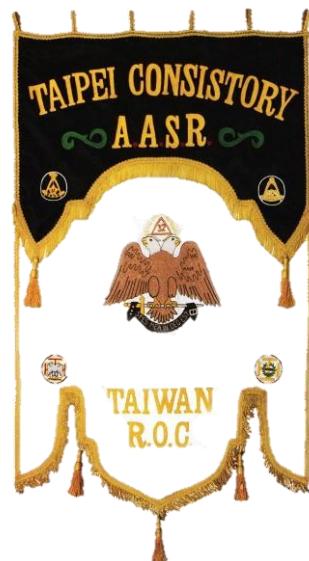


Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Taipei Bodies

Newsletter #42, May 23



Special Edition

Spring Reunion in Bangkok



Editor : Joey Hsu, 32°

Photograph : Alexandre Hamalian, 32°, KCCH

Joey Hsu, 32°

“Pause, Reflect, Study, and Consider your path in Scottish Rite Masonry!”



Many thanks for all the Illustrious Brothers, Sir Knights, and Knights of 32 degrees, which with all the dedicated efforts, made our Spring Conferral in Bangkok a great success post COVID lockdowns! We had an amazing 29 candidates, and the ritual team that zealously made a unique experience for the candidates! Looking forward of course to see the brethren again in the Fall Reunion in Taipei/Taiwan!

Now a little introduction for the newly raised 32 Degrees brethren:

In the United States, at least, most Master Masons are exposed to the Scottish Rite degrees as candidates in the context of a weekend reunion at their local Valley. This is unlike the European model where a candidate moves much more slowly than here, often taking many years to advance through degrees. Only after months or years of study and reflection is the candidate ready for advancement and then subject to election to the next higher degree level. In America, however, the process is shortened considerably with the candidate progressing through the entire system and arriving at the Thirty second Degree usually in the course of a weekend experience.

Moreover, for many decades now, the Southern Jurisdiction (please view with Newsletter #41) has permitted its novitiates to attain the Thirty-second Degree, our terminal point in the initiatory process, after seeing just five degrees, commonly but unfortunately designated the “Mandatory Degrees.” This somehow implies that the other twenty-four degrees are of lesser importance and are therefore subjected to being by-passed in our rush to the Thirty-second at the end of the day. To be sure, there is a requirement that the passed-over degrees are to be “communicated” which all too often results in a well-meaning brother reading an explanation of the degree from a written page to a class of candidates who often have little connection with what is being said or described. It’s sort of like reading about the sunrise as opposed to looking out the window. Which makes the memory?

So now, let’s continue our journey together, attend the Scottish Rite meetings, the Spring and Fall reunions, and make a difference towards being a better man than ever!

Sir Knight Paulo WU
Venerable Master



首先，非常感謝所有 Illustrious Brothers，Sir Knights 以及 Knights of 32 degrees，他們的全力以赴，使我們在曼谷的春季會議在 COVID 封鎖後取得了巨大的成功！這次我們有 29 位驚人的候選人，以及那些熱心於提供獨特體驗給候選人的儀式團隊！當然，我們期待著在臺北臺灣的秋季團聚會再次看到各位兄弟！

現在，由我為新晉升的 32 級兄弟們簡單介紹一下：

在美國，大多數的主要的美生會成員會在當地的週末團聚會中作為候選人接觸到 Scottish Rite 的相關內容。這與歐洲的模式不同，在那裡，候選人的晉升要慢得多，通常需要多年時間才能提升到更高的程度。必須要在幾個月或幾年的學習和反思之後，候選人才能準備好晉升，隨後才能被推舉至更高的程度。然而，在美國，這個過程被大大縮短，候選人會隨著整個大體系中進步，並通常在週末的體驗中達到了第三十二級。

此外，近十年來，南部管轄區(請見 Newsletter #41)已經允許其新人直達第三十二級，我們可以在入門時即窺見我們的終點，隨著體驗五段儀禮，雖然通常但不幸地被稱為“必修的級別”。這在某種程度上暗示其他二十四個級別的重要性較小，因此在我們邁向兩天結束時的第三十二級時，可能會被忽略。但可以肯定的是，過去的級別意義應該被“傳達”，這也就像各位所經驗的，由一個受過訓練的兄弟從一張寫有級別解釋的紙上宣讀給候選人聽，這些候選人通常對其所說或描述的內容並不會產生什麼聯繫。閱讀日出就像品味一首優美的詩篇，在你的腦海中描繪出生動的畫面。這是一段親密的旅程，書頁上的文字將你帶到一個充滿色彩、情感和超越的世界。哪一種才能讓人記住？

所以現在，讓我們繼續一起前行，參加 Scottish Rite 的會議，春季和秋季的團聚，讓我們比以往任何時候都能從一個好人成為一個更好的人！

Sir Knight Paulo WU
Venerable Master

Acknowledgement from the Deputy of the Supreme Council

Dear Ill. Bro. Claude,

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for your unwavering service as our Secretary over the span of 16 years. Your remarkable dedication to our organization has served as a constant source of inspiration for everyone involved, and we are truly thankful for the immense support you have provided us throughout your tenure.



Over the years, you have proven yourself to be a true pillar of our organization. Your attention to detail, your organizational skills, and your ability to keep us all on track have been invaluable to our success. You have always been there for us, answering our questions, helping us with our paperwork, and guiding us through the complexities of our organization.

The steadfast commitment and tireless dedication you've demonstrated have been central to the success of our organization. Your significant contributions have greatly aided in achieving our goals and making a positive impact within our community. You've consistently displayed a high level of dedication and commitment, proving yourself an integral part of our team. The influence and contributions you've made have not only been invaluable but also left a lasting impact that will be cherished for many years to come.

The exceptional service you've rendered has been deeply appreciated, marking a substantial difference to the organization as a whole. The dedication you've shown has been remarkable and has not gone unnoticed. We wish to express our profound gratitude for your invaluable efforts.

This legacy, marked by your indelible imprint, continues to inspire all of us within the organization. For the immeasurable difference you've made, we extend our most sincere thanks. Your contributions will continue to resonate in our work and our shared mission, and we are profoundly grateful for the unique impact you've made.

Sincerely,

Illustrious Norman Pin, 33°

Preamble

Scottish Rite is a branch of Freemasonry that developed in the 18th century in France and spread throughout the world. It is a system of Masonic degrees that expand upon the first three degrees of the Blue Lodge, also known as the Craft Lodge. The Scottish Rite consists of 33 degrees, with the 33rd degree being the highest.

Each degree in the Scottish Rite builds upon the previous one and provides further insight into Masonic teachings, philosophy, and symbolism. The degrees are grouped into four "bodies" or "coteries": the Lodge of Perfection (4°-14°), the Chapter of Rose Croix (15°-18°), the Council of Kadosh (19°-30°), and the Consistory (31°-32°). The 33rd degree is an honorary degree that is conferred upon members who have made significant contributions to Freemasonry.



The Scottish Rite is renowned for its intricate "degrees," which are theatrical performances conveying moral lessons and allegories through symbolic actions, gestures, and dialogue. These immersive dramas often feature figures from history and mythology, like King Solomon, Hiram Abiff, and Christian Rosenkreutz.

Beyond its ritualistic endeavors, the Scottish Rite actively participates in charitable and educational initiatives. It supports medical research, offers scholarships, and extends aid to those affected by disasters. These endeavors demonstrate the fraternity's commitment to making a positive impact on society. Through its degrees and philanthropic work, the Scottish Rite fosters personal and collective growth among its members. By engaging in thought-provoking rituals and embracing charitable causes, individuals within the Scottish Rite gain a deeper understanding of moral principles and contribute to the betterment of their communities.

The Scottish Rite serves as a beacon of enlightenment, promoting brotherhood, charity, and truth. Its theatrical performances and charitable undertakings epitomize the dedication of its members to honor the fraternity's traditions while uplifting humanity through service and education.

Welcome Party

Once upon a time, in a vibrant cultural center in Thailand, members of the Scottish Rite gathered for their annual welcoming party on 4/28. As they entered the hall, they were greeted by the sound of casual music filled with Thai instruments and rhythms.



The room was decorated with colorful banners and posters showcasing Thai culture, and tables were adorned with fragrant dishes of traditional Thai food prepared by local chefs. The members eagerly filled their plates, eager to sample the spicy curries, savory stir-fries, and delicious rice dishes.



While enjoying their meal, they eagerly shared anecdotes about their personal experiences within the Scottish Rite, their voices filled with enthusiasm. Their conversations were infused with awe and admiration for the captivating beauty and cultural richness of Thailand. Laughter and lighthearted banter permeated the air, enhancing the sense of camaraderie and kinship that bound them together. In this moment, they found solace in the genuine warmth of their connection, embracing the shared values and ideals of the Scottish Rite. As the evening progressed, their stories deepened their appreciation for the diversity within their organization, fostering a deeper understanding of one another and strengthening the bonds of fellowship. It was

through these meaningful exchanges, intertwined with the joyous atmosphere of the gathering, that they discovered the true power of unity and the irreplaceable sense of belonging that comes from being part of the Scottish Rite.

The festivities continued with performances by local musicians, who played a mix of traditional Thai music and modern pop songs. The members clapped and swayed along with the music, enjoying the relaxed and joyful atmosphere of the event.



As the night drew to a close, the members left the hall feeling nourished, inspired, and grateful for the rich cultural exchange they had experienced. They knew that they were part of a fraternity that embraced diversity and celebrated unity and that they had forged meaningful connections with their fellow members in Thailand.



And so, the members of the Scottish Rite left the welcoming party of 4/28, carrying with them the warmth and joy of the Thai culture and the renewed sense of purpose and commitment to the values of the Scottish Rite.

Conferral (Day 1)

The Scottish Rite is a branch of Freemasonry that consists of 33 degrees. The first three degrees are known as the Blue Lodge, while the remaining 30 degrees are part of the Scottish Rite. Each degree builds upon the previous one and provides a deeper understanding of Masonic teachings, philosophy, and symbolism.

A candidate of the Scottish Rite is an individual who has shown a genuine interest in delving deeper into the teachings, rituals, and symbolism of Freemasonry. They possess a strong desire for personal growth, intellectual exploration, and moral development.



The candidate often displays qualities such as curiosity, open-mindedness, and a thirst for knowledge. They are driven by a genuine passion for understanding the principles and values that underpin the Scottish Rite. They approach their initiation into the degrees with a sense of reverence and respect, recognizing the significance of the transformative journey that lies ahead.

As the candidate progresses through the degrees, they demonstrate a willingness to learn, engage in self-reflection, and embrace the lessons imparted by the rituals. They exhibit a sense of humility and a commitment to embody the virtues and ideals of the Scottish Rite in their daily lives.

Candidates of the Scottish Rite come from various backgrounds, cultures, and professions, each contributing their unique perspectives and experiences to the fraternity. They foster a sense of unity and camaraderie among fellow members, cherishing the bonds formed through shared rituals and shared values.

Ultimately, the candidate of the Scottish Rite is an individual who seeks enlightenment, moral growth, and a deeper understanding of the mysteries of life. Through their commitment and dedication, they embark on a transformative journey that shapes their character and contributes to the ongoing legacy of the Scottish Rite.

A two-day ritual ceremony spanning from the 4th to the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite would be a significant event for members of the fraternity. It would likely involve a series of ritual performances, each one exploring different themes and concepts that are central to the Scottish Rite.



The first day of the ceremony might begin with a solemn ritual for the 4th degree, which emphasizes the importance of virtue, morality, and self-discipline. This degree is intended to teach members to be mindful of their actions and to strive to lead a virtuous life.

As the day progresses, members might move through the lower degrees of the Scottish Rite, such as the 14th degree, which focuses on the themes of mercy and forgiveness, and the 18th degree, which explores the concept of the Rose Croix and its symbolism of resurrection and rebirth.



Each degree would be performed with precision and care, with actors dressed in elaborate costumes and performing intricate movements and gestures that convey the meaning and symbolism of the ritual.

The first day of the ceremony would conclude with a banquet or social gathering, where members can mingle and discuss the insights and experiences they have gained from the day's rituals.



After half a day of hard work, we finally ushered in our first feast

The Lunch

Under the radiant sun, a picturesque setting was prepared for the midday lunch during the Conferral ceremony. Members of the Scottish Rite gathered amidst the serene surroundings, eager to satiate their appetites and rejuvenate their spirits.



The tables were arranged under elegantly decorated canopies, providing a sheltered oasis from the sun's rays. White linens billowed gently in the warm breeze, and vibrant floral centerpieces adorned each table, adding a touch of natural beauty to the scene. The ambience was alive with the sounds of laughter, mingling voices, and the clinking of silverware.

A delectable feast awaited the hungry participants, prepared with care and creativity. Platters adorned with an array of appetizers, salads, and artisanal breads were meticulously arranged, showcasing a diverse culinary selection. From fresh and vibrant salads bursting with color to tantalizing appetizers that delighted the taste buds, every dish was a masterpiece of flavors and textures.

As the members filled their plates, they engaged in animated conversations, sharing stories and relishing in the vibrant atmosphere. The sun's warm embrace seemed to enhance the flavors of the meal, adding an extra zest to each bite. The tantalizing aroma of grilled meats and vegetables wafted through the air, inviting all to indulge in the savory delights.

The lunch was not only a moment to satisfy physical hunger but also an opportunity for members to nourish their souls through fellowship. Conversations flowed effortlessly, forging new connections and strengthening existing bonds. Laughter echoed amidst the tables, creating a harmonious symphony of joy and camaraderie.

The lively ambiance was complemented by refreshing beverages that quenched

the thirsts of those gathered. Cool glasses of fruit-infused water and delicate glasses of sparkling beverages offered a respite from the sun's warmth, ensuring that everyone remained refreshed and invigorated throughout the meal.

As the lunch progressed, a sense of contentment settled over the gathering. The shared experience of savoring the delectable cuisine under the sun's radiance fostered a profound sense of gratitude and unity among the participants. It was a moment of blissful appreciation for the bonds forged within the Scottish Rite and the transformative power of collective nourishment.

With satisfied palates and joyful hearts, the members lingered at the tables, relishing the flavors and cherishing the memories being created. The lunch during the Conferral ceremony served as a testament to the Scottish Rite's commitment to fostering fellowship and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood.



Under the warm embrace of the sun, amidst the laughter and conversation, the lunch provided a moment of respite, reflection, and connection. It was a time to replenish both the body and the spirit, energizing the members for the remainder of the Conferral ceremony.

As the lunch drew to a close, a sense of gratitude filled the air. The memories created during that shared meal would forever be cherished, serving as a reminder of the unity, camaraderie, and nourishment that the Scottish Rite provides to its members. The participants left the lunch, renewed and inspired, ready to continue their journey with a strengthened sense of purpose and a deepened appreciation for the bonds formed under the sun's radiant glow.

Conferral (Day 2)



The second day of the ceremony would begin with a ritual for the 30th degree, which emphasizes the themes of duty, loyalty, and courage. This degree is intended to teach members to be true to their principles and to remain steadfast in the face of adversity.

As the day progresses, members would move through the higher degrees of the Scottish Rite, culminating in the 32nd degree - the highest degree of the Scottish Rite. This degree is intended to teach members the wisdom and understanding that comes with age and experience, and to remind them of their responsibility to pass on their knowledge to future generations.



The two-day ritual ceremony would be a powerful and transformative experience for members of the Scottish Rite. It would deepen their understanding of the teachings and principles of the fraternity, and strengthen their bonds with their fellow members. It would also serve as a reminder of the rich history and tradition of the Scottish Rite, and its enduring relevance in the modern world.





After the Conferral, filled with a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie, we eagerly gather in celebration for a delightful banquet. The air is filled with laughter and conversation as we indulge in delectable cuisine, savoring the flavors and cherishing the shared moments of fellowship and unity.

Banquet

In the luxurious ballroom of the Pullman Hotel, members of the Scottish Rite gathered for a grand banquet on the night of 4/30. The ballroom was decorated with the colors and symbols of the Scottish Rite, and the atmosphere was electric with excitement and anticipation.



their plates, savoring the flavors and textures of the food, and enjoying the company of their fellow members. They talked and laughed, sharing stories of their experiences in the Scottish Rite, and catching up on news and gossip.

As the members entered the ballroom, they were greeted by the scent of delicious food from the buffet that had been laid out for them. The tables were filled with a variety of culinary delights, ranging from savory meats and cheeses to sweet desserts and fruits. The members eagerly filled



The banquet was a time of celebration and fellowship, as members from different lodges and regions came together to share in the warmth and camaraderie of the Scottish Rite. There was a sense of unity and shared purpose that permeated the ballroom, as members were reminded of the principles of brotherhood, charity, and truth that they had pledged to uphold.



With a sense of pride and gratitude, the Venerable Master steps forward to reward the candidates for their dedication and commitment. With words of appreciation and a symbolic token, such as a lapel pin or certificate, he recognizes their journey, acknowledging their growth and the contributions they will make as enlightened members of the Scottish Rite.



As the night wore on, the members reveled in the enchanting melodies, blending traditional Scottish tunes with modern hits. They surrendered to the rhythm, swaying and twirling on the dance floor, immersed in the sheer joy and excitement of the moment.

The evening gracefully drew to a close, the members gathered one last time, raising their glasses in a heartfelt toast. In this shared act, they symbolized their unity and expressed profound gratitude. Aware of the profound bond they had formed, they cherished the memory of that special evening, forever treasuring the genuine fellowship and camaraderie they had experienced.



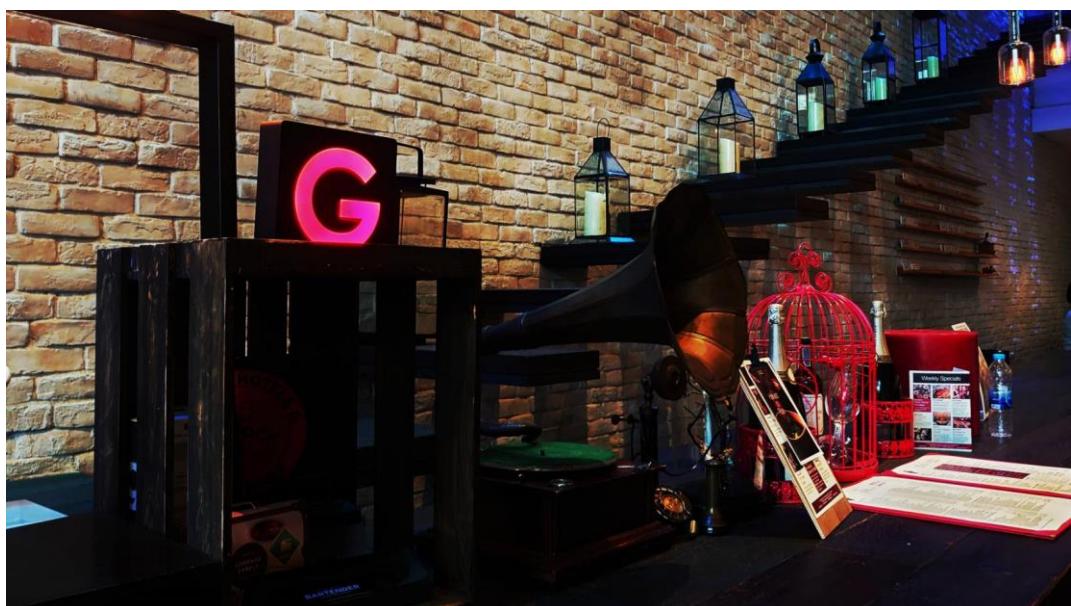


And so, as the night of the 4/30 banquet came to an end, the members of the Scottish Rite departed with a profound sense of fulfillment. They carried with them a nourished spirit, enriched by the deep connections and bonds of brotherhood that had been forged throughout the evening.

In that moment, they were keenly aware that they were part of something greater than themselves. The Scottish Rite, with its rich heritage and global presence, transcended borders and cultures. It united individuals from diverse backgrounds under a common purpose and commitment to the values that defined the Scottish Rite.

As they dispersed, they reflected on the significance of their collective journey. Inspired by the rituals, the camaraderie, and the shared experience, they felt a renewed sense of purpose and dedication. They understood that their involvement in the Scottish Rite was not limited to a single evening but rather an ongoing commitment to uphold the principles that lay at the core of their fraternity.

With gratitude in their hearts, they embarked on the next steps of their individual paths, knowing that the bonds of brotherhood they had formed would continue to guide and support them in their endeavors. They carried with them a profound appreciation for the Scottish Rite and the transformative power it held in their lives.



Class Mahanakhon 23

The capital city of Thailand, Bangkok, has a real name, "Krung Thep," which is commonly used by locals and visitors. However, the city also holds the Guinness World Record for the longest place name in the world. Its full ceremonial name, "Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit," combines Pali and Sanskrit words, signifying its historical and cultural significance. This lengthy name is a combination of Pali and Sanskrit words and carries historical and cultural significance.

Additionally, "Mahanakhon" is a Thai term that translates to "Great Metropolis" or "Great City." It represents a grand or significant urban center. In the context of the Mahanakhon building in Bangkok, the name signifies the building's prominence and its status as a landmark in the city's skyline. It reflects the idea of a towering structure that represents the vibrancy and modernity of a thriving metropolis. And Mahanakhon 23 is represent as Mahanakhon 2023.



Within the Mahanakhon, not only did the Scottish Rite members uncover ancient wisdom, but they also cultivated a profound sense of brotherly love. The Mahanakhon class, in particular, embodied this principle with unwavering devotion.



Brotherly love was the cornerstone of their interactions, woven into the fabric of their daily lives within the Scottish Rite. They upheld a genuine care and compassion for one another, going above and beyond to support their fellow members in times of need.

In the Hall of Illumination, the Mahanakhon class would often gather in a circle, symbolizing the unity and equality they shared as brothers and sisters. They engaged in heartfelt discussions, sharing their personal journeys, challenges, and triumphs. Through these exchanges, they found solace, encouragement, and wisdom.

Members of the Mahanakhon class took joy in celebrating each other's milestones, both within the fraternity and in their personal lives. Whether it was a professional achievement, a spiritual breakthrough, or a moment of happiness, they rejoiced as one. Their bond transcended the walls of the Mahanakhon building, extending into the broader community.



Recognizing that brotherly love extended beyond their own circle, the Mahanakhon class actively engaged in acts of kindness and charitable endeavors. Together, they organized events to support local causes, offered assistance to those in need, and worked towards creating a more harmonious society.

The spirit of brotherly love shone brightly through the Mahanakhon class, inspiring other Scottish Rite members and fostering a profound sense of unity throughout the fraternity. The Mahanakhon building became a haven, not only for ancient knowledge but also for the genuine connections forged between individuals who shared a common purpose.





As the years passed, the Mahanakhon class left a lasting impact on the Scottish Rite and beyond. Their legacy of brotherly love became a guiding light for future generations of initiates. They embodied the belief that true enlightenment and personal growth are nurtured through the bonds of compassion, understanding, and unwavering support.



And so, within the walls of the Mahanakhon building, the Scottish Rite Mahanakhon class exemplified the transformative power of brotherly love. They demonstrated that when individuals come together in the spirit of unity, empathy, and genuine care, they not only enrich their own lives but also uplift the world around them, creating a legacy that transcends time.

The Scottish Rite Taipei Bodies

The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization that is known for its symbolic degrees and teachings, focusing on moral and philosophical aspects. While I couldn't find specific information on the history of the Scottish Rite bodies in Taipei, Taiwan, I can provide you with a general overview of the Scottish Rite's history and its presence worldwide. The Scottish Rite traces its roots back to the early 18th century and the development of Freemasonry. The origins of the Scottish Rite are often associated with the creation of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the 18th century, which was formalized and expanded upon by the notable Masonic figure, Frederick the Great, King of Prussia.

The Scottish Rite consists of a series of degrees or degrees within a system that builds upon the three symbolic degrees of Craft Masonry (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason). These additional degrees of the Scottish Rite provide further exploration of moral and philosophical concepts and are conferred upon Freemasons who choose to continue their Masonic journey beyond the basic degrees. The Scottish Rite spread globally over time, establishing bodies in various countries, including Taiwan. The exact history of the Scottish Rite bodies in Taipei would be specific to their establishment and development within the region. If you are interested in the history and specific details of the Scottish Rite bodies in Taipei, reaching out to local Masonic organizations or contacting the Grand Lodge of China, which can provide more specific information about the Scottish Rite's presence in Taipei.

On 22 October 1957 the Supreme Council issued the Permanent Charters for all four coordinated bodies.

Meetings	Date
Lodge of Perfection	Monthly on the 4th Tuesday except in July, August and September
Chapter Rose Croix	January, March, May, and November
Council of Kadosh	February, April, June, October, and December
Consistory	March, June, and December
Spring Reunion	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 27 and 28, 2024.
Fall Reunion	Taipei, Taiwan, September 15 and 16, 2023.

Taipei Bodies, China Masonic Temple

No. 10, Lane 201, Chang An East Rd Sec. 2, Taipei 10491, Taiwan

PO Box : 34-154, Taipei 10499

Phone : +886227713310,

Email : taipei.bodies@gmail.com