



Quill & Scroll

Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)



1150 Panorama Drive
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February 2026

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Ill Barry Nightingale, 33°
Valley Personal Representative

My Brothers,

I want to pass along some of my thinking for 2026, as we look forward to another great year.

First - my congratulations to all of the officers that were installed at the January meeting. I think we have four very strong officer lines for 2026, and I believe that they will make everything we do truly great!!

Second - Our Director General, Ill Bro Craig Fabec 33°, supported by Mike Mabbit 32° KCCH, and Zach Smith 32°, and all of our degree casts and supporting departments, is working on a very good plan for the Spring Reunion. We hope to slightly expand the number of degrees exemplified, thus enriching the experience for our candidates. To support this effort, I ask each and every one of you to volunteer your time and energy to supporting the Reunion, to the best of your ability. For some of you, that may mean taking a couple of days from work, if your work permits. For some of you, it will mean some hours at home (and at rehearsals) learning new parts in the degree work. In all cases, I appreciate whatever you can do to make the extra effort to make our Reunion better than ever.

Third - Let's work to bring to the Reunion a great class of candidates. As you have often heard me say - let's not rush a brand new Master Mason to join Scottish Rite. Let's make sure he is ready to take the next steps, and has the time and willingness to commit himself to support our fine organization. Let's explain the benefits of joining an organization that will significantly expand his understanding of Freemasonry, and our society. We don't want "bodies" on the rolls, we want active Scottish Rite Brothers.

Fourth - we are working on an initiative to build stronger supporting connections to our Brothers in Denver Consistory, and Grand Junction Consistory. We are truly one Orient in Colorado, and we are working together to see how we can share resources and talent. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to me.

Finally - let's continue to work to spread our efforts to support the educational programs of our Lodges. We have an upcoming presentation at one of our local Lodges, and I want to see more added to the schedule. Talk

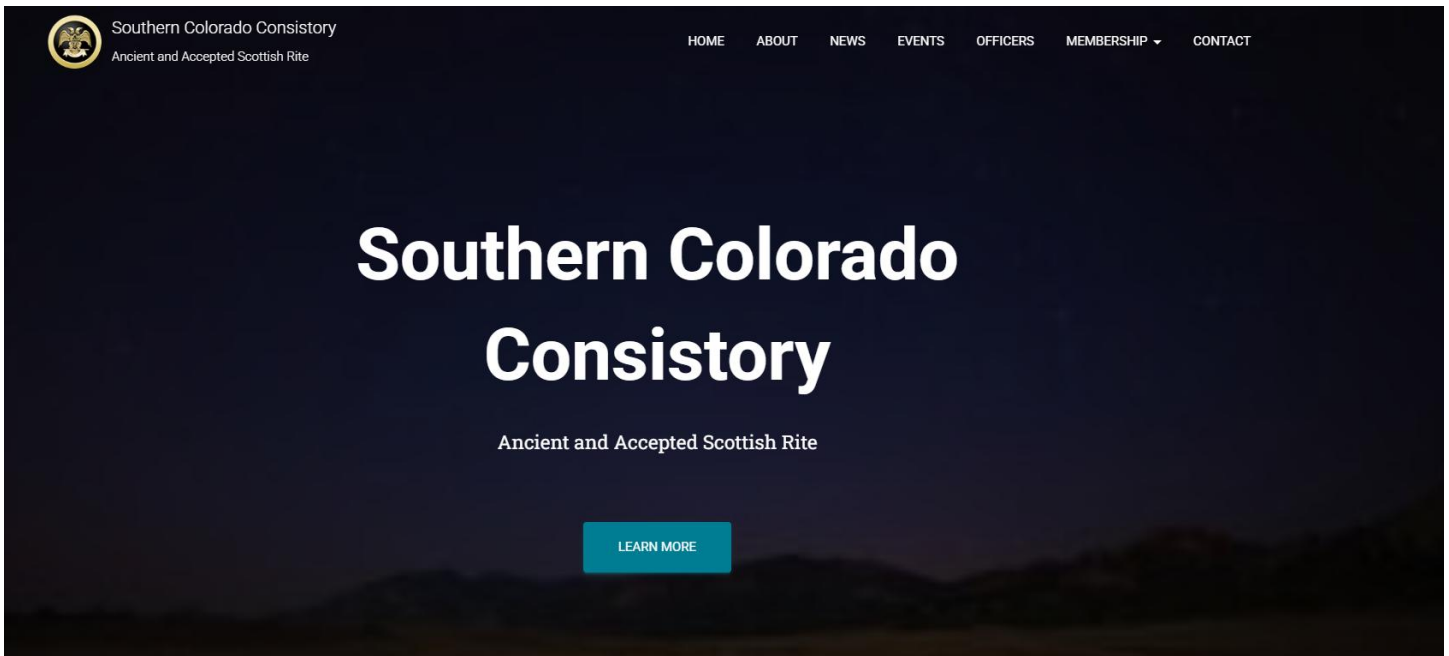
with your Worshipful Masters, and if you wish, ask myself or our Director General to join in the conversation. We have a lot to offer every single Lodge and every single Brother.

I'm looking forward to a great 2026!!



Ralph Newby 32° KCCH
Newsletter Editor

Have you seen our Southern Colorado Consistory website?



It provides access to the current and past newsletters in case you delete them. I try to keep the events up to date. It also provides you with a list of officers for the current year. You can use the Membership link to direct brothers who might be interested in joining the Scottish Rite. Please let me know if you find something on the website that needs updated or ideas for improving it with more valuable information. As I am typing this, I can think of needing an easier way to get to the link to the petition page, perhaps putting it on the home page. My email is ralphnewby@yahoo.com. Ralph Newby - editor



Russ Rogers, 32°
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection

Greetings brethren! I recognize our bodies were just installed a couple of weeks ago and the Masters of each Scottish Rite (SR) body are likely still getting settled and organized, but I thought I'd take a few minutes to set some context on my emails out to the leaders last week. One of the primary responsibilities of the Lodge of Perfection is to ensure we have a financial roadmap allowing us to meet our obligations but also to continue growing our investments so the Scottish Rite continues prospering in the long term. It's a two-prong strategy that requires us to manage our expenses and income on an annual basis and carefully monitor and govern the investment accounts to ensure they continue growing.

Our bylaws require the creation of two separate committees for this work, The Finance Committee (FC) and the Endowment Committee (EC). In simple terms, the FC considers all the financial obligations we owe and categorizing those into things we consider mandatory versus those we consider discretionary spending. This is critical because we understand the dues we receive each year are less than what we need to spend. To augment that shortfall, we look to our two investment accounts. The key here is ensuring we take the minimum amount from the investments so they can continue growing as quickly as possible. As an example, if we have \$700k in our General Fund (one of our two investment accounts) and we ensure at least 10% growth each year for 10 years, that account will have more than doubled to \$1.5m dollars. This is the growth we're looking for to ensure our Consistory's financial foundations are solid.

It's this time of year when I reach out to the leaders of the bodies asking for volunteers from each body to work on the Finance and Endowment committees. These men will be instrumental in ensuring our financial future. You can think of it along the lines of ensuring your personal retirement accounts are strong and will carry you and your family well into the future. I'd encourage you to get involved and learn how this process works, what our constraints are, and we're working to ensure longevity. The committees will meet separately a few times a year, primarily online. Your participation helps keeps the process transparent and ensures we are taking into account the opinions of the various men and their SR bodies.

Thank you to the teams who worked so diligently to get us on the right path last year. I'm looking forward to working with the new teams as we execute our 2026 budget and plan for our 2027 budget. In this case, it really does take many masons to build a strong and lasting temple.



Blake Simmons, 32° KCCH

Wise Master

Chapter of Rose Croix

Hello Brothers, as I am sitting here in my hotel room in Grand Junction for the Grand Lodge Session, I have been thinking about the Masonic Family. We often hear about how we need to fully dedicate our efforts to the body which we are a member, Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shriners, and others. We seldom talk about how we are all Masons regardless of which body we are members of or how many. As we all know, we all start with our Blue Lodge experience. Clearly stated, the degree of Master Mason is the highest degree that a Mason can attain. However, if we truly wish to receive that which we ask for in those three degrees, Light, or more properly said, Enlightenment, then there are additional bodies to assist us in our Masonic Journeys. Scottish Rite is universally referred to as the University of Freemasonry. It is not better, smarter, or more elevated. It is like the courses of continuing education offered in colleges and Universities. You learn more Masonic concepts from other sources, historical, diverse, and varied. It is knowledge that comes from throughout different cultures and times which are as valid here to us today as it ever has been. You also widen your connection of Brothers and most importantly, gain more Enlightenment. Your Rite is the European, Primarily English extension of the Blue Lodge experience in Royal Arch, continuing into Cryptic Council and then for those who Choose, the Knights Templar. In a very Brief explanation, you learn many more things about the furthering of the original three degrees, a deeper spiritual endeavor, and commitment to Brethren, Humanity and the Supreme Deity. The Mark Master degree in fact, is part of the Blue Lodge experience in England. It is now offered in Colorado at certain different locations and times. Shriners are often referred to as the entertaining body and fun group with their involvement in community parades, the Al Kali Mule Team, the traveling RV group 'Nomads', many other events and groups, and more. They are also a body where your wives can be involved, and much more. It is the largest Charitable organization of all Masonic bodies with the Shriners Children Hospitals, although each has its own charity which they support,. I am going into all this, because we as Masons need to make every effort to bring our Masonic Family together rather than keep them separate.

I appeal to each of you, my Scottish Rite Brothers to find out more about the brothers in your Blue Lodges. Engage with them, if they are not Scottish Rite Brothers, invite them to open meetings, starting with the April 1st Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony so that they can experience some of what we do and meet the Brethren. Secondly, ask your Blue Lodge brothers what type of education they are looking for as that is the number one answer to the question of what are we looking for more in the Blue Lodge experience. We in Scottish Rite are dedicated to offering education to our Blue Lodges. Feel Free to email me with your information as we are working toward creating a library of education programs for these efforts. Let us all share the Light throughout Masonry and build the bonds of our Masonic Family strong and everlasting. This is our calling and our blessing.

As always, I thank each one of you for all you do for Masonry.



Craig Fabec, 33°
Director General

Brothers,

We are less than 90 days away from our upcoming reunion.

I will be reaching out to Degree Masters soon about getting practices on the calendar. We still have some parts that need to be filled, and I will discuss those at our February meeting.

As we are always trying to improve and bring the best experience to our candidates and brothers, I am looking at slowly expanding the degrees we present. If anyone is interested in helping form a cast for the 22nd Degree "Prince of the Royal Axe" please let me know. It is my goal to add this degree to our November reunion after prep work and practices.

We have a great year ahead of us!



Michael Mabbit, 32 KCCH
Director of Degrees and Departments

What is this thing called the Scottish Rite

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry serves as a profound framework for personal evolution, anchored by the foundational motto *Ordo ab Chao* (Order out of Chaos), which challenges us to bring structure, discipline, and wisdom to the inherent uncertainty of life and the human spirit.

This pursuit of internal order is deeply connected to the obligation of bringing light to darkness—the intentional, active dissemination of knowledge over ignorance—a theme often reinforced by the companion phrase *Lux in Tenebris*.

As we progressed through the degrees, we were tasked with the duty of self-improvement, using philosophical tools to transform the "rough ashlar" of our character into a polished stone fit for a "wiser and better world". This journey is not solitary but rooted in the sacred, unbreakable bonds of brotherly love, perfectly encapsulated by the 14th-degree motto, *Virtus junxit, mors non separabit* (What virtue has joined, death cannot separate), affirming that moral excellence creates connections that transcend mortality.

Ultimately, the Scottish Rite calls us to live with profound intention, acting justly and upholding duty to God, family, and country, recognizing that every action is a building block in both personal spiritual development and the betterment of humanity. By emphasizing core values such as integrity, tolerance, and service to humanity, the Rite transforms us into a "soldier of the light" against ignorance and apathy. It teaches that every action, thought, and word is a crucial building block in the ongoing project of personal spiritual development and the conscious improvement of humanity. Through this continuous dedication to self-improvement and moral action, the Scottish Rite encourages us to become better versions of ourselves, ensuring their lives are a positive force in both the community and the world.

This lifelong, inward journey of ethical development directly translates to a outward positive force, fostering a commitment to humanity that strengthens local communities and promotes a better world through charity, toleration, and truth. Ultimately, the Scottish Rite transforms good men into better citizens, ensuring that their actions contribute to a lasting, positive impact on society.

Installation of Officers



Installation of Officers



**Let PRUDENCE direct you; TEMPERANCE chasten you;
 FORTITUDE support you, and JUSTICE be the guide in all
 your actions**



Z R W T V Y S D E M I T O B D I E S E W H A T W P P K O G B
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 W A C W Q J A E I Q U U D D G M A L B Y N C G K L S T A C F
 Z E J P F L L V V D S B B Z L U Y T U N D U J F C D R J E H
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**Aaron
 Abraham
 Acacia
 Accepted
 Accord**

**Deacon
 Death
 Degree
 Demit
 Destitute**



**Blue Lodge
 Boaz
 Brazen Pillars
 Brethren
 Book of Constitutions**



**Clandestine
 Cable Tow
 Cabul
 Candidate
 Canopy**



**Eavesdropper
 Edict
 Emblematical
 Embroidered
 Esoteric**

**Faith
 Fatherhood of God
 Feast
 Fellowcraft
 Fidelity**



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www.sococonsistory.org

Grand Lodge Members: <http://members.grandlodgeofcolorado.org/>
Promotion Of Masonry: www.beafreemason.org

CALENDAR

February 4, 2026 – Council of Kadosh in Charge

Meeting closed

Details

7:00 PM - The Traitor Discussion by Craig Fabec

March 4, 2026 – Lodge of Perfection in Charge

Meeting closed

Details

7:00 PM - 9th and 10th Degree Overview and discussion

April 1, 2026 – Rose Croix

Meeting open to public

Details

7:00 PM - Remembrance and renewal



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Jason A. Bednarek

Ronald G Book

Norman L Bryant

Jon Earle Busick

Gerald A Byassee

Joe R Caven

Thomas S Eagle

Kendall L Esgar

William Arthur Haaren

William R Heath

Leon A. Howell Jr

Terry K Lingle

Chad M Merfeld

Paul Richard Nigro

Mark Stephen Pesut

Felipe V Pinero, Jr

John Frederick Reinking

Donald B Russell

Karl E Shanstrom

David Shipley

Timothy J Sigler

Steven R Stanek

Michael L Thacker

Larry C Ward

Eric Brian Weddington



Memorial Scroll

Name
Charles R Honaker

Date
12/14/2024

Notices received since December 26, 2025

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, Jim Wiley 32°; Senior Wardens, Aaron Langevin 32° and Blake Simmons 32°; Junior Wardens, Aaron Langevin 32° and Blake Simmons 32°. If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Blake Simmons, 32° for more information.



Southern Colorado Consistory Quill & Scroll Guidelines and Staff

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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 Word 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°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Colorado



Barry Nightingale, 33°
Personal Representative
Valley of Colorado Springs - Pueblo



Russ Rogers, 32°
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection



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



Charlie Kendir 32°
Commander
Council of Kadosh



Edwin Alas 32°
Master of Kadosh
Consistory



Zach Smith, 32°
Almoner



James Wiley, 32°
Prelate



Treasurer



William Twyman, 32° KCCH
Secretary/Recorder/Registrar

Support your

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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!