



## VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

*Terry F. Hilton, KCCH*

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year. I trust that 2020 will bring good health, good fortune and Brotherly Love to you and your families. This will be my last article as Venerable Master, and I thank everyone for their support this year. We have a strong line of officers, a hard-working General Secretary, and a Personal Rep who is passionate about the success of our Valley. These things combine to make a good foundation for the future. The secret is to continue to work together for the good of the A&ASR by bringing in new members, supporting the Childhood Language Center and developing friendships that are so important to making life enjoyable inside and outside of Masonry.

Thanks to the ticket takers who show up early and greet you with a smile while taking your money, the greeters who help us start off each event with a warm friendly handshake, and of course, the kitchen crew who prepare and serve our delicious meals. Be sure to thank these people when you see them. Let us move forward with enthusiasm and do our best to make the Richmond Valley a strong fraternity of fellowship and good works! Thank you.

## INCOMING VENERABLE MASTER

*Mike Atkins, KCCH*

Each of you, in some way, has been a mentor to me as I have traveled through the chairs in the Line of Perfection and as a Scottish Rite Mason. During my travels throughout the Commonwealth assisting in my duties with Grand Lodge, I see many of the same Brethren of our Valley doing great things. To the Brethren that I follow as Venerable Master, thank you for paving the way, being a mentor for me, and if I can only do half the job that each of you have done for our Valley, then I will have succeeded. Bro. Nelson Trinkle, KCCH, I would like to thank you for seeing something in me five years ago and selecting me as the Captain of the Host. I would not be here in this position today if it were not for you. It is practically impossible for me to thank every Brother that has had a hand in my Masonic journey, but thanks to each of you.

To our wives and families, thank you for allowing us to be Masons while we contribute and make a difference in our society. Most importantly our support to the Childhood Language Center and the many miracles that have occurred by the staff there. Masons change lives every day in some way or another. We are and continue to be a positive influence in all of our undertakings. At the end of the day, our family members are equal contributors to these miracles.

As we enter this new year, the "work" must continue for 2020 and for years to come. We have a building to sell, a new location to choose, selection of an architect, designing our new facility and growing our membership. Meanwhile, we must continue to do the great things we have done. It is kind of like the Valentine's gift that becomes bigger and better each year. You can never go backwards.

Brethren and families, thank you for your support of our great Valley. May God Bless each life our great Fraternity touches and the great Country we all live in.

## SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Monday, January 27, 2020

5:30 PM ..... Guard Meeting  
 6:00 PM ..... Business Meeting  
 7:00 PM ..... Dinner  
 (\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)

Program – 2020 Officer Installation

\*\*\* **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** \*\*\*

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### Monday, February 24, 2020

5:30 PM ..... Guard Meeting  
 6:00 PM ..... Business Meeting  
 7:00 PM ..... Dinner  
 (\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)

Program – Chesterfield Sheriff  
 Karl Leonard – HARP Program

\*\*\* **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** \*\*\*

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## RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2020 —

### JANUARY

Wednesday 1	New Year's Day
Wednesday 8	Honour Court
Wednesday 22	Executive Council
Monday 27	Stated Meeting

### FEBRUARY

Friday 14	Valentine's Day
Monday 24	Stated Meeting

### MARCH

Friday 13 & Saturday 14	Supreme Council Workshop in Charlotte, NC
Monday 23	Stated Meeting
Saturday 28	Scottish Rite Workshop

### APRIL

Sunday 12	Easter
Saturday 25	Spring Reunion
Monday 27	Stated Meeting

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

*Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°*



The holidays are over and the Christmas decorations are packed away for another year, and as of our Stated Meeting, only 332 shopping days remain until next Christmas. My congratulations to our soon to be elected and installed new Masters for 2020.

I'm going to take this opportunity to commend the leaders of the four Bodies for their fine work and support this past year. Your dedication to the Scottish Rite has greatly enhanced the operation of the office and the activities of the Rite. Let's all come out and support our elections at the January Stated Meeting. Our leadership will need your continued prayers. YOU can make a difference. Participation is YOUR decision, but YOU are always welcome at YOUR Scottish Rite. Let's make that decision to support our leaders and their programs for 2020, and take our Grand Master's Theme to heart – "Loyalty & Kindness – A Lasting Impression".

A new challenging Scottish Rite year is upon us. Your officers are working diligently to serve your needs as members of the Richmond Valley and to maintain the quality meetings and programs we enjoy. As always, one of our main challenges is collection of dues. As I write this article, it is mid-December. As of this writing, those who have not paid their 2019 dues are subject to suspension. Remember brethren, it is your dues that support the Richmond Valley.

**Brethren, the Night Building Superintendent's position is still available. It is perfect for one of our retired members. Just call the office or stop in to get further details. Please step up and help your Valley and get paid at the same time. This is a paid position, not just volunteer.**

Let's commit to unwavering support for our Scottish Rite Valley and our Childhood Language Center for 2020. I hope to see everyone at a Stated Meeting this year. **Please remember to make your dinner reservations.**

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Tom Varner, KCCH*

In this Christmas season, I have been thinking a fair amount about Melchizedek, who is found in the 14th Chapter of the Book of Genesis. His name means "King of Righteousness", and he was said to be "King of Salem" (interpreted as King of Peace) and a High Priest. When Abram returned from a war against four wicked Kings to rescue his nephew Lot, Melchizedek met him, offered him bread and wine, and then blessed him. In return, Abram gave him one-tenth of everything he had, and then went on his way. And except for brief references in the Book of Psalms and the Book of Hebrews, that is all there is to Melchizedek's story. Or is it? Many scholars have noted that Melchizedek was both a King and a High Priest. Hundreds of years later when Moses was given the Book of Law on Mt. Sinai, it decreed that the King and High Priest were distinct and mutually exclusive offices. Therefore, Melchizedek was special. Some scholars even think he was the Logos, the Word of God.

This is no surprise to us as Masons, as we honor and remember Melchizedek in a number of our Degrees. He is recognized in the Royal Arch's Order of High Priesthood Degree, in the Holy Royal Arch of Knight Templar Priests, and finally in our Scottish Rite 19th Degree. In the 19th Degree, titled "Grand Pontiff", the candidate is encouraged to be virtuous, sincere, equitable, true, and temperate. The Degree Lecture then notes that a True Mason labors for the benefit of those who come after him, as well as for the advancement and improvement of his people. To leave a legacy and good works that live after us is a goal of all True Masons.

Which brings us fully back to this season of giving. Why did Abram give Melchizedek a full tithing of his possessions? Because he understood this – His victory belonged to God and not to him. As Masons, perhaps we should remember that everything we own, all the talents and abilities we have, have been given to us by God. Are we using them properly? Are we returning to God what is His? Let us remember the Masonic widow and orphan, the people in need, those in despair or sickness, and bless them by "contributing to their relief as liberally as we can without material injury to ourselves".

I look forward to seeing each of you in January.

## PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Sam Dunn, 33°**

I hope that everyone had a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a blessed start to the New Year. If you know me, you should know that I hate winter. I hate to wish my life away but I hope spring comes early. There is a lot of work to be done. We have our Spring Reunion on April 25, 2020. As you recall, we were forced to cancel our Fall Reunion due to a lack of candidates. We are the only ones who can prevent this from happening again. There are many good Masons out there waiting to join our ranks, and they are just waiting for your encouragement and invitation. Lodges are full of great men looking for a worthwhile cause. What better cause than learning more about Masonry and supporting our Childhood Language Center? Membership is the key to our success. If we do not grow, who will take care of the children who depend on our good work to overcome their language barriers? If you feel like you have a friend who would make a good member, but you are not comfortable talking to him, call Charles Robinson or myself. We would be delighted to explain our organization to him. The only reason every good Mason is not a Scottish Rite Mason is it is simply they do not know what we do. If you would like to invite a Masonic friend to one of our stated dinners, please call Ill. Bob Carpenter, 33°, and we will comp their meal.

There is a tremendous need for a nighttime building superintendent. This is a part-time job perfect for a retired person who would like to supplement their income. We would love to hire a Mason. However, I remind you that Mark was not a Mason when he started. Nevertheless, he certainly became a great Brother Mason. If you have an interested person, please contact Ill. Bob or myself.

Now, to answer the number one question I hear at least 10 times a day. No, we have not sold the building YET. There are several interested groups but no ink on the paper as of today. One thing that really bothers me is the under-tow of conversation that I get second or third hand. Tenants are afraid that we will sell the building without notice. There again, this will not happen.

Every group that I show the building to have a complete understand that we will need to rent back parts of the building for a minimum of two years.

This will allow us to build a new building and move all our tenants right along with us. Think of the excitement and energy a new building would bring to us. If you have any questions about the handling of our property, please do not come to your own conclusion or be a part of the rumor mill. Please call me 804-370-1861 with any questions you have. I am here to serve you. Just to recap, we need members and a building superintendent. IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO YOU AND ME. Please, let us work together to get at least 25 candidates for the Spring Reunion. Three top line signatures gets you a membership medallion. Five top line signatures gets you a Jefferson Cup award, plus a \$100 gift card. I look forward to seeing all of you at the January Stated where we will install the new officers of all four Bodies. I congratulate all the officers for 2019 for a great year, and I congratulate all the incoming officers for 2020. Let us make 2020 the year of positive membership growth. God bless you, God bless the Rite and God bless the United States of America. See you soon.

## WOMAN'S CLUB NOTES

**Valerie Layman, President**

Happy New Year and welcome to the year 2020. I hope everyone had a safe holiday.

For our **January** meeting, bring your favorite card or board game and bring your ideas for programs you would like to see or hear in the coming year.

In **February**, we will appoint the nominating committee for 2020 officers. Per our updated by-laws, the term of office is now one year.

In **March**, we will select our audit committee to audit the books to prepare for the election.

I want to invite all ladies who are attending the Scottish Rite dinner meetings to visit with us. You do not have to join.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**We are working diligently to keep our meal cost at \$8 per person.**

**THE 2020 ANNUAL  
DINNER TICKETS  
ARE ON SALE!**

**GET YOURS NOW!**

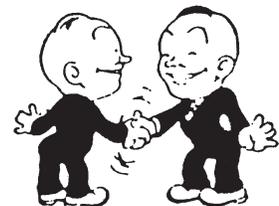
**An \$80 Value for a  
Cost of only \$72**

**THE ONLY PERMANENT  
DINNER LIST WILL BE  
FOR ANNUAL TICKETS  
ONLY!**

**If you do not have an  
Annual Dinner Ticket, you  
MUST call in your dinner  
reservation no later than  
Wednesday before the  
dinner. Reservations after  
that time will be \$10 per  
person.**

**Call or Stop by the Office  
Cash, Check or Charge**

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME  
A SCOTTISH RITE MASON . . .  
DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM.

## THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Monday -Thursday

Friday by Appointment

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Commander, Knights Kadosh

#### Samuel Gomez, 32°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

## MEMBERSHIP

### Charles Robinson, Chairman

Happy New Year Brethren! I hope you had a joyous holiday season. The ringing in of the New Year symbolizes a fresh start. At our Scottish Rite, that will start with our January Stated when we hold our annual election of officers. After dinner, we will have an Open Installation of officers for 2020. This will be our first peek into the exciting programs the Venerable Master has planned for us this year. Since this is an open event, why not invite any Brother you feel would make a good Scottish Rite Mason. Just make sure to call the office and make a reservation.

One very special event we have coming up is a One-Day Reunion scheduled for April 25, 2020. It will be in memory of Ill. Park Alton Dodd, Jr., 33°. More information will be coming soon, but Petitions are available now at the Scottish Rite or on our web site.

I hope to see all of you at our January stated!

### Called from Labor

GEORGE MELVIN AYERS, JR.  
1938 - 2019

WILLIAM JENNINGS BALL, SR.  
1924 - 2019

FLOYD EUGENE BOWEN  
1926 - 2019

VERNON FORREST BRANN  
1933 - 2019

THOMAS DAVIS CUSTALOW, SR.  
1939 - 2019

JAMES JUDSON FOX  
1925 - 2019

CLARENCE BAILEY JONES  
1921 - 2019

HEYWARD GRADY KOLB, JR.  
1937 - 2019

JACK H MOORE  
1932 - 2019

ROBERT THADDEUS MUSE, SR.  
1925 - 2018

EDWARD NELSON OWENS  
1924 - 2019

NORWOOD HUGH POWELL, SR.  
1931 - 2019

STANLEY GORDON SHEPHERD  
1923 - 2019

EDWARD FRANCIS SWANSEY, JR.  
1939 - 2019

GEORGE NELSON TREXLER  
1927 - 2019

AYER CROUCH WHITLEY  
1939 - 2019

NORMAN JAMES WILLIAMS, SR.  
1944 - 2019

ARTHUR COSBY WORLEY  
1925 - 2019

### Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

## FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

Please take a moment and communicate with our shut-in Brethren either by card or a phone call. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and you will feel better for it.

### NEW SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Marshall Messimer

Gordon Morrow

Charles Sarbaugh

REQUESTED  
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Richmond, Virginia 23227  
P.O. Box 9136

Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies

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