



III. Wayne Golden introduces III. Bill Sizemore's Educational Session



2014 Scottish Rite Conference hosted by the Norfolk Valley, Norfolk, Virginia.

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## Sovereign Grand Inspector General

**Ill. James D. Cole, 33°**

**The Virginia Light©**

**Published quarterly for the  
Brethren of Virginia**

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## Reflections on the 2014 Conference

Ill. James D. Cole, 33°  
Lt. Grand Commander and S.G.I.G. in Virginia

Laughter, good food and fine fellowship; inspiration from Old Dominion University's RiteCare leader and the bright students supported by Scottish Rite; education and enlightenment from our Friday presenters; motivation from the exciting new Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP).

We took these thoughts, feelings, ideas and reflections with us, like precious little gifts, as we journeyed home from the 2014 Orient of Virginia Conference, hosted by the Valley of Norfolk. The two hundred or so of us who enjoyed the hospitality of the Virginia Beach setting may not have realized that the planning efforts began at least a couple of years before we arrived. Perhaps we thanked our hosts from Norfolk enough for all the hours of preparation and service that they provided, but if not, we can still thank them personally.

I have had the pleasure of hosting a fellow SGIG at each of the last two conferences. In 2013, Ill. Jack Yost, 33° and his wife Chris joined us from West Virginia. They left full of amazement and this spring; West Virginia held its first Orient Conference, inspired by Virginia. This year, Ill. Marlin Mills, 33° and his wife Brenda joined us from Maryland. They left excited and wondering if Maryland could also pull off a similar conference.

They say, "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery."

My hope is that a conference that can motivate non-Virginians to imitate our example can also motivate our own Brethren in Virginia to be excited about our Rite. The Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) was introduced at the conference and is, in my opinion, one of the most exciting efforts ever undertaken in the world of Freemasonry.

VMAP began with the goal of engaging our members; engaging new members in a way that made for strong and lasting bonds, and engaging our existing members to ensure a continued and strengthened relationship with them. VMAP was developed from the simple theory that our own members probably best understand what can work for them. In order to enhance membership engagement, workshops were designed to ask the members themselves how we should proceed. In three workshops around the country, I had the privilege of moderating the meetings. We asked our Brethren for ideas, either new or proven, as possible tools to use in membership engagement. We received 400 ideas. Some of them were duplicated among the three workshops, meaning that the ideas were suggested in three different areas of our country. The 400 ideas were reviewed, summarized and outlined in the VMAP Workbook, which can be found at <http://scottishrite.org/about/media-publications/manual-brochure/vmap-workbook/>.

So what is VMAP? In my opinion, it is a cookbook of membership recipes. Broken down into ten categories, it provides great ideas to improve our membership efforts. Some of these suggestions have long been performed in Virginia Valleys; some are new and interesting ideas. The VMAP effort asks first that each Valley sign up to simply try. I cannot imagine why any Valley would not even "try." If a Valley signs up to try, they will be presented with a certificate by the Supreme

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## VMAP

The intent of VMAP is to help each Valley carry out its service to the Scottish Rite by providing the very best experience for its members. VMAP requirements are broken into the following 10 specific subject Areas which cover the full scope of the Scottish Rite experience:

- Membership Recruitment
- New Member Engagement
- Degree Conferral Proficiency
- Reunion Experience
- Scottish Rite Education for Candidates
- Scottish Rite Education for Members
- Officer Responsibilities & Engagement
- Philanthropy & Public Image
- Membership Retention Valley Organizations

Valleys that choose to participate in VMAP will receive a Certificate of Participation. Participating Valleys that reach specific thresholds in each of the above areas will receive a VMAP Achievement Award plaque along with VMAP Achievement lapel pins for their members. It is important to note that VMAP is not a competition between Valleys and it runs for 12 months at a time, aligned with the calendar year. For more information, please download the PDF of the VMAP Workbook.



III.. James D. Cole, 33°, addressing the Virginia 2014 Scottish Rite Conference

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Council. If a Valley enrolls in the Project and undertakes a minimal amount in each of the ten categories, then the Valley receives a plaque and lapel pins are provided to each Valley member.

Why the recognition? Certificates, plaques, lapel pins? The recognition simply says to the Masonic world "our Rite is important enough for us to try some new ideas."

I am very proud that Virginia already has five of our eight Valleys formally enrolled; two more have the paperwork completed, and our final one is preparing its paperwork. We may be the first multi-Valley Orient with all Valleys enrolled!

Viewing VMAP in the reflection of the warm memories of our Conference, I see VMAP as an attempt to ensure that more of our members can join together over the next ninety years enjoying more great weekends, like we have experienced in Virginia at the Orient Conference since 1924. The heritage that we have established with our Conference is something we want more people to enjoy.

We should each promise to do our best before next year's Conference to bring in one new member to Scottish Rite, encourage one member to stay in Scottish Rite and bring one new attendee to our Conference next year in Alexandria.

If it is of value, let's share it.





L-R: III. Matt Szramoski , Brother Stewart Cook, KCCH, and III. Bill Sizemore

## Naval Biography

Sizemore has a master's degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and a master's degree in National Security Studies from National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He has accumulated over 6,000 flight hours in fighter and strike fighter aircraft and over 1,000 carrier-arrested landings. His individual military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Individual Air Medal with Combat V, Strike Flight Air Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

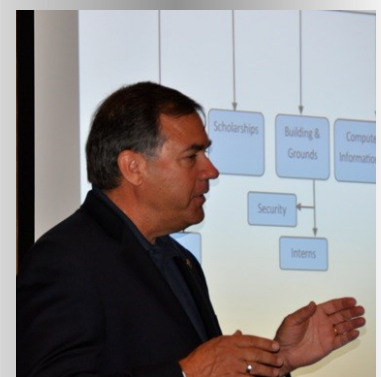
## ADM Bill Sizemore Joins The Supreme Council Staff

III. S. Brent Morris

The Supreme Council executive staff now has a Director of Operations, RADM William G. "Bill" Sizemore II, 33°, USN, Retired, son of the Grand Executive Director, RADM William G. "Gene" Sizemore, 33°, GC, USN, Retired. "Admiral Bill" reported for duty in December, with a calm, unassuming presence that belied the depth of his abilities. He brings with him years of practical leadership in the US Navy plus an MBA from the College of William and Mary—a combination of hands-on experience and business skills that will serve the Supreme Council well.

III. Sizemore was born in 1957 in Carmel, California, while his father was stationed at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. He and his wife Diane have three children: Elizabeth who works in Washington, Becca who is a student at California Polytechnic State University, and William III who is in elementary school. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1976, graduated in 1980, and followed in his father's steps when he became a Naval Aviator in 1982. He progressed through the naval service, earned a master's degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary, graduated from the National War College with a master's degree in National Security Studies, and was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral USN in September 2009.

He participated as a carrier pilot in Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. He is among the few to have achieved his 1,000th carrier-arrested landing. He served at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center in Fallon, Nevada, as the training officer and director of the Navy Fighter School.



William G. "Bill" Sizemore, II, 33°  
Director of Operations

**Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Norfolk:**

Our membership continues to decline. This affects us in many ways, especially finances. We continue to work on fundraising, which not only increases our resources, but also enhances fellowship among those participating. We continue to work rebuilding our ritual teams, but much work remains to be done.

One New Thing we tried in 2014, with details: Degree teams are unique. Borrowing from the Shriners concept of Units and Clubs, we are attempting to give each degree its own identity. Therefore, we are encouraging the degree teams to become like a club; a clique of a sort. Those degree teams that have embraced this concept have had socials and dinners and it appears to be successful. So far, not all have embraced the concept and we are working in that direction. We will continue this program to see if it aids us in the long run.

## Vice President of Norfolk Valley



**III. Carlton "Pete" Gill, Jr. 33°**

**Conference President**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2014**

**Membership Statistics:**

As of 9/1/13; 1,010

As of 9/1/14: 938 Net Gain/Loss: 72

**Top programs for the year:**

21st Annual Teacher of the Year (Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach)

R.O.T.C. Awards Program

Fundraising Projects

**Average attendance at Stated's:**

2013: 43

2014: 40

**Any Officer/Valley training?**

Details: January 5, 2014 for all officers and members. 2015 scheduled for January 4, 2015.

**Three goals for the coming year:**

Increase attendance at Stated's

Increase support for the Norfolk SR Ladies

Increase fundraising efforts

**Reunion Dates and # of Candidates:**

Fall, 2013: October 18-19, 2013

2 Candidates

Spring, 2014: April 4-5, 2014

10 Candidates

Fall, 2014: October 3-4, 2014

6 Petitions thus far

Spring, 2015: April 10-11, 2015



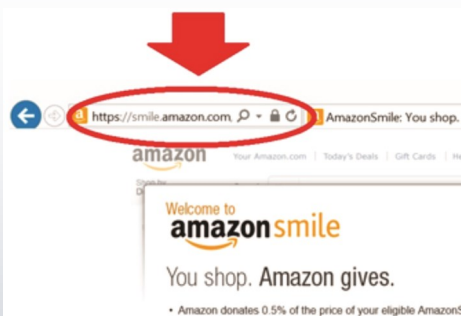
# A Smile on the Valley

**Brother James V. Cady and Brother Sean W. Watterson**

Scottish Rite of Virginia

Masonic Brethren, their families, friends and businesses can now help their Valley at no cost to themselves and it's never been easier. When you shop on Amazon.com, you can direct a portion of your purchase price be sent to the RiteCare of your choice (see listing below), thanks to Amazon's charitable program called *Amazon.Smile*. This program, Amazon takes 0.5% (one-half of one percent) of the price of any item purchased and donates that money to the shopper's charity of choice at no additional cost.

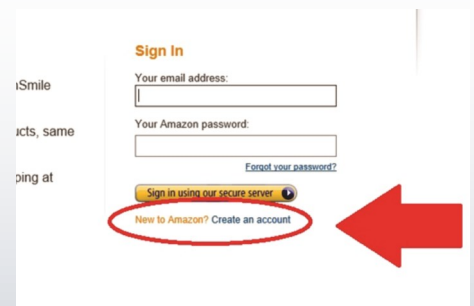
- ◆ Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center—Richmond
- ◆ Norfolk Scottish Rite Foundation Inc.—Norfolk
- ◆ Portsmouth Scottish Rite Foundation Inc.—Portsmouth
- ◆ Tidewater Scottish Rite Speech & Language Foundation Inc. Newport News—Newport News
- ◆ Scottish Rite Museum & Library Of The Valleys—Lexington
- ◆ Roanoke Scottish Rite Language Disorder Clinic Inc.—Roanoke



1-Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> (You must always use this address instead of amazon.com. The RiteCare Center of your choice will not receive money if you do not.)



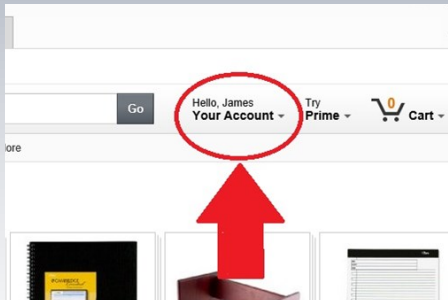
2-If you already have an Amazon login, log in here.



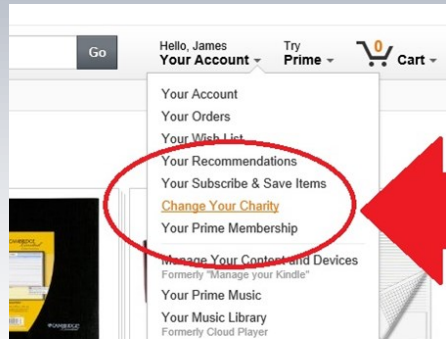
3-If you do not have an Amazon login, create an account by clicking on "Create an account."

# A Smile on the Valley

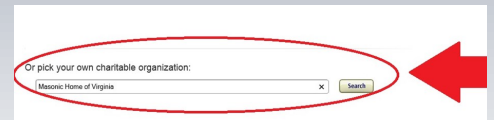
Brother James V. Cady and Brother Sean W. Watterson



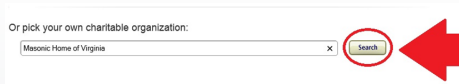
4-Once logged in, click on "Your Account."



5-Select "Change Your Charity" from the drop-down window.



6-Type in the blank, RiteCare Center of your choice as illustrated.



7-Click the "Search" button.



8-Make sure you choose RiteCare Center of your choice by clicking the correct "Select" button.



9-Verify your choice by looking at the "Supporting:" field near the top left of the page.



10-Remember! You must always log in to <https://smile.amazon.com> in order for the RiteCare Center of your choice charity to receive funds.

11-This wonderful feature is being made possible by Amazon, at no cost to the buyer.



# Vice President of Alexandria Valley



**III. William Larry Alexander . 33°**

#### Statistics:

September 1, 2013 – 1685

August 31, 2014 – 1596 for a net loss of 5%.

#### Three top programs for the year (briefly describe):

JROTC and ROTC awards were presented to outstanding cadets at twenty-six Northern Virginia High Schools and James Madison University.

Certificates and \$500 checks were presented to the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recipients from Alexandria City, Fairfax County, and Arlington Public Schools at the 14th Annual Outstanding Teacher Recognition Dinner.

The Valley awarded \$20,000 in college scholarships.

The Blue Ridge and Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Clubs are healthy. Membership is up and all officer positions are filled. Monthly meetings were well attended with interesting programs. Members participate in the reunion casts and crews and were a critical part of presenting ROTC/JROTC Awards.

A program to provide Job descriptions for all positions in the Valley was instituted by our Personal Representative and has been carried out by a committee chaired by Ill. Norman L. Hoff, 33°.

#### Average attendance at all stated meetings:

2013 - 71

2014 to date - 72

#### Briefly describe up to three goals or plans for the coming year:

Increase membership through larger reunion classes.

Decrease losses of current members due to demit and NPD, in part by implementing a new program to pair members with available Valley jobs and responsibilities.

Increase the number participating in and completing the Master Craftsman Courses.

The Valley is continuing work through our prioritized list of system upgrade and repair projects, updating the list to reflect completed projects and new requirements, and aligning the project start/completion dates based on advice of the Budget committee.

#### Reunion dates and number of Candidates for the past year (2012 -2013):

Fall 2013 Oct 19th and 26th—14 .

Spring 2014 April 26th and May 3rd—19 candidates

Fall 2014 October 18th and 24th—12 candidates.

Spring April 18th and 25th 2015

Fall October 17th and 24th 2015

#### One New Thing we tried in 2014:

The Alexandria Valley will charter a Knights of St. Andrew Chapter at our next Stated Meeting on October 10. The Clan will initially be focused on support to the Personal Representative and the Office of the Secretary. As the organization matures and grows their areas of participation and support will increase. Many thanks to all of the Valleys who have provided us information and support in this effort.

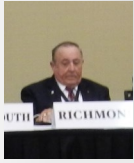
#### Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Alexandria:

As in all our Valleys, many exceptional brethren laid down their working tools and are sorely missed, not just the Honor Men mentioned in our Necrology Ceremony but many others as well. Our new members are becoming active in all aspects of Valley programs. Last year the Valley reported a plan add the 31<sup>st</sup> Degree to the Fall Reunion with most of the cast being members of the Spring 2013 Class. We did, they did, and it was a great success. The degree was performed again at the Spring 2014 and has become a regular part of our Reunion degree schedule. Attendance at the 2013 and 2014 Feast of Tishri Celebrations, the 2014 Teachers Award Event, and the Widows and Ladies Dinner was again up this year. We hope to continue this progress going forward.



# Vice President of Richmond Valley

III. David E. Amstutz, 33<sup>o</sup>



## Statistics:

As of 9/1/13: 1746

As of 9/1/14: 1654 Net Gain/Loss: (5.3%)

## Top three programs for the year:

Fundraising for the Richmond CLC (8 to 10 activities per year).

Stage performance of: "Prose, Poetry and Words of Reflection of Ill. Bro. Albert Pike on Sept. 3, 1885", by Ill. and M.W. Jeffrey Hodges, 33<sup>o</sup>. This was a magnificent and single-handed production.

Produced a video for 'Celebrating the Craft' (the only such video in the Orient).

## Average attendance at Stated Meetings:

2013: 59

2014: 56

## Any Officer/Valley training?

There is no officer training.

Valley continues to hold monthly Master Craftsman I and II classes.

## Three goals for the coming year:

Reorganize the Valley by establishing a Governing Board to manage Valley affairs and create clearer lines of authority and responsibility; to clarify ambiguities and involve more Brothers in the decision-making processes.

Develop job descriptions for all elected and appointed positions, including committee chairmanships.

Participate in the Supreme Council's VMAP initiative.

## Reunion Dates and number of Candidates:

Fall, 2013: October 19, 2013 --- 14

Spring, 2014: April 26, 2014 --- 10

Fall, 2014: October 18, 2014

Spring, 2015: April 18, 2015

## One New Thing we tried in 2014:

We have increased interest and participation in the Master Craftsman Program by: forming a small Master Craftsman Committee, offering encouragement at dinner meetings and by writing articles in the printed and e-newsletters (with the objective of attracting those Brothers who seldom if ever attend Scottish Rite meetings and activities, these are the very ones who would benefit the most from taking the Master Craftsman courses). And, we continue to hold monthly classes for the Master Craftsman I and Master Craftsman II courses.

After 6 months we have an additional 6 Master Craftsman I completions and 3 Master Craftsman III completions. Ten more are on schedule to complete a Master Craftsman course during the remainder of our project year, which ends in March 2015.

## Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Richmond:

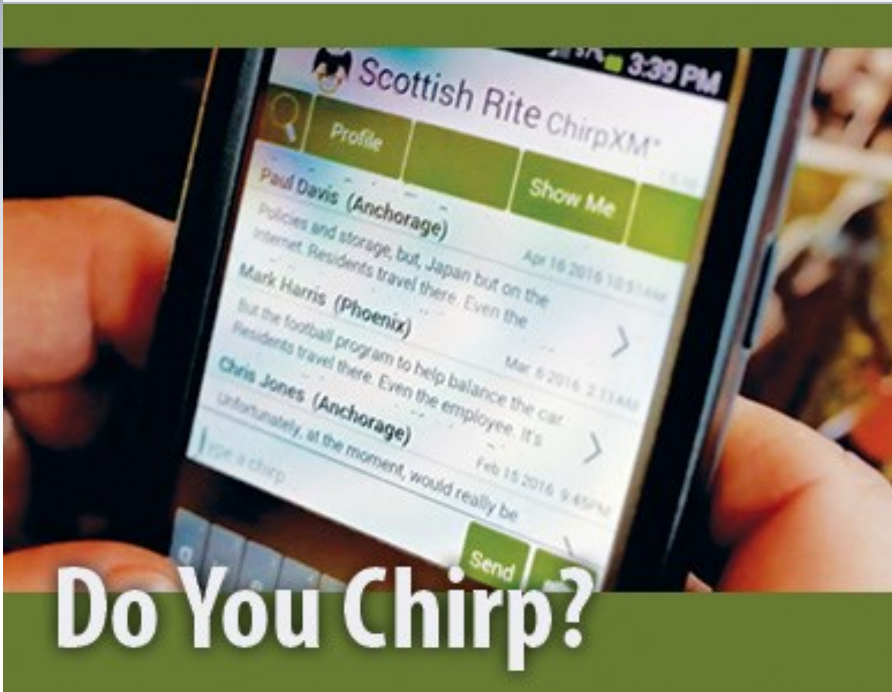
Very good. The Valley has two Scottish Rite Clubs, three Knights of Saint Andrew's Clans, Scottish Rite Guard, Woman's Club and Honour Court, all of which are active.

Our Valley's electronic newsletter – The Double-Eagle, has completed its first year of publication. The Double-Eagle is an excellent addition to our Valley.

The Valley is becoming more and more single focused because of the emphasis placed on raising money for the CLC; this, to the exclusion of other Valley charitable interests and Scottish Rite activities.

In July, Ill. and M.W. John R. Quinley, 33<sup>o</sup> asked to be relieved as our Personal Representative Bro. V. Stuart Cook, KCCH has been selected to be Richmond's new Personal Representative.

# SR Chirp



SR Chirp is a Smartphone app that enables Scottish Rite Masons to communicate quickly & conveniently

[SR Chirp video](#)

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry—Southern Jurisdiction is making a new tool available exclusively to Scottish Rite Masons, known as SR Chirp. This is a personal communication and messaging utility which operates as a mobile phone application and is unique to the Scottish Rite.

Maintaining meaningful personal communications in today's fast-paced and technology intense day can be challenging. Smartphones are everywhere, and a variety of services including Facebook, Twitter, and text messaging make keeping in touch possible using many different methods.

Each popular technology provides benefits as well as challenges. With so much information available to us, it's often hard to keep track of some of the messages that are most important.

The name "Chirp" was selected by the application's developer, which has other business-to-consumer projects apart from the Scottish Rite. SR Chirp messages are known as "Chirps."

Using the application, Scottish Rite members may to "Chirp" to each other

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# SR Chirp

Continued from page 3

and share their experiences, day-to-day interactions and thoughts, updates from their local Valleys and Ori-ents, or simply stay connected throughout the jurisdiction.

The application enables Scottish Rite Masons to quickly and conveniently communicate and interact. Although SR Chirp is similar to text messaging in some ways, because SR Chirp is usable only by Scottish Rite members, it becomes simple to separate communications with brothers from the sometimes over-whelming number of messaging that are part of our personal and business lives.

SR Chirp users also customize the messages that they desire to see. A user might elect to view only mes-sages from his own Valley, or might decide to reach out to another Valley where he is traveling. Because the application is location-aware, users can elect to see messages and interact with other users easily and conveniently wherever they are—and not see messages from locations or Valleys that are not of immediate interest.

SR Chirp is available as a free download on Android mobile platforms and coming soon for Apple devices.

Installation is simple and registration requires only that you confirm your membership and create a user ID through the [my.scottishrite.org](http://my.scottishrite.org) portal if you have not already done so. Activation instructions are included with the application installation.

Please download SR Chirp and be part of the online and mobile community. We're looking forward to get-ting acquainted!

SR Chirp is available as a free download on both Apple iPhone and Android mobile platforms.

Here are the mobile links to download the free app from your phone.

Apple:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sr-chirp/id911534384?ls=1&mt=8>

Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.scottishrite.srchirp>

The universal link will route your phone to the appropriate store when clicked from your phone.

<http://qrs.ly/gr49ng2>

You can scan the QR code to take to either store your phone supports as well.



# Vice President of Portsmouth Valley



**III. Foy A. Greenwood , 33<sup>o</sup>**

**Statistics:**

As of 9/1/13: 472  
 As of 9/1/14: 447 = Net Loss: 25

**Top three programs for the year:**

Presented Jr. R.O.T.C. Medals at 12 area high schools (List attached)  
 Hosted Fire fighter and Paramedic of the year recognition ceremonies  
 Breakfast with Santa hosted by the Knights of St. Andrew

**Average attendance at Stated Meetings:**

2013: 42  
 2014: 36

**Any Officer/Valley training?**

Valley continues to hold monthly Master Craftsman I and II classes.

**Three goals for the coming year:**

Increase emphasis on actuating non-attending members.  
 Complete an inventory of Valley assets.  
 Increase community awareness of our existence and the Rite Care Philanthropy.

**Reunion Dates and number of Candidates:**

Spring, 2014: Candidate scheduling conflicts with Portsmouth/Newport News caused the reunion to be cancelled  
 Fall, 2014: October 17th - 18th to be held in Newport News, 5 candidates  
 Spring, 2015: TBD candidates

**One New Thing we tried in 2014:**

PhoneVite system has been used three times, prior to the June, August and September meetings. It appears to be working well. Our August stated was held on the Eastern Shore and was very well attended. Our September stated was held on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the first Monday being Labor Day. Everyone got reminder about the meeting changes via PhoneVite notification and attendance was a little better than average.

April 11, 2014	Northampton HS	Army	Cadet SSG Jonathan Lutz	Richardson
May 9, 2014	Woodrow Wilson HS	Army	Cadet/ MSG Sabrina Bishop	
May 9, 2014	Lakeland HS	Air Force	Cadet Jala Moore	
May 14, 2014	Deep Creek HS	Air Force	Cadet Sasha Campbell	
May 14, 2014	Great Bridge HS	Air Force	Cadet Bradley M <sup>c</sup> Craw	
May 14, 2014	Indian River HS	Air Force	Cadet Josh Gardner	
May 14, 2014	Oscar Smith HS	Air Force	Cadet Justin Javier	
May 14, 2014	Western Branch HS	Air Force	Cadet Jaliyua Tucker	
May 14, 2014	Grassfield HS	Air Force	Cadet Benjamin Olenick	
May 16, 2014	I. C. Norcom HS	Navy	Ensign Lee Tre'Jhana	
May 29, 2014	Churchland HS	Marine	Cadet LCpl Rachel Hayes	
June 4, 2014	Franklin HS	Army	C/CPL Connor Shanks	

**Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Portsmouth:**

The Trustees are doing an excellent job in maintaining the building.

Our two member Clubs, Knights of Saint Andrews and Woman's Club continue to be very active. The Degree Teams are working to improve our degree work.

# Vice President of Newport News Valley



**Ill. George A. Hollingsworth, 33<sup>o</sup>**

#### Statistics:

As of 9/1/13: 594

As of 9/1/14: 586 Net Loss: 8

#### Top three programs for the year:

Annual golf tournament fundraiser for the Tidewater Scottish Rite Foundation

Centennial Celebration Reunion 10/25-26/2013

Building Restoration Committee organized several ongoing fundraisers

#### Average attendance at Stated Meetings:

2013: 53

2014: 48

#### Any Officer/Valley training?

Master Craftsman Classes

Ongoing Degree Ritual Practice

#### Three goals for the coming year:

Participate in the Valley Membership Achievement Project

Complete our transition to a computerized Accounting and Banking System

Focus on Building Restoration fund raisers needed to update our physical plant

#### Reunion Dates and number of Candidates:

Fall, 2013: 10/25 - 26 23 Candidates

Spring, 2014: No Reunion

Fall, 2014: 10/17 - 18 2 Candidates, Valley of Portsmouth joins us

Spring, 2015: 4/17 -18

#### One New Thing we tried in 2014:

We began partnering with an outside event building leasing agent this year. While it took sometime to get off-the-ground, the arrangement has become a boost of our funds available for our building restoration project. We have enjoyed additional support from our Masonic tenants. Particularly with Warwick Lodge No. 336, who has been extremely generous with their financial help with building maintenance and refurbishment.

#### Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Newport News:

Our Valley is table and moving forward in the area of membership recruitment and retention. Our Ambassador Corps is focusing on revitalization our relationships with our Blue Lodges. Much of our Valley's strength comes from the heard work and support of our Knights of Saint Andrews Klan in our fundraisers and meeting and the willingness of the membership in taking on new projects related to building restoration. Community outreach through our Medical Equipment Lending Program continues to Thrive.



## Vice President of Lynchburg Valley

**Bro. William A. Robertson, Jr., 32° KCCH**

### Statistics:

As of 9/1/13: 371

As of 9/1/14: 357 Net Loss: 14

### Top three programs for the year:

Dennis Carter WSET 13 Sports spoke on sports and what is going on in our Valley area

Dr. Pietho is part of the Master Gardners Association and spoke on how to attract butterflies in the garden.

Women spies of WWII to honor D Day.

### Average attendance at Stated Meetings:

2013: 28

2014: 28

### Any Officer/Valley training?

Venerable Master and Jr Warden went to Williamsburg Workshop came back and informed the Valley.

### Three goals for the coming year:

Cap Program to help widows and elderly brothers.

Programs to include wives before regular meetings.

To raise our attendance up.

### Reunion Dates and number of Candidates:

Fall, 2013: 5

Spring, 2014: 5

Fall, 2014: October 18, 2014

Spring, 2015: TBD

### One New Thing we tried in 2014:

Bring a Brother Night.

### Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Lynchburg:

The Valley continues to operate within the boundaries of the money we bring in. The One Day Reunions continue to attract more candidates and makes it possible to present the 5 mandatory degrees.

Our Scottish Rite Women's Club continues to be a vital and complementary part of our valley. Our main problem remains, which is bringing enough new candidates to replace the ones we are losing.



# Vice President of Roanoke Valley

III. William A. Parks, Jr. 33°



Statistics: Membership at September 1, 2013 = 951  
Membership at August 31, 2014 = 886 Net gain/(loss) = (65)

## Top three programs for the year:

In June 2013, we presented the I. Luck Gravett scholarship (\$1,000) awards to 4 well deserving students from our area. The Roanoke Valley has provided this award for many years and is funded by endowments, gifts and interest from the investment portfolio.

Continuing with our support of education we received the Rite Care scholarship recipients from Radford University at our Stated dinner in September 2013. They each gave a synopsis of their graduate thesis and their future goals.

November 2013 Wor. Bro. John Hartsock 32° KCCH, led a program on the JROTC/ROTC program the Scottish Rite supports. We had the recipients from 4 local High Schools and VA Tech, who spoke about their program and how it works. In total we give out 8 JROTC medals and ribbons and 1 ROTC.

## Average attendance at Stated Meetings:

2012 - 43  
2013 - 39

## Any Officer/Valley training?

All members of our Valley are encouraged to complete the Master Craftsman program and we have 2 study groups, headed by Bill Parks and Fred Dooley on the last Saturday of the month. All the inline officers are invited to the Masters meetings to help them prepare for their next assigned chair.

## Three goals for the coming year:

Recruiting members to learn parts of the reunion degrees and conducting meaningful practices to make them proficient in performing the degrees.

Increase the membership through reunions and focus on Retention and make the Blue Lodge more aware of the Scottish Rite through our "on the road" reunions.

Promote the use of our facility to outside groups to produce additional revenue.

## Reunion Dates and number of Candidates:

Fall 2013 November 2013 = 6

Spring, 2014 May 2014 = 8

Fall, 2014: November 1, 2014

Spring, 2015: April 25, 2015 (tentatively)

## One New Thing we tried in 2014:

We introduced "engraved invitations" at the Workshop in March. Teams have been developed to visit Blue Lodges, present programs on AASR, and to distribute the engraved invitations. It has certainly been successful and will be continued.

## Overall opinion of the State of the Valley of Roanoke:

The overall operation of our Valley remains stable. The annual Fall Reunion we have established in Southwest VA is gaining more participation and there is more interest in the members learning the degree work.

We have made tremendous progress in renovations to our Temple building, including dedication of the Scottish Rite Museum and Library of the Valleys, with over 600 hundred books already shelved and available to our members. The Candidate Room has been completely redone and many cosmetic improvements have been undertaken.

## RiteCare Parade and Float



Old Dominion University parade with the Tidewater Scottish Rite Float with “super hero’s” supporting the RiteCare Center at Old Dominion University. Ill. Carlton “Pete” Gill, Jr., making a presentation to the RiteCare Center.

“What’s your super power?” covers it nicely.

**Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Speech and Language Disorders**  
Old Dominion University, Child Study Center  
45th and Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA 23529-0136  
Telephone: (757) 683-4117  
jsever@odu.edu



# Thirteenth Degree

## Royal Arch Of Solomon Summary

Men must find the truth within the caverns of their own conscience. There is one great arch, or bridge which makes the passage achievable, and allows us to master our own vices and passions. That bridge is the will of God. By seeking knowledge and moral character and being guided by faith and reason, the Mason will know how to combine science and religion, philosophy and theology; and recognize that these notions do not contradict each other, but form a harmonious whole.

### DUTIES:

Seek knowledge.

Be motivated by duty and honor.

### FOR REFLECTION:

Are idle hours and idle words subject to the great law of retribution?

### IMPORTANT SYMBOLS:

Enoch, Adoniram, Yehu-Aber, Satolkin, the descent into the vault, the arch, cube of agate, triangle of gold, name of Deity.



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# Thirteenth Degree

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The jewel is a circular medal of gold, around which, on one side are the following letters, words and number: R, S, R, S, T, P, S, R, I, A, J, et S, ANNO ENOCHI 2995. On the same side is an engraving of the ground with a rectangular hole in it into which two men are lowering a third with a rope. On the reverse side is a triangle emitting rays and in the middle of it the same letter as is on the apron. This medal is to be worn upon the chest, suspended by a narrow, white watered ribbon. The letters stand for: *Regnante Solomone, Rege Sapientissimo, Thesaurum Pretiosissimum Sub Ruinis Invenierunt Adonirum, Joabert, et Satolkin ... Anno Enochii 2995*; or 'In the reign of Solomon, wisest of kings, Adonirum, Joabert and Satolkin found under the ruins the most precious treasure'. Let the emblem on the reverse side of the jewel always remind us that the good Mason reveres and adores the Grand Architect of the Universe, and endeavors, by pursuing the path of honor and duty, to perform the part assigned him in the world well and faithfully.

The cordon is a broad, watered purple ribbon worn from the right shoulder to the left hip from which is suspended a triangle of gold bars.

The apron is of crimson velvet. Upon it is embroidered a triangle emitting rays, and in the middle a letter, an archaic form of the Semitic *Yod*. The color denotes the zeal and devotedness of a Royal Arch Mason. The triangle is the emblem of Deity, or Infinite Wisdom, Infinite Power and Infinite Harmony; the letter represents the Tetragrammaton, the Name of God made known to Moses.

"Like other degrees it is known by other names: The Royal Arch of Enoch, the Royal Arch and the Royal Arch Ecossais (Scottish Royal Arch). It must be remembered that Albert Pike wrote the degrees of the Scottish Rite in the 19th century and in doing so, he selected, combined, deleted and elaborated material from the numerous and varied degrees existing at the time. The other names associated with this degree attest to both its heritage and its importance in Freemasonry.

*Ecossais* is a French word, usually translated 'Scottish'; according to Mackey, it may also be translated as 'Scottish Master.' Under whatever name this particular degree may be found, it is essentially a legend accounting for the recovery of that which was lost. The older versions recount that the True Word was engraved on a triangular plate of gold that was cast into a dry well; but the new versions relate that the True Word, also engraved on a golden plate, was deposited in a purposely prepared place to be found centuries later by three masters.

Enoch, also in a name of the degree, is an important Masonic character. He was an ancient Hebrew patriarch and predecessor of Solomon. From Genesis (5:24) we learn that his life was one of exceptional virtue; he is described "as walking with God." He is said to have lived 365 years, his earthly life ending not by death but by being bodily transported to Heaven (Genesis 5:23). We are told he received the gift of wisdom and knowledge from God and was learned in astronomy and astrology. Tradition tells us that God, seeing in Enoch a man of perfect virtue, elected to reveal to him His true name. After receiving it in a dream, Enoch's vision continued and he was conveyed vertically through nine arches into a subterranean vault which contained a triangular plate of gold upon which was written the name of God. Enoch took the dream as a sign from God and after a long journey through Canaan, or the Holy Land, he excavated nine apartments vertically into the earth each covered with an arch, the lowest hewn out of solid rock. In this apartment he placed an alabaster pedestal and mounted upon it a cube of agate into one side of which he had sunk a triangular plate of gold inscribed with the name of Deity - thus fulfilling the purpose of his vision.

Above the apartments he built a modest temple of unhewn stones with a secret passage into the apartments under a stone with a ring through it.

The Bible provides us with the reason for unhewn stones, for God decreed His altars to be such:

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# Thirteenth Degree

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*And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone, for if thou lift up thy upon it, thou hast polluted it (Exodus 20:25).*

This passage also explains the prohibition against “the sound of axe, hammer, or any tool of iron” during the construction of King Solomon's Temple as related in Masonic tradition, which itself has a specific Biblical source (1 Kings 6:7).

The legend provided in the *Liturgy* explains that during the construction of King Solomon's Temple an administration center was needed. The site chosen for this center was unknowingly that of Enoch's original temple. It was believed that the ruins were of an ancient pagan temple. During the removal of the ruins, the secret passage was discovered. Adoniram and two of his assistants (Yehu-Aber and Satolkin) successively lowered each other into the dark vertical passage, each reaching farther than the one before him. Finally, Adoniram himself reached the ninth apartment where he discovered the treasure left there by Enoch.

The next day the three Master Architects returned and removed the cube of agate which they conveyed to King Solomon who immediately recognized the word engraved upon the golden plate in its side as the Ineffable Name of Deity. According to tradition, Solomon knew the word because he had received it from his father, David, who had received it from the prophet Samuel. Solomon created this degree, it is said, to reward the zeal and dedication of the discoverers of this great treasure.

In Hebrew, the name Enoch is *Henoch* and means: initiate, instruct, teach and dedicate. In the Koran of the Moslems, Enoch is called 'Edris,' derived from a word which means to read or to study with attention. In Freemasonry Enoch, therefore, has become a symbol of initiation and the acquisition of knowledge.” (pp. 88-90)

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## Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide, 3rd Edition

- 3rd edition, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian; Foreword by Ronald A. Seale, 33, Sovereign Grand Commander.
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- A brief history of Blue Lodge Freemasonry and the development of its rituals. (Includes a copy of the earliest-known Masonic ritual; the legend of the raising of Noah (pre-Hiram Abif), and more.)
- The development of the Scottish Rite and the origins and its ritual.
- The structure of the Scottish Rite, its officers and their duties, a description of the four Scottish Rite Bodies, the Degrees and Honours.
- Members' and officers' regalia, rings, jewels, caps, etc.
- Scottish Rite symbols, depicted and described degree by degree.
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