

# Richmond Double Eagle

January 2019



Chapter Rose Croix



Knights Kadosh



Consistory



Lodge of Perfection



KSA



KCCH



33° IGH



Let me begin by thanking all of our Brethren who attended our November Meeting in support of our newly installed Grand Master, Most Worshipful William E. Hershey, Jr.!! It was a fantastic meeting and Most Worshipful Hershey gave us a very personal and informative talk. Our very own Richmond Scottish Rite Guard performed in an admirable manner in receiving our Grand Master under the "Arch of Steel" accompanied by the presentation of our Nation's Colors. Our Venerable Master, General Secretary and our Stewards all coordinated a fantastic night!

As we begin a new year let us all remember just how much we all have to be thankful for and to always remember those who are less fortunate. We could not do this in a more humble manner than through our continued support of our Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center. Your financial contributions and personal support of our Spaghetti Dinner, the Golf Tournament and through your contributions to the year-end call for donations is the life blood of the Center and continues to allow us to help those young children who so desperately need our help. That old axiom of **"No man ever stood so tall as when he stoops to help a child"** is definitely true of your support of our Childhood Language Center. Thank you so much and I hope that you will continue to contribute as generously as you can but equally important is your continued support of our Valley.

In speaking of supporting our Valley, you should be proud in the fact that we are seeing an increase in members attending our Stated Meetings! This is great news and for those of you who have not been attending on a regular basis you are missing great fellowship. Some of you are attending the meeting but not staying for dinner? You are missing some good programs but more importantly you are missing a good meal and the opportunity to sit around and just talk with your brethren. Please, come out to the Stated Meeting and stay for dinner, we miss being with you and if you are truthful to yourself, you miss us as well.

In closing let me say that Free Masonry and our Appendant Bodies, especially our Scottish Rite, affords me the opportunity to mix with like thinking men who are patriotic, love their God and Country and are always willing to assist his fellow man! I am proud to be a small part of this great fraternity and I thank each of you for being my Friend and Brother!

My wish and prayer are for each of you to have a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!!!



**Well, 2019 has arrived which means my tenure as your Venerable Master is drawing to a close. Thank you for allowing me to serve and to follow in the footsteps of some very fine men and Masons who have held this position before me. All the words like privilege and honor don't seem like enough but I want you to know this has meant something to me.**

**To the Officers—Elected and Appointed—who served with me, to the many Committee Members and all who labored in one way or another, thank you for your help and support, and most especially, your commitment to the Richmond Valley Scottish Rite. To the incoming 2019 Officers, I wish you much success and I challenge you to be bold and forward thinking as you face the opportunities and challenges that will come your way—your actions and leadership will chart the future course.**

**In looking back, I hope you will agree with my assessment; it was a good year albeit it one beset by tough decisions and even some disappointment. It was a year of strong leadership and the hard work of many dedicated hands and it was yet another year of declining membership and far too many farewells to those called to their Heavenly Home by the Supreme Architect. It was a year, if I say so myself, of well-planned Stated and Dinner Meetings with programs that were entertaining and informative. More often than not though, at our Stated Meetings, and definitely at the Reunion, the attendance was down and that's where the disappointment, and yes, concern comes in.**

**We made the tough but necessary decision to sell our building—and while the sale remains pending—I believe this offers the promise, and hope, of a fresh start in a new, state of the art building, one that will not only serve our needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but also one that will generate an income stream through rentals. I thank our Personal Representative, MW V. Stuart Cook, for his strong and unwavering leadership in this and so many other critical areas.**

**The Degree work at our Fall Reunion—where we welcomed 19 new Masters of the Royal Secret—was outstanding. Thank you, Illustrious Ed Swansey and all of our Degree Teams, for your hard work and dedication. For reasons beyond our control our trip to the House of the Temple to confer the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree did not work out, this was clearly a disappointment. We plan a trip to the HOT in the spring for the candidates and others who may be interested.**

**As we grapple with the issue of declining membership and sparse attendance at our Stated and Dinner meetings, I look for answers and I know many of you do as well. Here's what I know for sure. This is your Scottish Rite and we stand at a crossroads, growth, sustainability**

and the future viability rest in our hands. As we reflect on 2018, I thank those of you who were there and involved, you made a difference. If you weren't there, I pass no judgement realizing there are any number of legitimate things that can keep you away, but you were missed, and looking forward, to the extent your cable tow will allow, you are certainly needed.

This past year, I have tried to be honest in my assessment of how things are progressing, or not, in the Richmond Valley. I find no need to sugar coat the message. There is ample reason for hope and optimism, and yes, there is reason for concern. We've got a lot of work to do but our mission is worthy and the rewards are great—and while our future may look dramatically different from our past—the opportunities are abundant and we must press on.

Finally, I would be remiss if I closed my final message without a word about the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, there is no more worthy mission in our Valley than the life-changing work done there. After a couple of years of significant change and transition—and yes, some turbulence—operations have leveled off and things are going well. Our new Executive Director, Dr. Susan Combee, came onboard in October and has quickly demonstrated strong and effective leadership skills. With much concern and caring, Brother Joe Towler, KCCH, has provided steady leadership as our Board President and we commend him for his service. Illustrious Brother Buddy Bass will take over as President in 2019 and we know his wisdom and proven leadership abilities will carry us to even greater horizons. Because of your support and dedication, over 11,000 children have received treatment for speech and hearing difficulties—life changing stuff—make no mistake, our mission is worthy!!

Remember this, “The duty of a Mason as an honest man is plain and easy. It requires of us honesty in contract, sincerity in affirming, simplicity in bargaining, and faithfulness in performing.” (A Bridge to Light)

### ***History made at November Scottish Rite Stated Meeting and Dinner***

At our November Stated and Dinner Meeting the 174th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful William Edward Hershey, was received under the Arch of Steel presented by the Scottish Rite Guard. A number of the Grand Line Officers and 2018/2019 District Deputy Grand Masters were also present on this very special evening.

The evening included what many of our more seasoned Scottish Rite Masons believe was a little bit of Scottish Rite and Masonic history. The Grand Master was received in the customary fashion by our Venerable Master, Right Worshipful Douglas V. Jones, who also serves as Deputy Grand Master. No one can remember a time when the sitting Venerable Master was also the sitting Deputy Grand Master when the Most Worshipful Grand Master made his Official visit to the Richmond Valley. The evening, when a little history was made, was enjoyed by all those who attended.

S&F,

Terry Hilton, 32° KCCH

### *Scottish Rite Woman's Club*

Scottish Rite Woman's Club,

We welcome any ladies to our meeting in the library.

I hope to see you there.

Valerie Layman, President

## **NEWSLETTER CHANGES COMING SOON!**

Next year will bring some changes to our Newsletter. Starting with the March – April issue, the Richmond Valley Newsletter will be distributed electronically by email. If you have an email address, and we do not have it, please send it to us as soon as possible. Paper copies will only be mailed to those members without an email address. If you are receiving the Fellowship Reports, you will receive the Newsletter. If you have requested to have your email address removed from the Fellowship Report list, you will not receive a Newsletter. If you have any questions, please call the office.

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DUSTY FILES

**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 331 shopping days remain until next Christmas. My congratulations to our soon to be elected and installed new Masters for 2019.

I 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 Valley. Let us all attend the meeting and support our election and installation 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 us make that decision to support our leaders. Our incoming Masters have been hard at work to prepare their programs for 2019, and will be communicating those plans during the coming months.

Be an active Scottish Rite Mason. Our meetings are listed in the Calendar. The meals are excellent and are only \$8. An annual meal ticket is available for \$72 and you receive one free meal.

At this writing, we still have over 400 of our members who have not sent in their 2019 dues and over 80 who still owe dues for 2018 and will be delinquent on January 1. According to the Supreme Council Statutes, your dues are payable by December 31, and you need a current dues card to attend the business meetings. Please remember that the Scottish Rite cannot fulfill its obligations unless you have fulfilled yours. Your dues go a long way toward keeping the Temple open and functioning.

Details for our Spring Reunion will be announced shortly. Petitions are available now. Keep your eye on the Richmond Double Eagle for all the updates.

Let us commit to unwavering support for our Scottish Rite Valley and our Childhood Language Center for 2019. I hope to see everyone at our Stated Meetings this year. **Just remember to make your dinner reservations.**

## COME TOUR THE HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE ON OCTOBER 30, 2019

We will leave by bus from the Scottish Rite Temple at 7:30 AM. We should arrive at the House of the Temple between 9:30 and 10:00 AM.

We will leave the House of the Temple at approximately 12:30 PM and travel to Stafford, VA to the Globe and Laurel Restaurant. Arrangements are under way for a buffet meal. Cost yet to be determined.

**Please call the office to make your reservation.**

**Your lady is welcome.**

Cost of the bus is \$30 per person. Cash, check or charge up front.

The buffet is in addition to the transportation.

We expect to arrive back in Richmond around 4:00 PM.

Seating is limited.

Watch this space for more information in the future.

## **SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS**

**2019**

#### **January**

Wednesday 9 – Honour Court

Monday 28 – Stated Meeting

#### **February**

Thursday 14 – Valentine’s Day

Monday 25 – Stated Meeting

### **SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Monday, January 28, 2019**

**5:30 PM – Guard Meeting**

**6:00 PM – Business Meeting**

**7:00 PM – Dinner (\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)**

**Program – Election and Installation of Officers for 2019**

**“RESERVATIONS REQUIRED”**

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Monday, February 25, 2019

5:30 PM – Guard Meeting

6:00 PM – Business Meeting

7:00 PM – Dinner (\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)

Program – Matt Szramoski from the House of the Temple

**“RESERVATIONS REQUIRED”**

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Richmond Scottish Rite Valley web site <http://www.richmondscottishrite.org/>