



Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin



November - December 2024

My Losing Season

Terence M. Smith, 32°, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection



As Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 2024, it is my privilege to address you one final time in the Scottish Rite Bulletin, and report on my year. It can best be described as My Losing Season.

The Lodge of Perfection had a great start. It was all due to the work done by Mike Taldo, KCCH who was the previous Venerable Master. I want to recognize the fantastic job he did for the LOP and continued to do as the Director of Education in 2024.

To provide contextual understanding for my year, I cannot help but think in terms of Baseball. Baseball is still America's national past time. Every year begins with the call for Pitchers and Catchers to report to Spring training. My team is the Boston Red Sox, which finished just above 500 (which was a vast improvement over last year's DFL). Having lived in Connecticut most of my life, my allegiance to the Boston Red Sox was one of intelligent choice.

The LOP plan for 2024 was to help lead the Alexandria Scottish Rite to the World Series Championship of Masonry by growing attendance in the Lodge and signing the most petitions. But, despite our best efforts, Illustrious Peter Terrill, 33° reported our numbers declined at the 100th annual Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia. He served as the Valley's Conference Vice President and he explained the decline was related to the overall demographic trend of our aging population – more deaths than new petitions.

We are still the largest Valley in the Orient of Virginia, with more than 1,000 SR members. The ASR brand of Masonry is well recognized and respected. And, to my mind, I am not convinced the decline is entirely due to the demographic trend.

Illustrious Norm Hoff, 33°, Personal Representative for the SGIG in VA, is the owner rep./manager of the ASR team. Under his leadership, the ASR Executive Committee made a huge change by moving the monthly stated meeting to the Fourth Tuesday from the Second Friday. No more "We'll Get Them Next Year". It was my privilege as the Venerable Master of the LOP to vote to change game day. To be crystal clear, the shift is being done after listening to a lot of the ASR membership and it took a lot of work. Talking with younger Brothers, the tone of their remarks about Friday (negative) versus Tuesday (passionate), ultimately convinced me the change will put more fans in the stands. There are more and more young men dying to get into masonry and Scottish Rite Masonry (but they are still young men who enjoy Friday nights with friends and family).

The coaching staff saw some new names: Michael Bible, KCCH was appointed as the new ASR General Secretary and James Baker, KCCH was appointed the new Treasurer. They provided enormous support to the Lodge and the Venerable Master throughout the year.

Kudos to Chaplain John T. Tillery, KCCH for his performance. He is hitting 1000 with a newly written prayer for every single meeting! Great job.

Rick Cady, KCCH may earn All-Star recognition as director of membership. He leaned into establishing the new "Knights of the Double Eagle Award", which provides Scottish Rite Masons with a clearly defined path to earning recognition (and "bling") through attendance and activities. The On Base Percentage is a huge statistic in the analysis of any ASR Mason's game. *(Continued on Page 2.)*

My Losing Season

(Continued from Page 1.)

Timmy Shrum, KCCH our Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix is worthy of Most Valuable Player status given he is also the Chairman of the Philanthropy Committee and ASR Annual Gala. He has built/rebuilt the Gala as a major event for the ASR.

Illustrious Scott Springer, 33° continues to lead the ASR Reunions. The Reunions are the big leagues of ASR performance, and no one can clean-up the ritual work better than Illustrious Springer. And, the ASR Reunion, thanks to Frank Anthony, KCCH, now features a 14° Ring Ceremony, which Spring Reunion members thought was a real highlight of the weekends.

Ron Craft, KCCH did a journeyman's work in leading the Master Craftsman Program, which is being made available online. He provided an update at the September stated meeting on a new Master Craftsman Ivory Key program for new ASR Masons. This program helps the new ASR Masons gain a better understanding of the Scottish Rite.

There are too many contributors to the many accomplishments to be named; please know that I am very grateful to everyone.

As I write, the old joke told by Yankee fans rings loudly: "What do the Boston Red Sox and lawn furniture have in common? Answer: They both fold up and go home during the Fall."

The ASR is not going to fold-up and go home. The Fall Reunion demonstrated there is some cause for optimism to achieve our new membership goals. Moreover, the new leadership team for 2025 has already started making the year even better.

Library Collection Expansion

Tyler Vanice, 32°, Librarian

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Library is steadily growing, and we are excited to announce a significant milestone! In early September, we received a generous donation of approximately 500 books from our esteemed Ill. James Winfield Golladay, Jr., 33°, PGM. This remarkable contribution has greatly enriched our collection, bringing us closer to establishing a robust, modern Masonic library.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Brother Ron Craft, who was instrumental in coordinating the logistics of transporting these books and ensuring they safely reached our facility. Additionally, we are grateful to the Knights of Saint Andrew for their invaluable support in this endeavor.

Due to the sheer size of this donation, it has become clear that managing the influx of new materials requires more than the efforts of a single volunteer. That's why we are reaching out to our brethren for assistance. If you are interested in contributing your time and skills, we will be hosting a **volunteer day** on **November 17** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, where we will focus on inventorying, cataloging, and rehousing these newly acquired books. We welcome any Valley members who are willing to lend a hand, and light refreshments will be provided to keep spirits high as we work together on this important project.



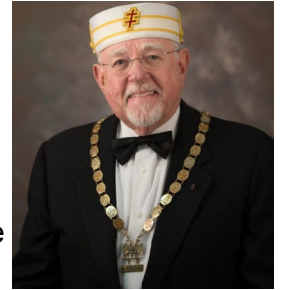
For those unable to attend but still eager to support the library, there are other ways to contribute. We are always seeking to expand and update our collection, and donations of recently published Masonic books from the last ten years are especially appreciated. Our library is already serving as a valuable resource for members engaged in research, and with your help, we can continue to enhance this shared space for the benefit of all.

To learn more about how you can support the library and your brethren, please visit www.alexandriascottishrite.com/libraryresources.

Attracting and Retaining Brothers

Ill. Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative of the SGIG in VA

What attracts Blue Lodge Brothers to our Appendant Bodies? Some appear to hunger for a deeper understanding of the lessons, legends and allegories of the Craft degrees they received as they travelled toward becoming Master Masons, or later as they hear of the lessons of the Appendant Bodies. For those who do become active in their Lodges and other Bodies, and begin to study and participate in the conferral of those degrees, they can begin to perceive, perhaps slowly at first, how the lessons are more than just “theatrical” presentations of the arcana of the Craft. They soon discover that the broad lessons of the degrees can be applied to achieve increased success in their relationships with family, friends, and, importantly, with society-at-large. This discovery eventually leads to a suspicion that the answers they have sought are not just fixed maxims about dealing with others, but rather, being philosophical in nature, might lead to a new level of enlightened character and awareness of their own selves.



Once this “suspicion” presents itself, we soon realize that, while no sublime end-state may ever be attained in this life, we are inexorably driven toward a goal of complete understanding. At this point, we may become more focused on the allegorical clues embedded in the lessons of the Appendant Bodies. We are soon informed by our Officers, mentors, program speakers and representatives of the many Bodies about how the various rituals might contribute to our quest for enlightenment. Our many degrees and the many books that have been written to augment those degrees have aided the personal growth of us and our Brothers over the years.

At the same time, we unfortunately will lose a Brother. I recently received a note from a Valley Honourman, who was reporting on the concerns of one of the members in his Craft Lodge. He reported that the Brother...

“... is disenchanted with the Craft (citing that it conflicts with his religion but much more so his extreme displeasure with Brethren who insert politics and religion into the Craft and are hypocritical regarding our common oaths in the treatment of other Brothers).”

He continued his report, saying...

“Our conversation was cordial as we have always had a good relationship. He did not decline my offer to sit down one-on-one at some stage for an all encompassing chat... He has already been [suspended from other Appendant Bodies] and is probably close to that happening with the Valley as well.”

I had recently had a similar conversation with another Brother who was asking about the process to “leave the Scottish Rite.” He cited religious concerns with the Scottish Rite’s inclusion of lessons in our degrees from various world religions that were inconsistent with his own. My response to him was:

- “I’m sorry to hear this. A major desire of Freemasonry is to recognize and respect a worldwide Brotherhood of Man and the major religions practiced in honor of a Supreme Being - by any name - still while practicing our own personal beliefs. Neither the Scottish Rite, nor Freemasonry writ large, demands any particular religion, but our Scottish Rite degrees seek to increase our understanding of the beliefs of others so as to understand that we are all more alike than different. Albert Pike dwells on this matter in Chapter 14 of his “Morals and Dogma of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry” and notes that we, as Perfect Elus, are to be ‘tolerant even of intolerance.’”

I concluded my response to him with...

- “I would encourage you to read and study this matter more, and please call me if you would like to discuss further. If you still wish to demit from the Scottish Rite, you should notify our Valley Secretary...and he will assist you.”

(Continued on Page 4.)

Attracting and Retaining Brothers

(Continued from Page 3.)

This Brother did demit and I explained to him that if after further consideration, he decided to reactivate his association with the SR, we would welcome him back.

Brethren, our Blue Lodge Craft Lodges and Appendant Bodies all teach the “Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.” There is no room in our Fraternity for sectarian division or rejection of a Brother’s political, theological or social beliefs simply on the basis of being different from our own.

In his Preface to “Morals and Dogma,” Brother Pike wrote: **“The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite uses the word “Dogma” in its true sense, of doctrine, or teaching; and is not dogmatic in the odious sense of that term. Everyone is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound. It is only required of him that he shall weigh what is taught and give it fair hearing and unprejudiced judgment.”**

Brethren, as we often say, “take due notice thereof and let it be, accordingly, so done.”

Fraternally,



Hurricane Helene Relief

Ill. James D. Cole, 33°. Sovereign Grand Commander

The Scottish Rite, SJ, is committed to assisting our Brethren, family, and friends recently impacted by Hurricane Helene. This was a massive Category 4 hurricane when it made landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida. The devastating storm has caused serious damage not only in that state but also up the Eastern portion of the United States, including, but not limited to, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

You can join us in our relief efforts by making a gift right away via the “Donate” button below or in the header at the top of this page.

On the donation form, please be sure to select the “Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.,” and choose “National Disaster Relief - Hurricane Helene.”

If you would prefer to give by mail, please make checks payable to the “Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, USA, Inc.,” and include “Disaster Relief - Hurricane Helene” in the memo line.

Mailing Address:
Development Office
Attn.: Disaster Relief
1733 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

100% of all donations will go to the relief of deserving families in the affected areas.

Thank you!

James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

Supreme Council, 33° | Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, USA

1733 16th St NW | Washington, DC 20009-3103

Direct: 202-777-3135 | Office: 202-232-3579 | www.scottishrite.org



2024 Scottish Rite Conference

Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, G.C., SGIG in Virginia

Brethren,

I hope you enjoyed this year's Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia. I want to thank our hosts, the Valley of Richmond, for an outstanding conference as we celebrated our 100th anniversary.

The educational sessions were well attended on both Friday and Saturday afternoon. The visit to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was very nice and relaxing. Friday night's Beach Music and dinner was well received. The Saturday night gala banquet exhibited good food, entertainment by the Strolling Strings, a presentation by the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, and an inspiring address by our Sovereign Grand Commander, Jim Cole.

Thank you for supporting this year's conference. Please convey my thanks to your members and spouses. Looking to 2026 as we begin a new century of service in our Valleys and RiteCare.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely and fraternally,

Alan

New On-Line (Fillable) Petition

Michael P. Bible, KCCH, General Secretary

For the last several months, Membership Services at the Supreme Council has worked diligently to bring on board all the Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction to use the on-line Petition process. Alexandria Valley has recently adopted the new procedure. The fillable petition can be obtained several ways:

You can go to our website and click on the "Petition" tab on the top banner of our home page. This directs you to the On-Line petition.

You can access the petition by the QR Code on our Membership Brochures. The QR Code has been updated to direct to the new On-Line petition. This is probably the easiest way to share the petition with a prospective candidate. Remember to have those Membership Brochures with you!

You can also go to the Supreme Council website and select "Join Now" at the top banner of their home page. You will be asked to indicate your Orient and Valley to access the Alexandria petition.

This fillable petition, when submitted, includes all the necessary information to include an entry for the petition signers. The candidate will enter the signers name(s) and email(s) which will generate an email where the signers add their recommendation and actually digitally sign the petition. When submitted, Sentinel (members database) creates the candidates member file which is then emailed to the Valley Secretary. This new process eliminates a lot of redundancies which occurred under the old process.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me.

Remember to carry those membership Brochures with you and let's grow our Valley!

Mike

NOTICE

December Meeting Date: Third (3rd) Tuesday—**December 17, 2024**

January Meeting Date: Fourth (4th) Tuesday — **January 28, 2025**

2025 Proposed Budget

Ill. Peter E. Terrill, 33°, Chairman, Budget and Finance Committee



A LOOK at the BUDGET



Here is the draft budget for 2025 that was presented at the October meeting and will be voted on at the December meeting.

Feast of Tishri

Photos by Ill. Michael R. Aulicino, 33°



Rick A Cady, KCCH, Master of Ceremonies, LOP



CONGRATULATIONS

50-year Members
Don E. Garrett
Gary L. Everett



Alexandria Scottish Rite Operating Budget				
	2024			2025
Category	Approved Budget	Year-to-Date Actuals	Year-End Projection	Proposed
Income	\$214,950	\$199,705	\$505,042	\$329,580
Dues	\$130,200	\$36,434	\$117,262	\$110,883
Fees	\$11,250	\$2,982	\$4,980	\$5,625
Rent	\$47,000	\$41,343	\$48,800	\$64,350
LMIP Interest	\$19,200	\$18,611	\$24,200	\$21,817
Dinner	\$3,300	\$2,687	\$3,000	\$3,300
Glass Fund Income	\$0	\$23,700	\$48,700	\$35,400
Bavliess Fund Income	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Perm. Building Fund (Cap. Improve.)	\$0	\$62,000	\$92,000	\$15,200
Perm. Building Fund (Ops Supplement)	\$0	\$0	\$154,000	\$60,505
Misc/Bldg Fund	\$4,000	\$1,948	\$2,100	\$2,500
Expenses				
Admin. Expenses	\$59,400	\$66,496	\$90,900	\$89,000
Salaries	\$38,000	\$43,050	\$51,100	\$47,800
Payroll Taxes	\$3,100	\$7,417	\$8,100	\$3,800
Postage and Mailing	\$3,000	\$4,225	\$5,000	\$5,200
Printing	\$11,000	\$8,467	\$13,800	\$14,200
Audit	\$3,300	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Professional Fees	\$0	\$725	\$9,900	\$10,000
Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies	\$0	\$2,612	\$3,000	\$4,000
Building & Operating	\$118,073	\$147,655	\$212,843	\$135,030
Insurance	\$25,273	\$5,377	\$19,400	\$20,000
Taxes-Stormwater Utility Fee	\$12,000	\$7,872	\$15,700	\$16,200
Telephone + IT	\$8,000	\$6,796	\$8,600	\$8,900
Communications	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$850
Internet/Phone for Elevator		\$1,272	\$1,600	\$1,600
Utilities	\$33,000	\$28,518	\$35,939	\$37,020
Electricity		\$13,806	\$18,500	\$19,100
Gas		\$9,245	\$10,239	\$10,500
Water		\$1,319	\$2,000	\$2,100
Sewage		\$3,898	\$4,700	\$4,800
Refuse Collection		\$250	\$500	\$520
Security & Fire	\$13,800	\$411	\$400	\$400
Software and IT Equipment		\$1,988	\$3,000	\$3,100
Maintenance & repairs	\$26,000	\$95,421	\$128,204	\$46,960
Scheduled				
Elevator		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Kitchen		\$265	\$500	\$520
Cleaning		\$9,020	\$12,500	\$12,900
Cleaning Supplies		\$1,100	\$1,400	\$1,440
Lawn Service		\$8,212	\$8,212	\$8,500
HVAC		\$9,091	\$13,300	\$8,500
Unscheduled				
Plumbing		\$120	\$100	\$2,200
Landscaping		\$9,243	\$9,243	\$2,000
Roof		\$40,139	\$64,500	\$0
HVAC		\$3,224	\$3,224	\$0
Kitchen		\$550	\$550	\$0
Security System		\$7,575	\$7,575	\$0
Flooring/Carpeting		\$0	\$0	\$0
Painting (Office)		\$0	\$0	\$1,700
Library Improve.				\$2,000
Miscellaneous		\$3,882	\$4,100	\$4,200
Philanthropic	\$6,500	\$33,804	\$33,900	\$35,400
Youth		\$200	\$200	\$200
Grand Lodge (Bavliess)		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Memorials/Other		\$104	\$200	\$200
ROTC/JROTC	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
Scholarships (Glass)		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Teachers/Community Award	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
Contributions & Fees	\$26,675	\$11,010	\$36,334	\$37,950
Supreme Council - Cap	\$25,000	\$2,220	\$27,200	\$27,000
Supreme Council - Candi	\$1,550	\$456	\$800	\$800
SR Foundation of VA (per capita)		\$7,385	\$7,385	\$7,300
SR Conf of VA (fee)		\$791	\$791	\$1,500
SR Workshop (fee)				\$1,200
GWMNM	\$125	\$158	\$158	\$150
Dinners/Refreshments	\$13,000	\$14,188	\$17,012	\$15,600
Meetings & Installation	\$4,800	\$3,309	\$4,100	\$4,200
SR Conference Meals	\$3,000	\$6,537	\$6,537	\$6,000
Feast of Tishri	\$300	\$975	\$975	\$500
Reunions	\$3,500	\$2,007	\$4,000	\$3,500
Ladies Nights	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
Special Events - Picnic	\$800	\$760	\$800	\$800
General Items	\$3,250	\$6,446	\$28,300	\$16,600
Degrees, Robes, etc	\$1,500	\$4,450	\$25,000	\$10,000
Reunion Expenses		\$346	\$600	\$600
33 & KCCH investiture	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
SR Conference Host	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
14th degree rings	\$1,750	\$1,565	\$2,600	\$1,000
Miscellaneous		\$85	\$100	\$0
Total Expenses	\$226,898	\$279,599	\$419,289	\$329,580
Income over Expenses	-\$11,948	-\$79,894	\$85,753	\$0

General Secretary's Corner

Michael P. Bible, KCCH, General Secretary

ALEXANDRIA VALLEY OFFICE

Our regular hours, Tuesday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Please call the office first at 703-998-9044, if you plan to visit.



NOVEMBER MEETING

There will **NOT BE** a pre-meeting dinner or refreshments following the November meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGE

In compliance with our By-laws, our December meeting will be held on **Tuesday December 17th** at 7:30 p.m. There will be an Executive Council meeting immediately preceding the stated at 6:00 p.m.

HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

I know it is easy to forget to update the office with new addresses, especially right after a move. Emails and phone numbers also need to be updated when they are changed.

Please let the secretary know when this happens so that we don't lose contact with you!

Email or call me at: secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or 703-998-9044.

IT'S DUES TIME!

Every member in good standing should have received his 2025 dues notice. If you are current in your dues for 2024, you should have also received your 2025 dues card. Please make your dues payment by December 31, 2024. You can pay by:

1. <https://members.scottishrite.org/login/?redirect=https://members.scottishrite.org/members/profile/#mydues>
2. Call the office and pay by credit card 703-998-9044
3. Mail: Alexandria Scottish Rite, 1430 W Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

Calendar of Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2024

November 7 - 10

Grand Lodge of Virginia
Grand Annual Communication
Short Pump, Hilton

November 11 - Holiday

VETERANS DAY



November 26 – 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Dinner

(Reservations by COB—Nov 20)
Valley Meeting—7:30 p.m.

Elections in C of K and RC

(Council of Kadosh, Chapter Rose Croix, & Lodge of Perfection)

November 28 - Holiday

THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER 2024

December 17 - 6:00 p.m.

Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting- 7:30PM

Elections in Consistory & Lodge of Perfection

December 25 - Holiday

Christmas Day

Office Closed

Dec 25, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025



JANUARY 2025

January 1—Holiday

New Years Day

January 15 - 7:00 p.m.

Loudoun SR Club

Social Hour 6:30PM

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

January 20 - Holiday

Martin Luther Kings Birthday

January 22 - 6:30 p.m.

Shenandoah SR Club

Spurmont Lodge-

Spurmont, VA

January 28 - 6:00 p.m.

Awards Dinner &

Installation of Officers for 2025

Pre-Meeting Dinner

Reservations by COB Jan 22

NOTICE: SR Clubs are dark in November and December.



Take the Next Step
**Petition the
Scottish Rite!**

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
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Thomas G. Little, KCCH
Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Almoner Emeritus

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

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Fourth Tuesday of each month
TERENCE M. SMITH, 32°
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Fourth Tuesday
February, March, July, November
TIMMY E. SHRUM, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Fourth Tuesday
February, April, July, November
JEREMY D. ANSPAUGH, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Fourth Tuesday
April, August, October, December
JOHN S. DAHIK, 32°
Master of Kadosh

