaches the essential lessons of brotherhood and moral foundation; the Scottish Rite expands these lessons into the broader realms of philosophy, history, and service.

When Masons labor in isolation, our influence is limited. But when Lodges and Scottish Rite Valleys collaborate whether through shared education, community events, or charitable works we demonstrate the true power of Masonic unity. By combining resources and talents, we strengthen the Craft, enrich the lives of our members, and magnify the impact of our charitable endeavors.

Our fraternity's strength has never been in its titles or its buildings, but in its ability to unite men of good will in common cause. The Scottish Rite and Freemasonry, laboring together as one, ensure that our timeless lessons continue to build character, strengthen families, and inspire future generations.



Answering the Call: October's Fall Reunion

Barry McKinley, 32°

Commander of Kadosh

Dear Brothers of the Orange County Scottish Rite,

October is here, and with it comes one of the most important moments in our valley's calendar: the Fall Reunion. On October 19th and 20th, we will welcome new candidates and share with them the beauty and lessons of our degrees. Reunions are where our values come to life—where mentorship, ritual excellence, and brotherly love combine to strengthen both our new brothers and our valley.

I encourage all members to attend and support the work—on the floor, behind the scenes, and in the seats. A strong turnout makes a powerful impression on our candidates and reminds each of us why we chose the Scottish Rite. If you are able to help with degree teams, stage, wardrobe, candidate care, hospitality, or escorting, please reach out. Every pair of hands matters, and your presence will make a lasting difference in the experience of our new Masters of the Royal Secret.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our valley. Let's make this Reunion one to remember and set the tone for a strong finish to the year. I look forward to standing beside you as we welcome our newest brothers and celebrate the work we do together.



A Warm Autumn Greeting From the Consistory

Joshua S. Price, 32° KSA
Master of Kadosh

Greetings Brethren,

As the seasons turn and the light begins to soften, we approach one of the most meaningful traditions: the Feast of Tishri at our October Stated Meeting. In 1866, the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States proclaimed the Feast of Tabernacles—the 15th day of Tishri—as the Feast Day of the Lodge of Perfection. It has ever since been a time when, as Scottish Rite Masons, we gather in imitation of the Israelites of old, who dwelt in temporary booths as a remembrance of their deliverance from bondage, and like the Pilgrims who gave humble thanks for survival and harvest.

This will be our opportunity to assemble in reverence of this tradition, and share thanksgiving and joy for the upcoming holiday season. The first celebration of which is our upcoming Halloween & Dia De Los Muertos celebration on November 1st, which will benefit our RiteCare Language Center.

The Feast of Tishri also holds a profound connection to King Solomon's Temple, which was dedicated during this very season. Its completion was not simply the culmination of stone and labor, but a prayer for all mankind—an invocation that brotherly love and human accord might become the true foundation of a peaceful world. In this sense, the Feast remains for us a symbol of freedom, thanksgiving, and dedication: freedom from bondage, thanksgiving for abundance, and dedication to the Great Architect of the Universe.

We also rejoice in welcoming all our new Masters of the Royal Secret into our Valley. To each of you, I extend warmest congratulations. Your journey thus far has been marked by commitment and curiosity, and it now opens into an even broader path of discovery. As you continue to seek light, remember that true knowledge is not gained in solitude but in fellowship—tested through dialogue, strengthened in labor, and made meaningful when shared.

We are privileged to walk this path together. Let us invest in one another, in our shared journey, and in the work of building a better world. In the words of Brother Benjamin Franklin: "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." May we continue to invest wisely—in ourselves, in our brotherhood, and in the enduring principles of our Craft.



From the General Secretary

Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

Autumn is upon us and we are continuing a very active schedule at the Valley of Orange County. Our September Stated Meeting had great attendance with excellent food and fellowship enjoyed by all Brethren present. If you haven't been to a Stated Meeting lately, we highly recommend you check out our next meeting in late October. The California Orient of the Scottish Rite held our Honours Ceremony in San Francisco on September 13th. The KCCH ceremony was open to all Masons and friends. Honorable Russ Hennings 32° KCCH presented a superb short video highlighting how one young person had been positively impacted by speech therapy provided by a California Scottish Rite Language Center. The next Honours Ceremony will be held in Pasadena in 2027.

Our Fall Reunion will be held on Friday Oct 3rd and Saturday Oct 4th. Exemplification of the degrees will begin on Friday night at 6 pm. Saturday will begin by 8 am. Come by to watch a degree and gain further understanding and light about the Craft.

A second round of dues notices will be coming in late October. If you have any questions regarding your dues status, please contact the Secretary at gensec@ocscottishrite.org for clarification. Have an outstanding October!



It's Showtime!

Hon. James Olivier, 32° KCCH
Prelate, Director of The Work

It feels like just last week we were celebrating our Spring Reunion, and now here we are again, ready to welcome our second-largest class in the past decade! With 11 new members joining our ranks, we will have initiated 18 new members this year. Your Valley is growing! That's the great news... now comes the work.

Make sure to take some time on October 3rd and 4th to come out and welcome the new Brothers joining our Valley. There will be plenty of time to shake hands and enjoy fellowship with your Brethren, new and old. Coming out to support the new members, as well as the degree teams is just one way you can show everyone how much the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry means to you. As we all travel along on our own journeys, the rich tapestry of our individual experiences is meant to be shared with each other. We each have a unique perspective on the lessons of the degrees, and I know for myself, one of my great joys is learning what others have learned along the way.

I cannot wait to see many friendly faces joining the sidelines during the reunion!



Expanding Care: More Days, More Interns, More Families Served

Leora Shaffer, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinic Director

As the official first day of fall quickly approaches (September 22) we are still experiencing high temperatures here in Orange County. But step inside our clinic and see our ability to imagine the fall leaves and sunflowers. We welcomed fifteen new Chapman University interns this month. Yes, fifteen! This is the first time we have been open 5 days per week instead of 4, allowing us to offer more internship experiences and to reach more families. The children love being back and receiving one-on-one attention from the new clinicians with their new ideas. We have started the process of refreshing the clinic as the building maintenance has finished up their fixes. We are looking forward to the next steps with new paint and some new furniture.



Visit your valley online, and be sure to like and follow us on social media!



<https://www.ocscottishrite.org>



<https://www.instagram.com/ocscottishrite>



<https://www.facebook.com/ocscottishrite>



<https://twitter.com/ocscottishrite>

We need your email address so we can electronically send you the Scottish Rite News.
Call the office at (714) 543-7277 and give it to our Secretary or leave a message.



A Welcome to the Scottish Rite Journey

Hon. James McCallion, KCCH PVM
Director of Education

I look forward to welcoming you into the Scottish Rite and sharing with you the wisdom and philosophy of our Craft. In your Blue Lodge experience, you were introduced to the profound lessons of the Hiram legend, a story that has already shaped your understanding of fidelity, perseverance, and truth.

In the Scottish Rite, you will discover that this story continues, unfolding into a deeper exploration of the self and your relationship with the Divine. These degrees will invite you to reflect, to expand your perspective, and to uncover new meaning in the symbols and teachings you already hold dear.

I know the impact these profound lessons will have on you for they are timeless, powerful, and deeply transformative. Together, we will walk this path of discovery, where wisdom, service, and light converge to illuminate a higher calling in Masonry and in life.

We'll have an opportunity to explore the master craftsman program, the Scottish Rite's premier repository of knowledge and provide you with the resources for our online college.

I am also pleased to share with you our Academy of Reflection; a sanctuary for meditation, contemplation, and the pursuit of deeper meaning in our Craft. If you feel called to explore this inner path, I warmly encourage you to visit our OCSR website and submit your application. An introductory meditation will be offered at the conclusion of the reunion with more information on membership available at that time.

It will be a great pleasure for me to usher you through this next transformative step of your life.

SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

Scottish Rite News is published monthly by the Valley of Orange County, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, 71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866. There is no Subscription Price. Scottish Rite News is the official publication of the Valley of Orange County. This issue edited by Shawn Bell, 32°, sbell@ocscottishrite.org

Permission to reprint items is normally given, provided permission is requested and proper credit is given to both the author and publication. More information and publication archives available at <https://www.ocscottishrite.org>

All articles for publication must be submitted prior to the 10th of the month.



A Season of Creativity and Connection

Erin McKinley

Hellos from the BSC!

A big thank-you to all the wonderful ladies who joined us for our September meeting and got creative decorating glassware—it was such a fun night of crafting and connection! A special shout-out to Natalie Jones for going the extra mile and picking up glassware for everyone—thank you, Natalie, for making the evening possible.

As we move into the holiday season, we're excited to bring even more festive cheer to our gatherings. For October, we'll be decorating Halloween-themed earrings—a perfect way to add a little spooky sparkle to your fall outfits. Looking ahead, we'll be diving into other holiday-themed crafts, so if you have a favorite idea or tradition you'd like to share, please let us know. We'd love to hear your suggestions and keep our nights fresh and fun!

We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new spouses and significant others from the October reunion class. We're so happy to have you in the BSC family and can't wait to get to know each of you better. Whether you're a crafter, a social butterfly, or just looking for a fun evening with some awesome ladies, we hope to see you at our upcoming meetings.

Here's to another great season of laughter, creativity, and friendship with the Blue Slipper Club!



Why Become a Knight of Saint Andrew?

Sir James Cates
Knight Orator

I do ask myself this question quite often. I ask it of those inquiring about being a knight. I ask it of my fellow knights.

We recently held a very special comedy night, that was considered successful and fun (and funny!). I was told, as I was at another function that night, that it was really good, especially being able to get up close and personal

with professional, and famous, comedians. I was also told that very few Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) were able to attend it, including me. I do apologize for that, but timing simply wasn't right for many of us.

That does not excuse my commitment to the Knighthood, all it stands for and should stand for. Our events are only successful if we, as KSA are diligent in our work to support, plan, organize, prepare and be present to make them so. A special and sincere thanks to the Knights who put on the events and attended them in support!

For those wanting to be a KSA, and those of us who are, we need to ask ourselves this very question, and be prepared to answer it sincerely. What can I actually and realistically give to the KSA? How can I be effective and active within the Knighthood? What does it mean to me to have this honor bestowed upon me? As with Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite, and all appendant bodies of Masonry the answers to these questions will vary from Brother to Brother. I personally do not like joining anything I cannot be actively involved in. I believe it is to my benefit when I'm active and it greatly benefits the craft on all of its levels. I do not discourage any Brother from attending as he can and will, I do not admonish anyone for their lack of attendance, and I do not have any expectations of anyone outside that which they state they will do.

This I most severely hold myself to. I look forward to the ending of this successful year we have had, and I look forward to it continuing through the next year. the Knights of Saint Andrew have grown and become stronger and better. We do have work to do to become even better, more involved, more present and to grow our numbers the better to enable us to do our good, honorable and worthy works. We are an exceptionally good group of men within a group of exceptionally good group of men, and I am proud to count myself as one.

As always, if you have questions about the Knighthood, please feel free to ask any of us and we will be happy to talk to you about it. We are easy to spot at events with our colorful uniforms.

2025 Orange County Scottish Rite Calendar

Stated Meetings are held monthly, Fourth Monday of the month, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Orange Masonic Center, 71 Plaza Square, Orange
Our Stated Meeting Meals are \$25 per person

Fall Reunion – Two Days: October 3, 2025 (Friday) - 6:00pm – 10:00pm, and October 4, 2025 (Saturday) 8:00am – 4:00pm

Feast of Tishri - Presented by the Lodge of Perfection - Attend our OCSR Stated Meeting on October 13, 2025 (Monday) - 6:00 – 9:00pm

Yacht Party - Presented by the Knights of St. Andrew - Saturday, October 18, 2025 (Details to follow)

Orange County Childhood Learning Center Haunted House FUNdraiser - Saturday, November 1 6:30 – 11:15pm (details to follow)

Cap and Ring Ceremony - Presented by the Consistory - Attend our OCSR Stated Meeting on November 10, 2025 (Monday) - 6:00 – 9:00pm

Super Breakfast - Presented by the Council of Kadosh - November 22, 2025 (Saturday) - 7:30 – 11:00am

Philanthropy Night & Holiday Dinner & Celebration - Attend our OCSR Stated Meeting on December 8, 2025 (Monday) - 6:00 – 9:00pm



How the Scottish Rite Took Root in California

Shawn E Bell, 32°
Editor

The Gold Rush didn't just pull men with pans and shovels out past the Sierra Nevada; it drew the whole American cast westward. Merchants with wagons full of hope, printers with crates of type, preachers with travel-stained Bibles, and, among them, Masons carrying worn aprons and a hunger to build something orderly in a land that felt like it was being reinvented daily. Before California even had a red star on the bear flag of a state, five Grand Lodges back east had already looked over the mountains and said, "There's work to be done out there." So they issued charters west. Representatives met in Sacramento—a city of mud streets, boomtown emotions, and racously big ideas—to draft a constitution that brought the Grand Lodge of California into being. It wasn't fancy. It was decisive. It was orderly. It said that in this place of rowdiness, rush, and rumor, Freemasons will set a plumb line.

Meanwhile, the headcount exploded. In 1850, approximately 92,000 people were calling this place, named after Queen Calafia, home. Ten years later, the population had grown to nearly 380,000. That's what discovery does; it turns tents into towns and trails into roads. But for all the traffic, communication still moved at the pace of a fast horse and a good rider. Mail could rattle from Missouri to San Francisco for weeks by stagecoach, and even when the Pony Express clipped the time to ten days, you still felt the world arrive with dust on it. That didn't stop the Scottish Rite. It just meant patience remained a significant part of the work. Degrees and ideas traveled the way everything else did then—overland, by ship, and by willpower—and brothers who had taken the vows back east carried the fire with them, one step in the lodge room at a time.

Albert Pike understood that California wasn't a side story; it was a frontier where the Rite's lessons could take root in fresh ground. In 1861, wearing two hats—lawman of the ritual and student of the continent—he tapped U.S. Senator Milton Latham to be the first official representative of the Southern Jurisdiction on the left edge of the map. Then history threw its shoulder into the room. The Civil War began, and everything that wasn't survival got put on hold. Lines on the map hardened; plans softened. For the foreseeable future, California and the Scottish Rite would have to wait a time with patience.

When the smoke of war cleared, the Rite didn't try to restart from scratch; it simply moved forward with purpose. In 1865, Ebenezer H. Shaw—already a 32° from New York—was elected Sovereign Grand Inspector General for California, invested with the 33°, and given a simple mission with complicated logistics: go west and plant the work. He arrived in San Francisco in 1866, the city still smelling like timber and salt, and organized California Lodge of Perfection No. 1—the first Scottish Rite body on the Pacific Coast. That single act put a stake in the ground. From there, Shaw began stitching a loose quilt of new bodies across the state: Marysville and Sacramento in the valley country, Grass Valley and Placerville in the mining belt, Stockton, where river traffic met rail, Vallejo with its navy echoes, and Petaluma, tucked into the North Bay. If you trace those towns on a map, you can almost see the Rite following those nascent arteries of commerce and hope outward from the city by the bay.

Not every stitch held. Populations shifted like creek beds after a storm. Boomtowns boomed and then remembered they were made of combustible wood and tents lit by kerosene lamps and candles. Resources were thinned. Enthusiasm ran hot and then cold, depending on who moved away and who stayed to shoulder the next meeting. A lodge can't live on a signed charter alone; it needs strong and steady hands, investments of time and money, and men willing to show up after a ten-hour day. By 1870, Shaw and the other leaders had the wisdom to

add structure where distance and turnover were undermining momentum. They formed the Grand Consistory of California in San Francisco—a place to hold the candidates steady, to confer the higher degrees, to keep the ledger balanced, and to remind every far-flung body that it belonged to something greater than its own unpaved street corner.

Even with that backbone, growth stayed modest. There's no shame in building gradually. It's how you pour a foundation that won't crack later. By 1880, only a handful of lodges remained truly active, proving the old rule that anything worth doing often takes longer than it should.

Then came the summer of 1883, when Albert Pike, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, walked the streets of San Francisco. For the brethren, it was more than a visit—it was meeting the author of a book you had studied by candlelight suddenly come alive before you. Pike's presence did more than mark an entry in a ledger; it set the whole coast buzzing. In Oakland, he personally selected twelve men to receive the 4° through the 32°, a deliberate act to plant the Rite firmly in California's soil. That moment created a nucleus of leadership and skill, ensuring the Rite would not just flicker at the edges of the Pacific but burn brightly and steadily; a beacon not unlike the Battery Point Lighthouse in Crescent City.

The effect was immediate. Energy shifted, conversations evolved into petitions, and petitions into new members who created new consistories and clubs. Oakland rose across the bay with industry and grit; Los Angeles, no longer a sleepy pueblo, began to look towards the future. The Rite followed the men, as it always had, but now with fresh momentum from Pike's own hand.

By the 1890s, the Scottish Rite had learned California's tempo. It was planted where communities were flourishing and jobs weren't vanishing with the next rain. Lodges and consistories expanded beyond the traditional "room over a tavern". They began to fill the state's newly built Masonic Halls in San Francisco, Oakland, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Redlands, San Diego, and Visalia. Each city name carries its own light—ports and orchards, factories and colleges, railheads and newspapers. In 1897, forty-seven years after the territory became a State, the Grand Consistory dissolved itself and replaced the centralized model with chartered consistories that resolved themselves into our modern valley structure. The Rite now lives in the fabric of multiple diverse communities that, while strong enough to stand on their own, remain, to this day, woven tightly together.

What began in the 1860s with a few determined men carrying aprons in their trunks as they traveled westward became a statewide presence with real civic and social weight. The Rite wasn't spared the uncertainties of the time—war, complex economies, sudden booms with equally rapid busts, the constant unpredictability of frontier life—but it persevered and expanded because good men are always drawn to the light of morality and ethics. They see in our degrees a way to think clearly, serve steadily, and treat their neighbors with dignity in a place that can often look improvised. And they believed that California, wild as any frontier can be, had room for a philosophy that expected you to be both thoughtful and useful to your fellow man.

That's the through-line here: persistence, not spectacle. A letter takes weeks? You wait, then write another. Members move to the next camp? You raise the next officer. Money is tight? You pass the hat and find a smaller room. And every time the door opens and a candidate walks in from the noise outside, you go back to first principles—light over heat, duty over distraction, brotherhood over brag. That rhythm, repeated across towns and cities that didn't even exist on maps a decade earlier, is how the Rite grew in the Golden State.

When we talk about the Scottish Rite in early California, we're not just listing cities and charters. We're describing a network of rooms where men paused the gold rush long enough to ask better questions and promise better conduct. A statewide conversation that learned to speak with that enduring California accent of optimism, adventure, practicality, dreams, and ever-forward thinking. As we sit today within our Scottish Rite Halls - our Lodges of Perfection, our Chapters Rose Croix, our Councils of Kadosh, and our Consistories - we should remember to give credit where it's due: to every brother who came before us, kept showing up, and who believed the Rite's work - bright and glittering more proudly than any vein of gold - belonged in California. Their patience and grit didn't just help the Rite survive; they helped it thrive, leaving behind a bridge to light that still guides us, quietly and reliably —an ever-present reminder of what focused hearts and steady hands can build, even on the far edge of a continent of a fledgling nation.



Personal Representative of the SGIG Orient of California

III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

It is an honor to serve the Valley of Orange County and to share in the work and fellowship of Scottish Rite Masonry with each of you. Our Valley has grown strong because of the commitment of its members, and I look forward to what we will continue to build together in the months ahead.

Scottish Rite Masonry is more than ritual or degree work—it is a lifelong journey of self-improvement, enlightenment, and service to humanity. In Orange County, the Scottish Rite has fast become the gathering place for Orange County Masons, and every gathering has a positive, invigorating vibe - whether it's a stated meeting dinner or a Language Center fundraiser - such as the upcoming Halloween/Día de los Muertos Gala. This isn't just my opinion, this is based on the comments of our members, visitors and significant others.

You may have experienced the challenge of calendar conflicts between our meetings and those of other local Masonic organizations, as I have. Our leadership proposed a solution that we have adopted and our Deputy, MW & III. Salazar, has approved. We will now meet on the 4th Monday of each month, starting with October - so keep in mind that our October meeting will be on Monday, October 27th. I encourage you to mark this important date on your calendar and make every effort to attend.

This important change is significant because the vitality of our Valley rests upon the active participation of its members. Each Brother brings a unique perspective, experience, and set of talents that can enrich the lives of all. Your presence not only contributes to your own growth, but it also demonstrates support for your fellow Brethren and for the enduring future of the Rite in Orange County.

If you have not attended in some time, now is the perfect opportunity to reconnect. If you are a regular participant, I encourage you to reach out to a Brother you have not seen in a while and invite him to join us. Together, we can ensure that every chair is filled, every voice is heard, and every Brother feels welcomed and valued.

I recently attended the Orient Honours in San Francisco, where I was pleased to see III. Jamie Hopkins coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary, and on the same day, the elevation of Hon. Russell Hennings, Hon. Jack Hennings and Hon. Chase May to the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH). In a special moment, MW & III. Salazar invited both Hennings, father and son, to be knighted together. It was a beautiful and moving moment.

Our world today calls for Masons who are engaged, thoughtful, and steadfast in their commitment to the principles of our Craft. Masons ask what we can do to improve the world around us, to serve our community, and respond with a commitment to getting it done - and the OC Valley is leading the charge. Let us rise to that challenge—together. I look forward to greeting you on Monday, October 27th,

and on each 4th Monday thereafter, as we continue to strengthen the bonds of our fraternity and dedicate ourselves to the mission of building better men and a better world.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°". To the right of the signature is a small, stylized purple and white emblem featuring a triangle with the number 33 inside.

INSPECTOR GENERAL HONORARY
III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°
Personal Representative of the
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California
In the Valley of Orange County
71 Plaza Square
Orange, CA 92866
T: 714.543.7277 | M: 714.269.8359



Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction



III. James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander



III. Arthur Salazar, Jr., 33°
Deputy of the Scottish Rite
Orient of California



III. Ralph Shelton, 33°
Personal Representative of the
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General, Orient of California



Jack C. Hennings Jr., 32°
Assistant to the Personal
Representative

Orange County Valley Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

| Lodge of Perfection | Chapter Rose Croix | Council of Kadosh | Consistory |
|--|--|---|---|
| Venerable Master Russ Hennings, 32° | Wise Master Alejo Velarde, 32° | Commander Barry McKinley, 32° | Master of Kadosh Joshua S Price, 32° |
| Senior Warden Larry Griffin, 32° | Senior Warden vacant | 1st Lieutenant Commander vacant | Prior vacant |
| Junior Warden Ross Hernandez, 32° | Junior Warden vacant | 2nd Lieutenant Commander vacant | Preceptor vacant |
| Orator Christian DeDios, 32° | Orator Christian DeDios, 32° | Orator Christian DeDios, 32° | Minister of State Christian DeDios, 32° |
| Almoner David Harrington, 33° | Almoner David Harrington, 33° | Almoner David Harrington, 33° | Almoner David Harrington, 33° |
| Secretary Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH | Secretary Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH | Recorder Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH | Registrar Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH |
| Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32° | Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32° | Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32° | Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32° |
| Prelate James Olivier, 32° KCCH | Prelate James Olivier, 32° KCCH | Prelate James Olivier, 32° KCCH | Prelate James Olivier, 32° KCCH |
| Master of Cermonies vacant | Master of Cermonies vacant | Marshall of Ceremonies vacant | Marshall of Ceremonies vacant |
| Expert vacant | Expert vacant | First Deacon vacant | Expert vacant |
| Assistant Expert vacant | Assistant Expert vacant | Second Deacon vacant | Assistant Expert vacant |
| Tiler Christian DeDios, 32° | Tiler Christian DeDios, 32° | Sentinel Christian DeDios, 32° | Tiler Christian DeDios, 32° |