

Ventura Valley

VOL. XLVII

January - March 2025

Issue 1

Officers for 2025



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XLVII, Issue number 1. Published 4 to 6 times a year by the Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies, 487 Appletree Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012-5148. This publication is distributed free of charge to all members. For further information call 805-415-3776.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the address above. The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Ventura, Orient of California acknowledge the authority and yield allegiance 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.

Officers for 2025

On January 13, 2025, our Valley Held our Annual Installation of Officers. Following dinner and our Installation, we held our January stated meeting.

The officers installed were:

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Sal Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH

Council of Kadosh

Commander David Contreras, 32°

Consistory

Master of Kadosh..... David A. Beaver, 32°

Officers of All the Bodies

Treasurer..... Taylor 'Tag' Gilbert, 32°

Secretary Ill. : W. Andrew Little, 33°

Asst Secretary Ryan P. Phillips, 32° KCCH

Almoner Mark Torrez, 32°

Orator..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH

Prelate Ill. Harold Bogner, 33°

Assistant Expert..... W. Pat Riggs, 32° KCCH

Tiler John 'Tony' Thomas, 32°

We still have several holes in our officer lines. If you are willing to take an office, please let the current officers know.

From the Secretary

I want to thank all the members who have sent in their dues payments for 2025. If you paid your 2024 dues then your 2025 membership card should have been sent to you along with your invoice rather than after your payment is received.

If you are suffering from financial stress (as we know many of

you may be), let us know and we will make accommodations.

If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We are all here to support each other.

Please keep us updated on your contact information. We don't want to lose track of you!

Cover

Our cover shows the heads of the bodies for 2025 -- (TL): Venerable Master Salvador Lopez,

Jr., 32° KCCH; (TR): Wise Master Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH; (BL): Commander David Contreras, 32°; and (BR): Master of Kadosh David Beaver, 32°.

From the PR's Quill

Ill John F. Lowe, 33°

W

elcome
to 2025!

While we all want happiness celebrating the closing out of 2024, it is my duty to inform of some sadness for the Orient of California. If you have not yet heard, our Sovereign Grand Inspector General Frank Loui, has met with health issues that caused him to resign at the end of December. As of this writing, our Grand Commander Jim Cole has not identified a successor to Illustrious Frank. Please keep Illustrious Frank and his wife Jeannie in our prayers as he undergoes likely surgical treatments.

On the positive side, may we all look forward to the new year by attending the Valley of Ventura and continuing the forward momentum. Again, if you are not aware, the remediation activity of the lodge room at Oxnard Masonic Center is completed and we are again holding our meetings there. Our thanks to the Oxnard Temple Board and our own Mark Torrez, 32°, for the many hours of work to accomplish completion.

The "founding" board members of our Childhood Language Center are meeting regularly to position



our start in providing clinical activity so needed on the Oxnard Plain. Please offer them your support in our aspirations for this work. (By all means, visit <https://www.casrf.org> for more information.) Remember, the proceeds of our annual New England Summer Picnic are the main funding source – so mark July 19th in your calendar now to enjoy lobster and fellowship.

Plan also to attend our upcoming February 10th Stated Meeting, where we will map out our activities for 2025.

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From the PR's Quill

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Note the following officers for the year:

- Sal Lopez, *Venerable Master*
- J. Raul Cifuentes, *Wise Master*
- David Contreras, *Commander of Kadosh*
- David Beaver, *Master of Kadosh*
- W. Patrick Riggs, *Assistant Expert*
- J. Raul Cifuentes, *Orator*
- Harold Bogner, *Prelate*
- Mark Torrez, *Almoner*
- Tony Thomas, *Tiler*

Lastly, if you desire a copy of our 2025 monthly schedule, simply use the link below; it will open as a *pdf* document. Also, please let Harold Bogner know your intention to join us for dinner for each stated meeting!

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:df551f5f-56b1-49c5-b2f5-b69ca7d3763d>

Upcoming Events

Our next event will be our stated meeting on Monday, February 10. It will be at Oxnard Masonic Center. Dinner is at 6:30

pm. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Ill.: Knight Harold Bogner, 33°, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Friday, February 10. Cost is \$20. See page 5 for the menu.

Our March stated meeting will be on Monday, March 10. As above, please contact Illustrious Harold for dinner reservations by Friday, March 7. The stated meeting will be held in the Lodge Room.

Scholarship Applications

The California Scottish Rite Foundation awards over \$200,000 in scholarships each year to more than 100 deserving students to assist with the pursuit of undergraduate or graduate degrees. If you know of students planning to attend college next year, we suggest they check them out. Applications are currently open; applications for 2025 close on April 15. Announcements go out on May 27. Check them out at

<https://www.casrf.org/scholarship>

From The Kitchen Staff

Be sure to make your reservations with Harold Bogner,
preferably by email to hbogner@smartsourcellc.com,
otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

Dinner Menu

February 10, 2025, Stated Meeting Dinner

Chicken Cordon Blue
Broccoli with Cheese
Lightly Seasoned Rice
Hawaiian Sweet Bread
Strawberry Pound Cake

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, February 7th, 2025
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)

March 10, 2025, Stated Meeting Dinner

Corned Beef
Cabbage/Carrots
Steam Potatoes
Sourdough Bread
Cookies

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, March 7th, 2025
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)



For Those Who Need our Prayers

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friend,
Our heart's true wish to send you,
That you may know that, far or near,
Our loving thoughts attend you.*

**Robert 'Dee' Matson, (805) 647-6728
John Klopstein, (805) 486-0602**

Please give these people a call, pay them a visit, or drop them a card or letter, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a distressed brother, please contact the Secretary (alittle93012@gmail.com), (805) 415-3776) or one of the other officers.

For Those Who Have Crossed the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call from me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.*

*For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.*

- Paul Delton Brakebill crossed on 3/1/2023**
- David Wilford Smith crossed on 5/17/2023**
- Erland Francis Myers crossed on 7/1/2023**
- Javier Gamba Rosales crossed on 10/20/2023**
- Wesley F. Cullins crossed on 1/1/2024**
- James Ray McPherson crossed on 1/1/2024**
- Raymond Lloyd McCalister, Sr. crossed on 1/11/2024**



**FREEMASONRY BUILDS ITS TEMPLES IN THE
HEARTS OF MEN AND AMONG NATIONS.**

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG...Ill.:	John F. Lowe, 33°	(714)392-2692	johnflowe@verizon.net
Treasurer	Tag Gilbert, 32°	(805)558-8469	tag653@gmail.com
Secretary	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°	(805)415-3776	alittle93012@gmail.com
Almoner	<u>Mark T. Torrez, 32°</u>	(805)290-3200	mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com
Orator	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH	(805)241-6968	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
Prelate	Ill.: Harold W. Bogner, 33°	(805)218-1648	hbogner@smartsourcellc.com
Assistant Expert	<u>Pat Riggs, 32° KCCH</u>	(805)984-1453	wpatrickriggs098@gmail.com
Director of the Work			
Class Director	Michael D. Blodgett, 32° KCCH.	(805)390-0114	mdblodgett@gmail.com
Tyler	<u>John 'Tony' Thomas, 32°</u>	(805)643-4559	tony@jrthomasintl.com

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH	(805)649-8177	sj1273prez@hotmail.com
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master	<u>J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH</u>	(805)241-6968	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

Council of Kadosh

Commander	<u>David F. Contreras, 32°</u>	(805)504-3889	teslaslight@verizon.net
1 st Lt. Commander			
2 nd Lt. Commander			

Consistory

Master of Kadosh	<u>David A. Beaver, 32°</u>	(805)535-8028	davidabeaver@yahoo.com
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

Other Workers

Dinner Reservations	Harold W. Bogner, 33°	(805)218-1648	hbogner@smartsourcellc.com
Membership, VMAP Chair	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH	(805)241-6968	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
Stagecraft	Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH	(805)649-8177	sj1273prez@hotmail.com
Stagecraft Emeritus	Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH	(805)625-3296	mgmetzler@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°	(805)415-3776	alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at vcscottishrite@gmail.com.

Web site: <http://venturascottishrite.org>

“WHAT WE DO FOR OURSELVES DIES WITH US. WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL.” – Albert Pike

Ventura County
Scottish Rite Bodies
487 Appletree Ave
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

2025

Views from Ventura Valley
January - March

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email hbogner@smartsourcellc.com, or call (805) 218-1648

- Mon Jan 13 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Jan 10*), INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS following
- Tue Jan 28 Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual
- Mon Feb 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Feb 7*), Stated Meeting following
- Tue Feb 25 Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual
- Sun Mar 9 Daylight Savings Time - move clocks ahead 1 hour
- Mon Mar 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Mar 7*), Stated Meeting following
- Tue Mar 25 Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual

