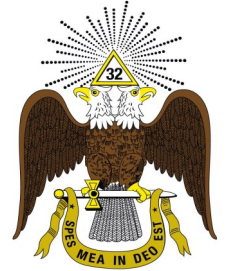




Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
 AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin

September—October 2024



The 2024 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

Ill. Peter E. Terrill, 33°, Vice President, Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia



Dear Brethren and Ladies,

I would like to invite you to attend the 100th Annual Meeting of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia, to be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa – Short Pump located at 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23233 on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28.

Detailed conference information (including agendas, registration, hotel reservations, etc.) is available at our Orient of Virginia website: <https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-conference>

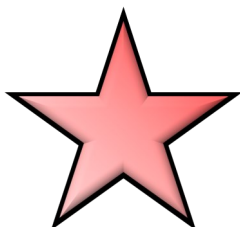
I encourage you to make your hotel reservations now to take advantage of the special discounted group rate. Also, please reach out to our Secretary, Mike Bible, KCCH, at 703-998-9044 or via email at secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org to let him know of your planned attendance and whether your lady will accompany you. Remember that members of the Alexandria Valley and their ladies do not pay for banquet meals on Friday and Saturday nights, or the ladies' luncheon on Saturday.

Additionally, the Richmond Valley has arranged a special Thursday evening event at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, featuring a heavy hors d'oeuvres dinner, drinks, and tours of the museum. Members who wish to attend should make reservations directly with the Richmond Scottish Rite Office at 804-264-2050 or sroffice@richmondscottishrite.org. Attendance is limited to the first 100 attendees and the cost is \$100 per person. Payment by check or credit card is accepted. Complimentary shuttles will depart from the conference hotel at 5pm and return from the museum between 9 and 9:30 p.m.

On Friday, September 27, at 11:30 a.m. all attendees and ladies are welcome to a complimentary lunch in the Executive Suite on the 8th floor of the conference hotel. This will be followed at 1 p.m. by two educational sessions in the hotel's ground floor conference rooms. The first session will feature Ill. William Sizemore, 33°, GC, speaking about the House of the Temple, and the second session will feature Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, GC, speaking about the history of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia to commemorate its 100th anniversary.

Following the Friday afternoon educational sessions there will be business meetings for the SGIG and Valley Secretaries/Treasurers/Personal Reps, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia (Directors only), and the Conference President/Vice Presidents. The hospitality suites will be open at 5 p.m., followed by a Friday evening beach party-themed buffet and dance with live music. Dress will be Aloha shirts and island wear! Of course, the evening would not be complete without drinks and fellowship in the three Scottish Rite hospitality suites afterwards. Conference attendees are free (and encouraged!) to mingle in these hospitality rooms to meet Scottish Rite Brethren from across the state; the Alexandria Valley and the Richmond Valley will be jointly hosting one in the 8th floor Executive Suite and help is always appreciated. Please let me know if you would like to assist with our hospitality effort!

(Continued on Page 2.)



October Meeting Date Change

Fourth Tuesday

October 22, 2024

**ByLaws
Change**

See article on
Page 2

The 2024 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

(Continued from Page 1.)

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 28 the 100th Annual Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will open. We will hear comments from Ill. Alan Adkins, 33^o, GC, and our own Grand Master. Reports will be presented by each Valley Vice President as well as a report from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia. New Scottish Rite Conference officers will be elected and installed as well as new Directors of the Scottish Rite Foundation. Our Conference session will conclude by noon, just in time for lunch. If you didn't know, the Alexandria Valley has an informal "uniform" that we like to wear to this Saturday morning business session: navy blue blazer, blue button-down shirt, Alexandria Valley tie and grey pants/slacks. No hats. Ties can be purchased from our Valley Secretary.

For the ladies on Saturday, a shuttle will depart at 10 a.m. from the conference hotel for MAHOVA where a special tour of the grounds will be provided, followed by a buffet lunch and wine tasting. The ladies will then be given a tour of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Library and Museum. Shuttles will depart for the conference hotel at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. will feature a presentation for the Scottish Rite members titled "A New Era – The Cinematic Degrees" by Ill. Robert Cockerham, 33^o, SGIG in Missouri. Hospitality suites will open by 4:45 p.m., followed by our formal banquet at 6 p.m. featuring Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. James Dean Cole, 33^o, as the keynote speaker. Banquet attire is dark suit or tuxedo (optional) for men and cocktail dress or evening gown (optional) for ladies. After the banquet all will be welcomed to enjoy fellowship in the hospitality suites.

I encourage all members to attend the conference to enjoy good Masonic education, fellowship, and hospitality! I would especially like to extend an invitation to our new Alexandria Valley Brethren and members who have never attended a Scottish Rite Conference before to help us celebrate our 100th year. We look forward to seeing you next month!

Approved By-Laws Change

*The proposal, previously presented, to the membership to change our meeting date from the second Friday of the month to the fourth Tuesday of the month, except in December when we will meet on the third Tuesday of the month, was presented and discussed at the April 12 stated meeting of our Lodge of Perfection. No opposition or concerns have been voiced. Notice was given to the general membership that a vote will be taken on July 12, 2024. (Changes are **bolded**, and text to be deleted is struck out.)*

Article I, Section 2: Meetings

*The Stated meetings of all four Bodies will be on the ~~second Friday~~ **fourth Tuesday** of the months, as indicated in this section with the exception of the month of December when the meeting will be on the third Tuesday, the opening body shall convene at 7:30 P.M.*

A vote was taken at the July 12, 2024, meeting. The proposed bylaws change was adopted.

By-Laws were approved by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33^o, G. C., on July 7, 2024.



First Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

C'mon-In, The Water's Fine

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

Brethren, Alexandria Valley has many ongoing activities and recurring special events that require the skills, talents and enthusiasm of our many Brothers to ensure the success of those efforts. Those needs take many forms and pursue a wide range of objectives, but together they all result in one significant benefit to all who participate: increased Fraternal Brotherhood.



Brothers working together on a committee project or degree team may pursue vastly different objectives, but in completing their tasks, the participants all become well known and appreciated by each other as well as by their other Valley Brothers. Those learning together through a Master Craftsman Course, or through the presentation and discussion of a Valley program, all begin to know and appreciate their Brothers' perspectives, experiences and abilities, just as the others learn of them.

Those of you who have been around the Valley for a while, might be thinking that you've "been there - done that, and now it's time to give the newer Brothers a chance to learn, to contribute and to be recognized." Well, there is something to that. We do need to encourage newer members to get involved, but it is not just to have the additional hands necessary to conduct our many Valley undertakings. Rather, it is essential that we continue to encourage new members to take part for those very important other reasons than just getting the job done - those vital benefits of knowing each other as Brothers, and the social and Fraternal growth achieved through working together in a cooperative effort.

New participants need to be able to learn from the experience and knowledge of the more seasoned Brothers. They need to see the good effect of cooperative effort by men of all ages, backgrounds and skills working together. They need to see the practical results of those who can best work and best agree while accomplishing a wide variety of activities. They need to experience your example and leadership, just as they will soon be providing that example and leadership to the new members of future Reunion Classes. We have many opportunities to put these thoughts to work. The two most prominent categories may be associated with the progressive Officers lines and with our Valley Committees.

The top two Officers in each of our four Bodies are now fully engaged in planning for 2025. Each has now begun reaching out to their current Officers to determine who will be available to continue in the progression toward their Body's chair in the East. With the Officers each moving up the progressive line, there will always be at least one new Officer appointment to fill the open position at the door of the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Consistory. Additional new Brothers may be required depending on the number of current officers who must step aside due to work, health, family or other reasons. This natural, annual occurrence provides the newer Brothers with excellent opportunities to join the progressive line.

Participation in the progressive line not only achieves those many Fraternal benefits addressed previously, but also results in practical leadership experience and exposure to the Valley's operational activities and procedures. Officer development is supported through training activities as well as through the planned ex-officio assignments designed to acquaint each officer with a new set of activities in each year of his progression. Officer Job Descriptions are included at Appendix A of the Valley Procedures Manual that can be found on-line at www.alexandriascottishrite.org under the Publications>Member Resources tabs.

(Continued on Page 4.)

C'mon-In, The Water's Fine

(Continued from Page 3.)

Also preparing for 2025, are the Chairmen of the Valley's Standing Committees. There are five Standing Committees required for the continuing Valley Operations: Budget and Finance; Communications and Public Outreach; Education and Training; Membership; and the Philanthropy Committee. Each of the Chairmen are now reviewing their Committee structures and membership to ensure they are optimally designed to support their assigned functions as described in their Charters (included in the Valley Procedures Manual, Appendix E). If one of these Committees' functions is in your "wheel house," contact the Committee Chairman to offer your services.

Brothers, these are only two of the many ways to maximize your education and your experience in the Scottish Rite. Other opportunities abound through Reunion Cast and Stage Crew support assignments, help with the annual SR Conference of VA (even when we are not hosting, we still have a hospitality room and other ways to help), Master Craftsman Program enrollment, and Knights of St. Andrew social and service activities. There are even non-standing, ad hoc committees described in the Reunion Booklets, that serve non-continuous/periodic needs. Do yourselves a big favor: participate in one of these opportunities now and try others over the coming years. A listing of opportunities, plus points-of-contact information can be found on-line at in the "Help Wanted" file at the same Member Resources tab mentioned above.

Brethren, we want you to keep having fun, learning and enjoying your work and your Brothers in the Scottish Rite Valley. C'mon in, the water's fine.

Norm

Willy Wonka and the 15th Degree

Frank T. Anthony, KCCH, Junior Warden, Chapter of Rose Croix

"Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination / Take a look and you'll see / Into your imagination / We'll begin with a spin / Traveling in the world of my creation / What we'll see will defy / Explanation." These words were famously sung by Gene Wilder in the movie, "*Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*" in 1971.¹ For those who are not familiar with the movie, Willy Wonka is a recluse eccentric chocolatier that closed his Chocolate Factory for many years due to what he suspected as "spies" from the competing chocolate companies trying to steal his recipes. After a long period of time, Willy packages five golden tickets in five candy bars sent around the world for five lucky children to tour the mysterious, shuttered chocolate factory and receive a lifetime of chocolate. Charlie, the protagonist, finds the last golden ticket and along with the four other children start their journey at the chocolate factory. This is when the real story begins.

Recently, I rewatched the original movie and it dawned on me that the movie and the 15th degree, called "Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle" have a lot of symbols in common.² In Masonry, symbols play a crucial role, and the 15th degree is rich with symbolic imagery that conveys moral lessons very similar to the movie. The 15th degree is the first degree of the Chapter of the Rose Croix and teaches us to emulate Zerubbabel, who is a protagonist in the degree and compared to Charlie in the movie. Both Zerubbabel and Charlie are tempted throughout the story, but both would not violate their obligations.

The 15th degree opens upon the ruins of the Temple of Perfection and the temple must be built again. Zerubbabel is talking with his advisors in front of the rubble. This symbology is like the movie, where the chocolate factory is a neglected, ramshackle building and the five children are standing in front of the gates waiting for them to be open.

(Continued on Page 5.)

Willy Wonka and the 15th Degree

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After consulting with his advisors, Zerubbabel realized he needed to travel to Persia and meet with King Cyrus. Zerubbabel's goal was to plea for the release of his people from captivity to help rebuild the temple. King Cyrus, who is a man with vast riches and power, can be considered another protagonist in the degree, since he has something that Zerubbabel wants. We compare King Cyrus to Willy Wonka who is another man with vast riches and power. Willy Wonka created an adventure for five lucky golden ticket holders, to travel all the way to Willy Wonka's shuttered factory, for the chance to receive a lifetime of chocolate.

Zerubbabel travels and meets King Cyrus. In a former life, King Cyrus met Zerubbabel and understands he is a man of integrity. Therefore, King Cyrus decides to put Zerubbabel through a series of tests to tempt him to reveal the secrets of the craft. Zerubbabel is offered gold, jewels and even the Ark of the Covenant in return for King Cyrus to learn the secret word. In the movie, prior to entering the factory, all five children were approached by a creepy looking man named Slugworth, who is one of Wonka's competitors. Slugworth offers each child a cash reward for a sample of Willy Wonka's latest creation called, "the everlasting gobstopper." Near the beginning of the tour, the children are given an everlasting gobstopper. At various points throughout the factory tour, four of the children were eliminated by giving into their impulses, leaving only Charlie. However, Charlie was rejected by Willy Wonka since Charlie took a sip of the experimental "fizzy-lifting" drink; hence, breaking the contract originally signed at the beginning of the tour, losing the prize. Both Zerubbabel and the five golden ticket holders had to go through some sort of trials and tribulations along their journey.

With all the temptations from King Cyrus, Zerubbabel was found to be true to his oath without divulging any information. King Cyrus agreed to release the captives and sent them home. Upon returning home, the people were happy to be free and were eager to rebuild the temple. As Charlie started to leave Willy Wonka's office, he returned the everlasting gobstopper given to him at the beginning of the tour versus selling it to Slugworth for the cash reward. For Charlie's integrity, Willy Wonka declared Charlie the winner, who immediately reinstated the prize of a lifetime of chocolate. It was revealed that Slugworth was Mr. Wilkinson, who is Willy Wonka's employee. The true test of the tour was a morality test for the kids to see if they would sell the Gobstopper. Charlie passed the test. Willy Wonka told Charlie that he created the contest to find someone worthy enough to inherit his factory, so he will give it to Charlie and his family upon retiring. Meaning, Charlie is going to be "rebuilding the Wonka Temple" like Zerubbabel his temple.

The 15th Degree teaches to, "Persevere in the Face of Adversity."³ We learned that both Zerubbabel and Charlie underwent a transformative journey that mirrors the moral and spiritual growth encouraged by Freemasonry. They both stuck to their morals, by not giving into temptation. As a result, they received rewards beyond their imaginations and now can change the world. As the song continues, "If you want to view paradise / Simply look around and view it / Anything you want to, do it / Want to change the world? There's nothing to it."¹

References

- ¹ Bricusse, L., & Newley, A. (n.d.). *Gene Wilder – pure imagination*. Genius. <https://genius.com/Gene-wilder-pure-imagination-lyrics>
- ² Hutchens, R., & DeHoyos, A. (2006). *A Bridge to Light: The Revised Standard Pike Ritual*. The Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction. Fifteenth Degree-Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle
- ³ *Scottish rite 15th degree*. Scottish Rite, NMJ. (n.d.). <https://scottishritenmj.org/degrees/degrees-15#:~:text=The%2015th%20degree%20teaches%20us%20to%20emulate%20Zerubbabel, discouragement%2C%20maintaining%20fidelity%20to%20our%20obligations%20and%20purpose> .

Summary of Alexandria Valley Support Activities

Timmy E. Shrum, KCCH, Wise Master and Chairman, Philanthropic Committee

Alexandria Scottish Rite Supports – RiteCare.

The official charity of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction is RiteCare. RiteCare, in summary, supports programs that help children with speech challenges. The Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia supports and provides grants for RiteCare at a standalone Clinic in Richmond Va, as well as at James Madison University, Longwood University, Radford University, and Old Dominion University. Our annual Alexandria Scottish Rite Gala provides money from our fundraising to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia. I travelled to the Longwood University Speech Clinic on June 12, 2024, to hear presentations on how the Longwood Clinic is participating in RiteCare. The Scottish Rite Fellow from Longwood, Alyssa Rapole, outlined how she and other Graduate assistants are helping children with speech challenges in the community of Farmville, Va. I also got to take a tour of the Clinic to see the various tools used to help children with speech challenges.

On Wednesday, July 17, Brothers from the Valley of Alexandria visited the Childhood Language Disorders Clinic at James Madison University. With steady support from Alexandria Scottish Rite and the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia, the clinic operates the David Kruger Summer Scottish Rite Speech & Language Programs, which enable children with speech challenges, including autism, to improve their communication skills. Any Brothers interested in learning firsthand how RiteCare supports children are encouraged to take part in the next annual visit. Other Valleys were also present for the visit which included an information session, a tour of the clinic and lunch no cost to us. I strongly encourage each and every member of the Valley to go as it is an eye-opening experience on how much the Scottish Rite makes a difference in lives of young people.

GALA November 2, 2024

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Gala is our main fundraiser for supporting RiteCare and you will find a registration form included in this issue of the bulletin. Registration for the Gala began on August 1, 2024. The capacity for the Gala is limited to 240 people. The Gala presents a fun and meaningful program this year. Here is a summary of some of the activities of the Gala:

1. We will Honor Illustrious David H. Smith, Sr., 33°, Assistant Secretary, for his outstanding commitment to our Valley and to RiteCare.
2. Attendees at the Gala will be afforded a nice meal with dessert
3. Attendees can participate in a Bourbon and Chocolate Tasting
4. Attendees at the Gala can enjoy bidding in a Silent and Live Auction.

There will be plenty of ways to support the cause of RiteCare at the Gala.

How much does it cost? You or your organization can be a sponsor as outlined on the registration form.

Where is the Gala – At the Alexandria Scottish Rite on November 2, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Note : Dress for the Gala is outlined on the registration form.

Is there a website for the Gala? There is and it provides additional information about the Gala and the RiteCare Charity. To view the website:

1. Go to www.alexandriascottishrite.org
2. Click on the About Us pull-down tab
3. Click on Charity Information

We are fortunate this year to have various Masonic Family members attending, such as representatives from Eastern Star, the Shrine, the Commandery and Royal Arch. The Commandery will present the colors. Our speakers this year are Leaders in the field of Language Disorders.

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Summary of Alexandria Valley Support Activities

(Continued from Page 6.)

I would strongly encourage you to invite friends and members of the community so they can see the great work we are doing in Scottish Rite.

As always, I want to thank you in advance for your generosity by attending the Gala, and generously participating in the various activities. We get to make a difference in the life of a child by our Gala - what a great opportunity. Thank you, Brothers, what an honor it is to chair this great event and for that I say thank you.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: ts61416@yahoo.com

Fraternally,

Tim

Alexandria Lodge Of Perfection



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Make a donation.

New Scottish Rite Education Opportunities

Ronald E. Craft, KCCH, Assistant Expert, Lodge of Perfection and Education and Training Committee

New courses have been added to the Master Craftsman College, such as the "Ivory Key" which is geared towards our Scottish Rite candidates. As most of us can attest, our introduction into the degrees of the Scottish Rite were overwhelming. The reunions provide us with a beautiful but dense philosophical framework which differs from our Blue Lodge experience. In an attempt to bridge that gap, the Master Craftsman College is now offering a free course aimed at petitioners/candidates of the Scottish Rite, which they can take even before they go through the reunion. This short course gives them some of the historical background, structure, and basic philosophy of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. Any SR "candidate" who completes the Ivory Key Course within 90 days of getting their 32° will get the Ivory Key Pin. This is an excellent selling point to prospective members. All members can take this course and I encourage all to log into mastercraftsmancollege.org and take the free "The Ivory Key" course yourself and remember to tell your Blue Lodge brethren about this opportunity!



On Sunday, September 22nd we will begin our study group on the Symbolic Lodge which may be better known as the Esoterika course. Again, brethren do not have to be Scottish Rite Masons to take this course, as it deals with Blue Lodge Symbols. It is encouraged that you sign up for the online course at mastercraftsmancollege.org which costs \$15. In the study group, we will go over the chapters and symbols discussed in the material. You will also need to purchase Albert Pike's Esoterika through the Scottish Rite Bookstore. Master Masons who are not AASR can apply at: <https://sms.scottishrite.org/SRMCFFREE>

Finally, there is also an ongoing "Scottish Rite Philosophy" study group which meets once a month to discuss Morals and Dogma. Each chapter is a separate discussion, so don't worry if you have missed one. You are encouraged to sign up for the course at the online college as well, but it is not required.

For question on education or to attend a study group, send an email to:

education@alexandriascottishrite.org

Ask a Brother today to join the Scottish Rite

The Fall Reunion is scheduled for October 19 and 26, 2024. Petitions must be in by our September 13 meeting.



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

Lady's Loop
[A New Women's Auxiliary Group]

Beth Suit, wife of John M. Suit, KCCH



Hello, I'm Lady Beth Suit. When my husband, John Suit, first joined the Masons we had small children, and I usually stayed home to care for them while he went to events. As they grew, I was able to accompany him, but I didn't know anyone. I'm usually an outgoing person, but I felt like the shy kid I'd once been all over again.

While attending a Scottish Rite Conference in Norfolk, Virginia, a wonderful woman swooped in and made me feel welcome. She took me under her wing and told me about all the events and stayed by my side. We clicked right away and have become wonderful friends in the years since.

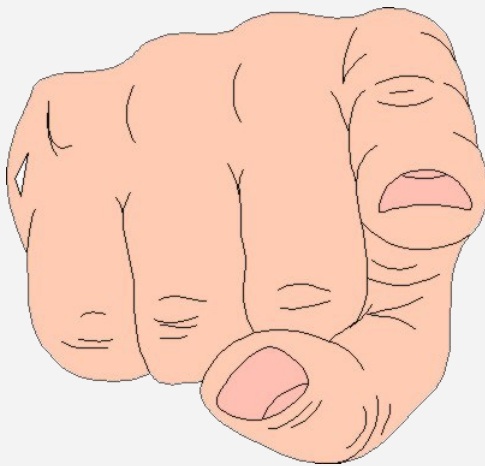
Now, it's my turn to swoop in and make all the ladies feel welcome! After talking to other women, I realized that we don't always get ALL the information about the event we're attending. Like what to expect, what to wear, what are we eating and how long will it be. So, a few of us met after the Teacher's Appreciation dinner and decided to create the Lady's Loop.

Our goal is to offer women a safe place to ask questions and be informed of the upcoming events so we can meet up, make new friends, and have a great time. If you are interested in joining, please email me at: womensauxiliary@asrva.org.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Beth

Are You A Life Member?



Contact the General Secretary,
Mike Bible, KCCH, for details at
703.998.9044 or
secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org.



CONGRATULATIONS

50-year Scottish Rite Member

William Underwood MacBrayne, KCCH,
received his certificate and pin at his residence.

Continuous Member Recruitment

Rick A. Cady KCCH, Membership Committee Chairman

We need each of you to help bring in petitions for the October Reunion. A modest goal of at least one candidate per lodge should be attainable. Following Most Worshipful and Illustrious Don Strehle's 33° strong year of raising so many Master Masons throughout our Commonwealth, many new Brothers are now ready to expand their understanding of Masonry, their circle of Friends and Brothers, and the good works to be both experienced and provided to others. Solomon's Temple was not built in a day, nor was our Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. It took many Brothers working in the quarry, and all of us to continue that endless effort "everyday."

We hold Reunions in April & October each year to bring in new members. The conversations we have with Brothers in our Blue Lodges and appendant bodies about the added value of Scottish Rite should be occurring year-round. One implement in our tool chest we can all use to share the added value benefits of being an Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite Brother, is having a prepared "elevator speech." This is a short 30 to 90 second pitch to share with a prospective candidate on the spot, at any given moment. Be prepared for this extending to a longer exchange.

Although our experiences and what we have gained from the Scottish Rite are unique to each of us, our elevator speeches should be crafted to impress the listener with the broad features and benefits of Scottish Rite membership. In this moment, you have the opportunity to change this Brother's life. So how do we go about creating effective elevator speeches?

- Write your speech and rehearse it to help you prepare and to share a clear, decisive, and convincing reason why the Scottish Rite is meaningful to you and could be the same for a prospective Brother.
- Select a couple of high points in your Valley experience you value the most. We have a lot to draw upon. For me, it's primarily the **fraternal relationships** I have developed beyond the walls of my home Lodge with Brothers from across VA and the DMV - especially those on the stage crew on which I have long served.
- Masonic **education** is one of the premier features of the Scottish Rite. The Master Craftsman courses, educational presentations in Valley meetings, and the reunion degrees and instruction create a treasure trove of learning and reinforcing the deeper meaning of Scottish Rite philosophy, including the importance of education, personal and religious freedoms, and independent thought.
- The **philanthropy** we offer with Rite Care and involvement in our communities is another feature that should be made known to our listeners.

Be confident and assertive in your delivery of the message. Memorize the core talking points and practice them out loud. Convey excitement and conviction with a smile.

Close by sharing your contact information and handing the Brother one of our fantastic ASR Valley brochures. Follow up the next time you see them by asking if they have thoughts or questions for you.

Let's have some fun with this by having a contest. Please send us your 30-60 second elevator speech explaining Scottish Rite to a potential candidate and why it may be the right thing for him to explore. We'll select two to three winners that will be posted in the next bulletin. You will be rewarded with the usual Scottish Rite compensation of a hearty thank you and pat on the back. Send your submission to RickCady@gmail.com. This effort will help build our ranks at ASR and hopefully benefit someone who will be a future ASR Brother!

Shenandoah Scottish Rite Club Officers for 2024-2025



Left to Right: Wayne Barringer, KCCH, President; Kenny Talley, 1st Vice President; John Peck, 2nd Vice President; Scott Truax, Secretary, and Joshua Payne, Treasurer. Out going President: Geoffrey D. Hoyt and Installing Officer, Ill. Ray Steele, 33°.

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

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. - 5p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. If you plan to visit, please call the office first on 703-998-9044.

Alexandria Scottish Rite/Kena Family Picnic - The picnic was a huge success with great attendance from both Bodies. Thank you to all those who helped set up, serve food, and assist with teardown and cleanup. If you weren't there, you missed a great time!



September Meeting – Feast of Tishri - We will have a pre-meeting dinner, followed by the celebration of the Feast of Tishri, which will be open to all. Families are encouraged to attend. **Reservation deadline is COB September 9.**

2024 Fall Reunion- October 19 and October 26 - The 4th through the 18th degrees will take place on October 19 and the 19th through 32nd degrees will take place on October 26.

Virginia Scottish Rite Conference September 26-28, 2024 (Richmond) - Please plan to attend the upcoming 100th Virginia Scottish Rite Conference hosted by the Richmond Valley in Richmond, VA. You will need to book your own hotel room at the Hilton Short Pump, <https://tinyurl.com/422zrw5f>, but conference/meal registration must be coordinated through our Valley Secretary at 703-998-9044 or secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org. The Valley will pay for your meals, but you must attend, otherwise you will be required to reimburse the Valley. The conference/meal registration **deadline** is **Wednesday, August 28**. More conference/hotel information can be found on our Valley website at <https://www.alexandriascottishrite.com/2024vasrconferenceinfo>.

Officers for 2025 - Would you like to serve as an Officer in one of our four Bodies, for 2025? Please contact the Valley Office at secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org, or one of the current Heads of the Bodies.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2024

September 2 - HOLIDAY
Labor Day

September 13 - 6:00 p.m.
Feast of Tishri
(RSVP by COB September 9)
Valley Meeting- 7:30 p.m.
(Lodge of Perfection)

September 18 - 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour- 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

September 25 - 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg

September 26 - 28
VA Scottish Rite Conference
Richmond is Host Valley
Hilton Short Pump
(Conference Article on pages 1 & 2)

OCTOBER 2024

October 14 - Holiday
Columbus Day

October 16 - 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour- 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

October 19 - 7:30 a.m.
2024 Fall Reunion
First Day of Reunion

October 22 - 6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting- 7:30 p.m.
(Consistory & Lodge of Perfection)

October 23 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Cassia Lodge, Woodstock

October 26 - 7:30 a.m.
2024 Fall Reunion
Second Day of Reunion

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



NOTE- Valley Stated Meeting will now be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except December when it will be held on the 3rd Tuesday.



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

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

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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 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

Second Friday of each month
TERENCE M. SMITH, 32°
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
TIMMY E. SHRUM, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
JEREMY D. ANSPAUGH, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
JOHN S. DAHIK, 32°
Master of Kadosh

