

Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin



Ill Harry R. Sprague Memorial Class receiving their 14th degree rings.
Vol. 88 Valley of Pasadena - September 2025 No. 8

Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin

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150 N. Madison Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91101-1710

626.795.4213 Fax: 626.795.1487

<http://www.pasadenascottishrite.org>ron@pasadenascottishrite.orgReservations: mary@pasadenascottishrite.org

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Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

Editor

Calvin E. Smith, 32°

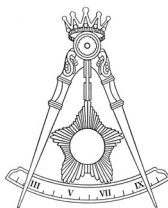
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Allegiance

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Pasadena,
Orient of California acknowledge and yield
allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother
Council of the World) of the Inspector
General Knights Commander of the House
of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-Third
and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of the United States of America.



Jeffrey W. Yates, 32° KCCH

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John S.C. Thorpe, 32°

*Wise Master**Chapter of Rose Croix*

Jonathan M. Wood, 32°

*Commander**Council of Kadosh*

Leonard Manoukian, 32° KCCCH ELect

*Master of Kadosh**Consistory*

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*First Knight**Knights of Saint Andrew*

Leonard Manoukian, 32° KCCH Elect

Master of Kadosh

Consistory

Recently, we concluded the Illustrious Harry R. Sprague, 33°, Memorial Reunion. In this year's iteration, our reunion had 4 sessions with the last addressing the 30th, 31st, and 32nd degrees. Given that I am both a degree master, and a member of our stage-craft team, I have attended all the reunion sessions. However, due to my responsibilities as the current Master of Kadosh, this year's last session had a special significance for me as I had to open the Consistory and take part in the 32nd Degree.



Taking part in all three degrees, I noticed something very interesting. Whereas, throughout the previous degrees the term “candidate” was used for the would-be member of each degree, in the 30th Degree, he was informed that he would, thereafter, be referred to as an “Aspirant.” Why the difference? Well, the distinction between a “candidate” (i.e., a person who is suitable for a particular position) and an aspirant (i.e., a person who yearns for a particular position) is subtle but important. That said, I would not have even noticed it had I not been in the theatre when the “aspirant” and the entire class was informed of their new status. Of course, a newsletter is not the appropriate place to discuss the finer points of our degrees (for that, please attend our Valley's Saturday Study Sessions, run by Charles Fisher, 33° Elect). However, I do think that all of our Brethren would benefit from, time to time, attending the reunions and revisiting the lessons of the Scottish Rite.

On another note, after its summer hiatus, our Children's Language Center (CLC) restarted its activities on Tuesday, August 26th. Its hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm. 26 clients will be served by 5 Pasadena City College Speech-Language Assistant Fieldwork students. During the

Continued on next page

Master of Kadosh, continued....

Spring Semester, we had 27 clients. One has graduated. We are awaiting responses from 3 possible clients and have an additional three on hold due to the unavailability of time slots. Finally, one client has moved out of state, although, they may return for the Spring 2026 semester. Please remember the CLC and, if possible, support its activities.

As this is the only update some Brethren may receive from the Valley, recently, the members of the Valley's Knights of St. Andrew freshened up our auditorium's Green-Room (the room where our degree participants/actors wait before taking the stage) by giving it a new coat of paint. Thank you, Brethren, for stepping up!!

And finally, September 5th will be the capping ceremony for our newly minted Brethren who took part in the recent reunion. I hope that all of us can attend to congratulate them and see the off on the new Masonic journey which is the Scottish Rite.

Fraternally,

Leonard Manoukian, 32° KCCH Elect
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve it members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country.

Strategic Objectives

Fulfill the promise of additional Masonic knowledge through education and training.

Build a Positive Public Image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.

Support and expand our philanthropic activities.

Provide a framework for effective leadership to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity.

Provide a financial process to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity

Scottish Rite Creed

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

The Secretary's Desk

Ill. Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

Congratulations to the 27 new Masters of the Royal Secret who completed their 32° on August 23rd.

By now all of the members of our valley should have received their dues notice for 2026 from the Supreme Council, you can pay your dues online at <http://my.scottishrite.org> or mail a check payable to A & A Scottish Rite to our office.



The work we have been doing to update the contact info for members who were suspended for non-payment of dues has paid off. Due to the efforts by Ill. Bob Weatherford, 33° from the Supreme Council we have been able to restore 9 members to good standing in our valley in the last month.

On September 5th after our dinner we will be presenting certificates to the 25 and 50 year members in the dining room, and we will be having a capping ceremony for the new 32nd degree members in the auditorium prior to the stated meeting.

Fraternally,

Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

General Secretary

Current Dues Statistics

Accurate As Of: 8/29/2025 5:01:37 AM

	Count	% of Total	Orient Wide Avg.	Jurisdiction Wide Avg.
Active Members with Dues Paid in Full:	79	11.5%	12.5%	16.5%
Active Members with Current Dues Balance:	309	45%	36.2%	37.6%
Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance:	139	20.3%	22.5%	13.8%
Active Members that are Dues Exempt (A,L,R):	67	9.8%	10.8%	10.5%
Active Paid Life Members (E):	92	13.4%	18.1%	21.7%
Total:	686			

The P.R.'s Corner

Ill. Gregory J. Gabriel, 33°

Good Works

CONGRATULATIONS to our new brethren and Masters of the Royal Secret! You have completed a long journey of instruction that we have provided for you, but now it is your duty to pause and reflect on what you have received. As you have learned in Freemasonry, interpreting the degrees is totally up to you. Each of us place our own values and experiences on what has been impressed upon us to help us understand those teachings. There is no one correct understanding of the ritual or its lessons. Each of us holds dear in our hearts what is true and what fits best in our daily lives. For a more in-depth perspective of the Scottish Rite works, I suggest attending our Saturday lecture and discussion group for further insight of all the degrees, from the Entered Apprentice to Master of the Royal Secret. The discussion group is lively and informative. Check the Bulletin for details.



I cannot impress upon you enough, that the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is a serve-based organization. The Thirty Second degree inculcated true, since and dedicated service to yourself, your God, your family, your community, your country and to your fellow humans around the globe.

If you joined our Valley to receive the rank and cap of a thirty second degree Scottish Rite mason without true and dedicated service in your heart, or to brag to the world that you are a Master of the Royal Secret, or to wear a 32° ring and pin simply to impress your brethren because you have attained this degree, then we have failed in our mission and you have cheated yourself and wasted your time. This is not a veiled threat. This is the truth. I urge you to join us in our quest to do good and to labor for the betterment yourself, freemasonry and for mankind.

Continued on next page

The P.R.'s Corner, continued...

As you assume your labors, remember the verse from Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Gregory J. Gabriel, 33°

Personal Representative to the Deputy in California



Visit us on Facebook

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

Pasadena Scottish Rite

Presents The Live 2025 Performance of

The Living Constitution

The Constitution Drafting
and Signing Re-enactment
ON STAGE
and in Period Costume



Spaghetti Dinner Served between
6:00pm and 7:30pm

Play Starts at 8:00pm
September 27th

Open and FREE to all Masons, Friends and Family. Everyone Required to RSVP for the Dinner!
Walk-ins welcome but Dinner is limited to those who RSVP in advance.

Scottish Rite Cathedral 150 N Madison Avenue • Pasadena, CA

RSVP --- TLC@PasadenaScottishRite.org

September Dinner Menu

Stated Meeting on September 5th

Cheese & Crackers

Wedge Salad w/Bleu Cheese Crumbles & Ranch Dressing

Old Fashioned Beef Brisket

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans

Dinner Rolls and Butter

Chocolate Mousse Cake

Last Day for reservations: Wednesday, September 3rd at 2pm

Number of Reservations at \$20.00 Per Person.....

Fish or Vegetarian on request only when making reservation.

Remember - a reservation made is a reservation paid.

RSVP@pasadenascottishrite.org or 626-795-4213 Ext: 101

A Sponsor's Responsibility

For every petitioner for the degrees of Scottish Rite Degrees there is a Scottish Rite Mason who is his sponsor on whom rests the responsibility for proper training of the petitioner. The Scottish Rite Mason who signs the petition has a responsibility that does not end with their signature on the petition. If you invited a guest to a gathering at your home, you make sure that he meets all of your guest and is made welcome and comfortable. Isn't the man whom you recommend Scottish Rite Freemasonry entitled to the same courtesy? As his sponsor, is it not your duty to assist him with his work and take an interest in his progress? It seems to us that it is, and that you should see to it that he fully understands the fine lessons of our degrees. If you recommend a man to the Scottish Rite, satisfy yourself that he is receiving that for which you recommended him. To do so is but a Masonic courtesy and it is your duty as a Scottish Rite Mason.

Treasurer's Report

Miles H. Bresee III, 32° KCCH

Greetings, Brethren...

The 2nd Quarter of the year is behind us, and I wanted to provide financial updates to you. As mentioned several times last year as well as this year, we intended to...and have made conscious efforts to preserve and improve our cash positions. While 'not required', the stated goal is to return to our investment accounts, funds taken for our 5 year building maintenance and upgrade efforts.



I believe we are on track with these efforts. During the first half of the year, there have been a couple of modest transfers to the Lodge of Perfection (LOP) checking account from investments. The LOP, much like the Blue Lodge in general is limited in 'making money'. As in the Blue Lodge, making money oftentimes comes from the Hall Association by renting out the Hall for special and other events such as Quinceanera's, Pancake Breakfasts, Steak Fry's, Election Polling Places, venues for local meetings, etc. Our transfers were \$75,000 of the \$185,000 budgeted; or 41%. A couple of factors contributed to the 'need for less', one of these was the regrettable accident our Valley Admin, Mary suffered and not being able to work; the other was 75% of our Valley's Dues have been received. As noted previously during Stated Meeting Treasurer reports...when more Dues are paid, the less we need to rely or 'pull' from our investments for operating expenses. Our renowned Spirit of Hiram presentation came in at 88% of budget. As many of you are aware, we do not charge for either the spaghetti dinner beforehand or attending the performance. Overall our expenses were at 28% of budget. The ending bank balance on June 30th was \$52,000.

The Cathedral Association is in good shape with \$65,000 in our checking account. The Cathedral Board has intentionally delayed undertaking any projects until sufficient funds have been accumulated; and then judiciously using them for projects we can afford without using investment funds. 'Budget-wise', overall, our income is 56% of budgeted income. We have a couple of private agreements

Continued on next page

Treasurers Report, Continued...

with the condominium's to the north of our property as well as limited public use of our parking lot. The general parking lot budget is \$5,000 and as of June, we received \$16,900; or 339% more than budget. To the east of our building, we have a long term lease for the Ironworker's parking lot and received 50%; or \$110,000 ... on budget for it. The largest income shortfall is Building Rentals. As of June, \$37,500 has been received against a budget of \$100,000. Cathedral Association expenses are 78% at the end of June; primarily due to approximately \$49,000 of 2024 Dining Room remodeling expenses were paid in 2025. Both the LOP and Cathedral Association are on the 'Cash Basis' and not the 'Accrual Basis' for the recognition of income and expense. This means both income and expenses are recognized when received or paid; and not accrued.

In summary, as one might expect, some budget items are over and some are under; and a good report for mid-year.

Turning now to our investments, following a Zoom meeting with our Investment Advisor on July 16th. Does our national economic policies affect our investments? Absolutely. The first quarter (ending March 31st) saw the initial two months of tariff increases. 'Liberation Day' on April 2nd saw a week's worth of market declines (as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Index), followed by some 'up' days, and further declines...to be paused when it was announced there would be a 90 day reprieve until July, to which the market became somewhat 'stable', but with uncertainty. While our investments are in mutual funds in a 63/39/8 portfolio (close to our 60% stocks or equities, 30% bonds/fixed income, 10% cash and alternatives), the uncertainty affected our portfolios. Keeping in mind the ratios just provided are the 'aggregate' percentages of our 5 investment accounts, with the largest..the LOP investment account being a Moderate portfolio, and the others Moderately Conservative. The 'fear' is tariffs will cause prices of imported goods to increase, affecting corporate profits and profit margins. Profits may become squeezed where companies may be forced to increase their prices...passing them on to their buyers (be they individuals or other companies relying on them for inputs into their products or goods). The upward cycle could lead to inflation and possibly increased unemployment. Globally, is the U. S. Dollar has become weaker. This means that our exported goods are cheaper to buy. These concerns, as well as whether the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who has a dual mandate for stability of prices and full

Continued on next page

Treasurers Report, Continued...

employment, will be fired has had an effect on some U. S. Government securities, generally deemed 'safe' investments as they are backed 'the full faith and credit of the U. S. Government.

Here is a summary of our (aggregated) investment account performance as measured against the Barclay's 60/40/10 portfolio:

	2nd Qtr	3 Mos	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Inception (Dec 2017)						
Pasadena Scottish Rite	10.44	3.97	4.55	9.83	8.88	10.15
Benchmark	9.86	7.20	4.80	10.63	12.43	9.68

For the period and YTD (year to date) we are not too far from the benchmark. At 5 years (which includes COVID), we were slightly ahead of the benchmark; and Inception to Date are about 2% behind the benchmark.

Ill. Seb Bedoyan asked if we should consider making any changes to our portfolio. Our investment advisor, Bob McClure and the Finance Committee agreed that with the uncertainty in the next couple of quarters with tariffs still in flux, the recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill adding \$3+ Trillion to our National Debt, it made sense to leave things where they are; but keep close monitoring on our investments.

As a 'good business practice, and mentioned at several Stated Meetings, an audit of the Lodge of Perfection will start on July 29th, and I expect to include its report in my 3rd Quarter report to you.

As always, if you have any questions...would like to see more on a particular topic (or not see a topic), or review any financial information...please do not hesitate to contact me! If I don't know...I'll find out and get back to you! See you at the Stated Meeting on August 1st! Until October... Miles 626 483-1342; miles. bresee@pasadenascottishrite.org.

Fraternally,

Miles H. Bresee, 32° KCCH
Treasurer

IN MEMORIAM

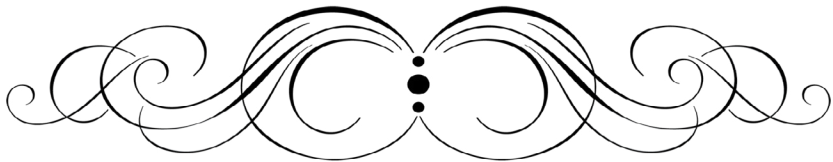
Lawrence G. Dobbins, 32°
Old West lodge No. 813
May 19, 2025

Boghos V. Boyadjian, 32°
Van Nuys Lodge No. 450
July 9, 2025

Armin J. Schulhof, 32° KSA
South Pasadena Lodge No. 290
July 13, 2025

Richard B. Wood, 33°
San Dimas Lodge No. 428
July 18, 2025

May Almighty God, in his infinite mercy,
Grant that we may meet again, to part no more.



Good Cheer Report

David Francis Philips, 33°
Surgery

Ramiro Villalon, 33°
Wife passed away

Please take a moment to call upon your distressed brethren.

Library Treasures.

MASTER OF THE ROYAL SECRET THIRTY-SECOND DEGREE



This Degree presents the crowning power of designs we have drawn upon the Scottish Rite trestle-board.



The Thirty-second Degree formerly was the Twenty-fifth Degree of the Rite of Perfection.

There is depicted the ceremony at which a chosen aspirant for knighthood is elevated during the Medieval Ages. Carefully chosen, he undergoes a vigorous catechism and advances humbly for admission. Warned of its rigors, he is clothed in white to symbolize the purity he must maintain.

The Degree now summarizes the Degrees that have been given. We learn, for example, in the Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection that we must generate and develop our spiritual attributes. Those of the Philosophical and Historical Degrees gave us an insight into the value of spiritual virtues.

Continued on next page

The action of this Degree, which features a review of those preceding, occurs within a campground, technically” the camp.” The deep import and true interpretation of this Degree leads to the “Royal Secret.” Located in the center of the camp is a tracing board, the most important part of which includes the three oldest symbols known to man:

First, we have a Circle representing the Fourteenth Degree Ring, the single Deity without beginning or end.

Second, we have an Equilateral Triangle showing, as do the pyramids, the concept of the Deity. Similar concepts come to mind as wisdom, strength and beauty; three senior officers; three degrees; three ruffians; as well as the sun, the moon and Worshipful Master.

The Equilateral Triangle enables us to discover the truth of perfect balance-the secret law of universal equilibrium-attraction and radiation, sympathy and antipathy, fixedness and movement. If this law is canceled, all creation would evaporate into nothing, for the effect of this law holds the opposing forces together.

The third ancient symbol is a representation of the Cross, reflecting the positive and negative powers of the world out of which come creation and procreation.

Bibliographical source:

CLAUSEN’S COMMENTARY ON MORALS AND DOGMA. By Henry C. Clausen, 33°. Third Printing, March 1979. (Pages 204 - 204).

Picture: “The Camp” Backdrop by Pasadena Scottish Rite.

Research, Summary by:

W.Bro. Oliver A. Torrealba, 32° KSA.

Knight of the Council of Nine, KSA-Pasadena
Scottish Rite & Past-First Knight KSA-LBSR.



Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin **15**

Pasadena Childhood Language Center



Meghri Habashian, Office Coordinator

Donations may be made by a group, an organization, a couple, or an individual. They may be made **In Honor of...**, **In Memory of...**, as a member of the **365 Club**, or as **Friends of the Center**. All donors are recognized in the bulletin.

Thank You to Our July/August 2025 Donors

365 Club

Frank Barbano, William Rook

Memorials

David Patterson in memory of Richard Wood
Steven Klein in memory of Cvetan Georgiev
Ramiro Villalon in memory of Philip George
Jose Baldonado in memory of Philip George

In Honor of

Friends of the Center

Anonymous, Ernest Barber

Donations paid through the valley office, online with your dues or mailed to our office are listed. All donations paid directly to California Scottish Rite Foundation for Pasadena Rite Care are not listed above.

Remember when making donations please make checks payable to "California Scottish Rite Foundation" and put Pasadena on the memo line.

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Master of Kadosh

All Bodies

Jeffrey W. Yates, 32 ^o KCCH	Almoner
Miles H. Bresee III, 32 ^o KCCH	Treasurer
Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33 ^o	Secretary
Keith D. Kramer, 32 ^o KCCH	Asst. to Secretary
Stephen R. Miller, 32 ^o KCCH	Organist
Wayne R. Sauer, 32 ^o KSA	Tiler

Scottish Rite Calendar

Keep Friday Nights for Scottish Rite
Dress is Business Casual

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 5

5:00PM Cathedral Board
6:00PM Social
6:30PM Dinner
7:30PM Capping Ceremony
8:00PM Stated Meeting
Consistory in Charge
Womens Association

Saturday, September 13

9:30AM Knights of Saint Andrew

Saturday, September 13

California Scottish Rite Honours
San Francisco

Monday, September 22

5:00PM Rite Care Board - on Zoom

Saturday, September 27

10:00AM Discussion Group
6:00PM Living Constitution
See page 7

Periodical

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150 North Madison Avenue
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Time dated material

