



December at the Orange County Scottish Rite



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

Our next meeting includes our Holiday Dinner & Celebration

on **Monday, December 22th.** See you there!



A Valley of Light: Reflections from the Venerable Master

**Russ Hennings, 32°, K.C.C.H.
Venerable Master**

This season has a way of slowing us down. The sun dips a little earlier. The noise of the year begins to soften, and in that stillness, we begin to think about the year we've lived through. Not just the milestones—though we've had many—but the quiet, powerful moments that gave shape to who we've become.

In our Valley, we have grown—not just in numbers, but in depth. I've seen new faces take on roles. I've watched ideas become action. I've heard laughter and conversation in rooms that used to be too quiet. What's happened here this year is more than activity—it's transformation.

And that transformation didn't come from a single man. It came from all of you. The brothers who stayed late to clean up after events. The ones who worked behind the scenes on rituals and logistics. The men who quietly invited a brother to join us, just to see what this place could be. That's the kind of giving that defines a real Mason.

The spirit of this season, the holidays, the year's end, the flickering light of candles and fireplaces, has always spoken to that deeper kind of giving. It's not about presents or donations. It's about presence. About how we show up for each other, for our community, and for the next generation of men who will stand in our places one day.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we are called to a deeper practice of that spirit. We are not here just to wear regalia or attend dinners. We're here to live the Rite, to take its lessons and turn them into something meaningful. That's what philanthropy means in its purest form. Not just fundraising but living generously.

To the brothers who joined our Valley this year: you are stepping into something built by decades of that kind of giving. Now it's your turn to shape it. Your ideas matter. Your energy is needed. Don't wait to be told what to do. If you see a space for growth, fill it. If you feel a spark of purpose, follow it. We'll support you.

You don't have to be an officer to be a leader here. You just have to care enough to act.

Next year is already beginning to take shape. There will be more events, more degrees, more opportunities to serve, and more lives to impact through the RiteCare Childhood Language Center. But beyond all the logistics, I hope we keep asking the deeper questions.

Are we living in a way that honors those who came before us? Are we building something that future brothers will be proud to inherit? Are we giving in a way that leaves no doubt what kind of men we were?

That's the legacy I hope we carry forward—not just a Valley full of members, but a Valley full of light. Light that shines through the work we do, the people we serve, and the lives we quietly touch.

So as this year closes, I want to say thank you. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for leaning in. Thank you for making this place feel like home.

May your holidays be warm, your families close, and your heart filled with purpose for the year ahead.



A Season of Gratitude and Fellowship in the Scottish Rite

**Alejo Velarde, 32°
Wise Master**

As we move deeper into the holiday season, the Scottish Rite family reflects on the many ways we come together in unity, charity, and fellowship. Though Thanksgiving has already passed, its spirit continues to guide our hearts. The season reminds us of the countless blessings we share brotherhood, service, and the opportunity to uplift our community.

This year, our Valley once again demonstrated what it means to embody gratitude in action. From supporting the Children's Language Center to participating in our ongoing educational and charitable efforts, our Brethren showed that the values of our Craft extend well beyond a single holiday.

Now, as Christmas approaches, we continue that same warmth and generosity. The holidays offer a special chance to gather with our loved ones, celebrate our traditions, and create meaningful memories. Whether we are sharing a meal, exchanging gifts, or simply enjoying a quiet evening with family, we honor the true essence of the season love, compassion, and togetherness.

May this festive time remind us of the bonds we share as Scottish Rite Masons and the commitments that unite us. Let us carry forward the gratitude of Thanksgiving, embrace the joy of Christmas, and look ahead to the New Year with renewed hope and purpose.

From our Scottish Rite family to yours, may this season be filled with peace, fellowship, and the warmth of those you hold dear.

SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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



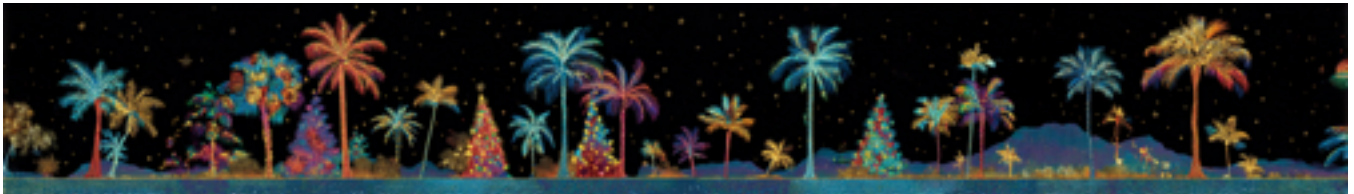
From Super Breakfast to Christmas Joy

Barry McKinley, 32°
Commander of Kadosh

As we close out the year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has continued to support our Valley and its programs. Thank you to all who joined us for our recent Super Breakfast—whether you stopped in for a meal, lent a hand behind the scenes, or simply offered your encouragement. Your quiet generosity and steady participation are what keep our work moving forward.

With the holiday season upon us, our attention now turns to one of the most meaningful events of the year: the RiteCare Childhood Language Center Christmas Party. This gathering is always a special moment for the children and families served by the CLC, and it's a wonderful opportunity for us to share warmth, kindness, and a bit of Christmas magic. I hope many of you will be able to attend and show your support for the incredible work the CLC does year-round.

Thank you once again for everything you do—seen and unseen—to strengthen our Valley and uplift our community.



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

Childhood Language Center Christmas Party, Holiday Dinner & Celebration - Attend our OCSR Stated Meeting on December 22, 2025 (Monday) for our holiday festivities, meet our CLC family. The children will receive their gifts from Mr. and Mrs Santa Claus! 6:00 – 9:00pm

Officer Installation – with Ill. Arthur Salazar, Jr., 33°, Deputy of the Scottish Rite, Orient of California as Installing Officer, January 18, 2025 (Sunday) - 6:00 – 9:00pm

Honour Men's Dinner – January 11, 2025 (Sunday) – by invitation only.



A Year Well Spent: Gratitude from the Consistory

**Joshua S. Price, 32° KSA
Master of Kadosh**

As we near the close of 2025, I've found myself reflecting on a year filled with meaningful milestones, renewed energy, and the steady, quiet strength that has always defined our Orange County Valley. Serving as head of the Consistory has been an honor, and I am deeply grateful to my fellow heads of bodies, our officers, degree teams, directors, and the dedicated membership who helped make this one of our most active and memorable years to date.

From the successful Spring and Fall Reunions, each welcoming a new class of committed Masters of the Royal Secret, to our Roaring Twenties Night, the fellowship of the Feast of Tishri, the spirited fun of our Halloween and Dia de los Muertos Costume Ball, and the creative energy of our Blue Slipper Club, our Valley showed what happens when good men and their families come together with purpose. To all our newly made 32° brothers, welcome again. Your curiosity, enthusiasm, and engagement have brought a renewed vitality to both our meetings and our work. The Consistory is stronger because of you.

I would be remiss not to recognize our Venerable Master, Honorable Russ Hennings, whose heartfelt and genuinely creative approach to leadership brought warmth, connection, and sincerity to everything we did this year. I can say the same of all my fellow heads of bodies and all our officers. Each of you has taught me something meaningful, and I've been continuously inspired by your examples and your dedication.

My deep appreciation also goes to Illustrious Ralph Shelton, whose unwavering support, steady counsel, and quiet confidence have been a constant source of strength for all of us, but especially for me throughout this year. His leadership, supported by Honorable Jack Hennings, brought clarity when challenges arose and helped turn every accomplishment into a shared success. Their example shows what Scottish Rite leadership can be at its best: present, genuine, and always working for the good of the Valley.

I would be even more remiss if I did not thank my wife, Kat, who has been my copilot through every meeting, event, and whirlwind week this year. In truth, she often surpassed my own efforts, as she always seems to do. Her appointment as Chair of our CLC Board is already bringing fresh energy and vision, and I have no doubt it will elevate our charitable work and strengthen our support of the Language Center in meaningful ways.

And now, with Illustrious Salazar completing a remarkable year as Grand Master and stepping into his role as our Deputy of the Supreme Council, Orient of California, I believe we are poised for even greater accomplishments in 2026 and beyond.

As we look toward the coming year, I remain optimistic. Our officer line is strong, our membership energized, and our calendar filled with opportunities to learn, serve, and grow together. Whatever lies ahead, I am confident we will face it united, committed, and strengthened by the bonds of brotherhood.

Thank you, Brethren, for a year well spent. May the season bring peace to your homes, and may the new year bring light to your paths.



From the General Secretary

Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

Seasons Greetings to all of the Brothers of our Valley and your families. If you weren't at our November Stated Meeting, you missed one of our best meetings. The meeting was immediately followed by our Cap & Ring presentation ceremony for the 12 newest Brothers in our Valley. Following the ceremony, we moved to the dining hall to enjoy a wonderful, Thanksgiving feast. During dinner, we listened to an excellent talk from our Supreme Council's Donor Officer for the West, Rich Nowacki, 32° KCCH. We greatly appreciated Brother Nowacki's traveling to our Valley to speak to us. He explained what our donations help to support and also gave us other good information about our Supreme Council in Washington , D.C.

Our December Stated meeting will be on Monday, December 29th at 6:30 pm. Please make a point of attending as we conduct our Valley business in our Stated Meeting and enjoy great fellowship at the dinner afterwards. As always, please email me if you have any questions about your membership. May you and your family enjoy a happy and joyous Holiday!



In Service and Fellowship: Looking Toward 2026

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

This message finds us all at the close of another year. And what a year it was! Our Valley has grown, our Degree teams have done amazing work, and I am immensely proud of what we've been able to accomplish together. It's been an absolute privilege to work with our Heads of Bodies to bring you all the best possible in-lodge experience, and dare I say, this is easily the most experienced line we've ever had. Thank you Hon. Hennings, Bro. Velarde, Bro. McKinley, and Bro. Price for being such incredible partners this year. You truly make us all very proud.

Another group that needs to be acknowledged are people like Hon. David Soliven and Bro. Chris DeDios. When it comes to backing me up in degree and ritual related matters, these two guys have been absolute God-sends and I am eternally grateful for their time and dedication to the craft. Of course, none of this would be possible without our leadership. Ill. Ralph Shelton has been a great supporter of our ritual endeavors from day one, and we all owe him our thanks when it comes to supporting what happens in our stated meetings, special events, and reunions.

Last, but definitely not least. All of you. Without you, my Brothers, this Valley very literally does not exist. Because of you, we get to do all of this. Our reunions, our meetings, the language center, all of this is a result of your contued support. Your participation, very literally, changes lives. Mine included. So as your servant, thank you for the opportunity to do what I do.

As the new year approaches, we are embarking on a very ambitious schedule when it comes to ritual with the state-wide reunion and our own in-house reunion. I hope that many of you will make it out to all of these events as we continue to grow and thrive together. It has been an absolute honor to serve you all, and I cannot wait to see what the coming year brings!

My wish for each of you is another year of blessings and joy. May the Great Architect of the Universe keep you all happy and healthy.



Autumn at the Clinic: Fun, Family, and Forward Steps

Danielle Pulliam, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Supervisor

The fall holidays are extra special at CLC! Our clients and families had a spook-tacular Halloween. The student clinicians brought a festive air with their costumes and our clients enjoyed trick-o-treating in the clinic! We are now gearing up for thanksgiving with turkeys, autumn florals, and uplifting messages all around the clinic. With two weeks left to go in our semester, our student clinicians have been putting together progress reports for all our clients. It has been so rewarding seeing all the progress that our clients have made. We have had several new clients this semester and our existing families are excited to return next year to continue building speech and language skills with another group of amazing student clinicians in 2026!





Create A Win/Win with Tax Smart Giving

Hon. Brother Richard S. Nowacki, 32° KCCH

Western Region Donor Officer

(971) 319-0499 RNowacki@scottishrite.org

"Tax Smart Giving" refers to strategies that individuals can use to make charitable donations while minimizing their tax liabilities. The goal is to donate in a way that maximizes tax benefits, whether through deductions, credits, or other strategies allowed under tax laws. When planning ahead, individuals (or couples) can avoid the stress when the filling season starts.

(Remember some of these suggestions are tied to the calendar year and some to the filing deadline)

Here are some common tax-smart giving strategies:

1. **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)** - A Donor-Advised Fund is a charitable investment account where you can contribute assets, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants to specific charities over time. DAFs can be particularly useful if you want to contribute now but decide on the exact charities later.
2. **Gifting Appreciated Assets** - Instead of giving cash, consider donating appreciated assets (like stocks, bonds, or real estate) that have increased in value over time. By doing this, you can avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value, and you can also receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset at the time of the donation.
3. **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)** - For individuals aged 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows you to donate directly from your IRA to a charity, which can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The benefit is that these distributions are not included in your taxable income, which can lower your tax bill.
4. **Charitable Trusts** - Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs) or Charitable Lead Trusts (CLTs) allow you to donate assets to a trust that benefits both you and a charity. With a CRT, you receive an income stream from the trust for a period of time, and the remaining funds go to the charity. With a CLT, the charity gets the income stream, and you or your heirs receive the remainder after a set period.
5. **Bunching Donations** - This involves timing your donations so that you can exceed the standard deduction threshold in one year and itemize your deductions, rather than spreading donations out over several years. By "bunching" your contributions into one year, you can potentially take advantage of a larger tax break.
6. **Maximizing the Charitable Deduction** - For those who itemize their taxes, charitable contributions can be deducted from your taxable income. However, there are limits to how much you can deduct. Typically, you can donate up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in cash to qualifying charities, but the percentage can vary depending on the type of donation.
7. **Corporate Giving Programs** - If you own a business, there are tax incentives for donating to charity. For example, businesses can often deduct the fair market value of donated goods or services. There are also

programs where employees can give through payroll deductions, and the company may match the donations.

8. **Estate and Legacy Giving** - You can also plan for charitable giving in your will or trust, which can reduce estate taxes. By leaving a portion of your estate to charity, it can lower the value of your taxable estate, potentially reducing estate taxes.
9. **Charitable Gift Annuities** - A charitable gift annuity allows you to make a donation to a charity while receiving regular income payments for life. The portion of your gift that is designated for charity is tax-deductible, and the income you receive is partially taxable. This is one of the Supreme Councils more popular ways for members to give.

Each of these strategies can be tailored to your financial situation and charitable goals. It is always a good idea to consult with a financial advisor or tax professional before implementing these strategies to ensure you are getting the maximum tax benefits.

Are you looking for advice on any specific tax-smart giving strategies or something else related to charitable giving? If so, feel free to reach out to me and I can show you how to benefit your favorite charities with Tax Smart Giving.

Contact: Richard Nowacki, Western Region Donor Officer
(971) 319-0499 RNowacki@scottishrite.org

Honorable Brother Rich is a husband and father of two children. He was born in London England and lives with his family in West Linn Oregon. He is a Past Master of Parkrose Lodge #179 and a Past Wise Master of Ainsworth Rose Croix, Portland Valley SR SJ USA. When he is not raising money for historic preservation, speech therapy and other charitable causes he enjoys studying philosophy, golfing and martial arts.

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



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<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.



From Craft Night to Christmas: Blue Slipper Updates

Erin McKinley

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from the Blue Slipper Club. Thank you to all the significant others who came to make fall themed candle holders at our last meeting. For December, we will be assisting at the CLC Christmas Party.



A History of Freemasonry in California

Shawn E Bell, 32°
Editor

California Historical Landmark No. 76 — Roop's Fort Susanville, Lassen County, California Registered December 6, 1932

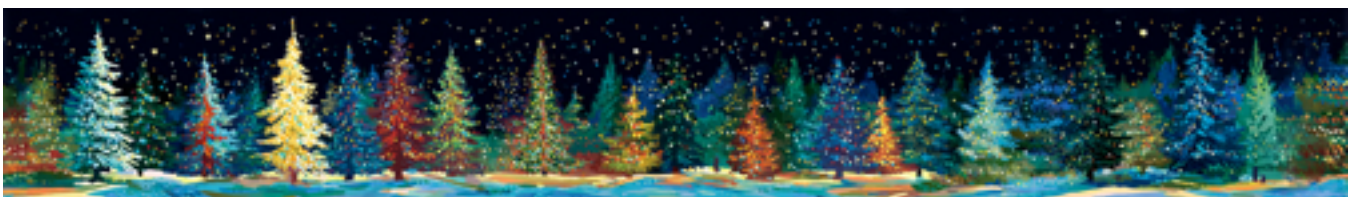
The Masonic plaque at this site marks more than just a centennial; it ties the place to the men who shaped the town and Freemasonry in this region. The plaque commemorates the centennial of Lassen Lodge No. 149, F. & A. M., and honors Isaac N. Roop — ardent Freemason, founder of Susanville, first governor of the Provisional Territory of Nevada, civic leader and friend of man — alongside John S. Ward, the first master of Lassen Lodge, who was wounded here during the “Sagebrush War.” That dedication, placed by the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of California on May 6, 1961, reads like a short ledger of duty: men, service, and the scars that can come from defending community and principle.

“About This Landmark: In the summer of 1854, Isaac N. Roop built a sturdy wooden structure known as Roop House, offering weary travelers a refuge along their westward journey. Located in what would later become Susanville, the house became a vital waystation for emigrant trains navigating the rugged Northern California wilderness in search of new opportunities. More than just a stopping place, Roop House soon became a center of activity in the growing settlement.

However, its peaceful role changed in 1863 when it was fortified and repurposed as Roop's Fort, the focal point of the “Sagebrush War.” This brief but fierce conflict erupted between Plumas and Lassen County settlers over disputed jurisdictional boundaries, turning the fort into a battleground. Though the skirmish was minor in scale, it reflected the broader struggles of law, governance, and territorial identity in California's frontier days.

Today, Roop's Fort stands as a historical landmark, preserving the legacy of those early pioneers who braved the uncertainties of settlement in Northern California. From its origins as a place of welcome to its role in a local conflict, the fort remains a testament to the resilience, determination, and challenges faced by those who shaped the American West...”

— Excerpt from *Exploring California's Historic Landmarks - Northern Edition* by Shawn E. Bell, award-winning #1 bestselling Amazon author. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FTYVZD43>





Happy Holidays to all Masonic Lodges from which our Scottish Rite Brothers Hail!

Alhambra No. 322, Los Angeles County
 Anaheim No. 207, Orange County
 Anchor Bell No. 868, Los Angeles County
 Andres Bonifacio No. 879, Los Angeles County
 Angels Gate No. 198, Los Angeles County
 Ararat No. 848, Los Angeles County
 Arcadia No. 278, Los Angeles County
 Archimedes No. 871, Los Angeles County
 Artesia Sunrise No. 377, Los Angeles County
 Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass No. 614, Los Angeles
 Barstow Boron No. 682, San Bernardino County
 Beach Cities No. 753, Los Angeles County
 Bellflower No. 320, Los Angeles County
 Beverly Hills No. 528, Los Angeles County
 Big Bear No. 617, San Bernardino County
 Black Mountain No. 845, San Diego County
 Blythe-Needles No. 473, Riverside County
 Brea No. 339, Orange County
 Burbank No. 406, Los Angeles County
 Chino Valley No. 427, San Bernardino County
 Chula Vista No. 626, San Diego County
 Claremont No. 436, Los Angeles County
 Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866, Los Angeles
 Claude H. Morrison No. 747, San Diego County
 Coachella No. 476, Riverside County
 Consuelo No. 325, San Diego County
 Cornerstone No. 659, Orange County
 Coronado No. 441, San Diego County
 Culver City-Foshay No. 467, Los Angeles County
 Destiny No. 856, Los Angeles County
 Downey United No. 220, Los Angeles County
 East San Diego No. 561, San Diego County
 El Segundo No. 421, Los Angeles County
 Elysian No. 418, Los Angeles County
 Evergreen No. 259, Riverside County
 Fallbrook No. 317, San Diego County
 Fontana No. 653, San Bernardino County
 Fox-Coates Daylight No. 842, San Bernardino
 Garden Grove No. 351, Orange County
 Gardena Moneta No. 372, Los Angeles County
 GAT Jose Rizal No. 882, Riverside County
 Glendale No. 368, Los Angeles County
 Glendora No. 404, Los Angeles County
 Golden Trowel Norwalk No. 273, Los Angeles
 Granada Hills No. 378, Los Angeles County
 Greenleaf Gardens No. 670, Los Angeles County

Heartland No. 576, San Diego County
 Hemet San Jacinto No. 338, Riverside County
 Hermes No. 891, Los Angeles County
 Hollywood No. 355, Los Angeles County
 Home No. 721, Los Angeles County
 Huntington Beach No. 380, Orange County
 International City No. 389, Los Angeles County
 Ionic Composite No. 520, Los Angeles County
 Irvine Valley No. 671, Orange County
 John D. Spreckels No. 657, San Diego County
 Joseph L. Shell Daylight No. 837, San Diego
 Kapayapaan at Pagkakaisa No. 888, San Diego
 La France No. 885, Los Angeles County
 La Jolla No. 518, San Diego County
 La Mesa No. 407, San Diego County
 Lakewood No. 728, Los Angeles County
 Lancaster No. 437, Los Angeles County
 Lautaro Lodge U.D. No. 2026, Los Angeles County
 Lemon Grove No. 736, San Diego County
 Lexington No. 104, Los Angeles County
 Liberal Arts No. 677, Los Angeles County
 Long Beach No. 327, Los Angeles County
 Los Angeles Harbor No. 332, Los Angeles County
 Los Angeles No. 42, Los Angeles County
 Los Cerritos No. 674, Los Angeles County
 Lux No. 846, San Diego County
 Magnolia Park No. 618, Los Angeles County
 Maya No. 793, Los Angeles County
 Menifee Valley No. 289, Riverside County
 Metropolitan No. 352, Orange County
 MW John R. Heisner No. 442, San Diego County
 MW Manuel Luis Quezon No. 874, San Diego
 Newport Mesa No. 241, Orange County
 North Hollywood No. 542, Los Angeles County
 Novus Veteris No. 864, San Diego County
 Oasis No. 854, Los Angeles County
 Oasis of Light No. 893, Riverside County
 Oasis Of Mara No. 735, San Bernardino County
 Oceanside-San Dieguito No. 381, San Diego
 Old West No. 813, Los Angeles County
 Ontario No. 301, San Bernardino County
 Orange Grove No. 293, Orange County
 Pacific Rim No. 567, Los Angeles County
 Palm Springs No. 693, Riverside County
 Palmdale No. 769, Los Angeles County
 Palos Verdes No. 883, Los Angeles County

Panamericana No. 513, Los Angeles County
 Pasadena No. 272, Los Angeles County
 Phoenix Rising No. 178, San Bernardino County
 Pilaes Del Rey Salomon No. 886, Los Angeles
 Point Loma No. 620, San Diego County
 Raven's Rock No. 870, Los Angeles County
 Redlands No. 300, San Bernardino County
 Redondo No. 328, Los Angeles County
 Reseda No. 666, Los Angeles County
 Rim of the World No. 711, San Bernardino County
 Rosemead No. 457, Los Angeles County
 Round Table No. 329, Los Angeles County
 S.W. Hackett No. 574, San Diego County
 Saddleback Laguna No. 672, Orange County
 San Diego No. 35, San Diego County
 San Dimas No. 428, Los Angeles County
 San Fernando No. 343, Los Angeles County
 San Marino No. 408, Los Angeles County
 Santa Maria No. 580, San Diego County
 Santa Monica-Palisades No. 307, Los Angeles
 Gate Three Stars No. 296, San Diego County
 Solomon's Staircase No. 357, Orange County
 South Pasadena No. 290, Los Angeles County
 South West No. 283, San Diego County
 Southern California No. 529, Los Angeles County
 Sunnyside No. 577, Los Angeles County
 Sunset No. 369, Los Angeles County
 Temecula Catalina Island No. 524, Riverside
 Temescal Palms No. 314, Riverside County
 The Downtown Masonic No. 859, Los Angeles
 The Thirty-Three No. 878, Orange County
 Three Great Lights No. 323, Los Angeles County
 Torrance University No. 394, Los Angeles County
 Tujunga No. 592, Los Angeles County
 Upland-Mt. Baldy No. 419, San Bernardino County
 Van Nuys No. 450, Los Angeles County
 Veritas No. 855, Orange County
 Victorville No. 634, San Bernardino County
 Vista No. 687, San Diego County
 Wayfarers No. 889, Orange County
 West Covina No. 446, Los Angeles County
 Widows Sons No. 869, Riverside County
 William Rhodes Hervey No. 767, Los Angeles
 Wisdom No. 202, Los Angeles County
 Ye Olde Cup & Ball No. 880, Orange County
 Yorba Linda No. 469, Orange County

Orange County Scottish Rite: The Masonic Family That Meets Every Month

Bring your significant other or the whole family to our monthly Stated Meetings!

If you need a ride, please contact our General Secretary, Jamie Hopkins, or our Personal Representative. We can arrange transportation or give you our Lyft code to get you to our meetings at no cost to you.

Everyone is welcome; we'd love to see you and yours this month!



Personal Representative of the SGIG Orient of California

III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

I have so much to share this month that it is best presented in a few brief sections.

November Stated Meeting Highlights

Our November meeting was a truly spectacular evening. We were honored to welcome Illustrious Arthur L. Salazar, Jr., 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council for the Orient of California, whose presence added distinction to the occasion. The highlight of the night was the Cap and Ring Ceremony, where we proudly presented regalia to all twelve of our new Masters of the Royal Secret.

During the open portion of the meeting, Hon. Richard Nowacki, Western Regional Donor Officer for the Supreme Council, delivered an informative presentation on the philanthropic work of the Scottish Rite and the many opportunities our members have to support these important efforts. We also enjoyed engaging presentation by Illustrious Maynard Edwards, who shared a collection of fascinating “fun facts” about the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., as well as one from Illustrious Bob Weatherford regarding the state of Scottish Rite membership.

The evening concluded with a Thanksgiving Feast prepared and served by our Heads of Bodies. Special appreciation goes to Bro. Barry McKinley, whose expertly brined turkeys were a standout highlight enjoyed by all in attendance.

Looking Ahead to December

In December, we will hold our annual holiday party for the children and families served by the Childhood Language Center of Orange County. This festive evening will celebrate the spirit of the season with fun, fellowship, and joy as we come together to support the families who benefit from the vital work of our Language Center.

Planning for the Future

As the year draws to a close, the Valley Leadership is conducting a thoughtful review of our progress under the current strategic plan. This evaluation will help us assess the successes of the past two years and identify areas for continued growth. With this foundation, we are preparing to refine and adapt the strategic plan to guide the Valley's development over the next several years.

At the same time, our Valley continues to grow—both in membership and in engagement. We are committed to presenting informative and meaningful programming at each gathering, reflecting the depth and breadth of Scottish Rite Masonry and furthering the Masonic Journeys of our membership. I am very pleased that the significant others who join us each month also find our programming informative and enjoyable. The Orange County Valley is truly the crossroads of Masonry in Orange County, and we invite all Brethren to join us on the fourth Monday of each month at the historic Orange Masonic Center.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

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 Ceremonies vacant	Master of Ceremonies 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°