



# Quill & Scroll

## Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)



1150 Panorama Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-1715

March 2021

**Web Site:** [SoCoConsistory.org](http://SoCoConsistory.org) **Email:** [socolorcoscottiqwestoffice.net](mailto:socolorcoscottiqwestoffice.net)

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**III Bob Cook, 33°**  
Valley Personal Representative

### **Are we making any progress? Can we?**

There are times I am not sure I can see real progress in these times of changing rules and edicts. Changing rules - some from our political leaders, some from our Health experts and even sometimes in our Fraternity's leadership in trying to resolve the often-opposing ideas on what we can and cannot do. But maybe a moment of clear reflection is in order. We have struggled through the early phases of learning how to conduct a successful Zoom meeting. (Success here means getting back to our stated purpose of education.) The last couple of "stated" meetings have shown me that we are getting closer. We realized a few months ago that even after all restrictions are lifted for in-person meetings, we need to continue to provide the virtual version at the same time.

Our last virtual meeting gave us a chance to hold an open session at the beginning and we did have a few Masons (even a Fellow Craft) in attendance. Participation is growing and we are getting better at a proper protocol to prevent talking over each other. Br. Blake Simmons led an interesting presentation on the Chapter of Rose Croix. But the interactive portion was exciting. Several attendees had views and opinions on the topics presented. That is where our real education begins – and probably where our future lies. It would not be the first time an open discussion about some aspect of our education has stimulated the comment – "Now that's what I want as a Mason". The meeting concluded with allowing the non-Scottish Rite attendees to leave and we conducted our Consistory business.

So now is the time to move forward with plans that do not leave us at the mercy of outsiders. We can plan for meetings and Reunions within the constraints as they stand now. Good ideas are coming from all sides. More Orients and Valleys are exploring how to accomplish meetings and Reunions.



**Br. J.D. Potter, 32° KCCH**  
Director, Reunion Support

Help wanted:

Brothers, remember the feelings of excitement and anticipation you felt when you entered the dark lodge room for the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree?

Well, we need your help in providing those same feelings for Brothers wanting to expand their Masonic Education by joining the Scottish Rite.

Not all of us are good at memorizing and acting out the parts of various degrees. Just as important to the Reunion though, are the Brothers that operate the lighting and sound equipment, and that is where I am asking for your help. You do not need experience, as we have very qualified Brothers that will show you what needs to be done. You just need the ability to attend the Reunions and support the Degree work. If this sounds like something you would like to do please contact:

J.D. Potter 32° KCCH – Director of Support  
719-240-0675



**Br. Vincent T. Johnson, 32° KCCH**  
Secretary/Recorder/Registrar

Brethren,

Here is the latest membership data and I must report that we are not showing much of an improvement in our collection of members' dues. I encourage those of you in this category, to take a few moments to take care of this matter as soon as possible. If you are having issues paying your dues or want to setup a schedule to pay, please do not hesitate to contact me, we will do all we can to work with you. As of 2-18-2020 we have 469 total members which breaks down like below:

Active Members with dues paid in full	203
Active Members with dues unpaid	51
<u>Active Members that are Exempt or Life</u>	<u>215</u>



**Br. Clifton Snow, 32° KCCH**

Treasurer

Brethren,

I am pleased to report that all bills for calendar year 2020 have been paid. However, our income from dues and contributions fell short of covering those bills. Some good news though, we are fortunate that a few Brothers, who have come before us, seen fit to provide us with funds. These reserve funds were placed in investments, that in good performing years, provide us gains and interest sufficient to help meet our shortfalls, and I need not say what happens when they fall short.

Although the year has just started, we have had a few bills, all paid and are within the budget.



**Br Bob Harper 32° KCCH**  
Commander Council of Kadosh

My Brethren,

Have you ever thought about the wages of a Master Mason? We are told in the second degree about the wages of a Fellowcraft. However, there is nothing we have been told of wages of the Master Mason.

I believe that may be for the same reason there is a lack of explanation on the Symbols of Masonry. Each Brother must find his own interpretation of our Symbols, and each must find for himself the wages of a Master Mason.

A Brother may not be paid the same wages as another. A Brother may receive wages in the form of gratitude from a Brother or a person for whom he has performed an act of charity. Another may receive wages in the good feeling that comes from visiting with a Brother or friend who is ill. Another may receive wages in the gratitude from a Brother's family for his assistance during their time of grief. Another may receive wages in the friendships that have come to him through his being a Mason. Another may receive wages in the satisfaction he receives from service to others. Another may receive wages in the pleasure he derives from coaching a Brother for proficiency, or performing lectures, or participating in degree work. I am sure there are many other forms of wages you may think of for yourself.

The wages of a Master Mason are not paid in currency or monies. They are not items that may be stolen or lose value over time. They are paid in those things that the Brother may keep in the repository of the faithful breast. They are paid in the things that are secure in the hearts of his Brethren and friends. They have no intrinsic value and cannot be measured in that manner.

The wages of a Master Mason are measured only by the value placed upon them by the one who receives them.



**Br. Michael Mabbitt, 32°**  
Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection

### INEFFABLE DEGREES OF THE LODGE OF PERFECTION



The Degrees from the Fourth to the Fourteenth, comprising the Lodge of Perfection, and being a continuation of the Degrees of the Blue Lodge, have their inception in the Old Testament and are called the Ineffable Degrees.

They teach truth, industry, honesty, benevolence, justice, toleration, patriotism, and love of country. Each individual Mason must discover the secret of Masonry for himself by reflecting upon its symbols and a wise consideration of what has been said and done in the work. We receive as much of the divine light as we are capable of understanding. God has arranged His great purpose so that man has a work to do, a duty to perform to help the great plan for enlightenment and growth.



When you look at the symbols on the right, which one draws your eye more than the rest? They are all unique to the degree that they represent and to the lessons their degree conveys. But which one draws your attention? As you progressed through the degrees was there one that you related to more than the rest?

As you reflect on the lessons of the Lodge of Perfection (4th-14th) I encourage you to reference the Bridge to Light and see if the symbol that drew your attention is related to the degree that you felt you related to the most and how those lessons related to events in your life.

Among many other lessons, the degrees teach us to be careful, to watch ourselves and those bound to us by virtue's ties, to yield the tribute of grateful respect to the memory of deceased brothers, justice and humanity, that danger and difficulty only stimulate the truly great mind and that we are bound by our obligation and free from prejudice, ignorance and envy.



**Br. Craig Fabec**  
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

## A Year in Reflection

Brothers, we have and still are living through strange and historic times. The past year we have experienced a pandemic, political and social unrest, and various other events that have shaped our lives into what may be called a “new normal.”

When reflecting on the numerous events that have happened, I credit two major things for my deeper understanding of balance or equilibrium in my life.

This pandemic has changed almost every way we interact with those outside our household. Zoom meetings, online groceries, Amazon packages, and working from home have taken over the Fabec household. I went from being on the road 2 or 3 times a week for various meetings, to not leaving the house at all. Though it took some time to adjust, this whole experience has helped me to slow down and focus on the present. There was no more rushing or hurrying out the door, I did not get home too late for story time, I wasn’t worried about memorizing ritual, and I was able to focus on some leisure activities I never had time for. Our family bonded over: early morning coloring sessions while our toddler dictated very angrily what colors to use, lunch out back on the picnic table, and various other activities. This down time not only helped me to slow down and focus on all the things I wish I had time for, it also helped me realize the importance of the activities I was missing. I missed being able to interact with my brothers, share stories, and do work focused on a common good. When zoom meetings were allowed, it filled that void to an extent, but it was not the same. This pandemic helped me to “adjust my scale” to have a more solid balance between the hustle of working and lodge life with that simple and slow family time.

The second event is much more difficult to discuss. During the height of the pandemic our son had some serious medical issues. I am pleased to share that after numerous ambulance rides, trips to the ER and an extended stay at Children’s Hospital Henry got the best possible diagnosis and treatment. Yet, during those few weeks I was a nervous wreck. Due to pandemic restrictions Magi and I were often not allowed in the hospital room or ER together, having to switch off after hours of waiting. For someone who is usually very private and focused on doing things himself, I have often accomplished or suffered through tasks on sheer stubbornness. Yet, the stress of the severity of the situation, and not being able to be with my family was too much. I finally had to turn to family and close friends for help. With the burden of having to do it all myself lifted, I found a new balance to my mental and emotional state, I was able to focus on the events at hand and deal with them in a much healthier manner.

Over the past year I have learned that balance does not refer solely to subduing my passions, and overcoming trials or temptations, it also needs to be present in the foundations of everyday life. Balance is the foundation needed in every aspect of our lives if we are to focus on the ultimate goal of masonry, “Being a better man today than I was yesterday.”



**Brother Blake Simmons 32°**  
Chapter Rose Croix Wise Master

### **The Temple of King Solomon**

#### **The construction and rebuilding of the Temple of Solomon from the Rose Croix degrees teachings and Historic references.**

The Hebrew Bible suggests that the Original Temple of Solomon was first built in the fourth year of the ear of King Solomon, which was about 970 BC. However, there remains no solid evidence of where it was located. However, experts believe that the King Solomon’s Temple was first built on Mount Moriah in 950-970 BC. Still, there isn’t any archaeological proof of the temple’s existence to this day. All we have to go by are the texts contained in the religious books.

#### **Let us look at how Biblical History plays a role in the degrees of Chapter Rose Croix**

1Kgs 6:37-38 [37] the fourth year the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid, in the month of Ziv.[38] In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts, and according to all its specifications. He was seven years in building it.

The Jerusalem temple said to have been built by Solomon was destroyed in 587/586 B.C.E., when the Babylonians captured the city, torched it, and exiled the Judean leadership to Babylon.

- **2Kgs 25:8-9** describes the final days: [8] in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. [9] He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down.

#### **From the [15<sup>th</sup> degree]**

- Zerubbabel asks Cyrus, king of Persia, to allow the restoration of the Temple.
- Cyrus at first refuses, but after Zerubbabel gains his trust is invested with the Treasures of the temple and the authority to rebuild it.

King Cyrus of Persia conquered the Babylonian empire in 539 B.C.E., subsumed that empire under his own rule, and permitted Judeans to return to the land and rebuild the temple.

- **(Ezra 1)**. [2]“Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah.[3]Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them!—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord

**Ezra 3** depicts the beginning of the restoration, with the building of the altar and setting the temple foundations. Restoration languished for 17 years until Darius ascends to the Persian throne in 520BCE.

- In the 16<sup>th</sup> degree, Zerubbabel , from the House of Solomon and a Prince of Judah, travels to Persia and gains an audience with Darius.
- According to **Ezra 4**, however, enemies interfered by reporting to the Persian king that the builders were a rebellious people.

- After these and other delays, the temple was completed in 516/515 B.C.E, during the time of the Persian king **Darius** (525-486 B.C.E.).

Again, in the 18<sup>th</sup> degree we find that the Temple has been besieged by Lysias, entered by Pompey, robbed by Crasus, and ravaged by Sosius.

The Temple was then remodeled to a greater splendor by Herod in 20 BCE.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple was built in 70 A.D. but was eventually destroyed by fire under the siege of Titus.

The degrees of Scottish Rite degrees of Rose Croix not only have wonderful meaning and knowledge for Scottish Rite Masons, but also follows Biblical history. The study of these degrees are an interesting study for Masons looking for deeper knowledge and meaning, but also the history that it enlightens us to as well.



**Br. Bud Gressett 32°**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Council of Kadosh

## Where are the shepherds?

Chivalry - The medieval knightly system with its religious, moral, and social code.

In a world that is panicked, dying, sick, growing broke, our leaders - and no country goes untouched - are confounded. Practical reasoning is important but not enough. Without the virtues promoted by every civil society, we will all remain confounded. Such virtues are Faith, Hope, Charity, Wisdom, Strength, Adornment, Prayer, Reverence, Tolerance, Loyalty, Patriotism, and Fidelity. But not just to our God and Country, but to our communities within our circle of influence.

Are there no shepherds in our land? In my observation, those who have come forward as shepherds have been lions and wolves seeking their own agenda and power over us with the exception of a few.

Where are those who would teach us how to pray instead of demand from our God? Who would teach us make our prayers to humbly ask for help from our God and allies, instead of declare war on demons and so-called enemies? Who would teach us to be tolerant and humble and kind instead of demanding and arrogant and mean? And teach us that tolerance includes the censure of self-vindication in the name of justice.

An even better question is: Where are those who would listen to such a shepherd?

Freemasonry is not without its faults. But only because we are made up of men who have faults. But we are the same seeking to better ourselves because we know what faults we have. The virtues listed above are constantly upon our lips in and taught at our meetings. We may not pretend to be shepherds, rather a chain of strength where each of us are exhorted and encouraged by a few stronger than us and we do the same for those who struggle more than ourselves. We are always looking for men who would become brothers of chivalry, brothers who seek the qualities listed here, and brothers who are not proud to admit they we all need each other to become better.

I was told once that what good people really want is affirmation. I know I do. So, whenever I have opportunity to affirm, I will not be silent. We are always looking for men who would become brothers of chivalry, brothers who seek the qualities listed here, and brothers who are not too proud to admit we all need each other to become better.

Send us your content & visit your website for the latest updates!  
[www.sococonsistory.org](http://www.sococonsistory.org)

Grand Lodge Members: <http://members.grandlodgeofcolorado.org/>  
Promotion of Masonry: [www.beafreemason.org](http://www.beafreemason.org)

...and with our Grand Master's edict a number of online "Fraternal Gatherings" now meet regularly. The response has been very positive with the ability for Brothers to make the stay-at-home order a bit less lonely and keep in touch with one another and share Masonic education. All is public information, nothing tiled.

The following is a schedule of those gatherings as of this letter. If you're aware of others, please let us know.

All meetings are weekly gatherings:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Lumen Artis #190, 7pm. Contact Russ Mason, [secretary@lumenartislodge.com](mailto:secretary@lumenartislodge.com)

Colorado Springs York Rite, David Reynolds, [davidd1@comcast.com](mailto:davidd1@comcast.com)

Thursday

G L Education Committee, 7pm, Dave Williams, David Reynolds, [davidd1@comcast.com](mailto:davidd1@comcast.com)

Friday

Virtual Happy Hour, 6pm, Michael-Ryan Fletchall, [manitoulodge68@gmail.com](mailto:manitoulodge68@gmail.com)



## March Birthdays!

Jack Brown

Chalmer Ferguson

Larry Hoffman

Walter Iiams

Donald Johnson

James Kashner

James Nunn

Ernest Rozell

Keith Sonnenberg

Loran Thompson

Fred Tomlin

Lewis Young

Paul Cooper

Rodney Gray

Ervin Meacham

Thomas Sanderson

Michael Porter

David Ashley

Gerald Nightingale

Lenard Rieth

William Heintzen

James Mitchell

Gerald Russell

Raymond Dunn

Dennis Feister

John Fotenos

James Jones

Fred Garcia

Brett Axton

Kevin Nunn

Patrick Wojtecki

Rodolfo Arguello

John Seymour

Robert McAllister

Richard Martin

James Coke

Douglas Paul

Colt Barker

William McKee

Terry Gumlich

Dale Young

Michael Dickey

Jim Dederick

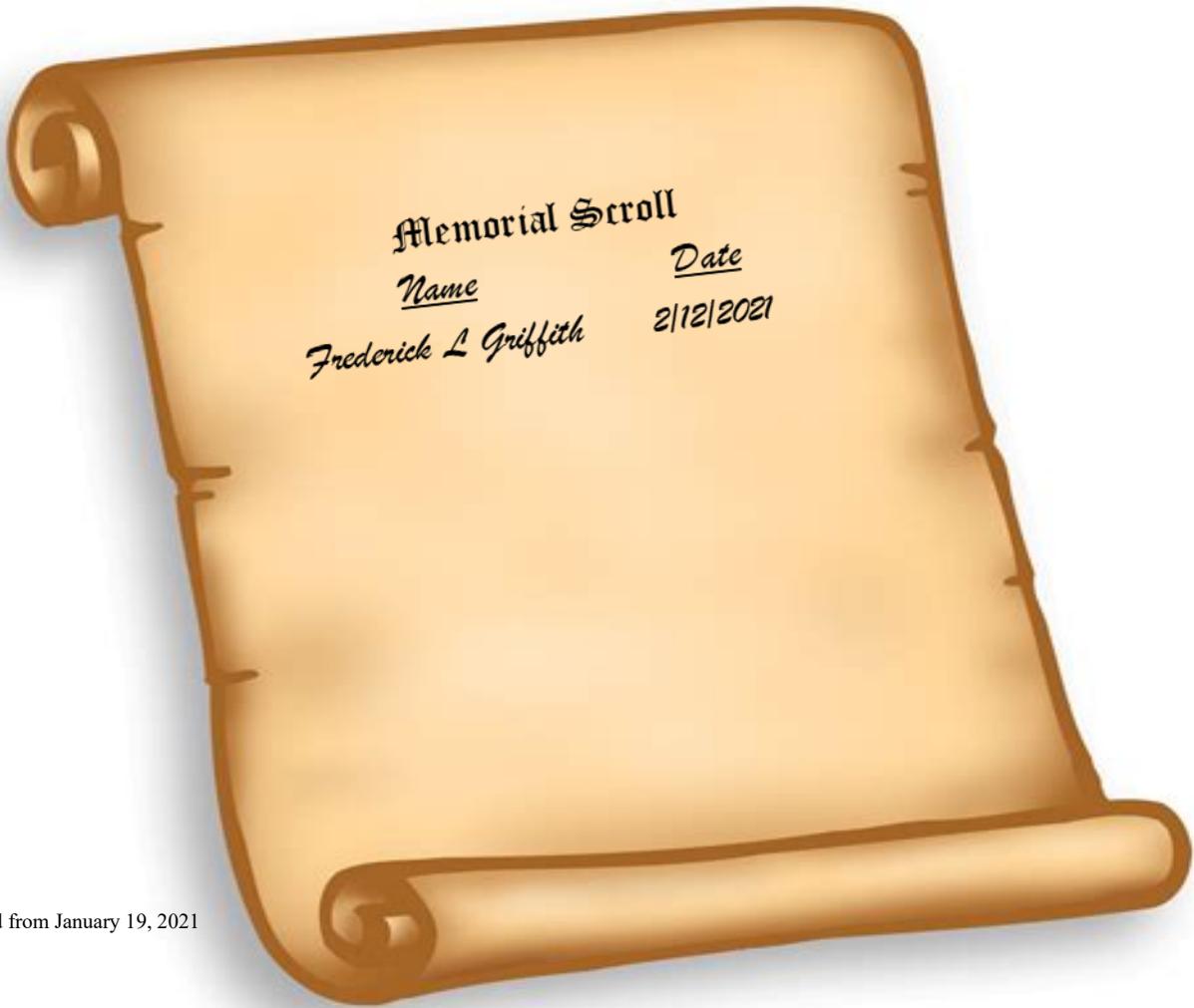
Patrick Soddy

Steven Zerger

John Moreno

James Nelson

Bert Dalton



Notices received from January 19, 2021

#### ROSE CROIX FUNERAL TEAM

All Scottish Rite Masons in good standing are entitled to have a Rose Croix Funeral service at the time of their passing. Members should advise their families of their wishes to have this beautiful service. It is a very dignified service intended to help bring comfort to the family. The current members of the Southern Colorado Consistory Rose Croix Funeral Team are: Wise Master, Ronald Smith, 32° KCCH; Senior/Junior Warden, Charles Lewis, 32°; Junior Wardens, Blake Simmons, 32° and John Weed, 32°. If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Jason Bunch 32° for more information.



## Southern Colorado Consistory Quill & Scroll Guidelines and Staff

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This publication is produced monthly by and for the benefit of members, staff, and interested parties associated with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and more particularly the Southern Colorado Consistory in the Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Orient of Colorado. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Southern Colorado Consistory or its officers.

Deadline for article submission is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month prior to the stated meeting (first Wednesday). Articles should be approximately 250-1000 words long. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper copyright permissions may be included with your submission. Articles may be submitted in electronic format via email to the editor. All articles are subject to editing and are published without restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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This publication is published on the web site as an Adobe .pdf file. It requires the free Adobe Reader program to read. (A copy of this program can be found at <http://www.adobe.com>). Current and past issues (subject to available storage space) are available for viewing on the Southern Colorado Consistory Website.

Questions pertaining to this publication should be forwarded to the Editor or the Consistory Office.

If you have comments, constructive criticisms, recommendations, or articles for submission, please send them to the EDITOR, *Quill & Scroll*.

**THIS IS YOUR PUBLICATION!!! Let us know how we're doing and provide us your Masonic wisdom and content!** We need to know if you want to see something of particular interest that we haven't published previously. If you are receiving this e-newsletter, it is because we have a valid email address for you. If you know of a Brother who has email but is not receiving these notices, PLEASE have him contact the Consistory Office and get his email updated or added to our database.

**Publishing schedule:** Submissions (in compressed Adobe format, period) are due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, period. Compilation of the document and approval before review by the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month. Publication on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

## ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge 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.

### Southern Colorado Consistory Valley of Colorado Springs - Pueblo



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Sovereign Grand Commander



**Karl J. Hinkle, 33°**  
Deputy of the Supreme Council  
Orient of Colorado



**Robert R. Cook, 33°**  
Personal Representative  
Valley of Colorado Springs - Pueblo



**Michael Mabbitt, 32°**  
Venerable Master  
Lodge of Perfection



**Blake Simmons, 32°**  
Wise Master  
Chapter of Rose Croix



**Robert Harper, 32° KCCH**  
Commander  
Council of Kadosh



**Craig Fabec, 32°**  
Master of Kadosh  
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**Michael L. McMillan, 33°**  
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**Charles E. Lewis, 32°**  
Prelate



**Cliff Snow, 32° KCCH**  
Treasurer



**Vincent T. Johnson, 32° KCCH**  
Secretary/Recorder/Registrar

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We aspire to ***inspire*** our Members  
We constantly work to ***develop*** meaningful Degrees and Programs  
We endeavor to ***create*** opportunities for our Members  
We ***believe*** in Fellowship  
We ***encourage*** in Personal Growth  
We ***care*** for our Members  
We strongly ***support our charity*** RiteCare  
(Speech and language therapy for children in need)

We ***cherish*** in our Historical Presence  
We ***honor, respect and promote*** Patriotism and support our Troops / Veterans.

*All of this requires strong and dedicated members to accomplish our goals and tasks. And, unfortunately, ever increasing financial support. Please consider SCC in your estate planning. Planned gifts, also known as legacy gifts, are the result of financial planning often involving a future estate. These gifts include bequests in wills, trusts, life insurance, personal property, and annuities. Such gifts would allow SCC to continue Scottish Rite activities. Thank you in advance for any and all support!*