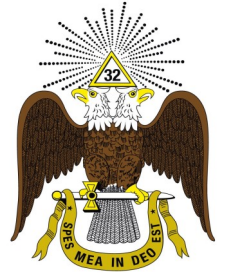




Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin

January–February 2021



Personal Representative's Message

Edmund Cohen, 33° — Personal Representative of the Deputy in Alexandria

Technology and the Future of Freemasonry

There has been a lot of speculation about what the world will look like when we have a vaccine that is readily available and we start to recover from the COVID pandemic. Many believe that life will not return to the way things were pre-pandemic and we will have to adjust to a new normal.

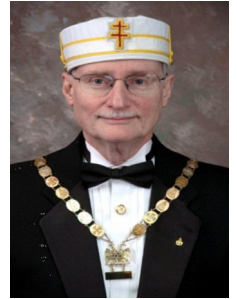
First, think about shopping. The pandemic has accelerated the already growing trend toward on-line shopping, where you can shop from the convenience of home, whenever you want, not just when the stores are open. Some believe that after the pandemic there will be fewer department stores anchoring malls, and perhaps fewer malls. This may mean fewer retail jobs and more positions performing warehouse and delivery functions. Indeed, some malls may be repurposed as dining and entertainment venues, or as community centers.

Next, consider medical practice. The pandemic has increased the use of telemedicine, and this trend may continue as well. Certainly, telemedicine is useful in medically underserved areas of the country, and allows general practitioners to better coordinate care by consulting with medical specialists who are out of their immediate area. There also may be a trend away from small, independent practices to larger groups of doctors working together.

Finally, there may be a new business paradigm as well. Many companies having instructed their employees to work from home, may rethink, after the pandemic, whether they need to have huge campuses or rent so much downtown office space, which is both expensive and results in employees having a daily one-to-two-hour commute to and from work. A different balance between working in the office and working from home may emerge.

I don't know which changes will become permanent in part because there are competing advantages and disadvantages. In addition to the conveniences and efficiencies associated with remote shopping, remote medicine, and remote work, there are negative aspects as well. With respect to shopping, we benefit from tactile interactions that are associated with touching the article we are considering purchasing. With respect to medicine, doctors can learn a lot more about their patient to inform a diagnosis during an in-person visit just by seeing how they move and walk than by seeing them on line. And in the work environment, we build relationships through face-to-face social interaction more readily than through Zoom meetings.

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Zooming is a great way to communicate and to stay in touch during these challenging times. The Valley has had several zoom meeting with great success, with members from out of state and even overseas joining the meetings.

However, we need your email address: send an email to Secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org and/or assistantsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org letting us know your new or updated email address. A Zoom meeting invitation email is sent to those members who have an active email address registered with the Valley.



Personal Representative's Message

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There are other possibilities as well. In large cities, as fewer offices are rented, prices may decline and space in large office buildings could be repurposed so these buildings offer a combination of offices, apartments, shopping, restaurants, and entertainment. Instead of long commutes, people would be able to live and shop near where they work. Other cities with lower costs may start to attract businesses – assuming that investments in broadband internet and the new 5G coverage is spread throughout the country rather than being concentrated along the East and West coasts.

We already have begun to use the new technology as a lifeline for Masonic interaction during a period when regular Lodge meetings were not possible. But it is unclear how far we can or are willing to go. I recently read an article by Anusha Mujumdar, Swarup Kumar Mohali, and Ramamurthy Badrinath titled *Antifragility for Intelligent Autonomous Systems*. The authors divide systems into those that are fragile and those that are antifragile. In the first category are **robust systems** that display tolerance to a hazard up to a certain predesigned level – for example a building designed to withstand an earthquake of a particular magnitude – but not one exceeding that level. There also are **resilient** systems that are affected by hazards, and can work to compensate for these hazards; but, if they cannot overcome the challenge, they return to their prior state and try to recover. On the other hand, they suggest that **antifragile systems** learn from failure how to handle hazards and respond in a fashion that improves their performance over time through the acquisition of new capabilities.

The paper mainly deals with software and robotics, but there is a lesson here for organizations, including Freemasonry. We can try to be a robust organization and build a wall around our Lodges fending off the outside world. We can try to be a resilient organization dipping our toe into the Internet and social media, but if this seems difficult or if we get burned, we retreat back to business as usual. Alternatively, we can seek to become an antifragile organization integrating the new technology into how we operate.

We have been using Zoom and similar technology to meet and share experiences during a period when regular Lodge meetings were not possible. But beyond this temporary accommodation to the dangers of in-person meetings, this may be a model for how we can use technology to our advantage in the future. To do this we must continue to build member and Lodge capacity to connect to the Internet and take advantage of teleconferencing and social media. We also must put in place safeguards to prevent security breaches and intercept member postings that are contrary to the values of Freemasonry and would bring disrepute to our organization.

The suggestion that we more fully embrace technology is not to imply that our preference will shift away from having our usual Lodge meetings and dinners. The need for human companionship and face-to-face engagement is very real, and this interaction is often more meaningful in the Lodge than in the work environment. Freemasonry provides a setting where we can interact without the pressure and competition of the office. Your Brethren have your back, and you can discuss your doubts, concerns, and problems without fear that your confidences will be used against you. Thus, it is important that we get back to having in-person meetings as soon as it is safe to do so.

But the pandemic has shown us the value of teleconferencing to accommodate Brethren who do not attend our meetings. Currently, some are not attending because, in the current COVID situation they feel they are at risk. But when the pandemic is over, we should recognize that too many Brethren still will not come to Lodge because they live too far away from the meeting location, cannot travel at night, have medical conditions that do not allow them to travel, or may need to stay home to watch their children. Making teleconferencing a part of our meetings will allow these Brethren to be a part of our meeting from home, where they can see their Brethren, hear much of what is happening at the meeting, and actually be a part of the conversation. This engagement will encourage them to participate in our Valley projects and programs, and remain active in the Scottish Rite.

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Personal Representative's Message

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In sum, as important as it is to gain new members, it is equally important to retain the members we have and to have them more involved in Freemasonry, in general, and in our Scottish Rite activities in particular. Using technology to keep in touch with our Brethren, inviting them to attend our meetings remotely, having Master Craftsman courses on line and available whenever a Brother has some free time, and having on-line Master Craftsman or book club discussion groups are some of the ways we can expand our reach and get beyond a focus on just those Brethren who are able to come to our building once a month.

Our Education and Training, Communication and Outreach, and Membership Committees, are exploring how we can make Scottish Rite more accessible to our Brethren. You can help by sharing your ideas about how we can better serve our membership. Call or email our General Secretary, Keith Gawrys, John Suit, Mike Bible, or me. We want to hear from you!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Ed Cohen

Reason, Intuition, and Freemasonry

Brian Walaszczyk, 32°

There have been many philosophical discussions about the interaction between reason and intuition and the relative value of each.

The German Philosopher Immanuel Kant said that "all human knowledge thus begins with intuitions, proceeds thence to concepts, and ends with ideas." In *Morals and Dogma*, Albert Pike writes that "Socrates believed, like Heraclitus, in a universal reason pervading all things and all minds, and consequently revealing itself in ideas... He believed true wisdom to be an attainable idea, and the moral convictions of the mind, those eternal instincts of temperance, conscientiousness, and justice, implanted in it by the gods, could not deceive, if rightly interpreted." Our intuitive thoughts provide instinctive wisdom towards this universal reason, the truth pervading all things. Intuition can provide an innate feeling of right and wrong, love and hate, and universal morality. All of these are moral principles displayed through the Craft's archetypal symbolism and allegories, which transcend time, religion, and culture. Masonry's teachings may be studied and understood as part of a universal reason and divine will. The light obtained from the lessons of the Craft form the edifice of the mind's temple that every Freemason is urged to develop using his own intuition and reasoning.

Pike notes "the absolute is the very necessity of being, the immutable law of reason and of truth... God himself is not without a reason of existence. He does not exist accidentally. He could not, not have been. He can exist only in virtue of a supreme and inevitable reason. That reason, then, is the absolute; for it is in it we must believe, if we would that our faith should have a reasonable and solid basis... Saint Thomas Aquinas said, a thing is not just because God wills it, but God wills it because it is just. If he had deduced all the consequences of this fine thought, he would have discovered the true Philosopher's Stone; the magical elixir, to convert all the trials of the world into golden mercies... therefore, according to the idea of Saint Thomas, the moral laws are the enactments of the divine will, only because they are the decisions of the absolute wisdom and reason, and the revelations of the divine nature... Faith begins where reason sinks exhausted. Beyond the human reason is the divine reason, to our feebleness the great absurdity, the infinite absurd, which confounds us and which we believe. For the Master, the compass of faith is above the square of reason; but both rest upon the Holy Scriptures and combine to form the blazing star of truth."

Pike explains that the blazing star of truth is the union of faith and reason. Faith is said to be conviction of truth without tangible proof. One could interpret this as knowing without knowing why, a blind trust, which could translate to divine intuition.

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You may not have proof, but you know deep within you that it is right. This intuition harmonized with reason forms the blazing star providing light to the lodge. Reason may lead to logical proof, but intuition sparks the intrinsic understanding of the absolute with faith. Intuition may be the “Eureka!” moment of an idea or answer that seemingly appears out of nowhere. When reason and human understanding is exhausted, intuition gives way for faith to take us by the hand and guide us through the darkness when we are blind. Thus, one should trust their instincts and fear no danger when intuition is their guide.

Intuition has always guided humans in the face of danger and darkness. It has been called the 6th sense or the third eye. Intuition serves as a divine, internal instinct that gives us fear, faith, and hope among other things. It warns us of danger and guides the way in the darkness with our innate feelings. Gavin De Becker wrote a book titled *the Gift of Fear*. In his book, De Becker elaborates on how intuition and the gift of fear allows us to avoid dangerous situations. De Becker provides examples of when victims innately knew danger was afoot. He discusses scenarios and situations where intuition prevented or would have prevented one from danger. An example of this where a woman gets into an elevator with a man she intuitively felt was dangerous. Although she had a gut feeling she should not enter, she did so anyways because she did not want to seem rude having the elevator door close and not entering. These types of situations can lead to assaults, rapes, and other dangerous events that should have been avoided by following our intuition. He writes “you have the gift of a brilliant internal guardian that stands ready to warn you of hazards and guide you through risky situations.”

While intuition has always been vital to keeping us safe in survival situations, cultural bias, the phenomenon of interpreting and judging phenomena by standards inherent to one's own culture can also lead us astray. For instance, think of the role intuition plays in your daily life. Every time you meet someone your intuition makes an instant judgment on the person's character. You intuitively make judgements about whether or not the person is trustworthy, intelligent, honorable or dangerous, and these initial intuitive impressions are long lasting. The problem is that these insights are as often wrong as they are right, particularly when we judge people on superficial characteristics rather than on their intellect or moral worth.

As humans evolved from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle, the primitive goal of survival lessened, and reason played an increasingly more important role in the development and understanding of ourselves and society. Then, as we evolved from an agrarian to an industrial society, empiricism, experimentation, observation, and the scientific method led to technological advances that transformed the way we live. Despite these transformative inventions, cultural, religious, and other societal biases – based on fanatical reasoning – have persisted, and these judgments have skewed our inherent intuition and moral compasses.

Freemasons benefit from the use of both intuition and reason in their pursuit to become better men, so how can we better integrate the two? Freemasons are freethinkers and believe that knowledge should be grounded in facts, scientific inquiry, and logic. The application of reason involves freedom from the intellectually limiting effects of confirmation bias, cognitive bias, conventional wisdom, popular culture, prejudice, and sectarianism. A freethinker is a person who forms his own ideas and opinions rather than unquestionably accepting those of other people. Reason is the power of the mind to think, understand, and form judgments by a process of logic. It is how we try to understand and explain the cause of an event. The use of reason allows us to make informed decisions and avoid hasty reactions.

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Reason, Intuition, and Freemasonry

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However, it also is true that sometimes reason leads to overthinking and inhibition of action. In some cases, reacting to a gut feeling, or intuition, may provide a better outcome than by the analytical process of reason, especially in situations requiring an instantaneous reaction. Intuition can pave the way through obstacles when one cannot find a clear way forward. Intuition is the power or faculty of attaining direct knowledge or cognition without evident rational thought and inference. Basically, it is knowing without knowing why you know. Intuition manifests as instantaneous feelings, reactions, and insights. Thus, as we learn from the Royal Secret, the use of reason and intuition should be balanced. A Mason must develop the valuable skill of finding equilibrium and harmony in our application of both modes of thinking, using the strength of both intuition and reason, but neither to intemperance nor excess.

In sum, a Mason understands that an intuitive idea can be developed by reason and logic into the search for more light. An intuitive spark may lead an initiate on a pilgrim's journey where he utilizes reason to continuously discover knowledge and wisdom. Properly joining the two forces keeps Masons from jumping to conclusions based on biases or societal norms, and explains why men of all cultures and faiths can meet on the level and be called Brother, and how Masons who hold different viewpoints can have civil discussions on difficult subjects. It is the lack of an equilibrium between intuition and reason that leads to fanaticism, despotism, intolerance, suppression of thought, and superstition, which in turn has led to the degradation of cultures, the destruction of books and temples, and many other atrocities.

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Fraternally,

Brian Walaszczyk

Venerable Master's Message

Peter E. Terrill, Jr., KCCH, Venerable Master, Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Fraternal greetings, Brethren! I would first like to congratulate Don McAndrews, KCCH, for leading us through a successful (if somewhat strange and pandemic-altered) year. Leadership can be a heavy burden in the best of times, but the challenges of 2020 proved to be a test for which he was well-prepared.

I would also like to thank all of you for electing me the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for 2021. I am honored to serve with an exceptionally strong line of officers, all of whom have been workhorses in our Valley. And, I would like to add a special thanks to all of my predecessors and mentors, including Ill. Earl Jones, 33° (who appointed me to the bottom of the Lodge of Perfection line in 2015), Ill. Jim Loudermilk, 33°, Ill. Norm Hoff, 33°, and Ill. Dave Smith, Sr., 33°.

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As we think back on the year that was 2020, what conclusions can be drawn? First, we have all experienced first-hand a lesson taught in our Blue Lodge ritual, "...as dependence is one of the strongest bonds of society, mankind were made dependent on each other for protection and security, as they thereby enjoy better opportunities of fulfilling the duties of reciprocal love and friendship. Thus, was man formed for social and active life – the noblest part of the work of God." We miss the physical connections to our dispersed families, friends, and Brethren, and look forward to a time when we can renew those bonds face-to-face, as well as resume our normal routines and habits.

Second, as we emerge from a remarkably contentious election season with the pandemic still raging, we can look back and take note of the tremendous power of social media, for good and bad. For good: we can stay in touch with those close to us and maintain the social lifelines that have been strained by COVID. For bad: we seem to be empowered to say things via social media that we would (sensibly) shy away from in face-to-face conversation. No doubt many think there is no harm in watching strangers rage and argue about politics via Facebook, but it always strikes me as downright disheartening to watch Brethren do the same. I think the best lesson here is to remember that as members of the Fraternity we have an obligation to "subdue the passions" and set an example. Perhaps we all need to ask ourselves, "am I contributing something constructive to the dialog, or am I just adding to the rancor?"

Third, due to COVID we were all forced to adapt and change ways of doing business out of necessity. Practices that were unthinkable just 12 months ago for us in Masonry are now as common as in the business world: who would have guessed that many of our appendant bodies would be conducting business via Zoom? How about holding virtual reunions and degrees? To all this I say: "Hooray!" I have been amazed at the multitude of new faces from the Masonic diaspora that now regularly appear on our Zoom meetings. And, I have found enthusiasm among our Blue Lodge Brethren when presented with the option to participate in a virtual Scottish Rite reunion. COVID has created many challenges, but it has also forced us to seize new opportunities for member engagement that would have otherwise never been embraced.

So, what can we expect in 2021? The only certain answer I can provide to you is: "uncertainty." But, let us acknowledge that this has been a core truth of the human condition throughout all periods in history, not just a feature of our current situation. I choose to be optimistic about the year ahead, and while that may seem like a luxury enabled by good fortune, I think that the lessons of Masonry prepare us well to deal with the challenges always in our path. In particular the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity are excellent guideposts to follow as we look to the future.

On the topic of Faith, let us remember that as Masons our ultimate goal is to make ourselves worthy of life everlasting, to one day enjoy God's life and love in a glorious immortality. That love is experienced even in this life when we are cared for with compassion in times of sickness or need, and we in turn become agents of that love when we help others in need.

Regarding Hope, I would offer this quote from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: "[T]he present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey." What is that goal for us today? I propose that our first goal is to maintain a courageous spirit of optimism and perseverance during this health crisis.

And on the virtue of Charity, now is the ideal time for those fortunate enough to have weathered the storm with their finances intact to help those who have not. There are many ways to help: support local food banks; donate toys for toy drives (most churches sponsor these); donate blood to the local blood bank; frequent local businesses and restaurants; help pick up groceries or run errands for homebound seniors; start a GoFundMe fundraiser for essential workers impacted by COVID-19 or families who are struggling following illness or death. And, although it may seem like a small gesture, don't underestimate the positive impact of checking up on someone. Providing a touchstone for another person during this time is one of the best ways to be of service.

Brethren, be well. I'm looking forward to working with the other Bodies in the Valley and seeing all of you in the New Year!

Fraternally, Peter E. Terrill, KCCH

Venerable Master's Biography

Brother Peter Terrill hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he spent his early years, and also Seattle, Washington, where he attended high school and college. He was raised a Master Mason in 2006 at Springfield Lodge No. 217, served as its Worshipful Master in 2010, and was the Secretary from 2011-2016. Bro. Terrill twice served as the District Education Officer for Masonic District 1B; he currently serves on the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education as the Division Provost for Region VII. Bro. Terrill is a (twice) Past High Priest of Annandale Royal Arch Chapter No. 77, and a Past Sovereign Master and Past Secretary of Perfect Ashlar Council No. 349, Allied Masonic Degrees. He also holds membership in Old Dominion Commandery No. 11.



Brother Terrill joined the Alexandria Scottish Rite in the fall class of 2007. He is a cast member in the 21st and 32nd Degrees and has been the Degree Master for the 28th Degree (Knight Commander of the Temple) since 2011. Bro. Terrill served as Master of Kadosh of the Alexandria Consistory in 2014. He was the Alexandria Valley's Scottish Rite Fellow in 2014-2015. Bro. Terrill is the chairman of the Valley's Strategic Planning Committee and has served on the Membership Committee as the coordinator of the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) since its inception in 2015. He received the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 2015 and is a life member of the Valley.

Brother Terrill graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and a master's degree from Stanford University, both in mechanical engineering. He also has graduate certificates in Legislative Studies and in Applied Intelligence. After 10 years of service at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and at the Pentagon, Bro. Terrill joined Booz Allen Hamilton in 2007 and has supported clients in the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, managing programs involving non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

He resides with his wife Jill in Burke, Virginia. Jill is a 4th grade teacher at Terra Centre Elementary School in Burke. Peter and Jill have three children: Charlotte (18), Amelia (12), and Henry (9).

Report on the December 5, 2020 One-Day Zoom Reunion

Ill. James A. Loudermilk, Jr., 33°, Director of Work and Ill. Edmund Cohen, 33°, Personal Representative

For the first time in our history, the Alexandria Valley conducted a virtual Reunion on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Through use of Zoom technology, 35 Brothers became new members of our Valley. In addition to the candidates, more than 60 brethren watched the Reunion – most on Zoom, but a few at our Temple.

We had to cancel our Spring and Fall Reunions because of our concerns about safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the strictures set forth by our Governor and Grand Master. Fortunately the Sovereign Grand Commander and the Ritual and Ceremonial Forms Committee approved a set of slides that could be used at a virtual Reunion. The five mandatory degrees, which ordinarily have to be conferred, can be communicated by a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) or a Deputy to the Supreme Council.

Consequently, our Deputy, Mt. Wor. and Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, G.C., took care of that responsibility, while 16 other Brothers – some via Zoom but most from our Temple – communicated all of the other Degrees under the able leadership of Ill. Sheldon B. Richman, Chairman of our Degree Communications Team. Ill. Dave Morris, 33°, John Suit, KCCH, John Aakensson, KCCH, Ill. Dave Smith, 33° and Tim Goolsby, KCCH, handled the technical issues.

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It was a great honor having Ill. Adkins assist us to have this Reunion. It was even more impressive that he drove up from Richmond, and stayed the entire day in our Temple. We believe this was another first, as we are not aware of any other Deputy or SGIG staying for our entire Reunion.

MW and Ill. Ed Cohen, 33° via Zoom, opened the reunion, introduced Ill. Adkins, and made two presentations that augmented the ritual by explaining the organization of Scottish Rite and how the Alexandria Valley operates, to include its meetings, programs, and charitable projects. Our prelate, Mike Huff, KCCH, led the pledge, and gave an impressive invocation and benediction. Ill. Jim Loudermilk, 33° also via Zoom, gave the customary Reunion introduction – this time a bit expanded with new material from the Supreme Council; and the heads of each of our four Bodies introduced the degrees of that Body.

As you might expect there were many differences from a traditional Reunion. The most obvious negative was that we were unable to experience the drama as conveyed on stage by expert degree teams. But, in partial compensation, we were able to hear a comprehensive explanation of each degree as set forth in the Supreme Council script. Another negative was the reduced level of fellowship and camaraderie. A Reunion is meant to be much more than just Degree work and enrolling new Masters of the Royal Secret. Our established members return to again see and take part in the work, catch up, and refresh friendships. New members receive a warm welcome to begin their Scottish Rite Journey.

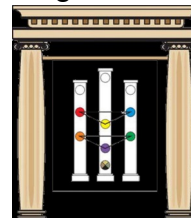
Of course, a virtual Reunion certainly was less difficult to conduct. A typical Reunion has about 225 brothers participating. Indeed, if we dramatically conferred all 29 degrees, with no Brother having more than one role, we would need 397 active participants. Our virtual Reunion was conducted with about 30 Brethren.

On balance, the virtual Reunion was a great success. There were a couple of glitches, which we overcame, but it must be acknowledged that there are glitches to overcome during each of our in-person Reunions and, as far as keeping on schedule, we did better in this regard at this virtual Reunion than we usually do at our regular Reunions.

Because of the missing fellowship, and not being able to experience the dramatic impact that comes with the conferral of Degrees, with staging, costumes, properties, paraphernalia, regalia, sound and lighting effects, the authors of this narrative would have preferred that this be the only time we have a virtual Reunion. However, given the current uptick in the infection rate and the concern that the trend line will only get worse after the Christmas holiday, we have decided that our Spring 2021 Reunion again will be a Zoom event. Nevertheless, it is important that our Degree Teams remain cohesive and keep rehearsing their parts.

We conclude with two thoughts. First, while our principles and values should not and do not change, we should not be afraid to utilize technology where that can help us. In this regard, we would note that while having a virtual Reunion may seem strange, we should recall that Albert Pike received the 4th through the 32nd degrees by communication from then Grand Secretary General Albert G. Mackey, 33° and it was common, in early days, to communicate the degrees. Second, it is important that each of us work hard to get petitions for our next Reunion. The new Masons who were part of the Grand Lodge of Virginia one-day conferrals need to hear about getting more light in Masonry by joining Scottish Rite, and there are many other of our Brethren in our Lodges who might want to take advantage of our 24 April one-day Spring Reunion.

Fraternally,
Jim and Ed



The January 2020 Scottish Rite Awards

Although we did not have many of our normal activities or in-person meetings in 2020, the heads of the four Alexandria Bodies: Donald L. McAndrews, KCCH, Venerable Master of the Alexandria Lodge of Perfection; Thomas E. Goolsby, KCCH, Wise Master of the Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix; Rick A. Cady, 32°, Commander of the Alexandria Council of Kadosh; and Ronald J. Leibfreid, 32°, Master of Kadosh of the Alexandria Consistory; and also Stuart C. Pool, KCCH, 2019-2020 Chief of the Alexandria Knights of St. Andrew, performed in exemplary fashion during a very challenging year, and we are grateful for their leadership.

In addition, in spite of the many challenges we faced, there were a number of Brethren who ensured that we had a rewarding Scottish Rite experience this year as a result of a successful member outreach program, great articles in our Bulletin, and superior presentations at our Zoom meetings.

The 2020 **Certificates of Merit** for long-term service to the Valley went to:

John, T. G. Aakesson, KCCH. He is one of the Valley Trustees, and in addition, over the past years has been particularly helpful to our General Secretary in a variety of ways, and has been personally responsible for implementing a number of building repair projects. Just this year, for example, he installed the self-flushing toilets and urinals, and gold leafed the columns in the auditorium. He is highly skilled and he has saved the Valley a great deal of money by donating his services.

Jason W. Lotz, KCCH. Brother Lotz, was the content editor of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin for a number of years, helping to plan the content, notifying the authors, and reminding them of the due dates, so their submissions were received as required, and the issue able to be sent to the membership on time.

David C. Morris, 33°. Ill Morris, is almost unique in fulfilling his important responsibilities without having dedicated clerical support to assist him as General Secretary of a Valley this size. In addition to all of his regular duties, he has provided unwavering leadership, steadfast dedication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills overseeing, directing, and implementing plans for the refurbishment of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple.

Michael D. Taldo, KCCH. Over the past several years, he has been the lynchpin of our Master Craftsman program, to include his continued leadership of the study groups which have made this program more accessible to our members. In addition, he has been a significant contributor to the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin.

The 2020 **Certificates of Appreciation** for notable work in 2020 went to:

Frank T. Anthony, KCCH. Brother Anthony was the Valley project lead for our one significant in-person event – the annual Alexandria Scottish Rite - Kena Shrine picnic. Of key importance he took a series of steps to mitigate the health risks based on CDC and Virginia's COVID-19 Phase-3 guidelines, thus ensuring both the success of the event and the safety of the attendees.

Michael P. Bible, KCCH. As Chair of our Membership Committee, he developed the caller script for our member outreach program and organized a group to help with the calls. He also put together the autocall proposal which was approved by the Executive Council and by the membership at the Valley meeting.

Rick A. Cady 32°. Brother Cady was of significant help in reaching out to our Brethren in support of our member outreach program.

Ronald G. Elliott, 32°. Brother Elliott, as one of our Valley Trustees, has been responsible, for overseeing a long list of completed temple projects, to include an upgraded Zoom and projection capability.

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The January 2020 Scottish Rite Awards

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Keith G. Gawrys, KCCH. As chair of our Education and Training Committee, he organized the educational programs at our meetings, and also was personally responsible for presentations on the Philosophical Underpinnings of our Degrees, on the Battle of Monte Cassino, and on the 6th Degree *Confidential Secretary*.

Thomas E. Goolsby, KCCH. Brother Goolsby was of significant help in reaching out to our Brethren in support of our member outreach program.

Sean Graystone, 33°, Grand Cross. Ill. Sean Graystone contributed to our Valley meetings with two brilliant presentations. His extensive Masonic background, experience and expertise, and his engaging manner, added so much to our education and enjoyment.

Jason M. Himsey, KCCH. Brother Himsey, as one of our Valley Trustees, has been responsible, for overseeing a long list of completed temple projects, to include an upgraded Zoom and projection capability.

Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33°. Ill. Brother Hoff updated our procedures manual and the help wanted guidance on our website. In addition, he set the standard for the new series of talks on our degrees when he led off with his wonderful presentation on the 4th degree *Secret Master*. He also is an important part of our communications effort, sending excellent monthly guidance for the Valley's Lodge representatives about our events and activities.

Anthony J. LaCava, 32°. Brother LaCava was the Kena Shrine lead for the annual Alexandria Scottish Rite – Kena Shrine picnic and worked closely with the Valley to lay out the mitigation strategy for social distancing, food preparation, and indoor seating arrangements, thus ensuring both the success of the event and the safety of the attendees.

Ronald J. Leibfreid, 32°. Brother Leibfreid was of significant help in reaching out to our Brethren in support of our member outreach program.

Donald L. McAndrews, KCCH. Brother McAndrews contributed to our Masonic education with an excellent presentation on a Secret History of Knights Templar and their ties to Ancient Egypt. He also was of significant help in reaching out to our Brethren in support of our member outreach program.

John W. Mitchell, Jr., 32°. Brother Mitchell was of significant help in reaching out to our Brethren in support of our member outreach program.

Jay E. Patterson, KCCH. Brother Patterson materially assisted our Valley communications program by managing our email member notification system which alerts the Brethren to meetings and other important events.

Sheldon B. Richman, 33°. Brother Richman, Chair of the Valley Degree Communications Team, was instrumental in the success of 2020 virtual Reunion where all 29 degrees were communicated. He assembled and rehearsed a team working both from the auditorium and on Zoom to ensure a flawless presentation.

David H. Smith, Sr., 33°. Ill. Brother Smith as Chair of the Valley Trustees, has been responsible for overseeing a long list of completed temple projects, to include an upgraded Zoom and projection capability. He also is responsible for the layout of the Valley Bulletin.

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The January 2020 Scottish Rite Awards

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John M. Suit, KCCH. As Chair of our Communication and Outreach Committee, Brother Suit was of enormous help running the technical end of all of our Zoom meetings and ensuring its success. He also provided significant support to the development of our member outreach program and assisted in calling the Brethren.

Gregory M. Valker, KCCH. Brother Valker, as one of our Valley Trustees, has been responsible for overseeing a long list of completed temple projects, to include an upgraded Zoom and projection capability.

Brian M. Walaszczyk, 32°. Brother Walaszczyk again this year he produced two excellent feature articles which appeared in the May – June and Nov – Dec Bulletins, and had another article on the Scottish Rite Fellows program. He also presented an important presentation on Reason, Intuition, and Freemasonry at our October Valley meeting.

Farley W. Warner, 32°. Brother Warner provided significant support of our Master Craftsman program, which is a key part of our education, communications, and outreach effort.

The **2020 Alexandria Valley Community Service Award** and a generous donation went to the three organizations that provide food relief: **Alive** in Alexandria, **Loudoun Hunger Relief**, and **Action in Community Through Service (ACTS)** in Prince William County. In addition to the \$1,500 that the Valley provides to the awardee, member contributions were in excess of \$5,000. The total amount will be equally divided amongst the three organizations selected.

In addition, we will be honoring with a certificate and a check for \$500, **three outstanding teachers** for their services to our youth and community. They are:

Carrie Linebaugh, who teaches at Liberty High School in Fauquier County;

Mark Muldowney, who teaches at the Round Hill Elementary School in the Loudoun County Public Schools; and,

Lisa Rode, who teaches at the Kings Glen Elementary School in the Fairfax County Public Schools.



Carrie Linebaugh
Liberty High School



Mark Muldowney
Round Hill Elementary



Lisa Rode
Kings Glen Elementary

These awards will likely be presented at our February Valley meeting.

The 2021 Alexandria Scholarship Program

Harold Chadsey, KCCH, Chair, Scholarship Subcommittee

The year 2020 has been called by some the year that nothing got done. Many were isolated in their homes due to COVID-19 and many schools were either shut down or operated on greatly changed operations. Virtual learning is proving to be a learning experience for everyone, educators and students. It has also, either by choice or by necessity, forced many to consider their career choices and educational requirements for those choices.

Making these choices is particularly difficult for our youth in part because they are looking ahead to plan their entire career future. This difficulty to make educational decisions is compounded by the financial stress imposed by COVID-19. While some of us are willing to offer our counsel in career choices, the Alexandria Scottish Rite can provide some financial assistance through the Alexandria Scottish Rite Scholarship funds.

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The 2021 Alexandria Scholarship Program

Harold Chadsey, KCCH, Chair, Scholarship Subcommittee

(Continued from Page 11.)

These scholarships are available to Masonic youth planning to attend an accredited local community college, a traditional college or university, or trade or technical school. The Glass Scholarship awards \$1,000 scholarships, as funds permit, to graduating high school seniors and immediate past award winners meeting the qualifications and who are continuing their undergraduate studies. (Please note, the scholarships are not intended for those working on a second undergraduate degree or who took time off from their studies.) The applicants for this scholarship must be either a member of one of our Masonic Youth Organizations (i.e., DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, or Rainbow) or must be related to a member (living or deceased) of our Valley. The link to the application can be found on the Alexandria Scottish Rite Home page (<http://alexandriascottishrite.org>) and must be completed and submitted to the Alexandria Scottish Rite before 31 March for consideration. Please be sure to use the correct application form. There is one form for high school seniors and one form for those applying for renewal. ALL applicants must complete the form as directed to be considered. There will be no exceptions nor will any applications be accepted after the due date for any reason.

The second scholarship is the Bayliss Scholarship that awards another set of \$1,000 scholarships as funds permit. The applicants for this scholarship are taken from those who had completed and applied to the Grand Lodge of Virginia (GLVA) for their scholarship program. The GLVA Scholarship Committee generally sends the Alexandria Valley the applications of those who live in the Northern Virginia area, but did not receive a GLVA scholarship because there were not sufficient funds available.

The application for the Virginia Grand Lodge Scholarship is available through their web site (<http://grandlodgeofvirginia.org>) under the charity menu tab at the top of the page. The application for the Virginia Grand Lodge Scholarship is due by 1 March. Please note, being awarded one of the Glass scholarships does NOT prevent a person from also being awarded one of the Bayliss Scholarships. Please contact me or the Alexandria Scottish Rite Secretary, if you have any questions.

Fraternally, Harold

Alexandria Scottish Rite Making Lives Better Through Charity

Tim Shrum, KCCH, Chair, Philanthropy Committee

I am excited to report that despite the COVID pandemic the Alexandria Scottish Rite has not lost its focus on Charity, and this year has raised over \$11,000. Some of this money will go directly to Rite Care and some will go to one or more food pantries in the first Quarter of 2021. For your support, I say Thank You Brethren.

In 2021, we plan on continuing to innovate and be creative about how we raise funds for philanthropy and how we distribute the funds received. It is always humbling to talk with various charities and learn how they are making a difference in the lives of people in our community. In this regard, we are developing relationships with local autism charities, and we may be able to provide financial support to one or more of them. In sum, we intend to diversify our philanthropy with a focus on organizations within the boundaries of the Valley, while continuing to support the Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation.

Our Friends and Family Gala has been a mainstay for our philanthropic efforts for the last several years, but with the pandemic still an issue, and being uncertain how soon we will have access to a vaccine, we have concluded that it would be prudent to forego the Gala in 2021 and plan to have our next one in 2022. However, in order to support our philanthropic efforts during the pandemic, we plan on hosting several smaller charity events.

(Continued on Page 13.)

Friends and Family in 2021

(Continued from Page 12.)

These smaller events can be a great deal of fun and can help us to generate the funds we need without sacrificing safety. We plan to have an event in the late spring-early summer time frame, and one or two additional social events in early fall. I must say our philanthropy team continues to amaze with their creativity and dedication in making all of this possible, and all of you are a part of this team. I would ask, therefore, that you submit your ideas about ways to raise additional funds for our philanthropic efforts, and which charities to support. Email your ideas and suggestions to me at ts61416@yahoo.com, and the Philanthropy Committee will review those ideas. Your suggestion could be our next charitable effort!

One initiative that already is underway is a Masonry Helps Kids T-shirts we have designed. These T-shirts are navy blue and, on the front, have a square and compasses, and, on the back, have a square and compasses with the words "Masons Help Kids," shown at right.



Front

Back

These handsome T-shirts are only \$20.00. As of December 1, we have sold 60 of them and anticipate placing an order for at least 10 - 12 more in the next couple of weeks. We intend on making the T-shirts available throughout the calendar year 2021.

During the Pandemic this project will be one of the cornerstones of our fundraising efforts. Please reach out to your Brethren Masons and family members and ask them to purchase one of these T-shirts. Maybe the Alexandria Scottish Rite clubs can have a competition on who sells the most T-shirts or maybe even the four Bodies in the Valley could have a similar competition. We also should encourage our Blue Lodge Brethren to purchase a T-shirt. Indeed, if the line officers in each Lodge we draw membership from would be interested in having one of these T-shirts, we would be able to raise a significant amount of money for our charities. The selling point is that this is a great way for us to pique the interest of the general public about Masonry and be able to tell our story at the same time. This is all about changing the lives of kids, and the profits from the sale of these T-shirts will be split between Autism and Rite Care.

Please send me an email at ts61416@yahoo.com with your order of a T-shirt for \$20.00. For the near term, I will order T-shirts and you can pay me upon their arrival.

In addition to our RiteCare and autism initiatives, the Valley gives away twenty – \$1,000 scholarships each year. Brother Harold Chadsey, KCCH, discusses scholarships in more detail in this edition of the Bulletin. In 2021, the members of the Philanthropy Committee and the subcommittee on Scholarships will be examining the pros and cons of restructuring the size of our scholarships. More specifically, we have two scholarship funds that each award ten – \$1,000 scholarships. We will be discussing whether we should give fewer higher dollar scholarships instead. We will bring any proposed changes to the Executive Council for its consideration.

Finally, given the scope, size, and goals of our philanthropic efforts, the Philanthropy Committee has worked with the Valley Leadership to initiate the process of obtaining 501c3 status. This is an involved and complex process, which we hope to complete in 2021. Businesses and major donors want to know that their money for charity is directed towards an IRS 501c3 organization, and having this status will help us in soliciting funds from major donors.

We want to get to the point where we raise \$100,000 a year, but in this pandemic environment our goal is to raise at least \$25,000 in 2021. This will help us make a HUGE difference in the lives of children who really need our help.

S&F,
Tim Shrum

Shenandoah Scottish Rite Club

Congratulations and thanks to our new slate of officers! We look forward to another great year!



1st Vice President Dennis Parmerter (Debbie) 2nd Vice President Geoffrey Hoyt (Heather) Ill. David C. Morris, 33^o Valley General Secretary President Zandy Depriest (Susan) Secretary Charles McIlwee (Donna) Treasurer Jerry Begley



Alexandria Scottish Rite 2020 Virtual Reunion December 5, 2020



Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33^o, G.C.
Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia

Ill. Edmund Cohen, 33^o
Personal Representative of the
Deputy in Virginia
(4th Picture up)

Ill. James A. Loudermilk, Jr., 33^o
Director of Work
(4th Picture up)



Ill. David C. Morris, 33^o
General Secretary
Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley

Secretary's Corner

Ill. David C. Morris, General Secretary

OUR WISH FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Alexandria Valley Office wishes you the Best of Holidays and Happiness in the New Year. May you and your family be blessed with good health and happiness in 2021.



EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please check that we have your correct email address. This allows us to communicate with you and is especially important so that you are able to sign on to our Zoom meetings. If you prefer, call the office at 703.998.9044 and we will update your information.

2021 MEMBERSHIP CARDS – YOU MUST HAVE A 2021 CARD

You should have received your Dues Notice for 2021 and your card was enclosed with this notice. Please make your payment or go online to the Supreme Council website and pay.

AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL

An optional "Automatic Membership Renewal Program" for paying dues through the Scottish Rite Portal will be offered when paying online. You will get an email reminder a few days before a payment is processed and you can opt out at any time.

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR 2021

This is starting to be a very difficult year for planning our Calendar. There are a lot of unknowns. We ask for your understanding. Stay healthy and safe.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2021

Jan. 1 – HOLIDAY

New Years Day

Jan. 8 – 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting
Annual Awards
Installation of Officers
Short Valley Meeting follows
(Lodge of Perfection)

Jan. 20

Loudoun SR Club

If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Jan. 27 – CANCELLED

Shenandoah SR Club Meeting

Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg

FEBRUARY 2021

Feb. 12 – 6:30 p.m.

TBD whether by Zoom
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
(Council of Kadosh, Rose Croix
& Lodge of Perfection)

Feb. 17

Loudoun SR Club

If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Feb. 24 – TBD

Shenandoah SR Club Meeting

Cassia Lodge—Woodstock

MARCH 2021

Mar. 12 – 7:30 p.m.

TBD whether by Zoom
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

Mar. 17

Loudoun SR Club

If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Mar. 24 - TBD

Shenandoah SR Club Meeting

Spurmont Lodge—Strasburg



SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°, Editor
Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

TBD, Content Coordinator

All Scottish Rite Members whose names appear in this Bulletin are of the Thirty-second Degree, unless otherwise indicated.

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Thomas G. Little, KCCH
Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Almoner Emeritus

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change of address, phone number, or email address. This is very important so that you may receive The Scottish Rite Journal and other publications and correspondence without delay.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES DEAN COLE, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILLUSTRIOUS ALAN WAYNE ADKINS, 33°, G. L. C. C.
Deputy of the Supreme Council in
the Orient of Virginia

ILLUSTRIOUS EDMUND COHEN, 33°
Personal Representative of the Deputy in Alexandria

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
PETER E. TERRILL, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
JAMES A. LOUDERMILK, 33°
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
KEVIN M. HOMAN, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
RONALD G. ELLIOTT
Master of Kadosh

