



Quill & Scroll

Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)



1150 Panorama Drive
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June 2021

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There are several things that you should not do, or should avoid doing on Memorial Day:

- **Don't** wish anyone a “Happy **Memorial Day**” This is **not** Christmas – **Memorial Day** was **not** founded in joy with the promise of bringing glee each year. ...
- **Don't** thank the current troops. ... Save that for Veterans Day in November
- **Don't** disregard its importance. ...
- **Don't** forget it exists. ...
- **Don't** let politics keep **you** from rendering respect.

Taken from a moving presentation by Br. Danny Tomlinson, 32° KCCH, Denver Consistory (US Navy, Honorably Discharged after nearly 5 years of active duty) at the Denver Consistory Stated meeting on May 17, 2021.
Thank you, Br. Tomlinson.



III Bob Cook, 33°
Valley Personal Representative

Did We Pivot?

As the country and businesses begin to recover from the pandemic, we hear pundits talk about how businesses have pivoted during the crisis. What is pivot? Does it apply to our Fraternity? Did we pivot? Here is a definition of pivot: “A pivot means fundamentally changing the direction of a business when you realize the current products or services are not meeting the needs of the market. The main goal of a pivot is to help a company improve revenue or survive in the market, but the way you pivot your business can make all the difference.” So, we are not a business, but does this apply to our Fraternity?

Let us look at the mission statement of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the USA. “It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve its 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.” During this difficult time, we had to change our approach to our mission. Our goal was the personal improvement of our members (Making good men better). We had embarked on a course of education that was centered around principals and philosophies of our Fraternity. In the Valley of Colorado Springs – Pueblo, we migrated from presentations to discussions and interactions. Each meeting discussed some aspect of our philosophies. This led to a wider understanding of these philosophies and how each of us interpret them personally.

Was this a pivot? I say no – our change to this type of education started before the pandemic arrived. The pandemic did force us to modify and adapt to the situation. We began more virtual meetings. This led to some brothers that cannot attend our regular in-person meetings to be able to participate. Sure, we missed the personal interaction – handshakes, pats on the back, hugs; but we did get participation from brothers that cannot attend an in-person meeting. So, we did not fundamentally change our “business”, but we did adapt and modify how we delivered our “product.”

We hope to return to in-person AND virtual meetings in September. Technical difficulties have hampered our ability to accomplish this for the June stated meeting.



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

Brethren,

Here are the latest membership numbers as of 5/25. Brothers, I would have to say, we must be doing things right, or at a minimum, moving in that direction. I am pleased to report to you that since my last report we have shown a slight increase in our “Active Members with dues paid in full” category. I would also like to inform you of another category that I do not report to you, “Members with Arrears Dues Balance”. At the beginning of the year, we had 21 members that were more than a year behind in their dues and at the end of this year, will be considered for non-payment of dues. I am incredibly pleased to announce that just this past month four of those brothers are off that list and been added back to the Active Members rolls.

My brothers, I know that the rest of the leadership of the SCC would agree with me, we did not do this alone, we must thank you also. Thank you for spreading the word of the work we are trying to accomplish; the quality of the presentations; the reformatting of our meetings allowing other Masons and sometimes non-Masons to attend, and the addition of brothers from other states now enjoying our meetings since the utilization of the Zoom platform.

Southern Colorado Consistory Membership Data a/o 5/25/2021

Active Members with dues paid in full	223
Active Members with dues unpaid	21
Active Members that are Exempt or Life	210
Total Active Members	454

In the Spring of 2021 Sothern Colorado Consistory sponsored awards for 13 JR ROTC Cadets in 10 High Schools throughout our region. Due to Covid restrictions, many of the certificates/awards were presented in virtual ceremonies. However, we were able to present 3 of them in person.



Br. Clifton Snow, 32° KCCH
Treasurer

Brethren,

The following are balances as of 04/30/2021:

Investments \$634,679.85

Cash \$18,256.85

All bills through 04/30/2021 have been paid and are within budget.



Br. Bob Harper 32° KCCH
Commander, Council of Kadosh

My Brethren,

Flag Day is June 14 and I thought I would share a brief article with you;

The Flag

Our great national emblem, Old Glory, is appropriately found in the lodge room where gather those who place the Flag second only to God, with their Masonry coming next. Freemasonry has ever pledged its dedication to devotion to country and to unswerving, whole-hearted loyalty to the National Colors, Old Red, White and Blue the majestic symbol of a free people and has been found leading those forces that have brought to other peoples the same freedom that we demand for ourselves.

The flags of other nations have come and gone, and despots have dipped their flags to Old Glory, which goes on forever. Its defeat would mean the end of everything, which Masonry teaches, defeat of everything that is good and pure and great and high and noble. So long as it flies, government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Let us never forget how our forefathers gave us this Grand Old Flag, preserved to us by their children and their children's children, grandest Flag of them all because of the traditions entwined in it folds.

The things guaranteed by this Flag, free government, free schools, free speech, a free press, free public assemblage, are worth striving for, are worth sacrificing for, and if need be, are worth dying for.

May it fly proudly and majestically against the background of blue sky and white clouds forever.

Br. Bob Harper



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

Brethren,

The Lodge of Perfection (LOP) is in need of Brethren who are interested in beginning their journey in the officer line in the LOP. Currently, there are four vacancies; Orator, Master of Ceremonies, Expert and Captain of the host. The duties of these position's are;

1. Orator
 - a. Present an oration on the history, philosophy or symbolism of the order when called upon by the Venerable Master,
2. Master of ceremonies
 - a. Conducts the Prelate to the altar for Prayer at opening.
3. Expert
 - a. Assist the Orator of the Council of Kadosh in reception of members and guests prior to dinner, beginning at 6pm at the first-floor main entrance, if available.
 - b. Assist the preceptor of the Consistory in planning and executing special events directed by the Supreme Council (e.g., Celebrating the Craft, Scottish Rite Day).
4. Captain of the host
 - a. Informs the Tiler of resumption of labor at the Venerable Masters request.
 - b. Assist the Orator of the Council of Kadosh in reception of members and guests prior to dinner, beginning at 6pm at the first-floor main entrance, if available.
 - c. Assist the preceptor of the Consistory in planning and executing special events directed by the Supreme Council (e.g., Celebrating the Craft, Scottish Rite Day).

One of the duties of the Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection is to serve as a non-voting Chairman of the Finance Committee. If you are interested in one of the positions above you must also have a desire to one day act as Chairman of the Finance Committee. Having a finance background is not necessary to be part of the Lodge of Perfection, simply a want to learn and be a leader.

It is the goal of the SCC to put members in the different lines who want to be there, have the ability to do the work and if found worthy, move up the line. The great thing about the SCC is that if, after serving on a position in one body, you decide you want to move to another line more suited to your expertise it is not only allowed but encouraged.

If you are interested in "any" of the officer positions in SCC bodies, please contact the head of that body.

Fraternally,

Bro. Mike



Br. Craig Fabec
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

I would like to welcome our four new Masters of The Royal Secret. I know there was a lot of information discussed over the three sessions, and I hope it intrigued you enough to learn more about the Scottish Rite organization, its degrees, and lessons.

There are several paths you could take: attending our monthly meetings, in person reunions and class presentations, discussions with other members, and self-study.

If you are unsure where to start the Master Craftsman Program may be a good way to go. This program is put on by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction and acts as a self-paced guided study program. Each program has various lessons or tests that go with a specific reading of the included book. The program is designed not only to help you learn more about the organization, history, philosophy, and degrees in the AASR, but also to help you formulate your own opinions and beliefs about the lessons presented in each degree. Some of the questions are multiple choice, while others are written responses based on your interpretations of a reading. When you are finished with one test you mail it in, and it will be reviewed and sent back to you.

You can purchase the programs directly from the Southern Jurisdictions online store, and they include the required book and packet of tests. They are also offering the first two programs as online tests now, so you would submit them digitally instead of mailing them to Washington DC.

There are three programs addressing different aspects of Masonry.

Symbolic Lodge: A study on Blue Lodge Masonry, its development and symbolism. Book- *Esoterika* by Albert Pyke

Scottish Rite Ritual and History: Will cover the structure, organization, history, and degrees of the Southern Jurisdiction. Books- *he Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide, third edition*, by Arturo de Hoyos

Scottish Rite Philosophy: This program can only be started after finishing the "Ritual and History" program first. This program covers each degree, its lessons, and philosophies in depth, and is the culminating course for the Master Craftsman program. Book- *Albert Pike's Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition*, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°



Br. Blake Simmons 32°
Wise Master, Chapter Rose Croix

Ancient Scottish Rite Motto:

*“**Liberty** with Law and Order; **Equality** with Obedience and Loyalty; **Fraternity** with Subordination”*
**Albert Pike*

Liberty:

*“The sovereignty of one’s self over one’s self is called Liberty” *Albert Pike*

Masonry firmly holds to the belief in freedom. We are dedicated to our country. We also support public schools as they help to form the foundation of the principles of freedom. Equality, temperance, justice, morality and virtue are our tenets and the Masonic superstructure is built on these principles including most importantly, Liberty. Freedom of interpretation is one Masonic characteristic which sets our Fraternity apart from many other institutions

Equality: One of the primary tenets of Masonry is that all men may be accepted by others on the same level. We as Masons believe that no man due to his occupation, social, or political rank is better than another. *“Our equality is based on the common thread of our Masonic membership. That we have all shared the same experiences, taken the same obligations, have a similar philosophy, and share a common father, the great architect of the universe.” *Past W.M. Ronald D. Lindhart*

Brother William Jennings Bryan, the eminent jurist, politician, and orator in the late 1800’s and the early 1900’s, expressed Freemasonry’s dedication to equality in these words: *“In the lodge room we do not ask a man who his father was, we simply inquire what he is. We do not ask what his father has done: we simply ask if he is ready to do the work that falls to him. We do not ask whether he has received a diploma from some institution of learning; we simply ask him if he has studied the Science of how to live, if he recognizes the ties that bind him to all mankind. We do not ask him how many acres of land he possesses; we ask him whether he is possessed of the spirit of brotherhood.”*

Fraternity: derived from the Latin "frater", meaning brother, is what binds us together, forming that bond of friendship and brotherhood which distinguishes the Masonic order. Masonic fraternity transcends class, rank, age, and income. We reach out in support to our brothers in time of need and distress, and we celebrate each other's success and happiness. When true brotherhood is shared, it lessens our grief and increases our happiness, which brings us closer together.

*“**Liberty, Equality, Fraternity...**these characteristics have been the characteristics of freemasonic thought throughout our evolution, and must always remain so to insure the future of our craft.”*
** William Jennings Bryan*

Chapter Rose Croix is looking for Brothers who truly wish to serve the fraternity and brothers in their time of need. We are looking for new members to the Rose Croix memorial team, one of the most special services that we can do for our Brothers and their families. Please contact Wise master Brother Blake Simmons by email - holidayhills@q.com



Bill Hickey, 33°

HABITS

You know, it's often said it takes a solid month to MAKE a habit become second nature, but it only takes a couple of times forgetting the habit to break it and start a new one.

For the past year, we were forced to “break” _the habit of coming to the Consistory for in-person meetings and events - and it's taken a toll on all of us. While we're anxious to get back to “normal” _ I'm sure most of us are beginning to realize that perhaps the “new normal” _isn't at all like the “old normal” _we were used to having.

Many of you (us) were reluctant at first to try this “zoom” _virtual environment, but what we found quickly was that many of our old friends who had stopped coming downtown (traffic, rush hour, work, whatever) for meetings were better able to participate virtually. After all, if you live up north in Fort Collins, Greeley, Sterling, or other northern parts of the state, it's at least an hour or maybe two to get into Denver, then have the meeting, and then another couple of hours to get home—all on a work night. The commute from your dining room to the computer is a LOT SHORTER!

While we may not be able to “live-stream” everything that happens at the Consistory (logistics can get in the way), we will be able to do SOME of them, and your participation in a virtual capacity is as important as being here in person especially if you simply can't make the trek downtown routinely.

Other habits: the proverbial “RSVP” - is an abbreviation referring to the French phrase “Répondez s'il vous plait” meaning “Please respond” _to require confirmation of an invitation. The abbreviation RSVP is no longer used much in France, where it is considered formal and a bit old-fashioned (WHAT? Masons “Old-Fashioned”? Never.) The complete sentence in French gives the impression that the speaker is BEGGING for an answer But, in France today, it is more common to use “Réponse attendee avant le...” meaning, “[Your] answer is EXPECTED before...” _Additionally, the initials SVP are frequently used to represent “s'il vous plait” (“Please”).

IMPORTANT: In the age of the internet, mobile phones and other technology, digital RSVPs are becoming common. Another “change of habit” we no longer expect a WRITTEN letter response electronic replies are perfectly acceptable and commonly used. But, what is important is ... if an RSVP is requested, it means you need to let the person know YES OR NO you will or won't be there. Do NOT “assume” (and you all know what “assume” means) that the person asking for the RSVP can read your mind from afar. That's just plain rude and inconsiderate—and definitely NOT something Masons should be doing. Your Brothers are arranging food and need accurate head counts.

When I was stationed in Scotland, one of my “collateral duties” _(other duties as assigned) was not only the BOQ officer, but the Officer's Club Treasurer responsible for ordering food, drink, and providing catering to formal dinners and events. Imagine the kind of trouble you get into when you charge \$30 (in 1976) for a nice dinner of Steamship Round, Green Beans, Potatoes, Salad, dessert, and wine and you have a head count of 30. Your steward (professional food person) has ordered and prepared the food for not JUST 30, but usually 33-35. Why? Because, we KNOW that there will be accidents, spoilage, and maybe one or two late additions. But, what happens when you get TEN more people than you expect? You can't just create more meat, veggies, etc. out of what you have. You don't have enough to go around. So, the last persons in line don't get any food... and they are NOT HAPPY campers... especially if they are senior officers. So, translate that into Masonic

dinners. Our Brothers are trying desperately to keep costs under control, provide a decent meal for everyone, and all they are asking of you is a simple “Are you coming or not?” _Because if you do NOT respond, they will have to “assume” (there’s that word again) that you are NOT coming for the head count... and that means you will not eat. If you’re OK with that, no harm no foul. But, if you’re the kind of person that says “You should have assumed (there’s that word again) that I was coming” NOPE, NOT GONNA DO THAT. That ends up with the Brother having too much food and passing the costs on to the rest of the brothers for the left-overs. DO THE SIMPLE THING just answer the request with a yes or no. If you say no, and later decide to come, don’t expect to eat. If you say yes and can’t make it, do your best to notify the person asking for the RSVP as soon as possible so they can react accordingly. Trust me, if YOU were in their position, you would certainly want that courtesy extended to YOU.

Get in the HABIT of answering requests for RSVP’s. It’s really not all that hard to do.

Bill

Send us your content & visit your website for the latest updates!
www.sococonsistory.org

Grand Lodge Members: <http://members.grandlodgeofcolorado.org/>
Promotion Of Masonry: 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 meeting are weekly gatherings:

1st & 3rd Wednesday

Lumen Artis #190, 7pm. Contact Russ Mason, secretary@lumenartislodge.com

Colorado Springs York Rite, David Reynolds, davidd1@comcast.com

Thursday

G L Education Committee, 7pm, Dave Williams, David Reynolds, davidd1@comcast.com

Friday

Virtual Happy Hour, 6pm, Michael-Ryan Fletchall, manitoulodge68@gmail.com



JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Charles R Armour

Lance R Barron

Paul M Campbell

Robert T Cleek

Gerald W Comstock

Bolivar Anthony De La Cruz

Sean P Dirks

Steven B. Dustrude

David E Eckman, Jr

Richard E Hair

Richard A Hanson

John J Harrington, III

Jesse W James, Jr

Michael E Judy

Mark J Kneis, II

Robert W Kohn

Thomas H Leucht

William G Mahar

John C McCracken

Kevin J McGuire

Shane B Meredith

Arthur W Moore

John D Potter

Antonio J Quintana

Edward J Roberts

Lionel G Robertson

Frank E Ruybalid

David L Salberg

Lewis O Seaburn

Gary V Sears

William P Seifert, Jr

Samuel L Sharp

Brian K Smith

Ronald L Smith

Joseph B Surek

Mervin E Terrill

Gerome Walton

Henry R Wells



Memorial Scroll

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Gerald K Haynie	4/1/2021
Grant B Anderson	5/18/21

Notices received since April 27, 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 3rd 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 text format (MS word, no Adobe pdf) 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.

Notice of publication is provided to members of the Southern Colorado Consistory who have provided a valid email address.

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 3rd Wednesday each month, period. Compilation of the document and approval before review by the 4th Tuesday each month. Publication on the 4th 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 Pueblo/Colorado Springs



James D. Cole, 33°
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°
Commander
Council of Kadosh



Craig Fabec, 32°
Master of Kadosh
Consistory



Michael L. McMillan, 33°
Almoner



Charles E. Lewis, 32°
Prelate



Clifton 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!