

Valley of San Diego Bulletin

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

December 2025 Volume 84 Issue 12



Venerable Master's Message

As we approach the close of another meaningful year in our Scottish Rite journey, December offers us two important opportunities to gather in fellowship and purpose. On Wednesday, December 3rd, we invite all brethren and guests to join us for our monthly stated meeting dinner. This cherished tradition not only nourishes the body but strengthens the bonds of brotherhood that define our Valley. The evening will begin with dinner 6:00 P.M, where we will be honoring very own RiteCare Childhood Language Center. It will be followed by our stated meeting. We encourage all members to attend and bring a guest, whether a fellow Mason or someone curious about our Rite's values and mission.

The December stated meeting will feature reflections on the past year's accomplishments and a preview of the exciting initiatives planned for 2026. From educational programs to charitable outreach, our Valley continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of our members. We will also recognize those who have gone above and beyond in service to the Rite, honoring quiet acts of leadership and the spirit of collaboration that sustains our work. Let this meeting be a moment to reaffirm our shared commitment to the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

On Wednesday, December 10th, we will convene the 2026 Line Officers Meeting—a pivotal gathering that sets the tone for the year ahead. Incoming officers will meet to discuss goals, responsibilities, and the calendar of events that will guide our Valley's progress. This meeting is not only administrative but inspirational, as each officer steps into their role with a sense of duty and pride. We extend our gratitude to those who have accepted the call to lead, and we look forward to supporting them in their endeavors.

As we prepare to turn the page to a new year, let us do so with gratitude for the path we have walked together and anticipation for the journey ahead. Whether you are a seasoned member or newly initiated, your presence and participation are vital to the life of our Valley. Mark your calendars for December 3rd and 10th, and let us close the year with unity, purpose, and the enduring light of the Scottish Rite.

Rudy Nobleza, 32° Venerable Master

IN MEMORIAM

George Canales
Point Loma #620

Gerald Chapman East San Diego #561

> William Flick Point Loma #620

John Gravitt Consuelo #325

Gerald Hoege Amity #442

John Severe Point Loma #620

Michael Thomason San Diego #35

Soft and safe to thee, my Brother, be thy resting place!

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

BALKIN, Herschel
BAUERSFELD, Richard
CARTER, Harold N.
COOK, Richard H.
DOMINGO, Bernardo P.
FEEZELL, James D.

GEROZA, Redento B.

HELT, James F.
HODGE, Carmin
KOREY, Arnold
LASERNA, Rafael C.
SALDANO, Richard M.
STUCKEY, Robert L

Who Are You?

Can you name this Scottish Rite Mason?







Last month's picture was: Hon. Mike Sherman, KCCH

If you would like to submit younger pictures of yourself for this fun section of the Bulletin, please send them to:

JoJo Quimpo - Email: jojo@sd-src.org

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Diego

Director / Speech Pathologist: Tina Burns
Office Manager: Sharon Bullard
www.casrf.org/sandiego

Donations may be made by a group, an organization, a couple or an individual, and may be made in honor of, or in memory of someone held in particular esteem by the donor. All donors are recognized in the Bulletin.

Thank You To Our August 2025 Donors

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In Honor of III Keith Meeker & III JoJo Quimpo

News From the Center From Tina Burns, MA, CCC-SLP

THERAPY ROOM NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

You can make a lasting difference in a child's life by naming one of our therapy rooms at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center. Your annual gift of \$6,000, the estimated cost to serve one child for a full year, provides life-changing speech-language therapy to children who might otherwise go without. With this generous contribution, you can honor your family, a loved one, or your lasting commitment to our community. A personalized plaque will be placed outside your named therapy room, symbolizing your impact on the lives of children across San Diego.

The Language Center has three therapy rooms available for naming. Each room is a warm, welcoming space designed to inspire confidence and joy. They are beautifully decorated and feature calming colors, engaging materials, and child-friendly furnishings that make learning fun and comfortable. In these nurturing environments, children feel safe and motivated as they build the communication skills they need to thrive.

Your annual support ensures that every child has the opportunity to find their voice and their confidence.

To learn more about available naming opportunities, contact Sharon Bullard at (619) 291-2506 or Ralph Shelton II at (714) 439-2829.



Support speech-language therapy at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Diego with a gift that lasts generations.

Your annual gift of \$6,000 — the estimated cost to serve one child for a full year — will provide life-changing speech-language therapy to a child in need. With this contribution, you can honor your family, a loved one, or your commitment to our community by naming a therapy room in their recognition.



Support children with communication challenges

Leave a permanent legacy

"You took our beloved child, destined for FAILURE AND HEARTACHE, AND POINTED HIM IN THE DIRECTION OF HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS."

To learn more about available naming opportunities, contact: Ralph Shelton II, Vice President, directly at (714) 439-2829, or email rshelton@casrf.org

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

THERAPY ROOM 1 - \$6,000/yr THERAPY ROOM 2 - \$6,000/yr THERAPY ROOM 3 - \$6,000/yr



GIVE THE FUTURE A VOICE.



A Night of Giving, Knighting, and a Changing of the Guard



(L to R) A very large capping was performed for the newest Masters of the Royal Secret. Some of the officers from the Fall Class, Bro. Nick Lawson, 32°, Bro. Jeremiah Segrist, 32, and Bro. Marcel Santana, 32° along with Hon. David Bean, KCCH, displays a check to the Language center; Ill:. Arthur Salazar, 33°, PGM begins the Honours ceremony.



(L to R) Hon. Mike George, KCCH goes through the investiture ceremony with III:. Salazar, 33°, PGM presiding; III:. JoJo Quimpo, 33° presents Hon. George with his red cap; III:. Salazar, 33°, PGM knights Hon. Mike George, KCCH as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour.



(L to R) Ill:. Frank Loui, 33°, PGM presents Ill:. John Schneidmiller, 33° with a plaque of a Certificate of Recognition that Ill:. Schneidmiller, 33° is designated as a Personal Representative Emeritus. Ill:. JoJo Quimpo, 33° is named the new Personal Representative for the Valley of San Diego. Ill:. John Schneidmiller, 33° presents the S.G.I.G. jewels to Ill:. JoJo Quimpo, 33°.

Consistory Bowling Night





Save the Date for the Annual Robert Burns Supper



Annual Robert Burns Supper to benefit the RiteCare CLC of San Diego

Saturday, February 7, 2026 5pm - Social Hour; 6pm - Dinner served

Suggested Donation: \$60 per person
Seating is Limited!!
Anyone wishing to reserve an entire table, please
contact Sharon Bullard at 619.291.2506

Reservations will be taken until 2pm on Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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PRELATE'S MESSAGE

Lord of All,

We enter this season of holidays and family gatherings with a sense of tolerance and charity. Help us to share our abundance openly and without bias.



With an extension of Your blessings, may we recognize those in need and demonstrate our Masonic values. Amen.

III:. Davis Winesett, 33°



Generate income for you and your family and help the charity of your choice through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

When you make a donation of \$5,000 or more to our CGA program, you will receive quarterly income based on your age and the corresponding rate as set by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

BENEFITS OF A CGA*

- · Fixed income for life
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- Competitive rate of return
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- Rebuilding the Temple Campaign
- Scholarships
- California Scottish Rite Foundation

Example: \$10,000 Gift Annuity

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AGE 70	6.3%
AGE 80	8.1%
AGE 90	10.1%

These fixed rates, current as of 5/22/18, are for a single life Gift Annuity. Chart is for illustrative purposes only.

Contact Richard Nowacki, 32°, KCCH at 202-232-3579 or rnowacki@scottishrite.org



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AEOLUS AIR DEVICES, an innovative startup with two granted patents, is seeking a strategic business partner to join as CEO, to take owners patents and run, as he concentrates on developing other devices, to accomplish Aeolus Air device mission to revolutionize air purification and pathogen shielding in many workplace situations. Our flagship product, the Airfield Unit, creates a

powerful vertical laminar airflow creating a barrier arising from our Airfield Unit mounted under commerce countertops—forming an invisible shield that protects both employees and customers during face-to-face interactions. Ideal for commerce, healthcare, reception points, and beyond, the unit offers massive untapped market potential. We're looking for a partner to help scale production, expand market reach, and drive growth across numerous industries. Join us in making clean air pathogen shielding a standard, not a luxury.

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Artificial Intelligence: A LOOK at "Generative A.I." as a Tool for your valley

Peyton Anderson, 32° | Valley of Richmond, Virginia

Not too long ago, a powerful technological tool entered American life. While early adopters touted this innovation as revolutionary, many people approached it with apprehension. While certainly not without warrant given the time period, the fear and skepticism surrounding this strange and marvelous new advancement were so great that there were calls to ban it completely.

The year was 1947, and the controversial new technological innovation? The microwave.



Today that once-feared advancement is a staple of many American kitchens, and the main concern confronting it is potentially burning your popcorn and filling the room with that awful, unmistakable smell.

Once the stuff of science fiction, a powerful new technological wonder has also entered our times, and, in 2025, many of us are viewing artificial intelligence (A.I.) with the same alarm that was once applied to the now venerated and ubiquitous microwave.

While, once again, some of these concerns have merit, are they worth eschewing such new technology entirely? Could we not instead put aspects of this new technological advance to work for us, just as we let the microwave reheat our coffee?

Let us begin by defining A.I.

Artificial intelligence, or A.I., is a program that finds patterns in information and creates a best-guess answer based on how and what you ask of it. It can only generate answers based on the data it has stored. There are many types of A.I. that can create voice-over files in multiple languages and generate unique images, music, and more. Autocorrect, with its sometimes hilarious results, is a form of A.I.



My focus for helping my Valley has been strictly connected to "generative A.I.," which functions very much like an interactive search engine. The difference here is the level of interaction and detail it can provide over and above a list of website links. Specifically, I used the free version of

ChatGPT (a generative A.I. program that simulates human conversation) to help me create our VMAP goals, the quarterly reporting structure, and the breakdown and organization of data from our annual satisfaction survey.

When it came to our VMAP goal, we knew what our points of focus would be: engagement, retention, education, and, of course, membership growth. My plan was to track the success of these goals throughout the year, so I asked my "collaborative partner," ChatGPT, some questions to help me develop the best approach to that task. After several attempts and refinements, I had a goal and reporting structure that was about 80 percent complete—and it took less than 20 minutes. In less than a half-hour, I had a strong draft of something that I never would have had otherwise, and, for about the remaining 20 percent, I refined it and ensured it was accurate and met our specific needs.

When it came to the data from our survey, I copied short answers into the program and asked it to help me find patterns. I then took that information and added the data from multiple choice questions and again asked it to locate patterns. Like a dedicated employee, it did so without hesitation. I could have done all of this myself, of course, but it would have taken three or more hours. ChatGPT handled the task within ten minutes.

Again, the outcomes generated were not perfect. My human hand was required to smooth the edges and connect some areas that were completely overlooked in the analysis, because I live and work outside the parameters of the snapshot analysis I had provided A.I. I am capable of interpreting relationships, and I know the history behind the data.

Are there risks associated with the use of A.I.? Yes, for bad people can use just about anything to do bad things. Such actors have used A.I. platforms in different ways that do not contribute to the greater good. This likely will continue, and it will provide challenges; however, there is much "Light" to seek in understanding new technology and how best to use it in our lives, our lodges, and our Valleys.

Just as we have harnessed the power of the once-feared microwave to make popcorn quickly while the family enjoys a movie at home, we can also harness the power of A.I. to make many mundane and time-consuming tasks quicker and more manageable. As Scottish Rite Masons, it is our duty to put responsible curiosity over convenient suspicions of conspiracy in all things, and this includes artificial intelligence.

By design, most A.I. tools are easy to use, and, if you can write an email, send a text, or search the internet, you can give ChatGPT, Gemini, or other generative A.I. tools a try. Next time you are analyzing survey data, try one of these platforms to see if they can make quicker work for you. You might have much to gain.

The Ideas of the 30th Degree in the Southern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite

The 30th Degree of the Scottish Rite, Knight Kadosh, stands as one of the most philosophically charged and symbolically rich degrees within the Southern Jurisdiction. While its ritual forms have evolved over time, its essential themes remain centered on moral courage, integrity, and the unwavering pursuit of justice. The term Kadosh, meaning "holy" or "consecrated," signals that the Mason is called to a higher standard of ethical commitment and spiritual discipline.

At its heart, the degree challenges the candidate to confront the tension between personal conviction and external authority. It emphasizes that true nobility derives not from rank or title, but from steadfast devotion to truth and righteousness. The lessons urge the Mason to resist tyranny in all its forms—political, social, or internal—and to remain vigilant against corruption, prejudice, and moral complacency. The degree represents a symbolic stand against intolerance and the misuse of power, echoing the Scottish Rite's broader dedication to freedom of conscience and human dignity.

The 30th Degree also demands introspection. Before one can champion justice outwardly, the Mason must first subdue the passions and prejudices within. This inward purification symbolizes a transition from worldly concerns to higher moral purpose. Through its allegory, the degree calls upon the Mason to align action with principle, suggesting that one's ethical choices reverberate far beyond the self.

Another central theme is loyalty—yet not blind loyalty. The degree distinguishes between allegiance to ideals and mere submission to authority. True loyalty, it teaches, belongs to virtue, honor, and the welfare of humanity. The Knight Kadosh must be ready to defend these ideals with courage, even when such defense is inconvenient or personally costly.

Ultimately, the 30th Degree in the Southern Jurisdiction presents a vision of moral knighthood: a life dedicated to truth, justice, and the elevation of human character. It asks the Mason to be both guardian and exemplar, to confront injustice with moral clarity, and to strive continuously toward a higher plane of ethical living. Through this calling, the Knight Kadosh becomes not merely a title, but an enduring ideal—one that challenges every Mason to rise above mediocrity and to contribute actively to the betterment of the world.



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December

Wed 3 Stated Meeting / (Chilldhood Language

Center)* (6:00 PM)

Wed 10 Incoming Officer Meeting (7:00 PM)

Wed-Fri 24-26 CLOSED (Christmas)

<u>January</u>

Wed 7 Stated Meeting / Pike Awards) (6:00 PM)
Wed 14 Installation of 2026 Officers (6:00 PM)
Mon 19 Office Closed (MLK JR Day)

ALL MEALS REQUIRE A RESERVATION
WHICH CAN BE DONE THROUGH THE WEB SITE
www.scottishritesandiego.org

Attention wives, family and care givers: Should the person to whom this newsletter is addressed be ill or in some difficulty, please call 619-293-4888.

SAN DIEGO SCOTTISH RITE CONTACTS

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The Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of San Diego, 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 Degree of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at Charleston, in the state of South Carolina.

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

Ill:. Arthur L Salazar Jr, 33°
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Supreme Council, 33°, SJ and
President of the California
Scottish Rite Foundation

III:. JoJo Quimpo, 33°
Personal Representative
of the Deputy of the Supreme Council in
California

III:. Jerry Pennington, 33° General Secretary III.: JoJo Quimpo, 33° Hon. Doug Ford, KCCH Publisher Editor

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