

# EL PASO SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN



NO. 662

<http://www.elpasoscottishrite.org>

3RD QUARTER 2023

## Message from the Commander of Kadosh



My Brethren,

As many of you all are already aware, I recently had an exciting opportunity to be a guest on the El Paso History Radio show. Since that time, I have thought a good deal about what I learned from that experience and how we might use a platform like that to get ourselves better known in the greater El Paso community. Having open discussions with non-Masons is an opportunity for us to let the wider public know who we are and what we do.

The main reason that the radio show opportunity came up was most likely due to the terrible and unfortunate arson attack on our beloved Scottish Rite Temple. It seems that with this event, like many others, when something terrible happens it is often that people pay attention more than they usually would to people and places involved in such incidents. Naturally people are curious and want to know more and of course why these things occur. I think this was the case that may have sparked further interest in the Scottish Rite among the public, especially that of the media who wanted to cover the story. This in turn most likely led to the IHeart Radio station wanting essentially to find out more of what happened with the fire and the damage it caused.

The radio show program which I was invited to attend when first introduced to it was something I thought would be more of a thorough history of Masonry in El Paso in general, however it turned out to be more of question-and-answer type of conversation more than anything. There was not a need for a great amount of detail in the people involved in bringing Masonry to El Paso, nor as to who was specifically responsible for getting the Scottish Rite Charter to El Paso, it wasn't even so much as to how the building came to exist, it was more about finding out who we are and what we do as Scottish Rite Masons.

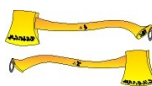
During this interesting conversation, the host of the radio show program, Andrew Polk, was very knowledgeable about the general history of Masonry in El Paso. He also had a good understanding of the fraternity in general terms as well. This is something that he picked up from his father, Jackson Polk, who from what I understand had a great deal of knowledge of Freemasonry, especially that of its history in El Paso. So, everything I presented was not necessarily new material to Mr. Polk, however, it most likely was new to many of the listeners of the show. This got me thinking right away that the audience may have had more of a curiosity about what we do in the Scottish Rite building rather than the building itself. So, I then proceeded to explain on the show, without of course giving away any of the secrets of Freemasonry, the purpose of Scottish Rite Freemasonry and Freemasonry in general. The main issue I wanted to be sure to emphasize was that we Masons are there primarily to serve our communities, which we do so effectively by making good men better.

This my brothers made me reflect a lot on what we can do to get our message out there so that the public knows more about who we are and what we do. I would suggest brothers that when asked about our building we can simply tell people of our overall purpose and that is once again serving our community by making better men for that community. That way, when people see the building as they walk by it, or as they see it on their way to the ballpark, it is not simply ignored as a mysterious old building but rather it's a place where men of different faiths come together to learn from each other and dwell in peace and harmony. Hopefully this can be a way to which we can contribute more light into the community so that they know that the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry in general is a true and positive influence in the world.

Thank you my brothers, for allowing me the opportunity to spread our message out into the community from the radio show program, hopefully this has brought positive attention to the Scottish Rite here in El Paso and for Freemasonry overall. I encourage all of you my brothers to never be afraid to explain to people who we are and what we do, for the more light we can we can brighten the community with the better.

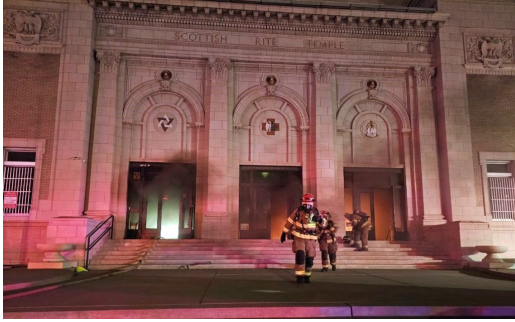
Respectfully and Fraternally,

Joshua S. Miller, 32°  
Commander  
El Paso Council of Kadosh



# VALLEY NEWS

## From the Secretary's Office

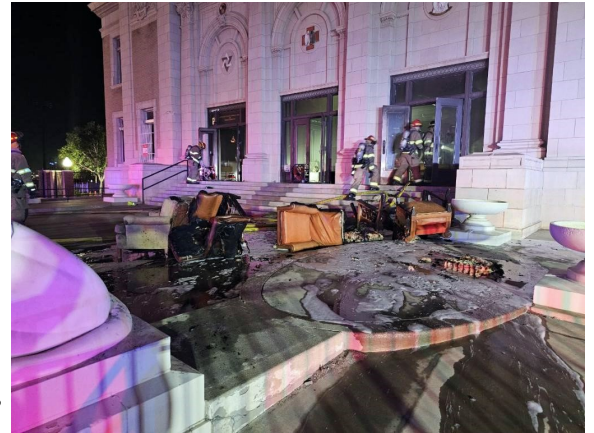


Brethren:

With the exception of our members who do not have an email or do not use social media, I believe everyone is aware of the arson that occurred at our Temple in the early morning hours on July 24, 2023. To recap, we sustained substantial damage to our lobby, library, stairwell, second floor landing, pictures and artwork, and the small lobby near our elevator. The theater foyer sustained smoke damage and the Scottish

Rite business office sustained major smoke damage as did the office computers, printers and electrical devices. We were very fortunate that our theater/auditorium, upstairs Lodge room, Museum, costume room and basement dining room were not damaged by the fire. Our security system and fire alarm system worked as they should. When the alarm was sounded the Fire Department was on site in seven (7) minutes. We believe our security alarm interrupted the arsonist as he came prepared to do further damage.

Several law enforcement agencies were involved in the investigation, and we turned over security video footage to them which they used to identify and arrest the arsonist. The suspect was arrested by Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) on federal arson charges and is being held without bail pending trial. We do not have any idea why our Temple was targeted.



The most unfortunate news we have to deal with is the fact that our Temple building itself is not insured. The Orient of Texas and many other Orients whose buildings are over fifty (50) years old, are denied insurance for building/property coverage. We do have coverage for contents, fine arts, collectibles, personal property, and office property. We have had a number of independent adjusters on site submitting damage estimates to our Insurance Company and we are awaiting the last of those reports to be submitted by the adjusters. We are attempting to get estimates from fire remediation companies which hasn't been easy. One company, after their inspections, declined to give us an estimate, two other companies also declined to give an estimate, admitting the scope of the repairs exceeded their capabilities at the present time.

Our Board of Directors will be meeting in the near future when all the reports and Insurance Company communications have been received and plan our course of action. We will keep the membership updated on our progress.

We have received some generous donations from our members to be put towards the Temple repair. I want to sincerely thank those members for their generosity and assure you that these funds will go directly toward the repairs. I believe it will take quite some time before we are back to normal, but we will get there.

Fraternally,

Larry V. Kane, 33°  
General Secretary





*Our most sincere sympathies and condolences to all the families of our members who have passed on to a better life*



Charles R. Deems, 32°  
Billy Joe Kennedy, 32°  
Rollen C. Langford, 32°  
Charles R. Massey, Jr., 32°  
Carl L. Selinger, 32°  
Jimmy Lee Smith, 32°  
Vance A. Smith, 32°  
Laddie R. Stowe, 32°  
Bill R. Archer, 32°  
Michael W. Whalin, 32°

02/16/1931-07/12/2016  
08/14/1936-02/06/2023  
04/11/1930-07/06/2022  
10/26/1924-07/05/2023  
04/18/1934-06/01/2023  
07/14/1938-06/23/2023  
04/22/1936-07/11/2023  
11/17/1937-12/12/2022  
11/26/1934-06/14/2023  
07/07/1949-03/01/2021



**The Two Hundred-Sixty-Fifth El Paso Scottish Rite Fall One-Day Reunion**

Honoring

**III. Fred E. Haller, 33°**

October 21, 2023

**Has been postponed until further notice!!**

**We are proud to present the 2023 Honorees for the Valley of El Paso, selected by the Supreme Council in Washington, DC:**



William D. Burman, 32° KCCH



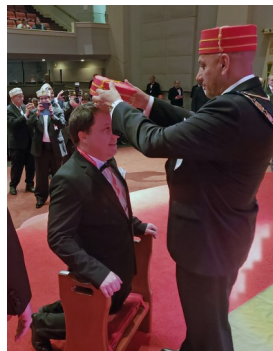
Barry J. Boetto, 32° KCCH



Jose A. Alanis, 33°



Joe D. Melton, 33°



The El Paso Lodge of Perfection El Paso Scottish Rite Bulletin Editor- Nicole Moran nicole@elpasoscottishrite.org Regular Meetings of all bodies Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m., **El Paso Lodge of Perfection El Paso Scottish Rite Bulletin** (USPS #170-540) is published four times a year by the El Paso Scottish Rite, 301 W. Missouri Ave. El Paso, TX. 79901-1131 Official Publication of the El Paso Bodies of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.



**ALLEGIANCE**

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry sitting in the Valley of El Paso, Orient of Texas, 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, of the Thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of South Carolina, now sitting at Washington, D.C. of which

ILL. James D. Cole, 33° is Sovereign Grand Commander and

ILL. Michael L. Wiggins, 33° is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas, and

Hon. Juan M. Navarro, 32° KCCH is Personal Representative of SGIG And Chairman of the Executive Committee Valley of El Paso

