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THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY FOR THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE IN THE ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

# THE RITE WORD

JANUARY 2015

Volume 9, Issue 1



## From the Personal Rep .....

Happy New Years to all and welcome to 2015!

As we close out 2014, a new corps of officers is soon to be installed (Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>), and it is time to look ahead to another wonderful year in the Valley of San Jose. I am so proud for all we accomplished this past year and I look forward to new achievements in 2015.

Our Valley started this past year on a happy and exciting note with the Installation of new officers. That emotion was quickly stifled though, as we lost a dear friend, Bro. Bob Rowan, our General Secretary. Bro. Bob brought much to our Valley. And his friendship and leadership was greatly missed with his passing. Trying to keep the Valley administratively going was like running in place, but I want to dearly thank Bro. Hank Vlcek, who stepped up to take the reins as General Secretary, and who helped us get back on track. Although a huge learning curve, our Valley did not lose stride and we were successful in all that we pursued.



As I stated earlier, our Installation is just around the corner (Tuesday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>) and I thank and congratulate all the officers for taking leadership roles within our Valley. Last Installation was disappointing in how few of our members were in attendance. I hope this year, many more of you will attend. It is our annual celebration of the new corps of officers and the time to celebrate the New Year. A huge thank-you to our four outgoing Masters, who made 2014 one of the best years our Valley has experienced. They can all be very proud of how they led our Valley.

Over the last couple of years, our Valley has taken steps to grow in membership and in holding events that are meaningful for the Valley and its members. If you have not been to a Scottish Rite event for a while, I ask that you come see what is taking place. I think you will be pleased.

This past year we held our 4th Annual Grand Master recognition "Festive Board" where we honored our Grand Master, his lady and his special project. We look forward to this year in having Most Worshipful Russ Charvonja and Lady Linda join us for this year's event. We were also very pleased this past year, to host our Grand Commander, Ill Ron Seale. His presentation was spell binding and we were able to exhibit to him just how strong our Valley is. Thanks to Bro. Gregg Hall who made the event possible. This year, we will again hold two "Nights of Instruction" banquets chaired by Bro. Chuck Cowden. Bro. Richard Fisher is again chairing our Scholarship Committee, as we will honor another graduating senior on their way to college. This month, at our Stated Meeting, we will again honor the Masters of our Blue Lodges as they complete their term sitting in the East of their particular lodge. We exist only because our Craft Lodges are strong and we wish to honor the men who have held our lodges together. This has become an annual event, and I hope you will all come out and help us honor those who have kept our heritage strong.

We will continue some traditional events like our Maundy Thursday Celebration, Sweethearts Night, as well as 25 year and 50 year membership celebrations. And naturally, we will hold our Semi-Annual Reunions for new members this Spring and Fall. ( CONTINUED on page 8 )

A SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE PUBLICATION

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God Bless all who have graciously donated! Thank you!



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We, the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation (TIN 94-2541623), hereby certify that all funds received on the behalf of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation, The Children’s Language Disorders Clinic, and/or the San Jose Scottish Rite Scholarship funds are used for charitable purposes only and the donor receives no goods or services in return for their donation.\*



**Rite Word Support  
for 2015**

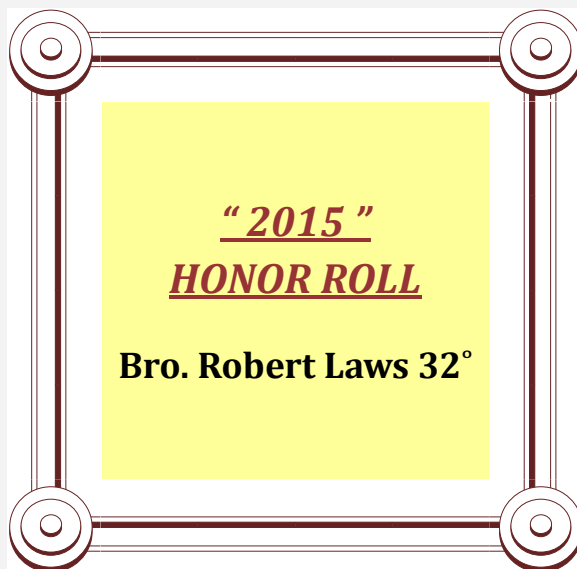
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**Get your annual gift in for 2015 Honor Roll and be placed on the Honor Roll !**

**San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies**

Ancient &amp; Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

**2014 ~ Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Senior Warden	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Junior Warden	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32°	408-985-5996
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Hank Vlcek, 32°	408-578-6208
Captain of the Host	Bro. Martin Maxey, 32°	831-402-4903

**2014 - Chapter of Rose Croix**

Wise Master	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner 32°	408-505-1822
Senior Warden	Bro. Cordell H. Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Junior Warden	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	831-685-3416

**2014- Council of Kadosh**

Commander	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Will Montoya, 32°	408-274-1137
2nd Lt Commander	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Jose Pulido, 32°	408-205-6432
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Richard Bartlett, 32°	831-331-3342

**2014 San Jose Consistory**

Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408 -656-2459
Prior	Bro. Richard Rosenberg, 32°	650-494-8792
Preceptor	Bro. H. "Bud" Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-838-3730
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Shaker Nazer, 32°	408-554-9234
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Bill Mattson, 32°	408-771-1872

**2014- General Officers**

Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Assist. to the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
General Secretary	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32°	408-757-1774
Prelate	Bro. Mike Sloan, 32°	408-365-8266
Almoner	Bro. Jerry Best, 32° KCCH	408-712-5370
Orator/Librarian	Bro. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Bro. Tom Tefft, 32°	408-229-9460
Club Liaison	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	831-685-3416
Assist. Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749



**Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander  
Supreme Council A.A.S.R.  
Washington, D.C.**



**Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California,  
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite  
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.**

**Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation**

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
Secretary	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32°	408-757-1774
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Bro. Jerry Best, 32° KCCH	408-712-5370
Director (exp 9/30/2017)	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408 -656-2459
Director (exp 9/30/2017)	Bro. H. "Bud" Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-838-3730
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Venerable Master	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Wise Master	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner 32°	408-505-1822
Commander	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408 -656-2459
Assist. To the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277

*The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of San Jose, in the Orient of California, acknowledge and yield all 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 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.*





Brian is an inquisitive little boy with a wonderful sense of humor. Brian has been working on his articulation and language skills twice a week for the last year. He has made great gains, and is currently working on producing /z/ in the final word positions of his sentences and conversation. We are also beginning to try the tricky /r/ sound and “th” at the beginning and end of his words. Brian works very hard while enjoying a good laugh from time to time.



Brian’s mother, Mrs. Hamilton, was referred to our clinic by Brian’s school, Mandala Children’s House. Mrs. Hamilton notes that before receiving services at the San Jose Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Clinic, “Many people could not understand him and he seemed to be frustrated at school while communicating with the kids and teachers. He seemed to drop beginning and ending sounds or mispronounce the sounds altogether. Since treatment began, Ms. Jenna has been amazing and helped him correct a lot of his speech sounds in words and sentences. Now Brian seems to be a more confident speaker. We can certainly understand him more easily and even our adult friends and his previous speech therapist mentioned to us they noticed a difference. The most rewarding part about receiving services at the Scottish Rite Clinic is that my son now speaks more clearly and his performance at school has improved. We cannot believe that the speech therapy services here are free! My son is very lucky that he gets to receive twice a week speech therapy services for free for 18 months. The program is absolutely unbeatable! Without the clinic and his wonderful Speech-Language Pathologist, Ms. Jenna, Brian would not have shown this much progress and improvement. The San Jose Scottish Rite Childhood Clinic is a great program with a family friendly facility that helps kids gain confidence in their speech. The Scottish Rite Clinic and the clinicians are very friendly, helpful and efficient. The clinicians are focused, professional and provide high quality speech and language therapy. Thank you so much!”

## "2014" Clinic Christmas Party

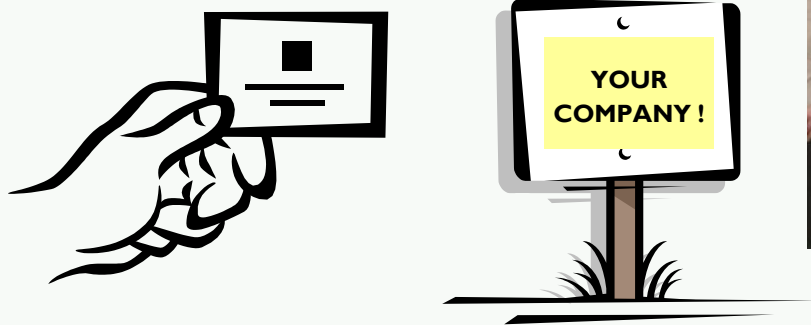




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Shut Ins

<u><b>Raymond Ruhland</b></u>	5068 Trenary Way, San Jose, CA. 95118-2626	408-267-5569 Visitors most
<u><b>Jack Harris</b></u>	1066 Camino Ramon San Jose, CA. 95125	408-314-6124 Calls/visitors Welcome!
<u><b>Greg LaFavor</b></u>	6700 Buggywhip Ct. San Jose, CA 95120	408-268-5847
<u><b>Orville Hanel</b></u>	800 Blossom Hill Rd. San Jose , CA. 95032-3575	408/365-0805 Would like visitors please!

Permanent Shut Ins

<u><b>Ralph V. Sharp</b></u>	7010 Stagecoach Pass Show Low, AZ 85901	<u><b>Visitors Welcome!</b></u>
<u><b>Alvin Wong</b></u>	1163 Carolyn Ave. San Jose, CA. 95125-3223	<u><b>408-293-6583</b></u> <u><b>Visitors welcome !</b></u>
<u><b>Robert Gass</b></u>	c/o : VA Nursing Home Care Rm.258 4951 Arroyo Rd. Livermore, CA 94550-9650	*****

*Please remember those brothers that are shut in. A friendly call or note from a fellow brother would be a warm and appreciated gesture. Though, they cannot always be present , they are certainly not out of mind. We wish them all the best. God Bless.*

**Called from Labor**



Please remember to notify us when a fellow Brother is ill, in need, or has passed to the other shore. We are not always contacted in a timely manner. Scottish Rite is here to assist! Please feel free to call anytime!  
(408) 978-7483



## A Word From the Commander.....

Wow, here we are at the end of the Scottish Rite year. I can't believe January is upon us, and we are about to install a new corps of officers. It seems like only a few days ago, we started on the 2014 year for our Valley.

This past year has seen a number of fabulous activities, including our trip to New Orleans, the wine-tasting excursions, our tailgate party, our Nights of Instruction, the Military honors night, and of course, two Reunions. It has been a fun-filled year, and one many of us will long remember.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as the Commander of the Council of Kadosh this year, and I wish all the best to the new officers, as they embark on the journey of 2015.

I hope you enjoyed this Scottish Rite year as well, and I hope you keep coming back, to enjoy the fellowship that thrives in the Valley of San Jose.

Please make sure you are on hand for our Stated Meeting on January 13, and will come out for the Installation of Officers on January 27th. Help us kick off the New Year right – with you here.

Again, thanks for the chance to serve you this past year. I look forward to even greater things in the coming year.

**Randy Downey, 32° KCCH**  
**Commander, Council of Kadosh**

## Charitable Giving Made Easy!

*Generate income for you and your family and help the charity of your choice through a Charitable Gift Annuity.*

When you make a donation of \$5,000 or more to our Charitable Gift Annuity program, you will receive quarterly income based on your age and the corresponding rate as set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. You can choose which Scottish Rite charity you want your gift to benefit, like the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign, Scholarships, and the California Scottish Rite Foundation.



### Benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity

- Fixed income for life
- Significant tax deduction
- Competitive rate of return
- Capital gains tax advantages

### Choose Your Charity

- The Rebuilding the Temple Campaign
- Scholarships
- California Scottish Rite Foundation

### Example: \$10,000 Gift Annuity

Age 50	3.7%
Age 60	4.4%
Age 70	5.1%
Age 80	6.8%
Age 90+	9.0%

These rates, current as of 2/27/14, are for a single life Gift Annuity. Rates are set annually by the American Council on Gift Annuities and fixed for life at the time of your donation. Gift Annuities are not available in some states.

This chart is for illustrative purposes and is not intended as legal advice. Please consult your attorney or financial advisor. A Gift Annuity is an irrevocable gift, not an investment. It is not insured by the federal or any state government, but is backed by the assets of the Scottish Rite.

**To learn more about the Gift Annuity Program, please contact Major Donor Officer Donald W. Heath, 32°, KCCH, CFP® at 1-858-335-2070 or [dheath@scottishrite.org](mailto:dheath@scottishrite.org).**



### Continued From Page 1 from the Personal Rep.....

Our degree teams continue to present outstanding and meaningful degrees. I thank each member of our casts for their dedication to our Valley. Now, we only need more candidates to witness the beautiful work being performed by our degree teams. This past year, we brought in approx. 20 new members. Hopefully, this year, that number will double. There are 25 lodges that make up our Valley's geographic area. Now, I know that every one of you know at least one member of your lodge that is not a member of the Scottish Rite. Wouldn't it be wonderful, if we had a candidate from every one of those 25 lodges that make up our Valley? Do I dare hope for two? You can help our Valley grow. Don't be afraid to expound on the great work of our Valley and invite that one member of your lodge to join with us.

Supreme Council, will again be in session this year. We will have the opportunity to recognize more of our deserving members as we elevate them to the rank of Inspector General Honorary or 33 Degree, as well as bestowing the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour or KCCH. I look forward to hearing the results.

The Masters of our four bodies have promised an exciting year, including a few social events to be sprinkled throughout the year. They have their work cut out for them to duplicate what we did this past year, but I know they are up to the task. This past September, a number of us traveled to New Orleans for an outstanding week. Bro. Randy Downey put together a great week of activities including a meeting with our Brothers from the Valley of New Orleans who treated us to some good food and fellowship as well as exemplifying their Scottish Rite version of the First Degree. It was a trip of a lifetime. Thanks Randy for all your efforts. Please come out and participate in those activities that get scheduled for this year.

Our Foundation is still very strong, but we can always use a new contribution here or there to continue our work. Our clinic continues to do amazing things with our kids and I am very proud of what is being accomplished. For the past couple of years we have also made sizable contributions to the Grand Master's project (Raising a Reader), Masons 4 Mitts, recognition of our DeMolay leadership at their Annual Conclave as well as our Scholarship program to which I have previously spoken. We also made a contribution to the Rainbow Girls in their quest to purchase a new sound system for their Grand Assembly. (This year, the girls have chosen the Scottish Rite Language Disorders Clinic as their state project. Please help recognize them for their efforts on our behalf). We were also pleased to be able to make a substantial contribution to the Supreme Council's House of the Temple, refurbishment project during our Grand Commander's visit.

The last item I would like to speak to is communication. Please let us know how we are doing. What would excite you to return to an active role? Our Valley is here to support you, but I need to know your thoughts and desires. Please contact me when you think we are failing. Let us know also, when you think we are doing well, but most importantly communicate. You are a valued member and we value your input. The Valley is only successful if you think we have done right. Let us know!

I look forward to seeing each of you over this coming year. Come on out and help make a difference!

***Ken Nagel, Personal Rep***

## Origins of the Scottish Rite

Many of our newer members, and probably a few older ones, may be a bit hazy about how the Scottish Rite began. This is meant as a quick refresher course. Read De Hoyos's "Scottish Rite Ritual" for an in depth coverage.

The origin of the Rite is almost as unknown as that of the Craft. As a Rite, it is definitely NOT Scottish., having its beginning as such in this country, and is distinctly American. The degrees which are the basis of this system actually came from France, and its forbear is the Rite of Perfection.

At the time of the establishment of the Grand Lodge in 1717 there were many degrees in existence, usually communicated as "side" degrees by individuals or Lodges. Some of them were fabricated in Scotland and were taken to France, which was fertile soil for the multiplication of degrees, one of them being the Ecosais, or Scotch Master Degree. It seems that, esoterically at least, Scottish Masons were much further advanced than the English. (Continued on page 9)





**Tuesday, January 13th, 2015**

**Assorted Appetizers**

**Old Fashion Braised Chuck Roast**

**Mashed Potato with beef gravy**

**Roasted Carrots with demi glaze**

**Caesar Salad**

**Assorted Rolls and Butter**

**Dessert**

**\$15.00 per person - With Reservations**

**\$20.00 Without**

**~ Vegetarian Entrée must be requested in advance !**



( Continued from page 8 )

### **Origins of the Scottish Rite, Continued....**

These degrees were incorporated in the Rite of Perfection, which flourished in France in the first half of the 18th Century. This Rite, which consisted of 25 degrees, is actually the fountainhead of our Scottish Rite system and was known as the Ancient Accepted Rite. The activities of this Rite largely centered in Bordeaux, the oldest provincial Masonic center in France. It was the Masonic home of Stephen Morin and the home port of the ship which sailed in 1761 with Morin, carrying all his important Patents, empowering him to propagate the Rite in the Western Hemisphere.

Morin never landed on the continent, but established himself in the West Indies. He commissioned Henry Francken as his Deputy, and it was Francken who came to New York in 1767 and established a Lodge of Perfection in Albany. Other Deputies were subsequently commissioned and a number of other bodies instituted.

From the time Stephen Morin landed in the Indies, many appointed Deputy Inspectors General in the New World were thriving on degree peddling and conditions in Sublime Freemasonry were becoming chaotic. The Founders of our Rite, long active and zealous workers in Symbolic Freemasonry and legitimately having the Degrees of Perfection, determined to bring order out of chaos.

They selected from several Rites the particular degrees they thought would accomplish this, and on May 31st, 1801, John Mitchell, 33°, and ten associates founded in the City of Charleston, South Carolina, the first Supreme Council, 33°, A.A.S.R., the Mother Supreme Council of the World, controlling a system of 33 Degrees.

12 years later, on August 15th, 1813, in New York City, a second Supreme Council for the United States of America was established, which afterwards it became the Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to which the Valley of Cleveland owes obedience. It has jurisdiction over 15 states north of the Mason Dixon Line and east of the Mississippi River, with a membership in 1997 of 323,000. The total number of Scottish Rite Masons in both the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions is approximately 600,000.



### *From the Wise Master.....*

A New Year has started, not only from an astronomical perspective, but also for us in our Valley. Our next sets of officers are getting ready to take on their new positions and duties. May their next year be as interesting, smooth, and joyful as this year. We had some changes, but that's what life is about. We had some very good moments, and we had good participation at our events.

I am looking back to a wonderful Maundy Thursday. My thanks again go to Richard Fisher and the ceremonial team for all the work and a solemn ceremony. We had several Passport Day casual wine tastings. Those that managed to participate had, I believe, a wonderful time.

For me, it is time to thank the officers in my line for their support during my year as Wise Master, and to wish them all the best and luck.

Fraternally,

**Wolfgang Lochner**

Wise Master

### *From the Incoming Venerable Master.....*

Brethren,

As the year winds down towards 2015, I look back on a year of great fellowship, fun events, outstanding reunions, and opportunities to further our Masonic education. I wish to thank Brother Joseph da Silva for an outstanding job. I wish to thank the Brethren for electing me as Venerable Master. I am fortunate to have outstanding brothers as Officers in this lodge, and we will be meeting to map out events to make this coming year a memorable one. Thank you again my Brothers!

**Jack Harris**, Venerable Master-Elect

### *From the Master of Kadosh,*

Brethren,

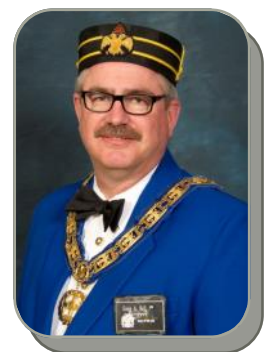
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our bodies as Master of Kadosh for the year. Also, thank you to all of my line officers this year. I think that, as a whole, this was one of the very best years I have experienced in our Bodies. We had a number of great activities, with the New Orleans trip, the Grand Commanders visit, Hornet Trip, Nights of Instruction, Wine Tasting trips, and other special nights. For those that came out and enjoyed the fellowship, thank you. For those that were unable to this year, please make it a point to join in with our activities next year. I think that we proved that our Valley is not just about a short business meeting and a dinner once a month, so join in and enjoy it.

I am sure that we will have some fun events coming up next year as well and it all starts with the election of new Officers and their Installation happening in January. I am looking forward to the changing of the guard. To paraphrase someone we all know— it is a grand and glorious time to be a San Jose Scottish Rite Mason!

Fraternally,

**Gregg Hall**

Master of Kadosh





# RE-you-NION

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April 10-11 / April 24-25 / April 28, 2015

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Office of the Secretary (408) 978-7483  
2455 Masonic Drive – PO Box 18220, San Jose, CA. 95158-8220

Fee: \$150.00 *(must accompany this petition)*

(Please print or type)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (If different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Present Blue Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Date Raised: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (If retired, previous occupation): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever petitioned for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees?: \_\_\_\_\_

I believe in the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. Wholeheartedly believing in the foregoing, I respectfully apply for membership with San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_





SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES  
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### **Future Scottish Rite Events**

**Thursday, January 1st ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**

**Tuesday, January 13th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm**

*Dinner after the Meeting, honoring the 2014 Blue Lodge Masters*

**Tuesday, January 27th ~ INSTALLATION of Scottish Rite Officers for 2015 @ 7pm**

**Tuesday, February 10th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm**

*Valentine's Dinner after the Meeting, honoring our Sweethearts*

**Tuesday, February 24th ~ SJSR Foundation Board of Director's Meeting @ 5:30pm**

**Tuesday, February 24th ~ Scottish Rite All Officers Meeting @ 7pm**

*"The Rite Word (USPS #3043) is published monthly by the San Jose Scottish Rite at 2455 Masonic Dr., San Jose, CA 95125.*

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