

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Gary E. Hutchinson, 32°, KCCH

February has been a very busy month with a lot of events and celebrations, including the Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, and Valentines Day, to name only a few. I hope you were able to enjoy all, or most, of these events with your family and friends, as well as our February Stated Meeting and dinner.

Now with the Spring Season, a season of renewal, upon us, the Richmond Valley has several significant events coming up, including:

- **“Bring-A-Mason-To-Dinner” Program** - What better way to start this season than a renewal of this worthwhile program for our Valley. Beginning in our March (25th) Stated Meeting and dinner, we are reinstating our **“Bring-A-Mason-To-Dinner” Program**. To participate simply (1) look in your Blue Lodge and invite a Mason, not already a Scottish Rite Mason, (2) call the Scottish Rite Office (804-264-2050) and make a reservation for you and your guest(s). The Scottish Rite will cover their meal cost.
- **Annual Spring Workshop** - Hosted by the Richmond Valley on March 16th, and all Scottish Rite Masons are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate.
- **2024 Spring Reunion** - Saturday, April 20th, and will be in fond memory of Ill. Ronald Everette Butler, Sr. We are looking for a big class.
- **2024 Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal** - Conducted by the Valley's Rose Croix Chapter during our April (22nd) dinner.

My pastor noted during a recent sermon that we should “lean toward inclusion.” So, again, I turn to each of you, the members of this Richmond Valley and ask that we all commit to, ‘including yourself’ in continuing the good work and fellowship of Freemasonry, The Scottish Rite, and our Lodge of Perfection. Further, I sincerely hope that we all, to a man, are ready and willing to participate this year, to actively support this Valley, and make it and each of us, even better in 2024. The officers of the 2024 Lodge of Perfection, myself, and all those who so freely help to prepare and operate our meetings and dinners sincerely hope to see each Valley member, their wives and/or guests at 6:00 pm on the 4th Monday of each month. We do lean toward your inclusion and participation, as well as your feedback and input to our meetings, dinners, and activities this year.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Spring is finally here! What do we look forward to the most about spring? Getting outside, taking in a ball game and going to a Scottish Rite Reunion. Our reunion will be held April 20, 2024, and in is memory of Ill. Ronald Everette Butler, Sr., 33°, IGH. We will have the Cinematic presentation of the Degrees and hopefully two live performances. Susan Combee, Executive Director of the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center will come speak. There will also be a tour of the Language Center.

Petitions can be found on the Richmond Scottish Rite web site or at the office. Please return petitions to the office no later than Wednesday, April 17, 2024, for processing. Let's do our best to honor Ronnie by making this a successful Reunion.

**SCOTTISH RITE
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, March 25, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
7:00 PM.....Dinner
Bring a Mason to Dinner
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

Monday, April 22, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
7:00 PM.....Dinner
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

Monday, May 20, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
7:00 PM.....Dinner
TBA
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

**RICHMOND
VALLEY
COMING EVENTS**

— 2024 —

MARCH

Monday 25 Stated Meeting

Sunday 31 Easter

APRIL

Monday 1 Office Closed
for Easter Monday

Wednesday 10 Honour Court

Saturday 20 Reunion

Monday 22 Stated Meeting

MAY

Monday 20 Stated Meeting

Monday 27 Memorial Day
Office Closed

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK
Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH



January has passed, February is almost past, and can you believe it, although we have had a few cold spells, NO SNOW to speak of. So, Go March! Go April let's see some snow.

Regardless of what happens in the weather forecast area, Spring is coming and will bring a new beginning to us. We will be planting flowers, doing yard work, going out on the golf course, and renewing our commitment to the Richmond Scottish Rite by coming together to our stated meetings. I look forward to seeing you there and enjoying your company.

Spring also represents a renewed effort towards education and membership. First, we have the Spring Workshop on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at ACCA Shrine Temple. The Workshop is hosted by Richmond this year. Let's come out and support our Valley. Second, we will have our Spring Reunion and Degree Conferral. This year The Spring 2024 Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The Reunion will be Honoring Ill Ronnie Butler, 33°, IGH. Ronnie's dedication and service to the Richmond Valley, and Masonry in general, deserves holding a fine Reunion in his memory. Make a special effort to get Petitions. Remember we need a minimum of ten (10) petitions to hold the Reunion.

Scholarship applications are available in the office or on the website and must be received in complete form no later than Noon, Monday, MARCH 18, 2024. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants selected to receive a scholarship are required to be present at the June Stated Dinner meeting.

Spring is, also, the time of year when we honor JROTC cadets from surrounding school systems. If you would like to participate in the presentation of these awards, please call the office.

The Chapter Rose Croix, under the leadership of Bro. Irvin Dale Lewis, 32°, Wise Master, will present the annual Ceremony of Remembrance at the April 22, 2024, business meeting.

Brethren, please check your dues card. As of this writing, we have over 20 members who have not paid last year's dues and are subject to suspension. If your dues card is not a 2024 card, let's get together and take care of this matter. I realize that reminder notices may have already been received.

Last, please note this regarding our meals. Food costs have risen dramatically. We charge you for your meal \$15.00 per person. This is a subsidized price. The true cost is much higher. Given this reality reservations are required. You must make your reservation by Wednesday, noon, of the week prior to the meeting. Reservations after the deadline will require \$20.00 per person.



PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry Hilton, 33°

Greetings Scottish Rite Masons!

It is amazing what a great year we are having already.

Thank you to everyone who is helping with the Scottish Rite Workshop. This was a terrific event and gives us the chance to showcase the Richmond Valley. As you know, we will be doing this again in September when we host the 100th anniversary of the Scottish Rite Conference in Virginia.

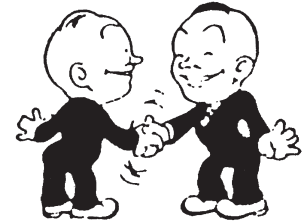
If you haven't found a candidate or two for the reunion, there is still time. Please talk this up in your Lodges and do your best to find some people who are interested in joining the college of Freemasonry, AKA, the SCOTTISH RITE!

There is a lot going on as we try to build a future for the Richmond Valley. Our General Secretary is doing a wonderful job of keeping us organized and handling all kinds of details that many of us are not even aware of. Thank you RW Bro. Lambros. Be sure and call the office anytime you have a question or even an idea.

As I mentioned in the February meeting, we will begin having quarterly Executive Council meetings again. This is an open meeting where new ideas are introduced, old ideas are discussed and either promoted or dismissed, and the Brethren are able to be a viable part of the Richmond Valley. The first meeting this year will be on April 24 at 5:30 pm. Please come out and share your ideas and voice your opinion about what is going on in our Valley.

Remember, Be ye all of one mind, live in peace, and may the God of peace and love delight to dwell with and bless you. (borrowed from the Grand Lodge Manual of Work).

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

While studying the Rose Croix Degrees, we learn about the rebuilding of the Temple in the 15th and 16th Degrees. In both the Scottish and York Rites, this is an important event. In the York Rite, the Royal Arch Degree covers the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC, the deportation of the Israelites to Babylon, and then King Cyrus of Persia allowing them under Zerubbabel's leadership to return many years later. The Knight Templar Order of the Red Cross and the

Knight Mason Degrees provide more detail on how Zerubbabel won permission from King Cyrus to return to Jerusalem, the subsequent conflicts between the repatriated Israelites and the Samaritans already there, and then Zerubbabel returning to Persia one more time to obtain assistance from King Darius.

Our 15th and 16th Degrees also relate these events in similar fashion. Sometimes I am asked what are the differences between the Scottish Rite and York Rites. I usually say that In the York Rite, we use the metaphor of stonemasons and building construction as symbols for how we can build our character. In the Scottish Rite, we instead work to awaken our conscience through emphasizing desired behavioral traits like those found on the columns in the 17th degree: Union, honor, duty, loyalty, courage, discretion, and silence. The Order of DeMolay, founded by the Scottish Rite, emphasizes seven cardinal virtues plus fidelity and toleration.

In the 15th degree, we see exemplified that great aspect of character, fidelity. When King Cyrus receives Zerubbabel, he agrees to allow the Israelites to return if he will divulge to King Cyrus the secrets of Masonry. Zerubbabel refuses of course, even after King Cyrus offers him ever more valuable rewards and inducements. Zerubbabel's fidelity and loyalty to his obligations impresses King Cyrus, who relents and allows him to return to Jerusalem to begin the rebuilding.

Again and again in Freemasonry, we see the importance of steadfast dedication to our obligations: Grand Master Hiram Abiff in the Master Mason Degree and Jacques DeMolay in the 29th Degree were both faithful unto death to their duties and consciences. The symbolic penalties in the three Craft Degrees emphasize the importance of keeping our obligations. Outside of our lodge walls, fidelity is even more important. We have been told many times that our word must be as good as our bond. Our Masonic obligations are real and have real consequences. How are we doing on being faithful to them? Are we becoming the man and Mason that God wants us to be? As Timothy wrote in his epistle, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Let your adherence to your obligations be pleasing to God and show the world what a Mason is and does.

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX *Wise Master, Irvin Dale Lewis*

Greetings Brethren. It seems each year time passes faster than the one before. As we move to Spring, we are reminded of the beauty all around us with the presence of new flowers, trees branching out and the presence of the birds singing their songs. Spring also provides the opportunity to gather outdoors with loved ones and with friends and family that may have been distant during the winter months.

It is this time of year we pause to reflect on the love that is all around us and to remember our brethren. During the April Communication we will conduct our Annual Ceremony of Remembrance in honor of our brethren who have been called by the Creator over the past 12 months and who conveyed their love over the years that hope is never lost. I hope everyone can join us in April for this most honorable ceremony.

Brethren, thank You for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Wise Master of Rose Croix for 2024. It is my honor and privilege to serve the valley in this capacity.

Called from Labor

LARRY SPENCER BALL
1946 - 2024

DAVID ALAN BROWN
1936 - 2024

ROY CECIL HEADLEY
1957 - 2022

WILLIAM SPENCER BLANKS
1935 - 2023

EARL THOMAS DODSON, JR.
1938 - 2023

STUARD ALBERT ROCK
1941 - 2023

GEORGE WALKER BRADLEY, JR.
1931 - 2024

SAMUEL GOMEZ
1971 2024

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

Rocky Robison

Tom Wadkins

REQUESTED
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