



The Outlook

VALLEY OF PENSACOLA
ORIENT OF FLORIDA



SUPPORT THE SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

Pensacola Masonic Center
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
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Pensacola, FL 32505
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November 2025 Investiture—Tampa, FL

Orient of Florida— 33rd Degree Team



Orient of Florida— 2025 KCCH Honors



Valley of Pensacola — 2025 Honors



Valley of Pensacola — 2025 Honors
With Ill. Salisbury & Ill. Larson



Hon. Riley, Ill. Parks, Hon. Covington, Hon.
Schutts, Hon. Eckols, Hon. Vest Jr.

Congratulations to Illustrious Ronald L. Parks, 33°, IGH



Ill. Kurt P. Larson, PR and Ill. Ronald L. Parks



Ill. Kurt Larson; Ill. Ronald Parks,
Ill. Roger White

Ill. Ronald Parks with
Ill. James Salisbury



2025 Honors ~ Tampa, FL

Congratulations to our new Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
Valley of Pensacola members



**Hon. Robert J. Eckols
with Ill. Kurt Larson**



**Hon. Haskell Vest Jr. and
Mrs. Joyce Vest**



**Hon. Jerry Covington and
Mrs. Susan Covington**



2025 Honors ~ Tampa, FL

Congratulations to our new Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
Valley of Pensacola Members



**Ill. Kurt Larson and
Hon. Kevin D. Riley**



**Ill. Kurt Larson and
Hon. Joshua W. Schutts**



Great fellowship and relaxation before all the ceremony.

Happenings Around the Valley

Investiture of Charles K. Murphy—November 21, 2025
Valley of Pensacola - Pensacola, FL



Congratulations Hon. Chuck Murphy, KCCH

Happenings Around the Valley

Valley of Pensacola Installation of 2026 Officers



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™



LODGE OF PERFECTION	
VENERABLE MASTER	Hon. Timothey Kennedy, KCCH
SENIOR WARDEN	Hon. Joshua W. Schutts, KCCH
JUNIOR WARDEN	Ill. Kenneth K. Eichorn, 33°
ORATOR	Hon. Robert E. Eckols, KCCH
ALMONER	Ill. Ronald L. Parks, 33°
PRELATE	Hon. Kevin E. Riley, KCCH
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Bro. Walker Clemons, KSA
EXPERT	Hon. Otto Thiergart, KCCH
ASSISTANT EXPERT	Bro. Daniel E. Vargo
CAPT OF HOST	Bro. Donald Pilcher
TYLER	Hon. Donald H. Rife, KCCH



CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX	
WISE MASTER	Ill. Carl G. Kirtley, 33°
SENIOR WARDEN	Hon. Otto D. Thiergart, KCCH
JUNIOR WARDEN	Hon. Haskell R. Vest Jr., KCCH
ORATOR	Hon. Daniel R. Savage, KCCH
ALMONER	Ill. Ronald L. Parks, 33°
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Bro. Clarence E. Stanford
EXPERT	Bro. William E. Waters, KSA
ASSISTANT EXPERT	Hon. Joshua Schutts, KCCH
STANDARD BEARER	Bro. Robert W. Anderson
GUARDIAN OF THE TEMPLE	Bro. Wiley M. Willoughby
TYLER	Bro. Benjamin C. Toomey, KSA



Happenings Around the Valley

Valley of Pensacola—Installation of 2026 Officers

COUNCIL OF KADOSH	
COMMANDER	Hon. Daniel R. Savage, KCCH
1ST LT. COMMANDER	Bro. Fred L. Guarino
2ND LT. COMMANDER	Bro. Brian Scott, KSA
CHANCELLOR	Hon. Kevin D. Riley, KCCH
ORATOR	Hon. Shawn D. Johnson, KCCH
ALMONER	III. Ronald L. Parks, 33°
MARSHAL OF CEREMONIES	Hon. Dwight A. Wilson, KCCH
DRAPER	Bro. Juanito T. Agustin, KSA
1ST DEACON	Bro. Preston Bryan, KSA
SENTINEL	Bro. Kipp D. Jennings, KSA



PENSACOLA CONSISTORY	
MASTER OF KADOSH	Hon. James E. Draeving, KCCH
PRIOR	III. Roger D. White, 33°
PRECEPTOR	Bro. Robert W. Anderson, KSA
CHANCELLOR	Hon. Dwight A. Wilson, KCCH
MINISTER OF STATE	Hon. David A. York, KCCH
ALMONER	III. Ronald L. Parks, 33°
PRELATE	Hon. Shawn D. Johnson, KCCH
MARSHAL OF CEREMONIES	Hon. Joshua W. Schutts, KCCH
EXPERT	Hon. Donald H. Rife, KCCH
ASSISTANT EXPERT	Bro. Marvin W. Clemons, KSA
CAPT OF THE GUARD	Bro. Errol A. Enrile, KSA
TYLER	Hon. Daniel R. Savage, KCCH

Happenings Around the Valley

Valley of Pensacola—Installation of 2026 Officers



KCCH	
COMMANDER	Hon. Shawn D. Johnson, KCCH
LT. COMMANDER	Hon. Donald H. Rife, KCCH
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD	Hon. Dwight A. Wilson, KCCH
SECRETARY	Hon. Daniel R. Savage, KCCH



KSA	
MASTER AND COMMANDER	Sir Wiley E. Willoughby
SENECHAL	Sir Juanito T. Agustin
TURCOUPLIER	Sir Errol A. Enrile
STANDARD BEARER	Sir John A. Lane
CHAPLAIN	Sir Edwin JH Eblamo
SERGEANT	Sir Joshua Cerdá
MASTER OF THE GUARD	Sir Donald Pilcher
TYLER	Sir Benjamin C. Toomey
SECRETARY	Sir Preston Bryan



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION	
PRESIDENT	Christina Kickliter
VICE PRESIDENT	Lois Thiergart
TREASURER	Susan Covington
RECORDING SECRETARY	Diana Eckols
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Dorothy Horton



Happenings Around the Valley

Valley of Pensacola—Mason of the Year 2025

Bro. Walker Clemmons with Hon. Ben Quinto



Send all general Valley email to:
gensec@pensacolascottishrite.org

Others:

Kurt Larson:
prsgig@pensacolascottishrite.org
Bobby Kickliter: treasur-

Masonic Corner:

- Fellowship Breakfast, Ensley 278, biscuits & sausage gravy every second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Breakfast, Myrtle Grove 352, second Saturday of the month 7-9:00 a.m.

Happenings Around the Valley Farewell Notes from Diane

Just wanted to say a few words regarding my time as part of the Valley of Pensacola family. It is just time to hang up my keyboard and spend more time with my family, put my feet up and read a good book. It is amazing to me that this 'part-time' job turned into 16 years. I worked under three SGIG's of FL, four PR's, and three General Secretaries.

I was hired by Ill. Harry Kuchenbrod, PR and Ill. Fred Hurd, Treasurer in 2009. Ill. Harry Siebert was the General Secretary. It was after the move from the Wright St. building and the office was next door in the strip mall. It was a busy and exciting time as the Valley was in the process of buying and remodeling the current building. The Valley moved into the new building in 2011 and we had

our Valley of Pensacola Centennial Celebration (1911-2011) on October 29, 2011. It was a special day.

After starting work for the Valley, I was surprised to discover that I had another connection to the Valley I wasn't even aware of at the time. My grandson was a recipient of speech therapy through the Scottish Rite Foundation at Baptist Hospital. So, I thank the Scottish Rite for the help given to him.

I couldn't ask for a more pleasant and friendly place to work. You treated me as part of the family from the beginning. I wish the Valley much success in the future. I will truly miss everyone. I will probably pop in every once in awhile to check up on you all.

All the best, Diane.



Diane w/ husband, Bill.
Saying goodbye to the Valley
December 4, 2025

The Committee of Five

III. Kurt P. Larson, Personal Representative

As we continue our story of the Declaration of Independence, we now know the beginnings as set forth in the previous article 249. But who really wrote it? There are many books on the topic. If you ask anyone, they say "Thomas Jefferson of course." But did he really write the Declaration of Independence? I have researched those books and came down to five scholarly tomes which say pretty much the same thing, not eliminating the others. The others simply varied from a degree or two from these five.

The answer is simpler than we might have hoped. Thomas Jefferson was one of the Committee of the Continental Congress. They were known as the Committee of Five. Five distinct personalities, five differing egos, and five agendas. Just like Congress, it was a challenge to get them on the same page. So, let's begin our story there.

The Declaration of Independence, in my opinion, stands as the most powerful symbol of American liberty. Signed on July 4, 1776, it formally declared the 13 American colonies independent from British rule. Although I said "simpler" earlier the document was more collaborative than most people realize. Many versions of the Declaration were proposed, yet the true story of how the final version came to be isn't often told.

At just 33 years old, Jefferson was chosen by the Second Continental Congress to help draft the document. Despite his youth, Jefferson had already earned a reputation as a skilled writer and a deep thinker. His earlier work on the Virginia Constitution and his powerful pamphlets criticizing British rule made him a natural choice for the job. The other members tasked with drafting the Declaration were: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Each had his strengths. But the actual writing of the words we have come to know so well fell largely upon Jefferson.

Jefferson was part of a five-man committee tasked with drafting the Declaration, but the actual writing fell largely to him. The other members—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston—reviewed and suggested changes to the draft, but the words were mostly Jefferson's.

Why Jefferson?

John Adams later recalled that Jefferson was selected for several reasons:

- He was from Virginia, the most influential colony at the time.
- He had a reputation as an eloquent writer.
- He was well-liked and respected within Congress.

Adams himself believed Jefferson was the better stylist.

Initially Jefferson tried to defer the responsibility, but Adams in his speech to the Congress said to Jefferson "You can write ten times better than I can."

The Drafting Process

Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration over the course of 17 days in a rented room in Philadelphia near the Pennsylvania State House with his 14-year-old valet, a slave named Robert Hemings, standing nearby. Hemings became the first witness to the cause of Liberty. Jefferson drew inspiration from Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke, Francis Bacon and Isaac Newton. He was also influenced by the writings of Gibbon, Hume, Robertson, Bolingbroke, Montesquieu, and Voltaire as well as Virginia's Declaration of Rights. He reviewed the Iroquois Articles of Confederation as a guide to getting each of the states to work together. His goal was to clearly articulate the colonies' reasons for breaking away from Great Britain. The language was bold and contained a philosophical component about "Unalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." These were designed to tug at the passions of the day. The document was really a four-part letter to King George III and contained a preamble explaining the colonies' natural rights, a declaration of rights, which expands the idea of natural rights and the role of government to protect them, a list of grievances against King George III himself (which was unheard of at that time to criticize the king), and a formal declaration of independence from British rule.

While the Committee assigned the first draft to Jefferson, the original draft would go on to have many edits before emerging as the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson submitted his draft to the Committee of Five, who suggested several revisions. The most notable was Benjamin Franklin's edits to tone down some of the more inflammatory language. Once the committee agreed on the revised draft, they submitted it to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776. Congress then spent two days debating and editing the document further. During this stage, approximately a quarter of Jefferson's original text was cut or altered. Jefferson reportedly was frustrated by the edits, but he recognized the political necessity of compromise, for instance a passage condemning King George III for the slave trade. Southern delegates and some northerners objected, and it was removed to maintain unity among the colonies.

The Committee of Five: Who Else Was Involved?

Although Jefferson was the principal author, the drafting of the Declaration was a group effort. The Continental

(continued) →

The Committee of Five

Ill. Kurt P. Larson, Personal Representative

Congress appointed five men on June 11, 1776, to create the document:

Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) – the scholar, and primary author.

John Adams (Massachusetts) – A passionate advocate for independence, Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft and made key suggestions.

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania) - Franklin was the elder statesman of the group. He offered editorial feedback and suggested edits to inspire and unite which softened some of Jefferson's more pointed language.

Roger Sherman (Connecticut) - Sherman was a respected lawyer and politician. Though less directly involved in writing, he contributed to the deliberations and his influence to gather votes for approval.

Robert R. Livingston (New York) - Livingston had an influential voice but was recalled to New York before the final signing and did not sign the document.

What is not mentioned very often were the politics involved in the naming of the Committee of Five. Many names were given, with Jefferson and Adams heading the list since both were famous and published writers for independence. After all the reading, I believe that each was appointed for their zeal for the colonies, scholarship, standing in the Continental Congress and the ability to reason both sides of the debate. It didn't hurt that the Committee of Five represented four of the largest colonies and greatest population centers of the soon to be United States of America. The one man who gets little credit because he didn't even sign the document he worked on, Robert Livingstone, can't be forgotten as he tried to represent a future society where all men are created equal. Robert Livingston may have been the singular individual that pushed the Declaration of Independence over the top when the votes were finally counted.

The Final Approval: July 4, 1776

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence with edits which were given to Jefferson to make. Two days later, on July 4, Jefferson presented the final text of the Declaration of Independence. Congress voted to approve this final document on this day. It was then printed and distributed throughout the colonies. The most famous version—the one bearing the signatures of 56 delegates—was not signed until August 2, 1776.

Legacy of the Declaration

Over time, the Declaration of Independence became more than just a political statement. It evolved into a national symbol of freedom, equality, and democratic ideals. Abraham Lincoln famously echoed its principles in his Gettysburg Address, describing the United States as a nation "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." The Declaration has inspired democratic movements around the world. From the French Revolution to the decolonization of Africa and Asia, its message resonated with oppressed people seeking self-determination.

The original, signed parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence is housed at the National Archives in Washington DC and is displayed in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. Due to its age and the fact that copies of the Declaration were posted in public places for the people to read, the document has faded over time, but you can still feel the emotion of the time by standing there reading the words and seeing in your mind's eye, the debate, feeling the heat of the Philadelphia summer, smelling the tobacco smoke that hung heavy in the air. It remains a powerful artifact of American history, and a global influence just like that of the Magna Carta. ♣



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Ill. James Salisbury, 33°

I will be assuming a larger role here in the Valley. So I will ask for all to assist me in this time of change. In case some of you are not aware, Diane will be retiring on the 18th of December. She has been an integral part of this Valley since 2009 when the office was located in the store front next door. For the last 15 years plus, she was the face of this organization in many different ways. Diane cannot be replaced, she is a better Mason than many of us. I for one have taken her for granted. Even though my name appears on the Outlook newsletter, Diane is the brains behind it. I have her on Speed Dial for whenever I have a question. Please join me in saying a Giant farewell and well done to Diane. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Lastly, I want to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. Remember, we will be dark in January. Our next meeting will be February 5, 2026, Double Eagle and Ring and Patent will be on the agenda. *

2025/2026 CALENDAR

Dec 16	Newsletter Production	9:00 AM
Office Closed December 22 thru January 4, 2026		
2026		
Jan 8 No meeting in January		
Jan 19	Office Closed MLK Day	
Jan 24	KSA/ROS Robert Burns Night (Open to all).	6:00 PM
Jan 28	Education & Sandwich Supper	5:30 PM
Feb 5	Executive Meeting KCCH Meeting – Conference Room KSA Meeting Library Invocation followed by Dinner Program: Double Eagle, Ring and Patent Awards KCCH Honor Guard Host – Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection	4:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM
Feb 16	Office Closed Presidents Day	
Feb 25	Education & Sandwich Supper	5:30 PM

NEWS FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH

Hon. James Draeving

As our annual election and installation of officers has now passed, we are quickly approaching the holiday season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the trust and confidence in selecting not only myself, but all of our 2026 officers for their leadership positions. We are looking forward to serving the valley and host another successful summer BBQ this coming June. Enjoy your time off with family and friends. My wife Anna and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah season. When we return in 2026, a huge piece of our Scottish Rite family will be missing. Mrs. Diane Palermo will be retiring the week prior

or to Christmas, so please wish her well in her retirement. Thank you for always keeping us straight and enjoy the extra time home with your husband. The office will not be the same without you. We will miss you!

Fraternally, Hon. James E. Draeving, 32°, KCCH Master of Kadosh, Pensacola Consistory

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hon. Robert Eckols

Chaplain's Desk - Christmas and the New Year.

Besides being two different holidays that we celebrate each year, they have a common trait that might go unnoticed by the individual in their day-to-day lives. What could this common factor be? Simply put, it's all about "New Beginnings."

Christmas is about the birth of the Christ child most illustrated in the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke of the Holy Bible. The birth of God's only begotten son whose mission was to save mankind from a guaranteed judgement of death. When mankind believes and accepts Christ, they have a "New Birth" with a "New" outlook and approach to living. A new way of looking at life, a new approach to living and the New Hope are now part of the person who gives their life to God.

New Year is about a fresh outlook to New daily living, maybe a New Years' resolution to be a better person, to lose weight, to start a business or have a family. The New Year is clear and free from the experiences we have had in the previous year. While these aspirations are all well and good, they are but empty attempts to appease that longing in the soul that only a relationship with God will fulfill. Christmas can be described best as a New life while the New Year could be a New restart to daily living. Both "NEW" experiences are good but only one will last for eternity. Which *New* will you choose?

God Bless, Bro. Bob

IN MEMORIAM

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Bother"

Honorable	Gene	Paul	Bodkin	09-Nov-25
Brother	Angus	Elsworth	Comerford	10-Dec-25
Brother	Robert	Andreas	Hofer Jr.	01-Oct-25
Brother	Oliver	Clyde	Hood	27-Sep-25
Brother	Dempsey	Dean	James	22-Aug-25
Brother	Leonard	Jack	Stewart Jr.	04-Jul-25

Circle of Concern

Michael Brady
Charles Murphy
Connie Parks
William Paulchek
Roger White
George Wise



**VALLEY OF PENSACOLA
ORIENT OF FLORIDA**

2026 General Officers

Kurt P. Larson, 33°
Personal Representative of the
S.G.I.G. in Florida

James A. Salisbury, Jr., 33°
General Secretary

James R. Kickliter, 32°, KCCH
Treasurer

Ronald L. Parks, 33°
Almoner



PENSACOLA LODGE OF PERFECTION
2026 Elected Officers

Timothey L. Kennedy, 32°, KCCH	Venerable Master
Joshua W. Schutts, 32°, KCCH	Senior Warden
Kenneth K. Eichorn, 33°	Junior Warden
Robert E. Eckols, 32°, KCCH	Orator

PENSACOLA CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX
2026 Elected Officers

Carl G. Kirtley, 33°	Wise Master
Otto D. Thiergart, 32°, KCCH	Senior Warden
Haskell R. Vest, Jr., 32°, KCCH	Junior Warden
Daniel R. Savage, 32°, KCCH	Orator

PENSACOLA COUNCIL OF KADOSH
2026 Elected Officers

Daniel R. Savage, 32°, KCCH	Commander
Fred L. Guarino, 32°	1 st Lt. Commander
Brian Scott, 32°, KSA	2 nd Lt. Commander
Kevin D. Riley, 32°, KCCH	Chancellor
Shawn D. Johnson, 32°, KCCH	Orator

PENSACOLA CONSISTORY
2026 Elected Officers

James E. Draeving, 32°, KCCH	Master of Kadosh
Roger D. White, 33°	Prior
Robert W. Anderson, 32°, KSA	Preceptor
Dwight A. Wilson, 32°, KCCH	Chancellor
David A. York, 32°, KCCH	Minister of State

Shawn D. Johnson, 32°, KCCH
Commander
Knights Commander Court of Honour

Wiley E. Willoughby, 32°, KSA
Master & Commander
Knights of St. Andrew

Herman M. Davies, 32°, KCCH
Director of Work

**Scottish Rite Foundation
of Florida, USA, Inc.
and
Childhood Language
Disorder Clinics**

“He Who Bends Down To Help Little Children
Raises Himself and Lifts Them to Faith
And Confidence”

Statement of Purpose

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Florida,
USA, Inc. has as its STATEWIDE
mission the support of an extremely im-
portant program —

**CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE
DISORDER CLINICS.**

This program is clear evidence of Florida
Scottish Rite Masons CARING and SHARING, in
helping to build America’s future by investing in the
youth of today.

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of the tax code.

THE OUTLOOK

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Hon. Timothey L. Kennedy, Venerable Master

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All views expressed in *The Outlook* do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley of Pensacola.

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Mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry In the Orient of Florida

IS TO BE THE PREMIER FRATERNITY OF MEN OF INTEGRITY AND GOOD CHARACTER BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION BASED ON THE VALUES OF FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY, PATRIOTISM, TOLERANCE, INTEGRITY AND BELIEF IN A SUPERIOR BEING. TO THAT END, WE COMMIT TO MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON HUMANKIND, PROMOTING OUR COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING A VALUE TO THE MASONIC FRATERNITY.

The Scottish Rite Creed

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

ALLEGIENCE

**TO THE BODIES OF THE
ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED
SCOTTISH RITE**

**SITTING IN THE VALLEY OF PENSACOLA
ORIENT OF FLORIDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGE AND HOLD ALLEGIENCE TO
THE SUPREME COUNCIL
(MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD)
OF THE
INSPECTORS GENERAL
KNIGHTS COMMANDER OF THE HOUSE OF
THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON, OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD DEGREE OF THE
ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
OF FREEMASONRY
OF THE
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ILL.: JAMES D. COLE, 33°, G.C.
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER**

**ILL.: GARY L. SISSEL, 33°
GRAND SECRETARY GENERAL**

**ILL.: WILLIAM G. SIZEMORE II, 33°
GRAND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**ILL.: RICHARD G. HOOVER, 33°
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL
IN FLORIDA**

**ILL.: KURT P. LARSON, 33°
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
S.G.I.G. IN FLORIDA**

