



VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Mike Atkins, KCCH

The year has started off with a bang and many things are already scheduled. Our February guest speaker is Sheriff Karl Leonard from Chesterfield County. Sheriff Leonard is well known on a National level for his Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (HARP). The program assists inmates with all types of addictions. Sheriff Leonard's efforts with this program has assisted many inmates transitioning from a life dependent on addiction to a life with sobriety and Faith. Dr. Susan Combee, from our Childhood Language Center will be our guest speaker for March. She will be bringing us an update on where the team next door is functioning and what their plans are for the future. The team sent out a heart-warming Valentine's photo on February 14. The Spring Reunion is on April 25, 2020. Please get some Petitions and take them to your Lodge visits. We are also offering a special one-time reduced fee of \$265 including 2020 dues. This is a great time to join the Richmond Valley. Also, if there is a member that has not been to a meeting in a while, or has allowed his dues to laps, let us reach out to those Brethren and regenerate their spark for the Scottish Rite.

Brethren, thank you for all the hard work that each of you do for Masonry on a daily basis and to the family members that assist the Valley and allow us the time to do great things in our community.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Spring signifies a new beginning. What better way to celebrate spring than to begin the turnaround of our Scottish Rite membership. Let us all start by bringing a member that has not attended a meeting in a while, or by inviting a Mason, that you think might be interested in joining us. I am sure both would enjoy the evening. Please be sure to let the office know so we can get an accurate count for dinner.

I know the Scottish Rite Ambassadors have been giving the monthly messages in their Blue Lodges, but each of us needs to get involved. Our upcoming Reunion is in memory of Ill. Park Alton Dodd, Jr., 33°. In order to make membership more enticing, we have moved the date back one week to April 25, to avoid any conflict with the Richmond Nascar race. We have shortened the Reunion to one day and have lowered the price to \$265. This price includes the books "Morals and Dogma", "A Bridge to Light" and the 2020 dues! Any Master Mason in good standing is eligible! Petitions can be obtained from our web-site, the Scottish Rite lobby/office or any Scottish Rite member. Let us all do our best to honor the memory of Ill. Park Dodd.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, March 23, 2020

5:30 PM Guard Meeting

6:00 PM Business Meeting

7:00 PM Dinner

(\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)

Program – Dr. Susan Combee

Childhood Language Center

*** **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** ***

Monday, April 27, 2020

5:30 PM ... Ceremony of Remembrance

NO GUARD MEETING

6:15 PM Business Meeting

7:00 PM Dinner

(\$8 with a Reservation, \$10 without)

Program – Ceremony of Remembrance

Speaker - Rev. Katherine Hull

*** **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED** ***

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°



Our Spring Reunion is almost upon us, and we need the support of every brother in the Richmond Valley. Petitions are vital to the success of our Reunions, and this spring is no exception. Talk to the members of your Lodge, other Lodges, or any sojourning Mason who may be interested in joining with the Scottish Rite. They will not only learn more about Masonry, but will be helping to support our philanthropy, the Childhood Language Center.

March not only brings spring, but the Scottish Rite Workshop on Saturday, March 28.

Information about the March 28 Scottish Rite Workshop is also elsewhere in this Newsletter. We need to have a good turnout to support our Vice-President of the Conference.

In April, the Chapter Rose Croix will present our annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the auditorium. Your participation in remembering our departed brethren will give meaning to their memory. Our speaker that evening is Rev. Katherine Hull from the Macedonia Christian Church DLC. The Lodge of Perfection will meet at 6:15 PM that night and dinner will follow the program.

Lastly, reminder dues notices should be in the mail from the Supreme Council. This is a reminder to the approximately 275 members of the Valley who have not paid their dues. This includes about 65 members who are on the delinquent list and will be subject to suspension. Brethren, the Valley needs your support. Please pay your dues when the notice arrives. If they have already been paid, thank you, and please excuse the notice which has crossed in the mail.

Your reservations for dinner one week in advance are greatly appreciated.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - *Tom Varner, KCCH*

Have you ever read the Book of Ecclesiastes? It contains only 12 Chapters, yet is full of meaning and important concepts. When I was 24, I went to the Grand Royal Arch Annual Convocation, where Most Worshipful and Most Excellent Stewart Miner was presiding. While rooming with Ill. Robert Simpson, 33°, of Charlottesville, I noticed him reading the Book of Ecclesiastes, and I have been fascinated by the Book ever since.

All Masons are familiar with the words of Ecclesiastes 12, which are used in the First Section of the Master Mason Degree and also in the Scottish Rite 17th Degree. It was written by King Solomon at the end of his life, and is a part of the Bible known as the Wisdom Literature. The Book's main theme is that life without God is meaningless. There are a number of famous phrases in it. It refers to the author as "The Teacher", and begins with "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity, what do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun". Another phrase is, "There is nothing new under the sun." The musical group Byrds used passages from the Book in their famous 1966 song "Turn, Turn, Turn", when they said, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven, a time to be born and a time to die."

Given this theme, what can we as Scottish Rite Masons take from it to help us live our lives? First, meaning in life comes not from the external qualifications of a man like money and success, but rather from the internal qualifications such as a caring, honest, and grateful heart. The chasing after life's pleasures without keeping God foremost is a meaningless activity and will not bring happiness. Second, live your Masonic obligations every day as if you are accountable to God for your actions and live your lives with God's purpose in mind.

As it says in Ecclesiastes 12, remember your Creator while your mind and body are still whole, and when you can still follow Him. Perhaps the closing words are the best advice we can take as Masons, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

As I sit here composing this article for the newsletter, I cannot believe it is almost 65 degrees and sunny. This is God's promise that spring is on the way and soon the flowers and trees will be in full bloom, hopefully our souls and spirits will fully bloom and our Masonic endeavors will flourish and grow. Thanks to all the officers who served our Valley for 2019 and to all the officers who were elected and installed for 2020. As I looked over the Masters and their officers this year, I witnessed energy and excitement brewing within their hearts. I ask the Masters to meet with your officers frequently and keep the flame burning.

Our Spring Reunion is coming up April 25. Brethren, we need Petitions. We canceled our Fall Reunion due to lack of candidates and we must all band together to make our Spring Reunion a raging success. This Reunion will be in Memory of Ill. Park Dodd, 33°, and we need a large class to Honor this giant of Scottish Rite Masonry. The reduced Reunion cost is \$265. It is a one-day Reunion with the five mandatory degrees. First time three top line signers will receive a Scottish Rite Medallion. Five first line signers will receive a Jefferson Cup plus a \$100 gift card to use as you choose. Do not deny your brothers the privilege of becoming a 32nd Degree Mason. Invite a prospective member to our Stated dinner. Just call the office and make their no charge reservation.

The Scottish Rite Workshop is on March 28. Our Conference Vice-President, Ill. Tom Wadkins, 33°, says this Workshop will be very informative. Wear your blue blazers and grey slacks.

One last thing to remind you of is that our Library and Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for this year's Scholarships. Applications must be in the Scottish Rite Office no later than April 16, 2020. If you have a child, grandchild or great-grandchild graduating high school or returning to college, and they have not received this scholarship two times, they are eligible to make an application. We issue thirteen \$1,000 Scholarships every year. Recipients must be present to receive their scholarship in person.

I would also like to remind you that we still need a night building superintendent. I look forward to seeing you all soon bringing your completed Petitions. GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS THE RITE and GOD BLESS THIS GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

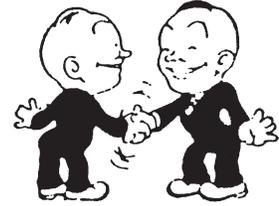
SCOTTISH RITE CONFERENCE OF VIRGINIA - SPRING WORKSHOP

Richmond Scottish Rite Temple
4204 Hermitage Road • Richmond, VA
Saturday, March 28, 2020

Coffee and Donuts in the Dining Room at 8:30 AM
Meeting starts at 9:30 AM

Presentations by Ill. and M.W. Douglas V. Jones, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and Ill. Terry Bowman, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council for Kentucky whose topic is "Leadership".

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2020 —

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

MAY

Sunday 10	Mother's Day
Monday 18	Stated Meeting (note date change)
Monday 25	Memorial Day (office closed)

JUNE

Sunday 21	Father's Day
Monday 22	Stated Meeting

JULY

Saturday 4	Independence Day
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**NO STATED MEETING
THIS MONTH**

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CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

Chapter of Rose Croix, Harvey Fleshman, KCCH, Wise Master

I am honored and appreciative of having been elected as Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix. I hope you will join me in making this a successful year. The most important duty we have this year is to hold the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, prior to the April Stated meeting. Our speaker will be Rev. Katherine Hull from the Macedonia Christian Church DLC.

The attendance has been very poor for several years and I urge you to start planning now to attend and pay proper respect to those brethren that have laid down their working tools during the past year. It is sad when there are nearly as many people on the stage as in the audience and more so when family members are in attendance.

Some of those lost in the past year, I did not know. Some were friends I had known for years, and I'm sure the same applies to you. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to be there! If you have not been attending the Stated meetings, I urge you to do so. The good work we do related to the Childhood Language Center will be enhanced with your help, and the opportunity to meet with your friends and brothers will be a blessing.

Called from Labor

EWELL THOMAS ALDERMAN, JR.
1965 - 2017

PHILLIP EDMUND BARNARD
1938 - 2020

GEORGE MALCOHM BELCHER
1932 - 2020

RAYMOND MATTHEW BERRYMAN, JR.
1926 - 2020

BRUCE HOWARD BOOTH
1948 - 2020

FRANCIS SUTTON BRANNAN
1924 - 2020

LOUIS EDWARD DOUCET
1920 - 2020

JOHN COURTLANDT MAXWELL, JR.
1928 - 2020

GORDON JACK MORROW
1930 - 2020

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

Barrye L. Absher

Linwood G. Bennett, Jr.

Douglas M. Messimer

REQUESTED
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