

# Richmond Double Eagle

June 2018



Chapter Rose Croix



Knights Kadosh



Consistory



Lodge of Perfection



KSA



KCCH



33° IGH



**Brethren and All,**

**The June Stated Meeting for the Lodge of Perfection will be one of our most significant and impactful meetings in a long time. I won't get dramatic and say it will be historic, but actually it will be because we will be voting on a motion to allow the sale of our building. A tough decision for sure but one we must consider. An affirmative vote authorizes those Brethren named in the motion to represent the Valley to negotiate the terms and conditions of selling the building when a buyer steps forward with an offer. Those terms and conditions and the selling price would then go before the Executive Council for final approval. Right now, it's fair to say we have interest but no offers on the table. So, if you, the Brethren, approve the sale, there is no way to say when we would actually move as many, many details will have to be worked out once an offer is received—negotiated to the satisfaction of both parties—and the papers are signed finalizing the sale. I say all of that to let you know this is a process, one that will take some time, just how quickly it will all move, if approved, is simply unknown. The June 25<sup>th</sup> Stated is your opportunity to better understand why this motion is before us in the first place, to have your questions answered and to have a voice in this critical decision. I strongly encourage you to be there.**

**Our after-dinner program in June is Education Night, certainly a favorite of mine and I know for many of you as well. We will recognize four teachers who have excelled in their chosen field and present scholarships to a total of 14 students, with one of those being presented by the Scottish Rite Women's Club. As Scottish Rite Masons we value many things and strive to invest ourselves in things that are worthy. I can think of no better example than recognizing teachers who practice their craft with dedication and passion and presenting scholarships to deserving young men and women we have excelled in their study's and who embody so many good things, outstanding character, quality and hard work.**

As we enter all that the summer months have to offer, I remind you in the most friendly manner, our Fall Reunion is really not all that far away. As most everyone knows by now, we will be conferring the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, something very special and something that won't happen again any time soon. Sometimes I think membership is one of those subjects we tune out because we hear it so much but I tell you the message comes with good reason, it is something we absolutely cannot escape. There is no getting around the fact our Valley stands at a crossroads, our strength and vitality—and all the noble things we do to include the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center—rests in your hands and my hands and the hands those good men and Masons we invite to join us. If we want to sustain those things—things many have worked so hard for over the years—we must grow our membership. Just this year, death has taken so many fine men and Brothers from us. It's a reality we must face and the decision before us to sell the building, or not, is but one of the warning signs. We're still doing good things, there is ample reason for hope and optimism, but we've got to grow our membership, think about five or ten years out and where our Valley will hopefully be if we do the right thing now. So, get those petitions in as soon as you can and let's have a historic Fall Reunion.

As I close this message, I want to thank our Personal Representative, Most Worshipful V. Stuart Cook, and the three committees he appointed, Membership, Building, and Budget/Finance/Trustees. Their hard work and analysis has peeled back the layers allowing us to examine our Valley's health and chart what will hopefully be a productive forward path. There's plenty of work still to do but they've gotten us off to a good start, allowing us to be well-informed as we proceed. Thanks to the enthusiasm and tenacity of Brothers Charles Robinson and Terry Hilton our social event for the Celebrating the Craft exceeded every expectation. We had 120 people sign up for a cook out followed by a night at the Diamond to watch the Flying Squirrels play. The weather unfortunately put a damper on things but we pressed on nonetheless, what an extraordinary effort!

I leave you with this thought, *"Everyone wants to ride the train, but not everyone wants to lay the tracks."* Thanks for all you do and are going to do to keep Scottish Rite Freemasonry strong.

Venerable Master RW Doug Jones 32 KCCH

## Celebrating the Craft 2018

Brethren and Ladies of the Scottish Rite. THANK YOU for your support of the Celebrating the Craft event again this year. Charles Robinson and I are thrilled to report that we sold 120

Richmond Flying Squirrels tickets, and in spite of the rain, about 40 people actually showed up for what turned out to be a great night of baseball. The Squirrels played a double header and the game was enjoyed by all.

We had a nice picnic with the hot dogs donated by Morrison's Food Service. A big thank you also goes out to Ronnie Butler who arranged for us to use the Shrine Pavilion for our picnic. While we didn't have everyone there that we expected, we were able to make a nice donation to the Little Sisters of the Poor with the extra food.

When all was said and done, we were able to donate another \$200 to the Celebrating the Craft at the House of the Temple. This was added to almost \$1000 that we collected already for a total gift of \$1200. Thank you for supporting this wonderful charity that benefits our Childhood Language Center!

Terry Hilton

Brethren,

The House of The Temple is one of the most beautiful buildings In our nation's capital. It's library and museum contains Masonic history that you will not find anywhere else. If you have never visited, here's your chance. The Richmond Scottish Rite will be having a two-day reunion this fall, October 6 we will cover the 4th through the 31st Degrees at The Scottish Rite Temple. Then on October 27th, we will be taking the entire class to The House of the Temple in Washington, DC. for a tour of "The Temple". Then they will receive the 32nd Degree in the Temple Room. This is a Historical event that has been done only once before.

If you are already a Scottish Rite Mason, you have the opportunity to participate in this event by supporting our newest members as they become some of the very few that have ever received their 32nd Degree in The House of The Temple.

Any Master Mason is eligible, and any Scottish Rite Mason can sign a petition! Let's take a look at what the special reunion cost of \$300 covers. Next year's dues of \$150, The books "Morals and Dogma" and "A Bridge to Light", a symbolic 14th Degree Ring, a meal both days, transportation to Washington D.C. on 10/27, and the Degrees. What a Deal!

This opportunity might never come around again. Let's make sure all our Brethren have the opportunity to be part of this Special Reunion!

Charles

# ANNUAL RITE CARE PILGRIMAGE TO

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

### LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

Our annual trip to James Madison University for the RiteCare observance is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2018. **All who are interested in attending must call the office no later than June 28, 2018.** We have to provide a count to the University. If you have never been to observe the JMU program in the past, please consider attending this year. It is always a very informative program. Wives are encouraged to attend.

Dress will be business casual – Scottish Rite golf shirt or sport coat with no tie. No caps, please. Start time is 10:00 AM and we will be done about 1:00 PM. Driving directions are: Take Exit 245 off I-81 and go west on Port Republic Road for .6 miles. Turn right onto S. Main Street and go .5 miles. Turn right onto East Grace Street and the parking garage will be on your right in .3 miles. JMU will bus us to the school site. Another reason we must provide a head count.

If your name is on the list to attend, you will be notified of any changes to the schedule. Updates will also appear in the Richmond Double Eagle. Please remember to call the office to register for JMU.

### SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

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**Monday, June 25, 2018**

**5:30 PM – Business Meeting**

**7:00 PM – Dinner (\$8 with a**

**Reservation, \$10 without)**

**Program – Education Night**

**“RESERVATIONS REQUIRED”**

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## **RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS**

**2018**

**JUNE**

Sunday 17 – Father’s Day

Monday 25 – Stated Meeting

**JULY**

Tuesday 3 – Office Closes at Noon

Wednesday 4 – Office Closed for July 4 Holiday

**NO STATED MEETING IN JULY**

**AUGUST**

Saturday 4 – Grand Lodge One-Day Conferral

Saturday 18 – GMOV to Districts 15 A, B, & C

Saturday 25 – Hermitage Road Closed for

Moonlight Bicycle Ride

Monday 27 – Stated Meeting

**SEPTEMBER**

Monday 3 – Office Closed for Labor Day

Monday 24 – Stated Meeting

### **WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF OUR VALLEY?**

Brethren, as you recall, in the latter part of 2017, we began discussions about the solvency and vitality of our Valley, i.e..., the financial strengths and weaknesses, the state of our building and the decline in our

membership. In short, we were discussing just how long we could sustain our “standard of living” under the continuing decline of these three major components of our Valley.

We established three committees to evaluate where we are, where we envision we will be in the future and how we will continue to grow as a Valley. Many of our members volunteered to work on these committees and they commenced their work in December 2017. All this was done to carry out our charge in a positive posture as we adhere to the Mission of our Supreme Council.

*“to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and evaluating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion and dedication to God, family and country.”*

We have a building built in the 60’s when we had a membership of several thousand. The building is approximately 46,000 square feet and is nearly double in size of our current requirements. Considering that, we as the Richmond Valley, only use this building for Scottish Rite functions approximately two times per month, on average. We have ten business meetings per year and two Reunions. Yet, we must maintain the entire building. To stay in our current location, it is estimated that our maintenance costs over the next year will exceed 1.2 million dollars.

Selling our building and moving forward is believed to be a very good decision for us to consider.

We would be able to purchase land in a convenient location on which to construct a new building more suited to our needs. A building approximately one-half our current size and well within our financial ability to maintain. We cannot continue to sustain our current building with our current members. An increase of 1,100 new members would be needed to balance our budget. Unfortunately, it is unrealistic for us to think this will occur.

What about our Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center (Rite Care) facility? We would have the option of building a new facility at our new location, or possibly renting from the purchaser of our current location. These details will resolve themselves as we move forward with this plan.

There is a potential buyer interested in purchasing our building and members of your Executive Council have met with them on two occasions. The ultimate decision, however, to sell our building and move forward will be yours to make. The Executive Council at its regularly scheduled meeting voted unanimously on May 9, 2018, to recommend to the entire membership that the building be sold to this potential buyer if a fair price is offered and if not, to put the building up for sale for the sale price determined by the Executive Council members.

A decision to sell our building will ultimately have to be approved by our Sovereign Grand Inspector General. He has reviewed the actions we have taken and is supportive of our decision to sell the building.

A report has been published by our Personal Representative covering all of the information contained in this article, and is available in the Scottish Rite Office for your review. It may not be copied or removed from the

office, but is available Monday – Thursday from 9AM to 3:30PM, and we encourage our membership to stop in and look it over.

A motion was presented at the May 2018 business meeting of the Richmond Valley. That motion is hereby reprinted for the information of our membership and will be called up for discussion and ballot at our June 25, 2018 business meeting. Please note that the June 25, 2018 business meeting will start at 5:30PM rather than the usual time, to allow sufficient time for discussion.

The motion presented by our Personal Representative reads as follows:

“I move to approve the sale of our Building and Grounds to an entity currently interested in buying the property that we occupy, including the adjoining building that houses our Childhood Language Center, provided a fair and equitable price is offered. Should the prospective buyer not follow-through on the purchase, this motion then allows the Assistant Personal Representative, Ill. & Rt. Wor. Samuel E. Dunn, 33<sup>o</sup>, and our Venerable Master, Rt. Wor. Douglas V. Jones, KCCH, to move forward in the advertising and sale of said property.”

Remember, brethren, that the ultimate decision to sell our building is in your hands at the June 25, 2018 business meeting starting at 5:30PM. If you want your opinions and comments heard, please be present on June 25, 2018.



**VMAP Committee - Lin Spears and Whit Hanscom**

**Our Valley committed to being awarded the VMAP Program again this year. The program information can be found on [Scottish Rite.org](http://ScottishRite.org). VMAP gives our Valley a checklist to self-evaluate the many areas that are necessary for our success. The Valley officers would appreciate your input.**

**Lin Spears, 32 ° KCCH and Whit Hanscom, 32 ° VMAP Committee**

*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

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Next issue deadline is August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9PM. Shipping date is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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