Quill & Scroll

Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)

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September 2026 **Web Site:** SoCoConsistory.org **Email:** sococonsistorysecretary@gmail.com

Brothers, note the new email address for the secretary in the header on this page. The previous address was not being monitored, and we did not have ready credentials to access it. – Ralph Newby, editor



Ill Barry Nightingale, 33°
Valley Personal Representative

My Brothers,

Welcome back from what I hope were some GREAT summers, to a Masonic Year of fellowship and education!!

We have an exciting Reunion in early November. Please consider the Master Masons of your Lodges as possible candidates. Think about their commitment to Masonry, their desire to learn more about our Craft, and their willingness to commit the time necessary to be a contributing member of our Consistory.

- And even if a Mason is not yet ready in your view, be sure to begin "planting seeds" with him, telling him about the Scottish Rite, and how it might contribute to his Masonic growth.

- Bring him to our open meetings, and let him see what we have to offer.

And of course, we want to continue to offer our support to all Lodges, in assist them with their Educational Plan development, and to offer some educational presentations with them from time-to-time. We want to help the Craft Lodges develop their existing members, and contribute to the growth of their Lodge by providing a valuable experience to all of them.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the September meeting of the Consistory!!



Russ Rogers, 32°
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection

Welcome back, my Brothers! I hope your Summer treated you well and gave you time to recharge with family and friends. As I was reflecting on the calendar, it struck me that September is basically the start of our "New Year" here in the Colorado Springs/Pueblo Scottish Rite. We've all had a couple of months to rest and recoup, and now we're stepping into a fresh cycle of work, learning, and fellowship.

As the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, I can't help but point out that a new year is the perfect moment to revisit and realign our priorities. What worked for you last year? What didn't? Did you accomplish what you hoped, or make the impact on your communities you intended? If not, don't despair. You've been blessed with yet another opportunity by the Grand Architect.

In the eloquent words of Harold Hill from *The Music Man*: **"You pile up enough tomorrows and you'll find you've collected nothing but a lot of empty yesterdays."** In other words, the time for action is *today*. And I know what you're thinking: "Brother Russ… what opportunities?"

Our Consistory is made up of four bodies: the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and the Consistory. Each body has its own officers, responsibilities, and areas of focus. For example, the Lodge of Perfection oversees the Feast of Tishri (coming up in October!) and carries much of the responsibility for the 4th through 14th degrees. Every body has its own goals and personality, so find the one that resonates with you and consider volunteering to join the line.

And speaking of opportunities… November is Reunion time! Easily one of my favorite parts of the year. We get to welcome new Brothers and watch them experience the beautiful and meaningful rituals that define each degree. But Reunion takes a village, and if you're not interested in being in a line, there are *plenty* of ways to contribute: acting, sets, lighting, sound, classroom instruction, meal service, and helping with the formal dinner. There is truly a place for every Brother who wants to be part of the work.

Be sure to check out the Feast of Tishri flyer in this newsletter. The sooner you RSVP, the more responsibly I can plan the financials. We've got great activities lined up, and the food is going to be fantastic. As always, reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Welcome back, Brothers. Let's make this a year of Light, purpose, and fellowship.



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

Let's begin with why Masonry? Each man must decide why he wants to be a Mason, what he expects from masonry in his life, and when he becomes a Master Mason, where he goes from there.

This is the road we as Masons, all travel. There are many reasons Masons join Scottish Rite. Some follow family traditions " my father or grandfather was a 32 ° Mason, so I want to be one". Some simply want to be able to say they are a 32 ° Mason even though the 3rd Master Mason degree is acknowledged as the highest degree in Masonry. Some wish to meet more Masons and extend their brethren, and some are searching for more knowledge.

As for me, being fully honest, it was all the above, but most of all, I was seeking more knowledge. Did I achieve what I came to do. YES, and most importantly, I am simply on a journey that has no end as I keep learning with every step along the way. I often liken Scottish Rite to 'Continuing Education.' You get your elementary education in the EA degree, then move into the middle years of education in the FC degree and finally finish your initial education in the Master Madon degree, like graduating from High School. For many, the journey then becomes a personal journey of growth. But for those seeking more, Scottish Rite offers the continuation education. Often called the 'University of Freemasonry ' it offers a defined and structured system to learn, grow, and expand your knowledge in your never-ending search for more enlightenment, supported by like-minded brothers, and more experienced Masons. For those just wanting to follow family legacy, check off the acquisition of the 32nd degree, or just meet more Masons, I say, there is so much more. Whatever your initial reason, be aware that Scottish Rite Masonry is a selective organization looking for dedication to the craft, service, to the organization and brethren, and most of all to the accumulation and expansion of knowledge. This is the true Diamond in the gemstones of this part of the Masonic Craft. I have learned so much, but most of all, that I have so much more to learn. How wonderful a journey it is. Being with such fine, intelligent, dedicated, and knowledgeable men is a true blessing.

Brothers, reach out to Masons in your Blue lodges and share with them, support them, and if they are interested, assist them in becoming a Scottish Rite Mason.

What greater gift can you give to a brother than to help him on his journey? You might just find out it helps you in your journey as well.

Remember the words of Albert Pike.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others, and the world remains and is immortal."

As always, just the thoughts of one Mason.



Charlie Kendir 32°
Commander
Council of Kadosh

Brethren,

Why do we keep coming back?

After taking the summer off from this newsletter, I have been thinking about what it means to return to something.

In Masonry, and especially in the Scottish Rite, it is easy to think about our journey as a progression. We move from degree to degree, body to body, and sometimes office to office. We talk about receiving “further light,” and I think we naturally assume that light is always something new. I am not sure that is always the case...

Some of the most meaningful lessons I have gotten from Masonry have come from revisiting something I had already seen before. A degree may not mean much to us the first time we see it. A line from ritual may sound interesting but not really stick with us. Then, sometime later, something happens in our lives that makes us think about it differently.

I wrote about something similar in May. While watching a World War II documentary, I found myself wrestling with a question that the 18th Degree had already put in front of me. I had received that degree before, but I do not think I really understood that part of it until I had a reason to.

That has made me think about what it means to “receive” a degree in the first place. We can sit through a reunion, watch the work, hear the lectures, and walk away having received the degree. But that does not mean we are done with it.

In some ways, I think the reunion is just the introduction.

The real value comes later, when we come back to those ideas with more life experience behind us. The symbol has not changed. The lesson has not changed. We have.

This is probably true throughout Masonry. The working tools we learned about as Entered Apprentices mean something different after years in the Craft -- the common gavel is a most powerful tool in the hands of the Worshipful Master. A degree we barely remembered can suddenly become relevant. A line of ritual that we have heard dozens of times can jump out at us for reasons we did not expect.

Maybe that is part of why we keep coming back. Not because there is always another degree to receive or another office to hold, but because there is still more to understand in the things we have already been given.

As we get back into our fall schedule, I would encourage everyone to revisit something. A degree, a symbol, a lecture, or even just a question that Masonry has put in front of you. You may be surprised by how different it looks the second time around.



Craig Fabec, 33°
Director General

Brothers All,

We are a few months away from our reunion in November.

Degree Directors will be contacting their cast and communicating any openings.

We still have a few spots open on the 21st Degree, I will be speaking to that at our Sept. Meeting.

For those that have not attended a reunion as a member, you are welcome and encouraged to attend. It does not have to be all three days or even a full day, stop in when you can. Please be in the appropriate lodge room prior to the degree starting. The classroom works a little different and you can stop in anytime you are free! I want to make a push for Saturday during our 32nd degree to have as many members as possible in attendance to welcome our new Masters of the Royal Secret.

I look forward to a great fall reunion!

The Quest

By Russ Rogers, Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection, SoCo Consistory

The man stumbles wearily through the crowd of people, feeling alone despite the throng of life churning around him. He's just another obstacle as they move forward in their lives, jostling like cattle in a chute. Sterile stone buildings rise from the sidewalks into the clouds, blocking out the light and the world around him. Signs and banners are proudly hung for people to see. The city is sweltering, heat rising from the cobble stones under his feet, causing sweat to run down his brow. He barely notices the good people as they pass quietly with a smile and nod. His anxiety has trained his focus toward the angry ones; the aggressive ones. They press harder against him, threatening to break through the hardened, rough stone armor he's created to protect himself over a lifetime of conflict, trouble, and suffering. He thinks he's safe, but he's never certain. He seeks hope.

He continues walking along the familiar road and soon passes a hospital where children rest on the dirty, stone steps outside. They're afflicted with a variety of ailments, some missing an arm, or part of a leg; some unable to speak. Yet they do their best to smile with their friends, telling jokes, laughing, and playing. It saddens him to see children so young struggling so deeply. He deposits the bag of sandwiches he's been carrying at the feet of the children. Only a few others from the crowd stop to help, offering what they can. The man smiles despite himself, "The world needs more of that". He seeks solace in the world.

Further along he passes an aging widow, standing alone on a corner. Her back no longer able to bear the weight of her belongings, her bag lies open on the dusty ground next to her. Dirt clings to the tracks under her eyes where tears once flowed, perhaps as recently as this morning. She has come here seeking aid from anyone who sees her. The man pauses to drop a few dollars into her basket, careful not to injure her with his rough stone exterior and offers her a consoling smile. She smiles back, reassured that someone in the crowd acknowledges her. He thinks to himself, "Surely I'm not the only one who sees her struggles." He seeks understanding.

He's passed this way before, many times. The road here is worn and used, but his destination is often overlooked despite its prominence. The building he seeks has been a constant fixture in this city, its façade always changing, but its intent remaining steadfast. Sometimes the building resembles a majestic temple with Corinthian columns rising high into the air. Heavy wooden doors with engraved door knockers guard the entrance.

But as he approaches, he notices that today the building resembles an old farm building, perhaps from a dairy farm. The sturdy marble walls have been replaced by rough stones, hewn by the Earth, seemingly for just this purpose. The columns transformed into tall ponderosa pines standing watch over the building. The door, now no more than a plain wooden door without a knocker.

One constant has always remained despite the building itself; the Square and Compass. The man has asked his friends about this place and sought answers online. Some plead ignorance to the secrets held within, thinking it to be nothing more than a relic of the past, its true purpose lost to time. Perhaps this is where lonely, old men go to die. But to him, this symbol has become a quiet lantern and landmark for him, a reminder that perhaps he can still shape his life into one filled with purpose and understanding.

Yet others grow angry when asked, as if this quiet, mysterious place is a threat to their beliefs. "The things we don't know or understand are dangerous", they state. "Surely there is evil within!". They bristle when he asks why they believe that. But the man decided years ago that ignorance of a thing doesn't make that thing evil. If this were true, then the Creator would also be evil, because surely man cannot fully

understand his own Creator. He's been searching so long for refuge from a seemingly hurtful world around him, and this place beckons to him. The man has pondered the pain and suffering in the world, and he's seen this same symbol on the headstones of forgotten men in the cemetery. "Perhaps it is within man's ignorance, pride, and intolerance that we find evil and pain.", he thinks to himself. The man made the decision last night to visit this building today, and to learn what secrets it holds, no longer content living in darkness. He's seeking Light.

He ascends the 15 steps to the outer door of the building. The Square and Compass shines above the door. Looking down out of nervousness of the unknown, he realizes there is a hole in knee of his pants, but he continues anyway. He's been drawn here. The voices of men laughing inside reaches his ears, strengthening his resolve. The man knocks three times at the simple wooden door, and the voices inside go quiet. Bits of the stone that have been protecting him fall away to ground outside the door. Looking down in surprise, he sees the remnants of stone from other men, swept into piles to the side. The door swings open gently, and a smiling face appears from the darkness. "Welcome, friend. Who comes here?" The man is invited inside, and as he steps into the candle lit darkness beyond, the sharp edges of his stoney exterior begin to fall away, revealing the parts of himself he has been searching for all along. He has found shared purpose in the fraternity.

Feast of Tishri

Presented by the Colorado Springs / Pueblo Valley







A Celebration of Thanksgiving and Unity

Wednesday, October 7th, 2025

All masons and their families are welcome!

Colorado Springs Masonic Center

1150 Panorama Dr., COS, CO 80904

Guests will enjoy a quick social at 6:30pm followed by dinner ($25 per person) at 7:00pm. Our "Feast of Tishri" presentation will follow dinner, where traditional toasts will be observed.

Menu: Smoked brisket, roasted vegetables, a starch, bread, dessert

Please RSVP by the following link before midnight on Sep 30th, 2026: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/a7xkJFYz0g



Point of Contact: Russ Rogers, 32°

719-659-7111, russ.rogers@centurionlodge.com

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

CALENDAR

September 2, 2026

Meeting closed
Hawaiian Shirt Night

Details
7:00 PM

October 7, 2026

Feast of Tishri
Meeting open

Details
Social at 6:30 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM $25 per person. See flyer above for more information

November 4, 2026

Meeting closed

Details
7:00 PM

November 5-7, 2026

Fall Reunion

Details in October

December 2, 2026

Meeting closed

Details
7:00 PM
Officer Election and Installation



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Roscoe A Ake

Christian James Allen

Marc J Appiano

Ralph B Baumer, Jr

George A Benson

Gordon Bevill

Wm Keith Book

Ricardo M. Chavez

Franklin A Clark

Robert R Cook

James S Eaches, Sr

T'Christopher Gardner

Michael P Garman

Jerome L Hansen

John J Harrington

Michael Edward Hattaway

Larry R Heersink

Robert W Isaacs

Rex H. Ishmael

Ian S. Kayler

Terry L Kershaw

John O Larson, III

Joseph D Law

Lawrence S Martin

Frank E Meacham

Larry G Moore

Barry D Nightingale

Larry E Page

Randall L Pieper

Paul D Ray

Denton R Roberts

Steven J Roshek

Nicholas F. Ruybalid

Ralph Singmaster

Noble Spencer, Jr

Dale E Spradley

David L Tennis

Jake Velasco

Bailee J Velasquez

Charles Wade Wood



Notices received since May 26, 2026

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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Web/social media – Ralph Newby, 32° KCCH ralphnewby@yahoo.com 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 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



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Sovereign Grand Commander



Karl J. Hinkle, 33°
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Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix



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Treasurer



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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!