

AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE  
ATTN. GENERAL SECRETARY  
207 W. 18TH STREET  
AUSTIN, TX. 78701



AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE  
ORIENT OF TEXAS - VALLEY OF AUSTIN

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## VIRUS!!!

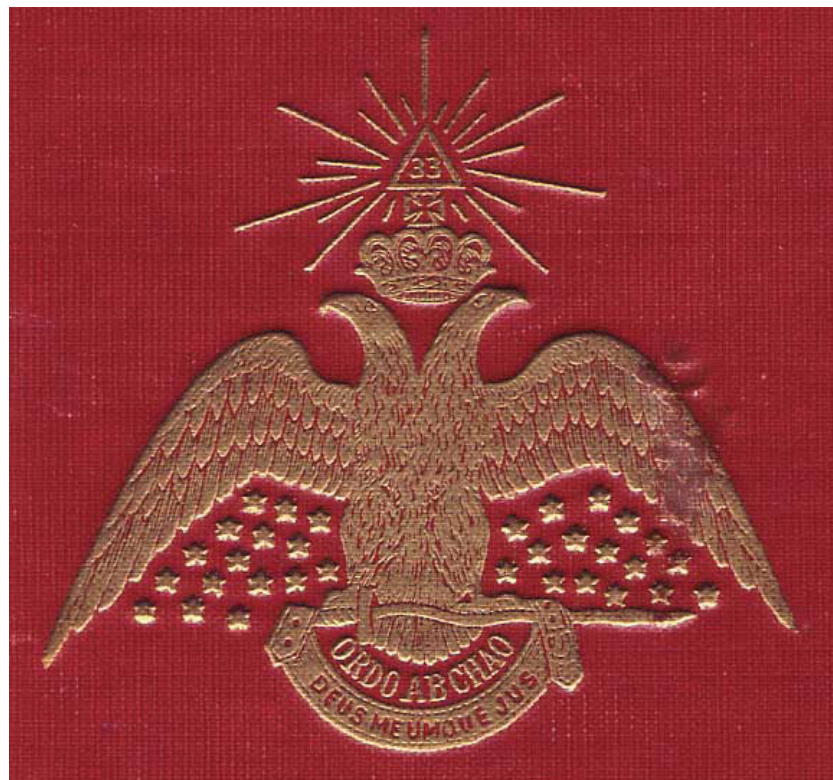
Article by Brian Vance

No word or phenomenon has evoked such a broad based litany of consequences in a very long time. It has become a staple of the press and a tool of the politician. It has disrupted our lives in so many ways. It has raised questions of our rights, our consideration of others, and the way we communicate and interact with each other. Frequently, questions about it are asked to make a point instead of to find the truth. To divide rather than unite. It has brought death and sickness to our doors all too often, and fear even more often...

But the consequences are not all bad. In our strategic planning sessions we realized that the necessity of remote meetings opened our eyes. We can use the ability to "pipe in" new and different content and enhance our physical meetings when we reopen. To be sure, this is no new concept in the world of technology in which we live. But it has taken this current environment to put it in the forefront for our meetings. We also set out to enhance our communication with our members. In the following year more channels and better communication will come from the Valley. Just remember that communication is a two way street. To put out good news and content we need your Masonic news. Thanks to Brother Siemes we now have emails for almost all members. In just a few short years he has doubled the number of emails we have. The virus helped precipitate a call program to touch base with you. All of us making the calls found it fun, fruitful and rewarding.

So as we look back over the past "year of the virus" we can be heartened by our own outreach to each other. The willingness of most of you to continue your rolls for an additional year is most gratifying. Blue Lodge members reaching out to the loved ones of sick brethren and holding prayer vigils at the hospital have touched me beyond words.

My hope and prayer is that the strengths and kindnesses shown and the lessons learned over the last year are the longer and more pervasive results. These actions are the very foundation of our Masonic tenets. Relief through brotherly love will stand us in good stead. My favorite 65 year Mason, my father, used to tell me, "You can tell a mason by the way he behaves and the way he treats others." As the last year has precipitated among us very noble behaviors let's look at it as a renewal. If we do it right. If we live our lives by those values we believe in, it will be seen by those around us. The exhibition of friendship and brotherly love, the belief in a Supreme Being, and the kindness shown our fellow man can spread to those around us. They will spread it to others. It can go viral. Maybe that's the real virus seeded in the last year.



## 2021 OFFICERS

### Fidelity Lodge of Perfection

<b>Venerable Master:</b> David Hill	32°
<b>Senior Warden:</b> James Baker	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Junior Warden:</b> Ben Ryon	33° I.G.H.
<b>Orator:</b> Danut Prisacaru	32°
<b>Almoner:</b> James Baker	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>General Secretary:</b> Don Eames	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Treasurer:</b> Keye Perry	33° I.G.H.
<b>Prelate:</b> Arthur Vanderbilt	32°
<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Irakli Mirzashvili	32°
<b>Expert:</b> Andy Barclay	32°
<b>Assistant Expert:</b> William Lewis	32°
<b>Captain of the Guard:</b> Brian Haulotte	32°
<b>Tiler:</b> Paul Rana	32°

### Philip C. Tucker Chapter of Rose Croix

<b>Wise Master:</b> Craig Hammons	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Senior Warden:</b> James Baker	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Junior Warden:</b> Richard Garrett	32°
<b>Orator:</b> David Hill	32°
<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> David Bourland	32°
<b>Expert:</b> Dennis Hill	32°
<b>Assistant Expert:</b> Ron Roberts	32°
<b>Standard Bearer:</b> Paul Rana	32°
<b>Guardian of the Temple:</b> Matt Whitaker	32°



## YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED

Brethren,

I would like to remind the members that the Austin Scottish Rite has a good supply of American and Texas flags to be donated from your Blue Lodge to area schools. Illustrious Brother, Dr. Robert Northcutt has generously donated American flags flown over the U.S. capital and state flags flown over the Texas capital on dates commemorating milestones in history. These flags are available to be picked up at the building from the General Secretary and presented to area schools on behalf of your Blue Lodge. By donating these flags to the schools, your Blue Lodge generates goodwill and recognition of our Fraternity in your community. Please arrange a time with the General Secretary to pick up flags for your Lodge. The price of these flags is a photo of your Lodge making the donation so that we might encourage other Brothers and Lodges to do the same. The Brothers from Mina #1456, Craig Hammons from Norton Moses #336, and Brian Haulotte from Texana #123 are pictured making donations on behalf of their Lodges.

### James D. Richardson Council of Knights Kadosh

<b>Commander of Kadosh:</b> Jose Velez	32°
<b>1st Lieutenant:</b> John Brengle	33° I.G.H.
<b>2nd Lieutenant:</b> Fernando Albornoz	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Chancellor:</b> Raul Scully	32°
<b>Orator:</b> Garrett Moxley	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Eduardo Contreras	32°
<b>Turcopilier:</b> Scott Conn	32°
<b>Draper:</b> Rick Smith	32°
<b>1st Deacon:</b> Mohammed Ali	32°
<b>2nd Deacon:</b> Alex Ortiz	32°
<b>Bearer of the Beauceant:</b> Matthew Whitaker	32°
<b>Bearer of the White Standard:</b> Byron Webster	32°
<b>Bearer of the Black standard:</b> John Wallace	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Lieutenant of the Guard:</b> Paul Rana	32°

### Austin Consistory

<b>Master of Kadosh:</b> Alex Ortiz	32°
<b>Prior:</b> Jonathan Felger	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Preceptor:</b> Garth Weaver	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Chancellor:</b> Philip Bates	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Minister of State:</b> David Hill	32°
<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Matt Whitaker	32°
<b>Expert:</b> Raul Scully	32°
<b>Assistant Expert:</b> Brad French	32° K.C.C.H.
<b>Captain of the Guard:</b> Chris Enders	32°



## GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

In addition to the administrative responsibilities and paperwork in the General Secretary's office my service to the Fraternity includes correspondence and phone calls from our members and a surprising number of non-members requesting information or questions regarding the Scottish Rite. It is a challenge as some of the questions require responses that are not included in the General Secretary's instruction book.

My office has responded to requests from a neighborhood gentlemen whose father had passed away here in Austin but was a member of a Scottish Rite Valley in Florida. He had wanted a Scottish Rite or Masonic memorial ceremony as the remains were cremated and there was no burial. After verifying his status in Florida and getting approval from the Grand Lodge of Texas, the Brothers from Austin Lodge 12 graciously provided a touching ceremony for the Brother from Florida and his Family. The gentlemen who requested the ceremony was deeply touched and appreciative for our service and stated it was exactly what his father would have preferred. This gentleman lives across the street from our Temple and has been to Theater productions but had never talked to Masons until then.

I often received requests from families asking to donate their relatives Masonic and Scottish Rite regalia as there were no male descendants to pass them on to. I have received many books, pins, caps, and on occasion, aprons. I have indicated to the families that we will find an appropriate home for these items and they will be deposited in a place of honor amongst our treasures. They have related that they are thrilled that someone might get some use out of them in the future.

I will have to say that one of my favorite activities related to the office of General Secretary is communicating with the members. I have heard so many great stories from fighter pilots who had served our country and was forced to parachute from his plane in Alaska to Brothers from other jurisdictions who are trying to find records of their grandfathers and great grandfathers who were Austin Scottish Rite members. I enjoy the conversations and interesting stories I have heard in my short service to the Valley.

Although the work is tedious at times, my reward is serving the membership and being associated with so many good Brothers. I have at times considered writing these stories down as a record of the rich life our Brothers have experienced. These are just some of the activities in the General Secretary's office that keep the job interesting and rewarding. I urge you to take time to listen and maybe write down some of the stories you hear.

Brethren,

A lot has happened to the Austin Scottish Rite Temple over the past five years!

In July of 2016, the Theater Board began the restoration of the auditorium's starry ceiling. Wall-to-wall scaffolding was erected, which was necessary for restoring the torn and stained fabric, dressing up the stars and double eagle with 24-karat gold leaf, and putting a fresh coat of paint on the new fabric. While we were at it, theater seats were reupholstered, a new control booth was built and the stage floor refinished. Next came the blackened hardwood floors in the lobby. Theories abounded concerning whether to restore or replace, but ultimately the right person for the job was found, who patiently removed the accumulated layers of wax to reveal a resplendent parquet floor, practically in mint condition. Thus, the lobby regained its former elegance.

In 2018, the Board contracted Alamo Elevator Company to modernize the failing Otis elevator. The undersize elevator shaft precluded the use of a replacement elevator, so custom-made Hollister-Whitney pulleys and components were manufactured and meticulously installed, along with state-of-the-art digital controls and modern safety equipment. To cut costs, we kept the existing elevator car that had been generously refinished several years earlier by Illustrious Brother John Tolbert.

Additional projects came in 2019 and 2020, featuring the renovation and safety modernization of our commercial size kitchen and more recently, the Heritage Grant Project, which included painting, sealing and refinishing wood surfaces, as well as painting the entire exterior of the building, and the restoration of 13 original sash windows that had remained covered for the past 70 years.

Nearly \$1 million dollars has been spent on these projects over the past five years, while the Theater's cash and investment assets grew from about \$180,000 to over \$325,000—and impressively—the Theater has been able to operate in the black during the 2020 and 2021 budget years, despite being shuttered due to the Covid19 restrictions placed on public places.

On the horizon, the Board has approved a bid from HTS Austin to replace the Temple's aging HVAC system, which has been a thorn on our side for decades. The \$110,000 modernization project include new variable speed motor and fans, compressors, new tailor-made condenser coils that feature a bionic ionizer that uses an electromagnetic strip to destroys airborne pathogens including Covid19. This will be a great comfort for school districts when we renew our children's programming in the Fall. The new HVAC system will be completed in June 2021.

Brethren, these accomplishments are due to the hard work of the Board of Directors and the Theater's dedicated staff. These Brothers include Britt Kaufmann, Dennis Hill, Ron Roberts, Personal Representative Brian Vance, Raúl Scully, General Secretary Don Eames, Andrew Gray, and Emeritus Board Member Jim Wells. Our staff is led brilliantly by Producing Artistic Director Susan Gayle Todd and her dedicated assistants Deanna Belardinelli, Vicki Yoder, and June Podlech. The next time you run into any of them, Brethren, stretch out your hand and greet them warmly, and thank them for their commitment and dedication.

Finally, if you have not attended an Austin Scottish Rite Valley Stated Meeting in a while, do not miss the next opportunity to attend, so that you can enjoy the fellowship with your Brethren and see the many improvements made to the Temple.

Fernando Albornoz | Board of Directors President | Austin Scottish Rite Theater



HONORING AND REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

Name	Deceased Date	Name	Deceased Date
Taylor, Harold Barton <b>KCCH</b>	2/6/1997	Kille, Wallace Eugene	5/10/2018
Tigert, George Wilton	3/1/1998	Turner, William Keith	5/19/2018
Wallace, Joe Sanders	9/9/1999	Luther, James Leslie	5/21/2018
Cagle, Joseph William	6/22/2006	Alexander, Max Dale	5/23/2018
Jackson, Oran Prentice	4/27/2007	Mills, Richard Thompson	6/19/2018
Swenson, Vincent Curt	9/28/2007	Bunnell, Donald Haycraft	8/20/2018
Poole, Billy Joe	3/2/2009	Henley, Horace	9/27/2018
Faust, Frank Elam	11/1/2009	Robinson, Grant Derwood	10/15/2018
Griffith, Joseph Henry	3/10/2010	Saxon, Sam M	11/22/2018
Jones, Alvin Lafayette	9/29/2010	McNair, Billy Joe	11/30/2018
Hamilton, W A	9/17/2011	Jackson, Jiles Worley	4/23/2019
Easter, Charles Lee	1/1/2012	Craft, William Joseph	5/11/2019
Goodson, Horace Neil	3/20/2012	Thompson, Jerry Lee	5/12/2019
O Hara, Daniel James	9/5/2013	Goodnight, Thomas Luther	5/18/2019
Farrow, Richard Eugene	4/15/2014	Douglass, David C	6/4/2019
Hill, Eldon Luther	4/21/2014	Landers, Willis R	6/10/2019
Morgan, Pat	6/2/2014	McBeath, William Sherman	6/13/2019
Montfort, Rodney Givens	8/8/2014	House, Lawrence Ray	8/8/2019
Roman, William Buchanan	12/3/2014	Welch, Richard Caruthers	9/9/2019
Haydon, Elmer Ross	3/30/2015	Horton, Henry Allan	9/24/2019
Neel, George William	5/11/2015	Steadman, Leroy Eugene	10/3/2019
Lewis, John Wilbur	7/6/2015	Connally, Donald Warren	10/7/2019
Stem, Tracy Sidney	7/30/2015	Mays, Web K <b>KCCH</b>	10/13/2019
White, John Patrick	9/1/2015	Damerau, Norman Goodall	11/4/2019
Coggin, George Abner	9/25/2015	Slauenwhite, Dennis Randolph	11/21/2019
Haigwood, Harold Dean	11/1/2015	Hinds, Billy Jake	12/3/2019
Viviano, William	1/6/2016	Blanton, Olin Maxie	12/5/2019
Mortimer, Monroe Clayton	3/7/2016	Stout, Lynn Coltharp	1/22/2020
Simons, Milton Joseph	4/12/2016	Lehtonen, Alfred John	1/24/2020
Chamberlain, Walter Stirling	5/26/2016	Mohn, John Ole	1/31/2020
Parker, Paul James	9/9/2016	Proffitt, Ernest Dale	2/1/2020
Henry, Marvin Marion	9/10/2016	Hoskins, Alvis Gray	3/4/2020
Schneider, David Bryan <b>KCCH</b>	10/8/2016	Rye, Stephen Tristan <b>33°</b>	3/21/2020
Hunter, Kenneth Dee	10/22/2016	Siegeler, Jimmie Dale	3/27/2020
Aaron, Carl Millard	10/27/2016	Ferguson, Malcolm Douglas	5/26/2020
Sherrard, James Lamar	11/1/2016	Brown, James Logan <b>KCCH</b>	5/28/2020
Schooley, William Lewis <b>KCCH</b>	12/8/2016	Day, Leon Leroy	5/31/2020
Hargrove, Billie Lloyd	12/22/2016	Korts, Larry Ingraban	6/2/2020
Holmes, Milton	1/5/2017	Usrey, Robert Wise	6/14/2020
Benson, Calvin Coolidge	1/13/2017	Prochnow, Marvin Willie	7/31/2020
McHenry, John Sylvanus	1/18/2017	Arbuckle, Herbert Cromwell	8/15/2020
Dempsey, C A	2/12/2017	Beck, Marvin Eugene <b>KCCH</b>	9/30/2020
Wise, James Riley	3/17/2017	Ellis, Morris Leslie	10/5/2020
Gassenmayer, Paul Carl	6/24/2017	Milton, Vernon Ray	10/19/2020
Fleck, Benjamin Thomas	8/17/2017	Rogers, Doyle Wayne	10/24/2020
Mittel, Henry	11/19/2017	Denton, Wayne Eugene	11/24/2020
Catching, Boyd Don	12/14/2017	Hain, Russel Edward <b>KCCH</b>	12/7/2020
Robertson, Reuben B	1/23/2018	Casebolt, Jerry Lowell	1/23/2021
Brazzell, David Wayne	2/11/2018	Harris, Roy Duane	2/4/2021
Blackard, Robert Neal	3/5/2018	Ray, Robert L	3/9/2021



First of all, I would like to thank all of the members of the Austin Valley for their support over the years and their continued support of the goals of the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation (SRDF). As you may know, SRDF (formerly the Scottish Rite Learning Center) has not operated a brick-and-mortar school building since 2015. However, the proceeds of the sale of the building are still used to help children with learning disabilities. Today, SRDF continues to pursue its mission as a non-profit foundation by funding training and professional development for teachers and providing educational opportunities and therapies for children who are reading disabled.

Dyslexia is a learning disability that makes it difficult to read, write, and spell in spite of normal intelligence and adequate school instruction. It is caused by the brain's inability to process information received from the written word. Students with dyslexia need to be taught in a different way. The Scottish Rite Hospital has developed a highly regarded curriculum of dyslexia therapy instruction for teachers, known as "Take Flight." SRDF provides grants and scholarships for teachers to pursue certification in that and other specialized programs. Dyslexia cannot be cured, but it can be overcome, and properly trained teachers can provide our kids with hope for the future.

Children with dyslexia who have an opportunity to compensate for their impairments can grow to be quite successful. Some famous people you may have heard of who have dyslexia are Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Spielberg, Tim Tebow, Cher, and Henry Winkler. My own brother-in-law is dyslexic but he has earned a Ph.D. and speaks seven languages. Without the proper resources and support, dyslexia can often leave eager students feeling self-conscious and inadequate. Overcoming those impairments does require some specialized therapies and educational tools.

The Board of SRDF is committed to expanding those resources to help as many children as possible. Recently, our Board has added a school administrator and several new directors who are Scottish Rite Masons. We also hold fundraising activities, so watch for those.

Please consider donating to SRDF through your dues payment or donate online at any time by visiting: <https://www.srdyslexia.org/>. You may also donate by mail: Make checks payable to Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation, Scottish Rite Temple, 207 W. 18th St., Austin, TX 78701-1308.

James Rader  
Chairman  
Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation, a non-profit charity under Internal Revenue Code



Brothers, even though we had to endure some dark and trying times, we are about to return to a new normal. I am excited about all the new opportunities that the Austin valley has to offer each one of you.

The Collegium is offering some of the best masonic education available. Join other interested brothers in discussing the degrees, history and philosophy to gain a deeper understanding of masonry in general and the Scottish Rite in specific.

The Book Club discusses books about Scottish Rite degrees, history, philosophy, and more. Enjoy invigorating conversations with fellow masons. Currently meetings are still held virtually until such a time that everyone feels safe and comfortable to meet again in person.

The valley is preparing for its first reunion since 2019 and the reunion director is looking for volunteers to help fill out the degree teams.

If you are interested in a more hands-on participation, reach out to the Sanhedrin, and help the stage crew, lighting and sound, costumes or supernumerary (non-speaking extras) groups.

The Garde Manger, aka the kitchen crew, is also asking for help. If you enjoy cooking or even just being social and help serve food while engaging the diners in friendly conversations, this would be for you.

If your talents are more administrative and you enjoy filing, organizing and office tasks in general, reach out to the VMAP committee, membership committee or the General Secretary.

Finally, if you enjoy using power tools and have experience as a carpenter, painter, artist, electrician or other such crafts, we can definitely use your talents to help rebuild some of the sets for our upcoming reunion.

If none of the above strikes your interest don't worry, you can always participate simply by joining us and enriching the meetings with your fellowship. After all, brotherly love and affection is one of the core tenants of our fraternity.

~ Marc