



Scottish Rite Bulletin

September—October 2023



CONGRATULATIONS

Honour Men of 2023



INSPECTORS GENERAL HONORARY



Allen D. Beckner
Scott C. Springer
Donald E. Strehle (at large)
Joel David Ratliff, Sr. (WV)



KNIGHTS COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR

Jeremy D. Anspaugh
Ronald E. Craft, Jr.
Mark E. Cummings
Ralph L. Shepard
Robert J. Worthington



2023 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

Ill. Allen D. Beckner, 33rd, Conference President

PLAN TO ATTEND

WHEN: September 28-30, 2023

WHERE: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center,
5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311

Alexandria Members—the only cost to attend is your room at the Hilton Hotel; otherwise, there is no cost in attending the Conference. If you attend the Conference and plan to attend the banquets, you must notify our Assistant Secretary, Ill. David H. Smith, at 703.998.9044 or via email at: assistantsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org to let him know what type of meal you and/or your lady would like.

PRE CONFERENCE EVENTS

Thursday, September 28, 2023,

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Registration** – Plaza Ballroom Foyer
4:45 PM - Shuttle Boarding—**Cherry Blossom Cruise**
5:10 PM - Shuttle Boarding—Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Cherry Blossom Cruise** - Alex. Marina
9:30 PM - Shuttle Return to Hotel / SR Temple

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, September 29, 2023

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM **Registration** – Plaza Ballroom Foyer
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Welcome Lunch for ALL — Presidential Suite, 30th Floor**
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM **Educational Topics (Repeated—50 minutes)**
Session 1: Building a Philanthropy Program—Juniper Room
Session 2: The Masonic Roundtable — Aspen Room
3:15 - 4:00 PM **SGIG, Secretaries, Treasurers, Personal Reps** - Beech
3:15 - 4:00 PM **SR Foundation of Virginia (Directors)** - Dogwood
3:15 - 4:00 PM **Conference Presidents/Vice Presidents** - Maple
3:15 - 4:00 PM **Knights of St. Andrew (members only)** - Juniper
3:15 - 4:00 PM **Prelate Training Meeting**—Aspen
5:00 - 6:00 PM **Hospitality Suites Open**
6:00 PM **Banquet** – Dinner - Plaza Ballroom

Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Registration** – Plaza Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM **99th Annual Session Virginia SR Conference**
10:30 - 10:45 AM - **Break**
11:00 AM - 1:00 AM **Ladies' Luncheon** - Terrance East Room
Noon - 1:30 PM **Attendees Lunch**—on your own
2:30 PM **KCCH Investiture** – Alexandria Valley SR
1430 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302
(Tuxedos for ALL new 33rds and KCCHs)
5:00 - 6:00 PM - **Hospitality Suites Open**
6:00 - 9:00 PM - **Banquet** – Plaza Grand Ballroom
(Coat/Tie, gown/cocktail dresses, Tuxedos for ALL new 33rds and KCCHs)
9:30 - 11:00 PM - **Hospitality Suites Open - Ice Cream Social**
hosted by Alexandria Valley in Presidential Suite

The 2023 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

Ill. Allen D. Beckner, 33°, Conference President

Lady Linda and I invite you to attend the 99th Annual Meeting of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia, to be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA on Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30. Discounted hotel and parking rates for the Hilton are available by using the link:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SCOTTISHRITECONFERENCEOFVA23>



Remember that members of the Alexandria Valley do not pay for banquet meals on Friday and Saturday nights, and their ladies do not pay for the Ladies' Luncheon meal on Saturday. However, the Alexandria Valley's Conference registration form, with meal selections, must be provided to Ill. David Smith, 33°, Assistant General Secretary, **NLT August 25** to ensure you will have meal tickets. Email the completed form to: assistantsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org.

We have planned an exciting Conference with an added special event. Take a 3-hour scenic sunset cruise aboard the Cherry Blossom stern-wheeled riverboat on Thursday, September 28. This dinner cruise includes hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks, coffee and fellowship. Free transportation to and from the Hilton and the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is provided. Reservations and payment (\$150 per person) for this special event aboard the Cherry Blossom must be made by contacting Brother James D. Baker, 32°, KCCH, at jamesdbaker13@hotmail.com. Spaces are limited, so get your reservations and payment in early and **NLT September 1st**. Business casual attire is recommended for this special event.

On Friday, September 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 pm we invite all Brethren and Ladies to drop by the Presidential suite on the 30th floor of the Hilton for a "grab and go" bag lunch catered by The Italian Store of Arlington, VA.

Lunch will be followed at 1 pm by two outstanding educational sessions held on the Hilton's lower level. Brother Tim Shrum, 32°, KCCH, and his extraordinary Philanthropy Committee will present "Building a Successful Philanthropy Program" and the second session will be "The Masonic Roundtable" hosted by Jon Ruark, Jason Richards, Nick Johnson, Juan Sepulveda and Robert Johnson with guests MW & Ill. Alan Adkins, 33°, Grand Cross, SGIG of VA, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, and Grand Master Donald E. Strehle, 33° (Elect). We hope everyone will come out to support our Brethren and benefit from these interesting and informative talks.

After the educational sessions have adjourned, there will be separate meetings in the lower level of the Hilton for the SGIG/Secretaries/Treasurers/Personal Reps, the SR Foundation of VA (Directors only), the Conference President/VPs, and the Knights of St. Andrew (members only). There will also be Prelate Training provided by Brother John T. Tillery, 32°, KCCH, Conference Chaplain. Brethren not engaged in any of these meetings or training will have free time prior to the Friday evening banquet.

Following the training and meeting sessions, the three Valley hospitality suites will be open both before and after the banquet. (Volunteers needed: Your snack/dessert contributions as well as your assistance in the Alexandria/Richmond Valleys' Presidential Suite would be appreciated.)

The Friday evening banquet at 6 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom will feature a harpist, then a presentation by MW & Ill. James Dean Cole, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA. Banquet attire is: coat and tie for men, and; dress or pantsuit for ladies.

On Saturday, September 30 at 9 a.m. the 99th Annual Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will open. We will hear comments from Ill. Alan Adkins, 33°, Grand Cross, SGIG of VA, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, and Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Donald E. Strehle, 33°. Reports will be presented by each Valley Vice President as well as a Financial Report from the Scottish Rite Foundation of VA. In addition, new Conference Officers will be elected and installed as well as new Directors of the Scottish Rite Foundation. A Necrology Service will also be provided for our departed Brethren. The recommended Alexandria Valley attire is: navy blue blazer, blue button-down shirt, Alexandria Valley tie and grey pants/slacks. No hats are required.

(Continued on Page 3.)

The 2023 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

(Continued from Page 2.)

The business session will conclude at noon. Lunch for Brethren will be “on your own” or available in the Alexandria/Richmond Valleys’ Presidential Suite.

With seating beginning at 11 a.m., our Ladies Luncheon will feature live entertainment from the award-winning Bella Nova Chorus, followed by a drawing for a special gift basket.

Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. will feature the investiture of the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) at the Alexandria Valley Temple, 1430 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. This investiture is being performed by the Norfolk Valley and is open to all Brethren and Ladies. Investiture attire is: Tuxedo for KCCH elects and new 33rd and coat and tie (with Caps) for all others. Plan to support our new Honourmen and congratulate our new KCCHs and our new 33^o Brethren who were coroneted at the 2023 Supreme Council Biennial Session held in Washington, DC.

As always, the three hospitality suites will be open both before and after the banquet for refreshments.

The Saturday evening banquet at 6 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom will feature a pianist and our guest speaker will be Ill. Gene Calonge, 33^o. Banquet attire is; tuxedo for new KCCH elects and new 33^o I.G.H. and; coat and tie for all other Gentlemen; cocktail dress or evening gown for Ladies.

After the banquet, the Alexandria Valley will host an ice cream social in the Presidential Suite on the 30th floor. (Volunteers Needed: Your assistance with this ice cream social and cleaning up afterward would be greatly appreciated.)

We hope to make this Conference one of the most exciting and enjoyable for our members, Brethren and everyone. If you would like to volunteer and to assist in any capacity, please contact Ill. Peter Terrill, 33^o, Assistant Vice President of the Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite Conference of VA. His email is: mohrscircle73@gmail.com.

We encourage you to attend the any or all the above Conference events to enjoy good old-fashioned fun, fellowship and hospitality!

Fraternally,

Allen

Assistant Personal Representative Remarks

Ill. Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33^o, Assistant Personal Representative of the SGIG in VA

The Importance of a Focus on Membership

I was recently reading the history of Alexandria Valley as compiled by Right Worshipful and Illustrious Walter Scott Downs, 33^o, Grand Cross. Brother Walter was our General Secretary for 27 years and our SGIG’s Personal Representative at Alexandria for much of that time. Walter was the perfect Brother to compile our Valley’s history, since he was a participant in, and a primary force behind many of the Valley activities from 1958 when he became a member, until he laid down his working tools in 2015.



The Valley history can be read on our website. In addition to much more, it records our Valley’s membership levels beginning in 1910 with the efforts of eight Brothers to establish a Scottish Rite Body in Alexandria. By 1923, membership had grown to 641, however, during the Depression and pre-War years, membership temporarily declined to 528 before resuming positive growth in 1941. New members were added with each reunion class so that by 1945, the Valley had 865 Brothers and by 1960 we were up to 2,242. After moving into our newly constructed temple in January 1971, the Spring ‘71 Temple Dedication Reunion class added 265 new members and by December 1981, Alexandria Valley was at its “high-water mark” at 3,578 members. (Continued on Page 4.)

Assistant Personal Representative Remarks

(Continued from Page 3.)

Today, our Valley membership is around 1,100 Brothers. Much has been written about the declining numbers of American men who now choose to become involved in fraternal, or more broadly defined groups. We live in a much different society today than did those who came to Freemasonry in the WWII and Korean War era. While we appreciate the sincerity of those who say that the total number of men in our Fraternity is not our ultimate concern, the numbers do, indeed, matter. We especially value the contributions of Freemasonry not only to our own personal development but to the health of our relationships among family, friends and communities throughout our nation and in all those other lands where Freemasonry thrives. As long as we keep the lessons of our Fraternity foremost in our endeavors, Freemasonry's influence on our global society will continue as a strong force for the benefit of all mankind, and as our Fraternity's membership and contact with our communities grow, that beneficial influence will also continue to grow.

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful and Illustrious Donald Ellis Strehle, 33°, writes in the summer 2023 issue of our Masonic Herald about membership and the need for Freemasonry's continuing and increased good influence on society's civility, tolerance and generous consideration of humanity's welfare. Our Grand Master emphasizes not only the number of members enrolled in our Bodies, but rather on the number of good men who have learned and now practice the lessons of our Craft... Brothers who can and often do have significant and direct impact on society's wellbeing.

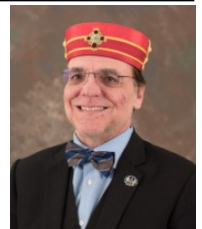
There are many Masonic and specifically Scottish Rite subjects and activities on our minds throughout the year, but efforts to inform and attract good men to join our Lodges and then to continue their Masonic education, growth and specific endeavors in our appendant Bodies, should always remain important to us... not just for our statistical membership numbers, but for our continued and increased contributions to society.

Brethren, be kind to each other, do good to all, and enjoy your Scottish Rite. Fraternally, *Norm*

The Relationship between the Feast of Tishri and the Scottish Rite

Michael D. Taldo, KCCH, Venerable Master

The Feast of Tishri holds spiritual and cultural importance for Jewish communities worldwide. The Scottish Rite imparts esoteric teachings and allegorical lessons, and Scholars and Masonic writers alike have speculated on potential symbolic links between the two. We will explore these speculative relationships and examine how the themes of the Feast of Tishri relate to the degrees of the Scottish Rite; this may also illustrate why the Scottish Rite recognizes the Feast. Before we begin, a summary of the Feast of Tishri will remind us of its significance:



1. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, marks the beginning of the High Holy Days. Usually observed on the first and second days of the Hebrew month of Tishri, it is significant in Jewish tradition. It is a time for reflection, prayer, and self-examination, as individuals assess their actions and seek forgiveness from God and one another. It is also a time to celebrate and acknowledge the creation of the world and God's sovereignty over it. The sounding of the shofar (a ram's horn) is a distinctive element of the observance, serving as a call to repentance and a reminder of God's presence.

2. During the Ten Days of Repentance or the Yamim Nora'im, individuals engage in acts of repentance, prayer, and charity, aiming to restore harmony and balance in their lives.

3. Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement is the most solemn and holiest day of the Jewish calendar, falling on the tenth day of Tishri. On Yom Kippur, they fast from sunset to sunset, engage in prayer, and seek forgiveness for sins. The day is dedicated to atoning for past wrongdoings, reconciling with others, and renewing one's relationship with God. *(Continued on Page 5.)*

The Relationship between the Feast of Tishri and the Scottish Rite

(Continued from Page 4.)

4. The Sukkot follows, beginning on the 15th day of Tishri. The Sukkot represents shelter, humility, and thankfulness. The week-long holiday is sometimes called “the Harvest Festival” or the “Festival of Booths.”
5. The Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah marks the conclusion of the holiday season, celebrating the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle.

Rosh Hashanah holds theological and historical connections to the Christian faith due to its Jewish roots. The New Testament refers to Rosh Hashanah as the **Feast of Trumpets**. The sounding of the trumpet symbolizes the anticipation of the Messiah's coming and serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and future redemption fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies and bringing salvation to humanity.

Let's now examine a few themes that show a convergence between the Feast of Tishri and Masonry.

1. Esoteric Symbolism in Masonry and Judaism:

The Scottish Rite uses esoteric symbolism to impart moral and philosophical lessons. Masonic degrees and rituals are replete with symbols that represent various virtues, moral principles, and spiritual truths. Similarly, Jewish tradition contains a wealth of symbolic rituals and teachings to impart its teachings and traditions.

The Torah and other Jewish scriptures contain layers of hidden meanings. For example, the Star of David, a hexagram formed by two interlocking triangles, represents the harmony between divine and human forces. The Menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum, symbolizes divine light and wisdom. Passover, one of the most important Jewish festivals, employs symbolic elements like matzah (unleavened bread) and the Seder plate to convey the themes of liberation and spiritual renewal.

In Masonry for instance, the Square and Compasses represent moral integrity and spiritual guidance, respectively. The Working Tools of each degree are used as symbols of its teachings and virtues. The symbolism of light, darkness, and the journey from ignorance to knowledge is a recurring theme throughout Masonic degrees. In the 4^o, *Secret Master*, the degree's symbolism has connections to the secret and hidden aspects of religious practices, echoing the mystical elements found in the Feast of Tishri.

Duty, in the context of the Feast of Tishri, relates to the moral and ethical obligations that individuals have toward themselves, their fellow human beings, and their Creator. During this time, they are encouraged to reflect on their duties and responsibilities in life, and to seek to improve themselves by adhering to higher moral standards.

While the specific symbols may differ, the use of allegory and hidden meanings is a common thread. Members of both are encouraged to delve into the symbolism's deeper significance, leading to personal and spiritual growth.

2. Theme of Moral and Ethical principles:

The themes and teachings embedded in the Feast of Tishri's observances emphasize the pursuit of virtuous behavior, humility, and compassion. The Feast of Tishri serves as an opportunity for spiritual reflection and moral development, providing a path towards greater freedom from harmful biases and attitudes.

In The 14^o, *Perfect Elu*, we are both bound and free by our obligation and supposed to be free from prejudice, intolerance and envy. We meet on the level because in our lives authority and liberty are supposed to be in equilibrium.

During Rosh Hashanah, the emphasis on repentance and seeking forgiveness underscores the importance of letting go of grudges and animosity, fostering an atmosphere of reconciliation and understanding.

Yom Kippur emphasizes the importance of acknowledging one's faults and wrongdoings, and committing to change and self-improvement.

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The Relationship between the Feast of Tishri and the Scottish Rite

(Continued from Page 5.)

The Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles, is a festival of thanksgiving, commemorating the time when the Israelites wandered in the desert and lived in temporary shelters. The holiday encourages humility and gratitude, reflecting on the transient nature of material possessions and worldly desires. Such reflection can foster freedom from envy, as individuals are reminded to appreciate what they have and refrain from coveting others' possessions or successes.

The Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah marks the conclusion of the reading cycle. Thus, by fostering a sense of shared purpose and camaraderie, these holidays promote freedom from prejudice and intolerance, encouraging individuals to embrace the diversity of their community and celebrate together.

3. Theme of seeking spiritual renewal and reflection:

The 18°, *Knight, Rose Croix*, emphasis on **faith** in God, **hope** in the victory over evil, and **charity**, relieving the wants and tolerating the errors and faults in others appears to be connected with the Feast of Tishri.

Faith (Emunah): Emunah encourages us to trust in God's guidance, have confidence in His wisdom, and place our hope in a better future.

Hope (Tikvah): Rosh Hashanah is a time of hope and optimism for the future. The holiday's themes of repentance and forgiveness inspire hope for spiritual growth and a renewed connection with God and others.

Charity (Tzedakah): The concept of Tzedakah is an essential element of the Feast of Tishri. We are encouraged to engage in acts of charity and benevolence. It is not just about giving monetary assistance but also about promoting justice and helping those in need, reflecting the value of compassion and kindness in Jewish tradition.

In the Jewish tradition, **faith**, **hope**, and **charity** are considered fundamental virtues that align with the values of Rosh Hashanah and the Ten Days of Repentance. By embodying these principles, individuals seek to strengthen their spiritual connection with God, renew their commitment to ethical conduct, and foster a sense of responsibility towards others and the world at large.

4. The Pursuit of Judgment and Righteousness:

The 31°, *Inspector Inquisitor*, use of the symbolism of vigilance and justice can be connected to the themes of judgment and righteousness during the Feast of Tishri. The Feast of Tishri, particularly during Rosh Hashanah and the Ten Days of Repentance, considers justice and mercy as essential components of its teachings in the Jewish tradition.

Justice: The focus on justice underscores the importance of personal accountability and responsibility for one's actions. We are encouraged to recognize any harm caused to others, seek forgiveness, and make amends for our wrongdoings.

Mercy: The Feast of Tishri emphasizes the attribute of divine mercy and forgiveness. While acknowledging human imperfections and sins, the Jewish seek God's mercy and compassion during this period. The belief in God's capacity for forgiveness and willingness to grant mercy to those who repent is a central theme during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Repentance and Compassion: During the Ten Days of Repentance, we are encouraged to practice compassion and empathy towards others. This includes granting forgiveness to those who sincerely seek it, as well as displaying kindness and understanding towards fellow human beings.

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The Relationship between the Feast of Tishri and the Scottish Rite

(Continued from Page 6.)

Pursuit of Justice and Tikkun Olam: The concept of "Tikkun Olam" or "repairing the world" is a core value in Judaism, emphasizing the responsibility to work for justice and social equity. They are called to seek justice and alleviate suffering, addressing societal imbalances and advocating for the well-being of all individuals.

5. The theme of Equilibrium and Balance

The concept of equilibrium is woven throughout Feast of Tishri observances, particularly during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The process of achieving equilibrium helps individuals realign themselves with higher spiritual values, fostering a sense of harmony, introspection, and moral growth. In this context, it refers to the idea of restoring balance and harmony within oneself and the broader community, both spiritually and morally. In Judaism, the idea of sanctifying one's daily activities, including work, is emphasized. The belief is that all aspects of life can be infused with spiritual significance, and acts of goodness and righteousness can be considered forms of worship. This concept aligns with the notion that one can express devotion to God not only through prayers and rituals but also through ethical behavior and positive contributions to society.

The concept of "Avodah" in Judaism encompasses both the act of prayer (divine service) and meaningful labor (human service). It highlights the understanding that both forms of service are essential and can be considered acts of worship when approached with the right intention and dedication.

The 32°, *Master of the Royal Secret*, encompasses the culmination of Masonic knowledge and spiritual understanding. This finds connections to the profound spiritual insights sought during the Feast of Tishri. That man is ever interlaced with the Divine. That only doctrines, faith or knowledge which bear in action are of value and that to work is to worship.

In conclusion, by exploring aspects of the Feast of Tishri and incorporating specific references to Scottish Rite degrees, we can see how the two are often closely aligned. The connections between the two provide a richer understanding of both the Feast of Tishri and the Scottish Rite, highlighting the profound teachings and wisdom within each. It invites contemplation and appreciation for the unique contributions of both the Jewish and Masonic traditions to the human quest for moral and spiritual growth. It illustrates why the Scottish Rite takes time to recognize the Feast of Tishri each year.

REFERENCES:

Hutchens, Rex R. *A Bridge to Light 4th Edition*, 4th Degree P-16,
14th Degree P-92, 18th Degree P-135, 31st Degree P-294, 32nd Degree P-306.

2023 Glass Fund Scholarships Announced

Eric J. LeHew, Scholarship Chairman

In the Spring of 2023 the Scholarship Sub-Committee of the Philanthropy Committee of the Valley of Alexandria, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry met and evaluated the applications for the Glass Fund Scholarships. Fifteen students applied and eight scholarships were awarded. The criteria was based on GPA, connections to Masonry or Masonic Youth Group, and community involvement. The following students were awarded (or renewed) for the 2023-2024 Academic Year in the amount of \$2,000: Robyn Corrado*, Emilie Dajac, Katie Dawson*, Samantha Dawson*, Noah Pendleton*, Ryan Pendleton*, Charlotte Terrill*.

Congratulations to these students! Special thanks to Bros. Eric LeHew, Andrew Marotta, and Frank Anthony, KCCH for their hard work in reviewing the applications.

***Designates renewed Scholarship.
Applicants can renew the initial award up to 3 additional times.**

Honors: Or how the Sausage is made

Jason Lotz, KCCH

Every other year Scottish Rite Valleys across the Southern Jurisdiction come alive with whispers about one of the least known subjects: Honors. Every Master of the Royal Secret has seen the Red Hats of the Knight Commander Court of Honour (KCCH), and the White Hats of the Inspectors General Honorary 33° (IGH), and speculated how those brethren get selected. To help de-mystify the subject let us go to the source: The Statutes of the Supreme Council (which can be found for yourself on the Supreme Council web-site).

Article IV .Sec. 8 starts the search, and begins by stating one of the most important aspects of Honors: “The Thirty-third Degree shall never be asked for, directly or indirectly, and if asked for, shall be refused”. This admonition also applies to the Knight Commander of Honour. The section also elaborates that the nominee should be current in their dues (feel free to stop off by your friendly local Secretary to pay your dues if you’re not current).

Delving further into the subject, and going to Sec. 9 we find that a nominee for Inspector General Honorary has to be at least 35 years of age, and have been a KCCH for at least 44 months. Every Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) or Deputy of an Orient starts out with six nominees for his Orient. For every major fraction above 2,500 Masters of the Royal Secret in his Orient he receives two more nominees. Any leftovers get carried over into the next biennium as credits (think hanging chads). This formula gets more complicated, because in Sec. 10 it says that for the first 100 Masters of the Royal Secret created in his Orient in a biennium a SGIG or Deputy receives another two IGH nominees. After that another two nominees for every 200 new 32°, and any remainders get carried over to the next biennium (as a liberal arts major my head is already starting to hurt). Also, a SGIG or Deputy does not have to use all of the earned nominations, but can “bank” them, as they will just carry over to the next biennium.

The process for KCCH is found way down in Article XIV, and is much simpler. There is no age requirement, dues must be current and have been a 32° for 44 months (your friendly local Secretary would love to receive your dues if you’re not current). The initial number of KCCH nominees is double the number of IGH nominees for the Orient. Also, two KCCH nominees are gained for every 50 new 32° during the biennium, and fractions are carried over to the next biennium. All nominations don’t have to be made, and can be banked into the future. As the biennium closes the staff at the Supreme Council takes data supplied from across the Southern Jurisdiction, applies the various formulas and gives to the SGIGs and Deputies their quotas for the honors.

Nominations for both the Inspector Generals Honorary, and the KCCH have to be made by the SGIGs and Deputies no later than ninety days before the next regular session of the Supreme Council. The nominations then get referred to the Committee on Nominations for review no later than sixty days before the next regular session. The Committee then refers the nominations to the Supreme Council which votes electronically while in recess, and the vote must be unanimous. The SGIGs and Deputies are then notified of the approved nominations.

So, we’ve established the numbers for the Orient, and the nomination process. Now, how do the individual selections get made? One thing to remember is that according to the Statutes the SGIG or Deputy has complete control over the Honors process. He could personally name every IGH and KCCH, if he so chose. In some of the smaller Orients, this could happen, as he probably knows all the nominees. The SGIG or Deputy could also throw darts at pictures to pick the nominees (this also could happen). In bigger Orients, like Virginia the SGIG can’t know all the outstanding brethren in the 8 Valleys, and it wouldn’t be fair if he didn’t receive outside counsel.

In Virginia, the Valley Personal Representatives act as the eyes and ears of the SGIG and keep an eye out for active brethren who rise above the rest. Here in Alexandria, while we have an active Personal Representative who knows everything going on in the Valley, he also has chosen to receive help.

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Honors: Or how the Sausage is made

(Continued from Page 8.)

The Personal Representative makes the final nominations from the Valley and submits them to the SGIG who makes the final selection. After receiving the nominations from all the Valleys the SGIG finally decides how to allocate his quotas amongst the various Virginia Valleys. The SGIG submits the nominations to the Supreme Council for formal election, and afterwards the Valley Secretaries start making calls to the brethren, and publishes the names in the Valley Bulletin. Tradition has been that the SGIG personally calls the brethren chosen for the IGH. The new Virginia IGHs will receive the 33° as part of the Supreme Council Session in August, and the Virginia KCCHs receive their investiture at the Scottish Rite Conference in September as it travels throughout Virginia. I hope this article has helped to demystify the Honors process, and motivates us all to service in the Alexandria Valley in particular and the Scottish Rite in general.

Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia

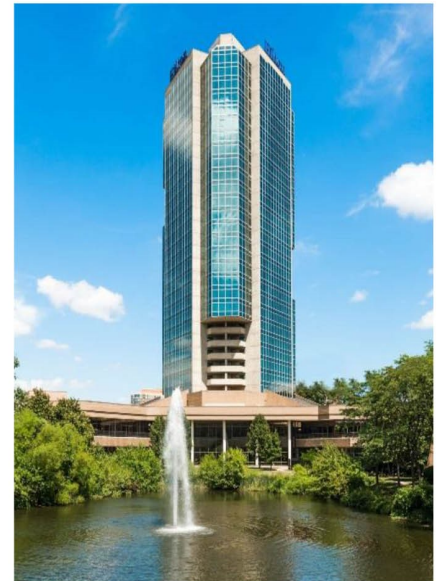
September 28-30, 2023

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-conference>

(check website for most current information)



Special Event!! - Thursday, Sept. 28th @ 6pm



- Take a sunset scenic cruise down the Potomac enjoying drinks, dinner, and fellowship!
- Transportation provided from the conference hotel to/from Alexandria City Dock

“Cherry Blossom” Stern-wheeled Riverboat
Ticket prices and sales to be announced



SCOTTISH RITE CONFERENCE OF VIRGINIA

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/>

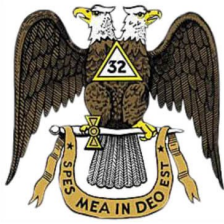
September 28 – 30, 2023

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311

REGISTRATION - ALEXANDRIA VALLEY ONLY

[Return completed form to the Secretary, NLT August 25th.]



I will attend the Conference. Please register me for the following:

NAME: _____ LADY: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Cherry Blossom Cruise

Thursday, September 28 at 6 PM – Three hour cruise down Potomac. Cost is \$150 each and includes a buffet dinner, unlimited drinks, entertainment and lots of fun.

Make reservation with James D. Baker, KCCH, at jamesdbaker13@hotmail.com.

Meals - If you attend the Friday and Saturday sessions, the Valley will pick up the meal cost; however, if you make a reservation and **do not come, you pay**.

Friday, Sept 29 th (Choose One Entrée) Plated Dinner	Brother's Choice	Ladies Choice
1. Roasted Chicken Breast w/asparagus & red bliss potatoes		
2. Beef Stir Fry with Jasmine rice and baby choy		
3. Vegetable Stir Fry with tofu		
Saturday, Sept 30 th (Choose One Entrée) Plated Dinner		
1. Grilled Chicken Breast, mashed potatoes/veg		
2. Beef Medallions with red wine sauce, potatoes and veg		
3. Vegetarian Vegetable and Phyllo		
Saturday, Sept 30 th Ladies Luncheon (Choose One Entrée) Plated Luncheon		
1. Chicken Breast Stuffed with Asparagus and Cheese		
2. Cheese Ravioli in Marinara Sauce		

You **MUST** make you own Hilton Alexandria Mark Center reservation. Room rate is \$119 a night. To book rooms, go to:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SCOTTISHRITECONFERENCEOFVA23>

Assistant Secretary's Corner

III. David H. Smith, 33^o, Assistant Secretary

VA SR Conference: The registration form for the VA SR Conference is on the Alexandria SR Website in the "Forms" section. It's a fillable form, easy to complete, print and send to the AssistantSecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or mail. You **MUST** make your own hotel reservations. Alexandria Valley will pay for members' meals but you must attend the sessions. You can commute each day to attend the sessions and stay for the banquets; and you lady and attend the ladies luncheon. You must register so we know what meal to order and you get a name badge and welcome bag. It's NOT to late to register.

ALEXANDRIA VALLEY OFFICE

Our adjusted office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If you plan on stopping by, please call first at 703 998-9044, we could be out getting the mail, going to the bank, etc.

HAVE YOU MOVED or Changed your Email address: Help us keep your contact information up to date. It's important so we can keep in touch. Also, please provide your current **email address**, we are missing about 210 addresses. If we don't have it you miss out on lots of updates.



NOVEMBER Meeting Date Change: Because of the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, we have moved our November meeting date to November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. starting with a pre-meeting dinner. **Reservations are needed by Nov 1st**; send an email to assistantdsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or call 703-998-9044 and leave a message if I'm unavailable.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 4th
HOLIDAY = Labor Day

September 8 – 6:30 p.m.
FEAST OF TISHRI
Pre-Meeting Dinner
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Lodge of Perfection)

September 20 – 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

September 27 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg, VA

September 28 – 6:00 p.m.
Cherry Blossom Cruise

September 29—30
VA Scottish Rite Conference
Alexandria is Host Valley
Hilton Alex Mark Center
(see page 10 for reservation info.)

September 30—2:30 p.m.
KCCH Investiture –Alexandria Valley
All are invited—wear caps.

OCTOBER 2023

October 9th
HOLIDAY—Columbus Day

October 13—6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting—7:30 p.m.
(Consistory, &
Lodge of Perfection)

October 19—7:0 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn—Sterling Lodge

October 21—7:30 a.m.
2023 FALL REUNION
First Day of Reunion

October 26—6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Club Meeting
Cassia Lodge, Woodstock, VA

October 28—7:30 a.m.
2023 FALL REUNION
Second Day of Reunion

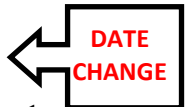
NOVEMBER 2023

November 3—6:30 p.m.
Pre-Meeting Dinner
Reservations by COB—Nov 1
Valley Meeting—7:30 p.m.
ELECTIONS in C of K and RC
(Council of Kadosh, Capter Rose coix,
& Lodge of Perfection)

November 10 & 11
Grand Lodge of Virginia
Grand Annual Communication
Short Pump, Richmond, VA

November 11
HOLIDAY—Veterans Day

November 23
HOLIDAY—THANKSGIVING DAY



Update your calendars
don't miss these events!



SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

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

Frank T. Anthony, KCCH, Content Coordinator
All Scottish Rite Members whose names appear in this
Bulletin are of the Thirty-second Degree,
unless otherwise indicated.

Secretary of the Four Coordinate Bodies:
Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°
secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org

Assistant Secretary:
Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°
assistantsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org

Treasurer:
Illustrious Oral (Neil) McNeil Marple, 33°

Thomas G. Little, KCCH
Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Almoner Emeritus

The mailing address is:
P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313
Office Phone: (703) 998-9044
Fax Number: (703) 778-2804

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at
1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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 correspond-
ence 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·C·C·
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in
the Orient of Virginia

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

ILLUSTRIOUS NORMAN L. HOFF, JR., 33°
Assistant Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
MICHAEL D. TALDO, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
MARK E. CUMMINGS, KCCH elect
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
DYLAN M. PHILLIPS
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
RONALD E. CRAFT, JR., KCCH elect
Master of Kadosh

