

# Sarasota Chapter No 35 of The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of **RoySickal** Arch Masons of Florida



Minutes Stated Convocation held on January 28, 2026, A:I: 2556  
at Sarasota Lodge No. 147

Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest, M.:E.: John F. Wermann called the meeting of Sarasota Chapter No 35 to order at 7:30PM. H proceeded to open the Chapter by proclamation  
All elected and appointed officers were in their stations except as noted below:

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE			
Justin “Judd” Broome	High Priest	Robert Leonard	Principle Soj
Albert “Butch” Thurman	King	Joseph O’Donnell- <b>Worked late</b>	Royal Arc Cpt.
Brian Johnsen	Scribe-	Todd Meschelle	Mast 3 <sup>rd</sup> Veil
W. Allen Sorbie <b>Personal business</b>	Treasurer	Dan Luna	Mast 2 <sup>nd</sup> Veil
John F. Wermann	Secretary	Arthur Southwell- <b>Bit by dog</b>	Mast 1 <sup>st</sup> Veil
Gene Lance- <b>Sick</b>	Chaplain	Richard Coles	Sentinel
Hans Heidi - <b>Brian Johnsen</b>	Capt. of Host		

There were 15 Companions present (Attendance as per Sign-in-Book)-including from Ft Meyers Chuck Mitchel, Gene Sims, Eduardo Sanachex Jr, Larry Gillespi, John Higgins, Kevin Oatman, Doug Dobbs

**Sickness and Distress:** Gene Lance, Hans Heidi flu like, Arthur Southwell Bit by dog

**Special guests:      Special Recognition York Rite 2025-2026**

- \* Eduardo “Eddie” Sanchez Right Excellent District Deputy Grand High Priest, representing the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida
- \* Rt Ex Gene Sims District Instructor Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida, Grand Sword Bearer Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Florida
- \* M.: Ex.: John F. Wermann, CMMRF District 2 Representative, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, Most Excellent Grand Ambassador near Florida representing the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons international, President of the Grand Brotherhood of Past District Deputy Grand Masters. R I Grand Ambassador for the Grand Council of Royal and elect Masters of Florida near Alaska
- \* Rt. Ill Richard Coles IV, Rt Ill Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida

\* ~~Jonas Seda~~ Right Illustrious, Grand Captain of the Guard, and District Instructor, representing the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida,

- \* Doug Dobbs Right Illustrious District Deputy Grand Master, representing the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida
- \* Gene Lance, Most Illustrious Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of R & S — Masters of Florida
- \* M I W. Allen Sorbie, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master R&S Masters of Florida, Manasota York Rite Mason of the Year 2023, Potentate Sahib Shriners in Sarasota.
- \* Eminent Albert “Butch” Thurman E. Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida
- \* Ray Browlee Eminent District Deputy Grand Commander, representing the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Florida
- \* Eminent Brian Johnsen District Deputy Instructor and Grand Ambassador to the State of Ohio, for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida for District 2.
- \* Joseph O'Donnell Semore Grotto, Patron OES Bradenton 87

**Introduction of Special Guests 2025-2026:**

1	Knight York Grand Cross of Honor (KYGCH) John Wermann, Allen Sorbie	2	Walter I Stevenson Award-Butch Thurman, John Wermann
4	Knight York Cross of Honor (KYCH) Brian Johnsen, Albert “Butch” Thurman, John Wermann, Allen Sorbie	2	Adult Leadership Award-John Wermann, Robert Leonard
3	Grand Line Officers of any Body not DDGMs/ Dis Albert Thurman, Richard Coles, Larry Gillespi	2	Cryptic Mason of the Year John Wermann, Brian Johnsen
1	Knight Templar Cross of Honor (KTCH) John Wermann	1	Order of The Purple Cross _ Allen Sorbie, John Wermann
1	Grand Commanders Award (Top Line) Paul Ritchie, John Wermann	0	33 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Masons
2	District Deputies of York Rite Bodies Doug Dobbs For the Council, Eduardo Sanachez	3	Scottish Rite Knight Commander Court of Honor-Doug Dobbs, Allen Sorbie, John Wermann
2	District Instructors of York Rite Bodies, Brian Johnsen	9	Past Heads of York Rite Bodies, not KYCH
7	Gold Key Award Brian Johnsen, Richard Coles, Butch Thurman, Gene Lance, John Wermann, Allen Sorbie, Todd Meschelle, Judd Broome	1	Grand Brotherhood Past District Deputy Grand Masters Allen Sorbie, John Wermann (President)
6	Ish Sodi Award-Brian Johnsen, Paul Ritchie, Butch Thurman, Gene Lance, John Wermann, Jeff Lawrence, Richard Coles, Todd Meschelle	4	Current heads York Rite Bodies including Blue Lodge Sitting Hans Heidi, Michael Blumin, Butch Thurman, Paul Ritchie (2), Doug Dobbs, John Wermann, Arthur Southwell
6	Meritorious Service Award -John Wermann X's 2, Butch Thurman X's 2, Brian Johnsen, Allen Sorbie	2	First Responders Award-Butch Thurman, Robert Leonard, Paul Ritchie
1	Manasota York Rite Mason of the Year (started 2023)-Allen Sorbie, Paul Ritchie, Daniel E. Dale, John L. Horne, Louis H. Ortt, Malcomb Ryder, B. John Ross, Eric West, John F. Wermann 2012, Gene Lance (2022)	2 3	Youth Advocate Award, Brian Johnsen, Doug Dobbs <hr/> MIGM's Award of Merit John Wermann, Paul Ritchie, Doug Dobbs, Brian Johnsen

The Excellent High Priest welcomed all in attendance. And a special thanks who filled in empty chairs

**Minutes:** The Minutes of Convocations held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and the proposed agenda for January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 were electronically distributed. These communications include all the minutes, correspondence, warrants and receipts. We also receive notifications by robo-call. If there be no objection, alterations, additions, or deletions, the Excellent High Priest MAY declare them approved as distributed.

As always all comments and/or suggestions are earnestly solicited. ....Passed

**Correspondence:** Distribution of minutes and agenda of meetings, Correspondence between the Secretary and Treasurer (including notices from Calton investments), and other important announcements. 4 Veils Award form snail mailed to Grand Secretary on January 15, 2026

**Receipts:** Cash Receipts Numbered 026707 \$405.00 Deposited 12/9/2025. Funds deposited, No 026708 Perpetual pay out \$688.70 and Dues \$270.00= total \$958.70 Deposited 1/12/2026.

**Expenses:** Warrants numbered 026709 990N (\$54.99) Corporate (\$61.25) filings, NO 026710 Annual Return \$1,172.00, 026711 Sarasota Lodge usage 2025 \$2,000.00

**Treasurer's Report:** M.I. W. Allen Sorbie to be presented next month

**Petitions** EHP directed a ballot be spread for Thomas Praino, It was found to be clear

**Awards and Presentations:** None

#### **Old Business:**

\* Giblemite Award form submitted January 15, 2026 (Council), 4 veil for Chapter 2026  
\* Possible degree dates..Practice Mark Master Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>...Mark Master and Past Master Degree February 25 , this schedule approved by the Companions. Still need to set up MEM and RA degree practice and conferral. Discuss with EHP and our DDHP. We can do the MM and Past Master, Ft Meyers assist with MEM & RA? Also Commandery.

#### **New Business:**

\* A motion was made seconded, to pay rent to Venice Lodge for closet rental of \$500 each year. Unanimous. Warrant 026713 was issued and sent to our treasurer

\* It was moved seconded and passed to purchase 15 new Chapter ritual books. Unanimous Warrant 026712 was issued

\* Our recent Church visit arranged by Gene Lance was very successful, good fellowship and were warmly welcomed.

\* It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to purchase an ad in the York Rite Souvenir Program as in the past. A total of \$200 to be split with Council and Commandery. It was requested Allen Sorbie submit the add with the payment.**Masonic Education:**

At 7:46 our District instructor, RE Gene Sims was recognized> he held a short school of instruction. He spoke of the new RA Chapter ritual book (\$25.00 ea) and discussed many of the additional information in this new book, EXP Installations, special short form opening, Table Chapters, reception Gr Officers, longevity presentations fervency and zeal and a lot more. He went through the meaning and message of the Chapter Degrees  
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At 8:10 PM Our District Deputy High Grand Priest, R.E. Eduardo "Ed" Sanchez Jr. was received for his official visit. He thanked John Wermann and Richard Coles for helping with the Ft Myers York Rite Installations. He discussed new membership and the need for member retention. Discussed Blue Lodge visitations and doing a presentation such as the circumambulation, Fervency and Zeal and also Completing the Craft (John Wermann has a copy). Rt Ex Sanchez spoke to well Manasota Y/R and Ft Meyers

#### **Announcements:**

- Sarasota Chapter will meet on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Sarasota Lodge No. 147. 6:30PM Short Meeting the conferral of the Mark Master and Past Master Degrees..7:30PM Meeting.
- Braidentown Council No 9 will me on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at West Coast Lodge No.409 6:30PM Practice/Fellowship, 7:30 PM Meeting.

- Trinity Commandery No. 16 will meet on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at The Scottish Rite Building 240 Tuttle Ave, Sarasota 6:30PM Practice/Fellowship 7:30PM Meeting.
- Master Asson Assoc. will meet on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at Englewood Lodge. Dinner 6:00PM, Meeting 6:30 PM, A Lodge of Instruction 7:30PM.
- Samoor Grotto will meet on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at The Scottish Rite Building in Sarasota 6:00 Dinner 7:00 PM meeting.
- A celebration of life to be held for Joseph O'Donnell's Mother on February 7. 4:30 Pm to 7:00 PM. Dan Luna to forward Secretary and he to distribute.

With all business having been presented and properly dispensed with. Sarasota Chapter No. 35 was closed in by proclamation by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest, ME John F. Wermann at 8:20PM

Peace and Harmony prevailed

Most Zealously and Most Fraternally Submitted

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M.:E.: John F. Wermann, MEGHP, KYGCH, OPC  
 Broome  
 Proud to serve as Secretary

Excellent Justin "Judd"  
 Excellent High Priest

No drawing was held