



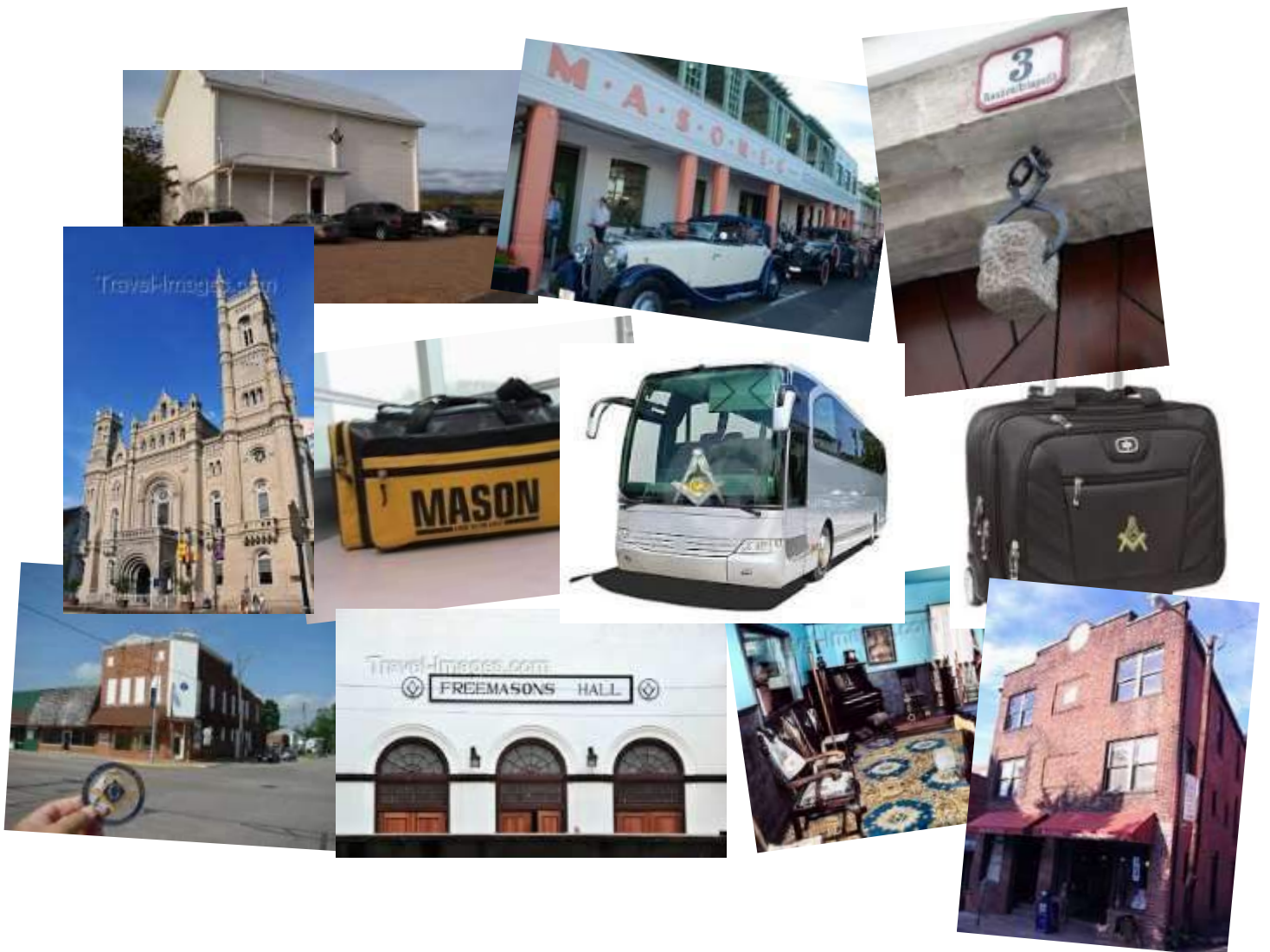
# Rite Words

*Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Orient of Arizona ~ Valley of Tucson*

160 S. Scott Avenue - Tucson, AZ 85701 - 520.622.8364 - [www.TucsonScottishRite.org](http://www.TucsonScottishRite.org)

Volume 61—Number 2

June 2018



Safe Travels, Brothers!

## FROM THE DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

I was recently handed an article from one of our illustrious brothers titled “What are we trying to Save?” The author is RW Thomas W. Jackson. It begins with a quotation “When you place your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last drop that has gone before and the first that is yet to come” He goes on to say “A man’s relevant position in history and our position in Freemasonry is at hand. We stand today as the hand in the flowing stream of Freemasonry touching the last drop that has gone before and the first that is yet to come. There is a distinctive difference, however between the hand in the water and us. The hand in the water has no power to change the ultimate destiny of the flow of water. But we, my brethren have the capacity and power to change the ultimate destiny of Freemasonry.”

I find this statement so profound and thought provoking. We have a history that transcends hundreds of years. Among our membership both past and present are many prominent men in business, politics, science, sports. We have among us brothers who are operative masons, carpenters, construction tradesmen and the butcher, baker and candlestick makers. What was the force that attracted us to this fraternity? We all stand on the level and subscribe to certain moral and ethical principles that we learn in the various degrees.

Sometimes it is important to pause and reflect on things in our lives that are meaningful to us. In my own life – Freemasonry is one of those meaningful things. In this hectic world we live in do we sometimes find ourselves just going through the motions. We regularly attend stated meetings, we open and close the lodge, we memorize ritual, and do many other things.

I strongly believe that things that are truly meaningful to us in life deserve lots of attention. But the type of attention I am referring to is more than just superficial “going through the motions” type of attention. It is much deeper than this and goes right to our inner core. It is the implementation of the moral and ethical principles that are to be applied in our everyday lives and our relationships with our fellow human beings. To me this is the true meaning of Freemasonry.

So we go back to the question “What are we trying to Save?”. I guess the answer depends on who you ask. If you ask 10 different people I am sure you will get 10 different answers. My personal answer to this question is we are trying to save a very important framework that is a guiding force in my live and a framework for relationships that I have with other people.

I challenge each of us to spend some quiet moments contemplating this question. Are we merely going through the motions – or are we acting upon the square and compasses and the other masonic tools that we encounter in our daily lives. Let us reflect upon that hand touching the flowing stream and the legacy we would like to leave for future generations of young men to experience the meaning of Freemasonry. The answer to the question is – Yes, it is worth saving and the responsibility of each one of us is to ensure we strive for these important values to be exemplified in our everyday lives.



*Ill. Bro. Eric Liebsohn, 33°  
Deputy of the Supreme Council for Arizona*

## Rite Words

Orient of Arizona ~ Valley of Tucson

Articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Tucson Scottish Rite. Submissions must be informative and relate to Masonry and/or be of general public interest. When possible, photographs illustrating these articles should accompany the submission.

The *Rite Words* is published four times annually, in March, June, September and December. **Deadline for submission of articles for the next publication is February 5, 2018.**

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## Tucson Scottish Rite 2018 Events Schedule

- 5/31-6/2 Grand Lodge Communication
- 9/27 Stated Meeting—Welcome back from Summer!
- 10/25 Stated Meeting—Feast of Tishri
- 11/2-11/3 Fall Reunion
- 11/8 Thanksgiving Celebration
- 12/13 Holiday Celebration

Check our website and Facebook page for updates and additional events ~ [www.TucsonScottishRite.org](http://www.TucsonScottishRite.org)

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### • IMPORTANT NOTICE •

Remember —

you will be asked to show your current Dues Card when attending Scottish Rite meetings and events.

## FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



**W**ell the Spring Reunion was a bust. We had 14 Degrees ready to go with the casts working hard to have a great reunion and only two candidates. We voted on five but sometimes life gets in the way of Masonry. One candidate

had medical issues and another had to be out of town that weekend and a third could only attend one day leaving us with only two. We can't expect our members to travel to Tucson from Northern Arizona and Sierra Vista for a small group (2) of candidates. The bright spot is that all five that we voted on stated that they will attend the Fall Reunion.

Some have complained about the \$300.00 fee to join the Scottish Rite. I don't get it, when I joined in 1983 the fee was \$225.00. It seems to me that a \$75.00 increase over 35 years is not out of line. It cost \$275.00 to become a Mason in my Blue Lodge. Anything of value has to have a corresponding cost. I know of some motorcycle clubs here in Tucson that cost their members \$40.00 per month, that's \$480.00 a year. I like to think we are a little bit better than a biker club.

On the bright side I restored to membership two brothers who were suspended for non-payment of dues. This should be a no brainer, if you know of a brother who is no longer a member why not ask him to come back. You only have to pay this years dues (\$95.00) to come back thanks to the Supreme Council allowing this as an incentive to return.

The Tuesday Crew is doing a great job taking care of some of the minor problems that develop in our building. I am happy to report that Bob Meisenheimer 32° KCCH has returned. Bob has a lot of experience working in the

building and it's great to have him back.

Summer is coming and we will soon be having 100° weather. This old building can get very warm so beginning in June the office hours will be from 9:AM until 1:PM M – F.



*Ill. Bro. Jeff Horton, 33°  
General Secretary, Valley of Tucson*



*Former Valley of Tucson Brothers Jedediah French, 32° and Joquin Munoz, 32° are featured in the upcoming "Fraternal Review" from SOCAL Research Lodge ... Bro French as Editor and Bro. Munoz as a contributor. Well done, Brothers! -Ed.*

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## FROM THE DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

It is one of the greatest honors in Scottish Rite Masonry to hear the words "I dub and create thee a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and may our Father in Heaven make thee a good Knight in the service of our fellow men. It comes at the conclusion of the investiture in the KCCH ceremony. The rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor was created at the insistence of Grand Commander Albert Pike on May 5, 1870. This honor is given for merit, long or distinguished service to the Rite, the Craft or to humanity, and is highly prized. Its purpose was and remains to honor those Brethren who have shown significant achievement, without diluting the 33rd Degree by increasing its number of chosen members. That was its sole purpose but in the nearly century and a half of its existence the Red Hat has come to mean much more.

As the current Commander of the Tucson Valley KCCH it has been suggested that I lead a discussion of what further purpose the group might take on to be of further service to the Valley. I sent out emails to all the KCCH Brothers I could reach asking for suggestions. What could the KCCH do to further enrich the Tucson Valley? What task could be assumed that would be of value to the Valley?

I received several suggestions. A couple of KCCH Brothers said that we should come up with some sort of fund raising scheme but neither had a plan for such a fund raiser. Forming a funeral team was suggested but opposition to that plan was based on the idea of jurisdiction since Masonic funeral services are usually handled by Blue Lodges.

It was also suggested that the KCCH take on a seldom enacted degree and present that once a year or form small teams to present education about degrees. Red Hats could teach classes about what the Scottish Rite is really about said one member.

I had planned to have what I hoped would be a lively discussion of any and all ideas at the KCCH meeting at the end of the first day of our Spring Reunion but unfortunately that had to be cancelled and the next meeting

will likely not be until the Fall Reunion in November.

Every setback should present us with an opportunity and a delay until November gives us plenty of time to further mull over and informally discuss these and other ideas. Let not the heat of a Tucson summer cause us to lapse into somnambulance.

We can use the time until November to come up with brilliant ideas that would give the Tucson Valley KCCH even more luster. Let that be our challenge for the summer of 2018.

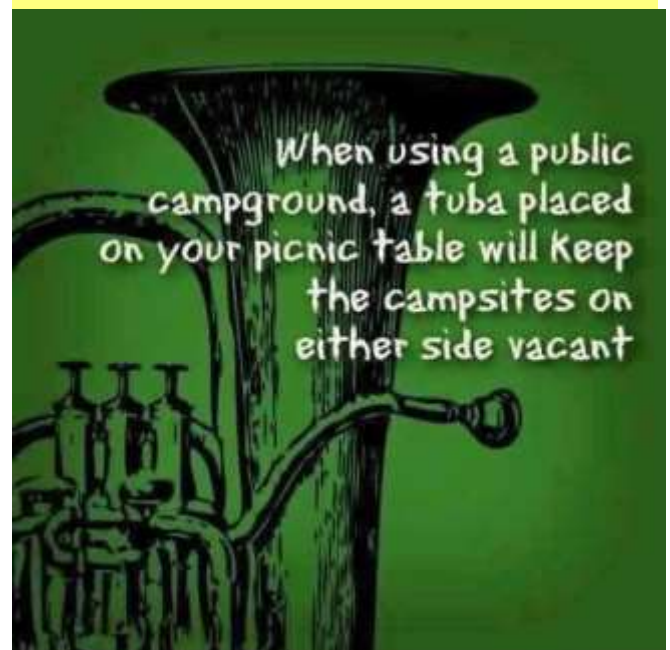


*Bro. Gil Schlierer*

*Commander Tucson KCCH*

## WE'LL BE DARK JUN, JUL & AUG

We want to wish all Brothers a good Summer break.  
But, in case you need some vacation advice ...



## Our Cathedral: What You Should Know

**S**cottish Rite cathedrals truly represent the core of Scottish Rite Masonry. In our cathedral, Masons meet for brotherhood, shared meals, further Masonic education through our 32 degrees, and contributions to charitable endeavors such as Wings-on-Words. It also provides appendant bodies with a dependable and attractive place to carry on their Masonic work. All this and more in a structure that is a national historic landmark and over 100-years-old.

The question is, how can our great cathedral afford to conduct the work of Masonry for our Valley? How can we pay the bills to heat, cool and maintain such a magnificent structure, one that many of us no doubt take for granted every time we set foot in it?

How can we adequately staff and maintain it while growing in membership and services? How do we support the work of our brothers and how do we support the needs of our programs? We are confronted with so many needs and challenges.

If you have read this far, it is hoped that you will read the rest of this article and give real consideration to becoming part of the solution to the above questions.

For over a century, our brothers have seen to it that this sacred place continues for future generations of Masons. I'm sure our Tuesday Crew views their work as much more than simple building maintenance. They too can always use help. Have you ever noticed the impressive power of our rooms? They are beautiful!

On a recent public tour— not Masons— of the Cathedral, there were many 'ooh's and aah's' in a number of the rooms, but half the tour basically came to a halt at the Egyptian Room. For example, Anubis, deity in ancient times, is one of the many attractions in the new Egyptian Room. Visitors were caught up in the room's impressive splendor. Many delayed their continuance of the tour and



stayed to have their pictures taken with the unusual but photogenic objects. We really do have a few jewels here that we should want to keep for future generations.

Not all Masonic cathedral experiences have been good for Masonry over the past few years. Scottish Rite facilities throughout the country have been experiencing hard times. With declining membership, other sources of funds have had to be found.

Our Special Activities program, led by Lynn Jager, has done much to augment our financial needs by hosting events such as Private Party Nights, Concerts, Conferences, Weddings and many other events that help us become recognized in the Tucson community. Other Scottish Rite bodies have also made real efforts to support our historic building. Nevertheless, the temple is in trouble! The temple in Phoenix has some money in the bank; they have an endowment of some sort and they rent that building out for lots of money. They're probably surviving on their rentals, just as is our Valley.

It all depends upon how much money you have in the bank. Where are we able to draw a percentage of our investments that will cover our operations, and how much should it be? Relying on our dues-paying



members and donations is not currently enough and never will be sufficient. Ill. Bob Hannon has updated us in the past about some of his related experiences. This historic building always needs money and personal, hands on attention.

There are a number of options we have to raise funds to benefit our Cathedral. These options could include ideas that would involve the public, not just Masons. They could include charity dinners, entertainment, auctions or raffles, tours of the cathedral, promoting Masonry and Scottish Rite, and more.

One such good idea was a Friends of the Scottish Rite Dinner (FSRD) as presented in the March/April issue of the Scottish Rite Journal. The article included a "How to Guide" that can be downloaded for tips and suggestions. The article can provide an idea of not only what can be done, but how to make it successful.

While the Rite Words will in the future be used to promote further discussion on the needs of our cathedral, I would ask anyone who would like to help in this endeavor to contact me.

Every Scottish Rite Mason in our Valley can do something. As with historic buildings, this beautiful piece of architecture needs all our help! Hope to hear from you. We can, together brothers, make a difference now and for the future!



*Bro. Art Montgomery, 32°, K.C.C.H*

*Venerable Master, Tucson Lodge of Perfection*

## FROM THE WISE MASTER CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

**I**n the Valley of Tucson, it is the privilege of the Chapter of Rose Croix to organize the annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal.

The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal is typically held in the month of the Spring Equinox, which occurred on March 20 this year. However, due to some casting and timing issues, the ceremony was postponed to April. The timing of this ceremony is very important,

however, as the Spring Equinox has long been recognized as a symbol of the end of a dark Winter and the new beginning of light and life we experience in the Spring.

When we combine the timing of the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal with the symbolism of the Chapter of Rose Croix, we begin to understand the message of the ceremony itself. Two of the key components in the imagery of the Chapter of Rose Croix are the cross and the rose. Most typically we see the cross with the rose laid upon it or with the stem of the rose encircling the cross and the beautiful blossom of the rose placed central on the cross.

For some the image of a cross triggers thoughts of death and sorrow. Yet for others the image of the cross indicates life and eternity. With either interpretation, a connection to the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal can be made. We associate the rose with beautiful new beginnings. A rose combined with the cross of death and sorrow could be interpreted as our immortal ray shining upon our new path or life with the creator. A rose combined with the cross of life and eternity could be interpreted as the dawn of our eternal life.

The message of the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal is for us to celebrate the lives (and new life) of our departed Brothers rather than anguish in sorrow. Of course, we may weep. However, we do not weep for the departed...we weep for the living. We weep for ourselves and the lives we will live without the enchantment of our fallen Brother.

I believe that this year's ceremony fully embodied the wonderful message it delivers. I thank all the cast for their efforts and dedication, and I hope that we served as successful hosts for the celebration of our departed Brothers' new journey ahead.

Peace be with you Brothers, until we meet again!



*Bro. Randal Jager*

*Wise Master, Tucson Chapter Rose Croix*



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- **California Scottish Rite Foundation**

### EXAMPLE: \$10,000 GIFT ANNUITY

AGE 50	4.0%
AGE 60	4.7%
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AGE 80	7.3%
AGE 90	9.5%

These fixed rates, current as of 5/22/18, are for a single life Gift Annuity. Chart is for illustrative purposes only.

To learn more about the CGA Program, please contact Major Donor Officer Donald W. Heath, 33°, CFP at 1-858-335-2070 or [dheath@scottishrite.org](mailto:dheath@scottishrite.org).



## + GIVING &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## YOU WILL BE FULFILLED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GUILD!

Illustration: Detail from *Book of the Lodge* (1855)



A weeping virgin, holding a sprig of acacia in one hand and an urn in the other, before her is a broken column on which rests the Book of Constitutions, while Father Time is behind her unbraiding and counting the ringlets of her hair.

**Matthew T. Szramoski, 33<sup>o</sup>, Director of Development**

**W**HEN YOU THINK of what the Development Office does to raise funds, many brethren think of articles they have read about donors who have contributed major gifts to our foundations. Perhaps an article on one of our donors who becomes a Pillar of Charity member by contributing \$1,000,000 or more and has their portrait placed on permanent display at the House of the Temple. Many brethren feel they cannot play an important role in supporting such efforts. While our major donors are critical to the success of our foundations, there is a role for all Scottish Rite Masons to play in support of our philanthropies.

The Development Office is pleased to announce an exciting new program that will recognize all donors who make a \$1,000 cash contribution in the "Acacia Guild." The gift can be made in a single payment or can be made by contributing \$83.33 a month for twelve months by credit card or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account. The \$1,000 gift will be split with half going to the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation to help with our Rebuilding the Temple Campaign; the other half will go to the Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, USA, Inc. to assist with RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, scholarship programs, and other worthy activities. By allowing the gift to be made in monthly installments,

we hope that most Scottish Rite Masons will find this program within their budgets.

Our initial goal is to get 250 brethren to become members of the Guild. This would immediately raise \$125,000 for each of our Supreme Council foundations for a total of \$250,000. Our ultimate goal is to get 1-2% of all Scottish Rite Masons to become a part of the Acacia Guild! This will assist us in maintaining the House of the Temple, growing our scholarship programs, supporting the RiteCare SRCLP, and much more.

The name, "Acacia Guild," was selected for specific reasons. First, the acacia plays a central role in Masonic lore and represents immortality. Secondly, as the original Freemasons belonged to guilds it seemed appropriate that brethren who supported our philanthropies should be united in a similar body. Your gift in becoming a part of the Guild shows your dedication to the future of our philanthropies. You will be making a financial investment that will aid with our philanthropic challenges for years to come.

Brethren who make a donation will receive an impressive award made of sterling silver hanging from a purple ribbon featuring the words "Acacia Guild" with a branch of Acacia prominently displayed. Each award will also be serially numbered on the back. It would be wonderful if every Scottish Rite Mason became a member of the Acacia Guild! Members of the Acacia Guild will be able to participate in private, live discussions via the internet with the Grand Commander, attend a special reception at the Biennial Session, and enjoy other special limited benefits.

After the initial award is presented, we hope brethren will continue to make an annual gift of \$1,000, either through a one-time donation or on a monthly installment. For each subsequent year, a sterling silver star will be presented to the Acacia Guild member to go on their collar ribbon. Continuation on a yearly basis of this giving program will greatly enhance the financial stability and success of both of our Supreme Council foundations. This is an annual giving program that we can all participate in!

To become a member of the Acacia Guild or for more information please contact Matt Szramoski at [mszramoski@scottishrite.org](mailto:mszramoski@scottishrite.org) or at 202-777-3143. We will need to know if you wish to make a one-time payment or a monthly installment. For installments, we will need either your credit card information or bank routing and account number. Once this is processed you will receive your award and be welcomed to the "Guild"! ✦





# ACACIA GUILD APPLICATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

Address (Number, Street, City, State, ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

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Secondary Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Office  Mobile

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Payment Type:  Check  Cash  Credit Card  ACH

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Credit Card Number

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CCV Number

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Routing Number (ACH, only)

Payment Method:  \$1,000 (one time)  \$83.33/month for 12 months

*By submitting this application and/or checking one of the options below, I am consenting to the processing of my information for this transaction.*

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> SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the **Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, USA, Inc.** and include **Acacia Guild** in the memo line.

Please print & mail your application to:  
Development Office; Attn.: Matt Szramoski; 1733 16th Street NW; Washington, DC 20009

**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ANY FINANCIAL INFORMATION.\*\***



## ACACIA GUILD

Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Southern Jurisdiction, USA

- Acacia guild membership is \$1,000 per year (12 calendar months from the date of joining).
- Membership can be paid in a single installment or in payments of \$83.33 a month for 12 months.
- Payment may be made by credit card or an automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account.
- 50% of the \$1,000 will benefit the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., and 50% will benefit the Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc.
- Your gift will aid in the restoration of the House of the Temple, RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, scholarship programs, and much more!
- Acacia Guild membership fees will also be applied to the Supreme Council Donor Recognition Program which honors cumulative giving.
- Membership is tax deductible as allowed by law.
- All new members will receive an Acacia Guild award which is a purple collar from which a sterling silver Acacia Guild jewel is suspended (see below). Each jewel is serial numbered.
- Serial numbers are awarded consecutively as memberships grow. Specific numbers cannot be reserved.
- In subsequent years, a sterling silver star will be presented to Acacia Guild members to be placed on the collar of the award.
- Acacia Guild members are encouraged to wear their award to all Scottish Rite meetings and activities.



Questions? Call the Supreme Council Development Office at 866-448-3773.

*Tucson Lodge of Perfection  
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