



Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin



May–June 2020

Personal Representative's Message

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

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

We are told in our ritual to “whisper good counsel,” but this may be one of the toughest of our obligations. People are generally not receptive to what they perceive as criticism and, whether we are dealing with individuals or organizations, telling them they are on the wrong track is not easy. But for our Lodge's to prosper and for our Brethren to succeed, it is often necessary to face unpleasant truths.

All of us make mistakes. Some are obvious and we can, if we will, correct them ourselves. For example, most people recognize that smoking is harmful, that excessive drinking can cause problems, and putting on too much weight is unhealthy. These are examples where we recognize the problem, but knowing and doing something about it are quite separate. Whether as a result of addiction or habit, we sometimes need encouragement and support if we are to change our behavior, and a good Brother can provide such assistance. But, unless there is an underlying desire to change, “good counsel” is ineffective and will be rejected.

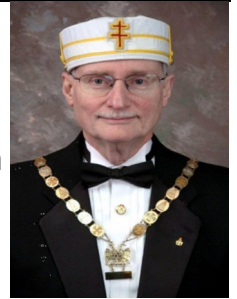
There are other times when our friends and colleagues go off in a wrong direction, and they may not even recognize it. We may see evidence of their bad behavior - it could be little things that can escalate if unchecked. The occasional cutting remark may spiral into the regular use of demeaning and insulting language. A tendency to find fault in others can grow into abusive or bullying conduct. When we see bad behavior in its early stages, we often tend to ignore it or make excuses, but this is when intervention is needed and the injunction to “whisper good counsel” can be most effective. Instead of laughing away misconduct, we need to immediately discourage behavior that is outside Masonic standards. Rudeness is contagious as is civility. In groups and in organizations where bad behavior is met with disapproval, it generally stops; where it is ignored or tolerated, it becomes the norm.

Of course, our biggest challenge in a Masonic context may not be to discourage bad conduct, but to encourage good behavior. Masons should serve as role models for each other and for others as well – outside the lodge as within.

Whispering good counsel has a further dimension, and that is supporting our Brethren in times of crisis and need. Asking for help is perceived as a weakness, and men tend to be self-sufficient and try to tough it out by themselves. This is wrong. Asking for help is not a weakness. It is a strength, because sharing problems and seeking advice can be a force multiplier. And as Masons, given our Masonic bonds and obligations, we should be more comfortable asking for help from our Brethren knowing that they will have our back and respect our confidences.

But just as we should be more willing to share our concerns with our Brethren, we also need to be more skillful in providing help when we find ourselves on the other side of the conversation. Most of us have a tendency when asked for advice or help to spend very little time listening and to immediately propose the solution. Instead of listening, we do most of the talking.

(Continued on Page 2.)



Personal Representative's Message

(Continued from Page 1.)

I recently came across a phrase we might consider: “never pass up a good opportunity to shut up.” Rather than rushing in with a solution, we should adopt a position of empathetic listening. It can be therapeutic for the person with the problem to be able to articulate his feelings and concerns and even talk his way through an issue with someone sympathetically listening.

In addition to effective listening, before we offer suggestions, we need to fully understand the problem – and try to understand it from the perspective of the person having the problem. It is helpful to be non-judgmental, and it is useful to cultivate a sense of humility which recognizes that given similar circumstances and similar temptations, we, too, might have found ourselves in similar difficulties. Only after we have listened and feel confident we really understand the issues and concerns, should we try to help our Brother to better frame the problem and help him to craft a way forward. In this regard, developing a solution should not be giving your opinion; it should be a collaborative activity, and it is important to ask what is needed, rather than assume you know the answer. And, of course, be ready to offer more tangible assistance if needed. As we deal with the Coronavirus crisis, there is even more need for us to be available to help, assist, and comfort our Brethren and their families.

Masons who develop these skills become known as honest brokers and trusted advisors. They are the mentors who sustain our Lodges and exemplify what it means to be a Master Mason. With a little effort, each of us can grow into this role.

Fraternally,
Ed Cohen

A Chivalric View of the Rite of Destitution

Brian Walaszczky, 32°, 2020 Alexandria Valley Fellow

Albert Pike, Sovereign Grand Commander 1859-1891, suggests that the “Blue Degrees” are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of our symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is not yet prepared to learn the deeper truths. In this context, if we reflect on the Entered Apprentice Degree using the additional lessons taught in the Scottish Rite Council of Kadosh and Consistory degrees, we are able to unveil some interesting symbolism that we may not have otherwise considered.

Pike teaches a legend in the 30th degree, Knight Kadosh, that the Knights Kadosh were the successors to the Knights Templar under a veiled name. In fact, Pike goes further and explains that “The Templars, or Poor Fellow-Soldiery of the Holy House of the Temple, took as their models, the Warrior-Masons of Zorobabel, mentioned in the Bible (Nehemiah 4:16 - 4:18), who worked, holding the sword in one hand and the trowel in the other. The Knights Templar, made it their life's work to protect weary pilgrims using the sword, while also using the trowel in both an operative sense to build castles and other structures, and in a speculative sense to seek further knowledge and the light. Therefore, it was that the Sword and the Trowel were the insignia of the Templars, who subsequently, as will be seen, concealed themselves under the name of Brethren Masons.”

III. Arturo De Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, the Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, has noted that many Masonic historians dismiss this myth as having no basis in historical fact. But whether or not the legend of the Knights Kadosh is true, we can still utilize it to reflect upon the chivalric duties prescribed to these warrior monks and to honor and emulate the chivalric virtues of these noble warriors, most especially that virtue of charity. We also can use this legend as a key to explore further the powerfully moving Rite of Destitution and events leading to this ceremony.

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A Chivalric View of the Rite of Destitution

Brian Walaszczky, 32°

(Continued from Page 2.)

The Knights Templar took a vow of poverty, donating much of their money and property and dedicating their lives to God. They absolved themselves of their worldly possessions, so they could continue their life through the elevation of their souls to the sphere of heaven laid out by the compass of God above the square of the earth. This symbolic and operative act of selflessness exhibited their devotion to serving God and mankind through charity.

Entered Apprentices do not take a formal oath of poverty but, before knocking on the door of the Lodge to be received for their initiation, agree to be divested of all minerals and metals, neither naked nor clothed. In this state of destitution they enter the Lodge, a symbol of the world stretching as high as the heavens and deep as the center of the earth. As they present themselves for initiation, they symbolically show a willingness to voluntarily separate themselves from their worldly possessions because Freemasonry values the man for his internal moral characteristics, not for his wealth or material possessions. More importantly, as candidates for the degrees in Freemasonry, they are to leave their passions and prejudices behind as they enter the portals of the Lodge. This symbolism is reinforced when they find themselves challenged in their destitute condition and reminded that they should always be willing to relieve those who are in need.

In multiple places in our ritual, we find charity promoted as an important obligation. Consider, for example the catechism of the 26th Degree, Prince of Mercy, or Scottish Trinitarian, whereby it is stated that the seventh great truth in Masonry is that the immutable law of God requires, besides respecting the absolute rights of others, and being merely just, that we should do good, be charitable, and obey the dictates of the generous and noble sentiments of the soul. Charity is a law, because our conscience is not satisfied nor at ease if we have not relieved the suffering, the stressed, and the destitute. To be charitable is obligatory on us. We are instructed to be kindly to another, to act with brotherly love, to relieve the necessities of the needy, and to be generous, liberal, and hospitable. We are to return to no man evil for evil, but to repay injuries with benefits and kindness. We are to live peaceably with all men, rejoice at the good fortune of others, and sympathize with them in their sorrows and reverses. "These are the sublime dictates of the Moral Law, taught from the infancy of the world, by Masonry." (Ill. Arturo De Hoyos, 33°, G.C., 2013)

Using the knowledge and wisdom bestowed upon us by the lessons taught in the Council of Kadosh and Consistory degrees, we gain an additional perspective on the symbols and lessons taught to us in the ancient Craft degrees, and by adapting the chivalric virtues of these noble warriors to the tenets of our Craft, can become more focused on that virtue of charity towards all mankind.

References

- ♦ Ill. Arturo De Hoyos, 33°. G.C. (2013). *Albert Pike's Morals and Dogma of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Annotated Edition*. Washington: Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. U.S.A.
- ♦ *Virginia Mentor's Manual*.

Fraternally,

Brian

Commander's Message

Rick Cady 32°, Commander, Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Brethren, once again I thank you for electing me to be the Commander of the Council of Kadosh.

This is the time of year we would be discussing the upcoming May Ladies' Appreciation and Widows' Recognition Dinner at the Temple and looking ahead to the June Outstanding Teachers Awards Dinner. Instead, we are adhering to the declaration of the Grand Master of Virginia and ceasing all Masonic gatherings in the month of April, and on hold as to what activities are prudent to resume thereafter.

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Recognizing the inconvenience of being self-quarantined, I would also mention that for those of us living with our spouse, one of the joys and benefits is that added time together. It's almost like Ladies' Appreciation Night every night at home, right - although I realize our ladies enjoy spending time together on our annual dinner in their honor while we run off upstairs for our meeting. I'm not one to offer relationship advice of any value, however, I will venture to suggest we should try to commit at least one night in May to treat our significant other to a carry-out dinner from a local restaurant and spend quality time together. Candles and soft music optional.

In addition to the cancellation of the 8 May Ladies' Appreciation and Widows Dinner and Valley meeting, our Valley Secretary, Ill. Dave Morris, 33°, announced the cancellation of the Spring Reunion which was to be on 25 April and 2 May, and the annual Friends and Family Gala, which would have been on 16 May. Brothers Tim Shrum, KCCH, Jason Himsey, KCCH and the entire event committee are focusing their energies on a very successful Gala in 2021.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been and continue practicing our civic health duty by staying home. For many of our Brethren, it's self-preservation. If we can flatten the pandemic curve in the upcoming weeks, we may be back on Masonic track in June. Each June, the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley recognizes area teachers for their tireless service. With the cancellation of the remaining portion of many of our area schools, our teachers have - on short notice - created distance learning curriculums. Illustrious Loyd Davis, 33° and the Education Committee members do a tremendous job of hand-selecting a few of the best teachers in our area for recognition. Assuming the positive, plan on attending the annual Outstanding Teachers Award dinner on Friday, 12 June, at the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple. The Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Don McAndrews, KCCH, with the Committee on Education will host this special dinner and act as the Master of Ceremonies. Because of the unique challenges our teachers faced this year and because we have not been together for two months, we should have a strong turnout 12 June. Please make your advance dinner reservation with our Valley Secretary, Illustrious Dave Morris, 33° at Secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org.

Grand Commander Ill. James D. Cole, 33° and Grand Master Ill. Douglas V. Jones, 33° offered several suggestions to help us stay safe during this pandemic and extend our hand to brothers in need. In addition to their heartfelt guidance, I would like to bring attention to the fact that we have many Brothers who live alone. During this time of being self-quarantined and social distancing, some of our Brothers may feel isolated, lonely, and depressed. Please make a point to reach out and check on our single Brothers. Sometimes it's tricky telling if they are struggling emotionally. Put in place the ALEC model, which can be used for starting conversations around mental health and wellness:

- A – ASK how someone is doing
- L – LISTEN, really listen to the answer
- E – ENCOURAGE action, even small steps make a difference
- C – CHECK IN, circle back and follow up, it can make a difference

Be safe, practice physical distancing, stay social, and I hope we can be together in June.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Rick Cady



Commander's Biography

Rick Cady 32°, Commander, Alexandria Council of Kadosh



Brother Rick Cady was born in Minneapolis in a banner year for Minnesota sports: the Washington Senators moved to Minneapolis to become the Minnesota Twins, and the Minnesota Vikings launched their inaugural season. Rick's first two years of college were at University of Minnesota-Duluth where he joined Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity based on the principles of the Boy Scouts. He transferred to "the main U" in Minneapolis and joined Alpha Kappa Psi, a national professional business fraternity, and served in officer roles. Rick graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science.

While in college, Rick took over chairman duties of an annual American Cancer Society benefit "Music for Life" from a fraternity brother. The benefit was an annual concert series with some of the most popular bands in the region supported by major TV, radio and newspaper outlets. The experience of organizing benefit concerts left a lasting impression on his career pursuits. His commitment to service foreshadowed his Masonic future.

Rick reached out to the talent agency he had worked with on "Music for Life" and talked his way into the mail room. From there he eventually was promoted to an agent. After a few years, he felt it was time to move to the major leagues of talent agencies. Networking with past colleagues and with a great deal of effort, Rick landed an assistant job at the acclaimed William Morris Agency in Nashville, Tennessee. Over several years, Rick made strategic career moves to better his situation and increase opportunities for his clients, including owning his own talent agency.

In Nashville, Rick met his wife, Natasha. A fellow music industry entrepreneur, she worked as an image consultant for country music artists and founded an online Americana and Roots Music magazine, NoBorderlines.com. They were a perfect match! But, like in many families, life threw a curve ball. In 2000, Rick was diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer. He successfully completed his treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and soon afterwards, on September 11, 2001, life changed again for the world. The magnitude of these events made him question his purpose and quality of life. It created a leverage for change. He and Natasha decided to pull up stakes in Nashville and move to Heidelberg, Germany, where Natasha's family were GS employees supporting the US Army. They were on their way to a new adventure, outside of the music industry, forging a new more noble and glorious life path.

To the surprise of many - especially him - Rick became a subject matter expert in the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's (IMCOM) Installation Status Report (ISR) performance management program. Who knew the music industry had so many transferrable skills? Right before the U.S. installation in Heidelberg was to be permanently closed, Rick was recruited by a former colleague to move to Washington, DC, supporting the ISR at the Pentagon level.

Yet it wasn't long before the music bug bit again. Word got around the music circles that Rick was back stateside and seeking to get back into the business as a talent buyer. He was introduced to Tom Myer, the president of the Clyde's Restaurant Group (CRG). They hit it off immediately and Tom offered Rick the job he currently holds as Senior Talent Buyer for the Hamilton Live, The Sundry, and CRG special events.

Rick's Masonic journey started in Alt Heidelberg-Fidelitas Lodge #821. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in November 2012. Shortly after he moved to Alexandria, VA, in February 2013. After visiting Lodges in Alexandria, Rick connected with the Brethren of Andrew Jackson #120. Brothers Shelly Richman and Dick Laaken encouraged Rick to join Alexandria Scottish Rite, and he was part of the 2014 Spring Reunion. The following month he volunteered to help Celebrating the Craft (CTC) at The House of the Temple (HOT). *(Continued on Page 6.)*

Commander's Biography

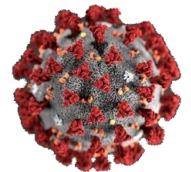
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Rick was in the inaugural group of the Alexandria Knights of St. Andrew (KSA). He joined the stage crew for the Fall 2014 Reunion and joined the Council of Kadosh line. In 2015 Rick became the third KSA Chief. As a Knight and Chief, Rick helped align the Alexandria KSA's support of HOT's 100-year celebration and the annual CTC. He also spearheaded the KSA's involvement in the annual Alexandria Scottish Walk to help foster brotherly love and represent Masonry in our community. He served on the annual Friends and Family committee for two years. During the February 2018 Valley meeting, then Lt. Grand Commander III. James D. Cole, 33° presented the KSA Bannockburn award to Rick. It is the highest honor a Knight may receive from his clan. Rick is currently the Commander of Kadosh for the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley, Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge #120, Companion of Mt. Vernon Chapter #14 Royal Arch, and Noble of the Almas Shrine. He continues to serve in the KSA and on the stage crew.

Rick resides in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria with Natasha and their two cats Gracie and Hunk. His stepdaughter Jordan and her husband Tony reside in Annandale.

Dealing with the Pandemic

Edmund Cohen, 33°

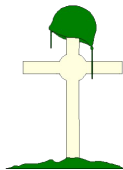


As you know in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we are asked, to the extent possible, to practice social distancing. Freemasonry has responded by cancelling many of its meetings and events, and our Alexandria Valley has made similar decisions. Our main goal is safeguarding the health of our members. Many of our Brethren are in the older demographic where exposure to COVID-19 can have more serious effects. We also do not want our younger members to be exposed to this virus, and then infect their friends and family. Moreover, in this time of concern and stress, our Brethren need to be spending more time supporting their families.

In the context of my message in this issue, *Am I My Brother's Keeper?*, I would note that the cancellation of meetings does not mean the cancellation of Masonic obligations, so I urge you to be alert to the needs of your Brethren and our widows, and also to contact me or our General Secretary, Dave Morris, if we can be of help.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<u>MAY 2020</u>	<u>JUNE 2020</u>	<u>JULY 2020</u>
<p><u>May 2 – 8:00 a.m.</u> SPRING REUNION CANCELLED</p> <p><u>May 2 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Masonic Home Gala —To Honor III. & M/W James D. Cole CANCELLED</p> <p><u>May 8 – 6:30 p.m.</u> LADIES NIGHT CANCELLED</p> <p><u>May 16 – 6:00 p.m.</u> FRIENDS & FAMILY —GALA CANCELLED</p> <p><u>May 25 – HOLIDAY</u> Memorial Day</p>	<p><u>June 12 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Outstanding Teachers Pre-Meeting Dinner (Reservations by June 9) Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m. (Lodge of Perfection)</p> <p><u>June 17 – 7:00 p.m.</u> Loudoun SR Club Ashburn-Sterling Lodge (Reservations by June 12)</p> <p><u>June 24 - 6:30 p.m.</u> Shenandoah Club Meeting Cassia Lodge—Woodstock (Reservations by June 19)</p>	<p><u>July 4 – HOLIDAY</u> Independence Day (Observed on July 3rd)</p> <p><u>July 10 – 6:00 p.m.</u> Executive Council Meeting Valley Meeting – 7:30p.m. (Council of Kadosh, Chapter Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)</p> <p><u>July ??? – 9:00 a.m.</u> Annual Visit to JMU Childhood Learning Center Harrisonburg, VA</p> <p><u>July 22 - 6:30 p.m.</u> Shenandoah Club Meeting Spurmont Lodge—Strasburg (Reservations by July 17)</p> <p><u>July 25 – 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.</u> JOINT PICNIC KENA & ALEXANDRIA VALLEY KENA Shrine Center, Manassas, VA</p>



A Note from Your Membership Committee

Michael P. Bible, KCCH, Chairman Alexandria Valley Membership Committee

Dear Brethren:

I wanted to share with you some important and interesting things that your Membership Committee is doing.

The Membership Committee in partnership with the Communications and Outreach Committee, has developed a Membership Outreach Program that involves the officers from all four Scottish Rite bodies. Those officers will be assigned a list of members to call. Our primary interest is to connect with our members personally and let them know that they are important to us and that we are available to them. We want to know how you're doing, your welfare, what can we do to help, and how we can help to make your membership experience better. Also, we would like to verify your personal information recorded in the data base. Accurate contact information ensures you will receive the Valley Bulletin, the Scottish Rite Journal, notices, and provides a means for us to contact you if needed. It's important to keep your contact information current. As a side note, we keep your personal information confidential. You should be hearing from us soon!

At a recent meeting, our Committee discussed the importance of staying engaged with our Blue Lodges and making sure they stay informed about Scottish Rite opportunities and activities. We do this by appointing Scottish Rite Lodge Representatives to the Lodges that serve our Valley. Most Lodges are represented, but if your Lodge is not and you are interested in serving, please let us know at tinstar123@cox.net.

Did you know that our Valley has a Speakers Bureau that can present a program at your Lodge? We do, and on a variety of topics. If your Lodge requires a program, even on short notice, speakers are available. Contact Ill Paul Evancoe, 33° at isso4wmd@aol.com for more information and ask him to schedule a program.

You don't have to wait to update your personal information if you have recently moved, changed your email address or changed your phone number. You can go to the Supreme Council's website at <https://scottishrite.org/login/>, create an account if you don't have one, and personally make those changes. Or, you can contact our General Secretary, Ill. David C. Morris, 33° at 703-998-9044, or secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org. You will also discover if you explore the Supreme Council's website that you can pay your dues using a credit card.

Our future planning involves producing a video about the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. We want to tell the Valley's story and encourage membership interest. We envision that the video will showcase our members talking about the Valley and what Scottish Rite membership means to them. We will highlight important activities, to include the Friends and Family fundraising event; the annual trip to James Madison University, and the RiteCare clinic; the summer picnic, cigar and bourbon tasting event, the Knights of St Andrews, and the annual conference, to name a few. We hope that the video will be used as a Lodge program where Lodge members will recognize our members engaging in the activities previously mentioned, adding a personal appeal to the video/program. The video will also be prominently displayed on our website and marketed in other ways yet to be determined. We believe this will be a powerful way to tell our story and show our Blue Lodge brethren the benefits of Scottish Rite membership.

Finally, every member is a membership ambassador, and we encourage you to reach out to someone in your Lodge and tell them about the Scottish Rite. We have an active Valley with many exciting programs and activities. Petitions are available at https://alexandriascottishrite.org/sites/default/files/general/sr_petition_2011.pdf. Print a few petitions and encourage Brethren to join. You may be surprised how many respond! Remember our reunions are scheduled for April and October.

Fraternally,
Mike

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°, Editor
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_____, Content Coordinator

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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. L. C. C.
Deputy of the Supreme Council in
the Orient of Virginia

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

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
DONALD L. MCANDREWS, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
THOMAS E. GOOLSBY, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
RICK A. CADY
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
RONALD J. LEIBFREID
Master of Kadosh

