

History of the Richmond Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew

The Richmond Knights of St. Andrew was established as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Because of this storm, brethren from Louisiana were relocated throughout the United States, where they began their lives anew. One such brother was Robert Pettit who arrived in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was a Knight of St. Andrews (KSA) from the Valley of Shreveport and wanted to establish the Order in the Richmond Valley. While in Fredericksburg Lodge No 4, he spoke to a few brethren on this, but before he could move forward with this effort, he found that the burdens of his career took away his ability to further support both the Lodge and Valley, not to mention this project.

With the establishment of the Fredericksburg Scottish Rite Association, leadership of the Richmond Valley found within this Club, very active Scottish Rite Masons and was desirous to keep them working on behalf of the Temple and began to offer them different projects to support the Valley. But in attempting to balance the needs of the Club with the needs of the Valley, club members knew that the tasks required something even greater.

Brother Shelby Chandler, who was a member of the Club and one of the brethren to be earlier recruited by Brother Pettit to the earlier KSA effort, realized that in establishing a Knight of St. Andrew Chapter in Richmond, it would take the burden of support off the Fredericksburg Club and would instead vitalize the entire Valley region; offering areas outside the city of Richmond an opportunity to actively support the Valley. Another problem faced by Richmond Valley was that 32° Masons would receive their degrees, then would be at a lost "finding their nitch" to participate in Temple functions and they would no longer attend meetings because they were not being engaged.

In his nearly year-long research on how to create and run a Knights of St. Andrew chapter, Brother Chandler also found the means of giving new Scottish Rite Masons an opportunity to participate and actively support the Temple while educating themselves in the degrees and thus serving a cause that is greater than themselves. After writing up a framework to establish a new KSA Chapter in Richmond, Brother Chandler then enlisted the support of Brother Jeff St. Onge. Brother St. Onge had previously worked on a Blue Lodge Education project with Brother Chandler, which proved successful, and so Brother Chandler's logic was that this team would prove successful again.

It was Brother Chandler's idea to offer up the new concept of both Chapter and Clan echelon so that members would be able to support the Temple locally from their Blue Lodges, but it was Brother St. Onge who offered up the means to streamline the entire Chapter leadership chain and structure to establish smooth and clear areas of managerial responsibility. It was further agreed that before coming to any closure on establishing this organization, that new members from other parts of the Valley would be able to offer their feedback so that this Chapter would be the creation of the entire membership rather than just any one or two individuals. Thus, a plan to create the Knights of St. Andrew was developed with the following procedure to follow:

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1. **Establish the approval to create a KSA Chapter from the General Secretary and Personal Representative of the Richmond Valley.**
2. **Upon approval, initiate the establishment of a local Clan in the metropolitan areas of Fredericksburg, Charlottesville and Richmond.**
3. **Find a supporter to locally recruit members and establish a Clan comprising of at least 7 - 10 people who were committed to supporting this endeavor.**
4. **Once there were enough members in a clan, each group would then elect a officer to be a Chapter-Elect, then a Chief Knight, Deputy Knight and Knight Bursar to oversee each clan.**
5. **Elected officers of all three clans would meet to develop Chapter by-laws, uniforms, protocols and chapter officers were to be elected to govern all clans.**
6. **Approval of Chapter by-laws and rules and Chapter Officers by the leadership of the Richmond Temple as established by all Clan officers.**
7. **Confirmation of Chapter and its Officers and by-laws by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Virginia previous to Charter ceremony.**

The first clan established was from the Fredericksburg area, who named their clan Rappahannock for the river area of their region. Brother Chandler nominated Brother St.Onge to be a Chapter officer to be elected, noting his project management background and proven ability to lead as this was the quality most needed to establish a new organization, and fifteen brethren unanimously approved this. Brother Chandler was then elected Chief Knight and would be supported by Brother Rick Dey as Deputy Knight and Brother Scott McKinnon as Knight Bursar.

The second clan to be established was outside of the Charlottesville area in Barboursville. They named their clan Piedmont as they were from the foothills of the Appalachians. Seeking support from someone in this region, Brother Chandler was directed to Brother Peter Thorsen by Most Worshipful Jeffery Hodges and in his recruiting for new KSA members; Brother Thorsen received strong support from this area of the Valley. The brethren of Piedmont proved themselves active from the beginning and they elected Brother Flint Engleman to be a Chapter Officer, with Brother Thorsen as Chief Knight, Brother David Carl as Deputy Knight and Brother Allan Anderson as Knight Bursar. Another noted to be active from the first was Brother Robert Ventura.

The third and last clan to be established was from the Richmond Metro area, who named their clan Capital as per their region. Although this clan has the potential to be far larger than the other two clans combined, they had a few setbacks. Brother Chandler attempted to recruit a few people to lead the effort here locally before meeting with Brother Daniel Freye. Once Brother Freye had the ball, he went with it, establishing a small but strong group of members located near Midlothian and they elected him to be a Chapter Officer, with Brother Steve Ward as Chief Knight, Brother Gary Bonner as Deputy Knight and Brother Paul Dierickx as Knight Bursar.

As per the vision laid out by Brothers Chandler and St.Onge, there was no one person who

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established this organization. The leadership of these clans came together on multiple occasions and worked long hard hours to establish the rules and procedures of this order, mostly based on data received by other chapters throughout the United States as well as from the House of the Temple. Rituals and ceremonies had to be established, as well as uniforms and the rules and bylaws and these discussions were hammered out and voted upon. In the end, the following people were mainly responsible for coming together and making this organization possible:

(Alphabetical order) - Allan Anderson, Gary Bonner, David Carl, Shelby Chandler, Rick Dey, Paul Dierickx, Flint Engleman, Daniel Freye, Jeffrey St.Onge, Peter Thorsen, Robert Ventura, and Steve Ward.

On July 13, 2008, this group came to Barboursville Lodge to finalize and sign the by-laws of the Chapter and the Chapter-Elected officers were elected to hold positions as followed:

Charter Knight Commander - Jeffrey St.Onge
Charter Knight Warden - Flint Engleman
Charter Knight Captain - Daniel Freye

The by-laws and Chapter-Elected officers were reviewed and approved by Illustrious Robert Carpenter as General Secretary and Illustrious Aubrey Stratton as Personal Representative in Richmond and they forwarded this paperwork to Illustrious James Cole as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Virginia, who approved by signature the establishment of the Knights of St. Andrew Chapter in Richmond and the Charter Knighting Ceremony took place on November 01, 2008 with 43 members being present and knighted as Brother Knights of the Richmond Chapter Knights of St. Andrew with chapter officers duly installed in that ceremony.



Welcome to the Richmond Chapter Knights of St. Andrew