



JANUARY STATED MEETING IS CANCELLED

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Mike Atkins, KCCH

Serving this last year as your Venerable Master, I sit here and reflect on the challenges we faced as a fraternity. Adapting to a new "normalcy" of sitting 6 feet apart, not taking up the word, and something I take dear to my heart, of just walking up to a Brother, shaking his hand, looking him in his eyes, and saying, 'Hi'. These were all stripped away from us in the matter of a few weeks in early March. Our Fraternity now was faced with an even larger challenge of declining membership under a new environment with new rules. Our meetings and social activities now were driven by recommendations of local governments and statistics of where "hot spots" were within our state.

Our Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Commander took immediate action and provided the best guidance that would allow our Fraternity to operate and function within the legal guidelines set forth, and with our very best interests in mind.

Our Childhood Language Center was also faced with the same challenges, as well as very protective parents. Once again, immediate action was taken, and Telehealth became the new way of conducting business to meet the demanding requirements to serve our patients.

Taking up a close second place was the selling of our building. This was and still is a huge undertaking and will remain so until which time as the ink has dried on the paper. We are still faced with challenges. Our monthly rental income has now gone away. At present, we will be meeting at Tuckahoe Masonic Lodge for our Stated Meetings, restrictions permitting, and still have a building to maintain.

I was unable to highlight everything that was planned for the year and was able to sit in the East about three to four times. Some of the programs were cancelled and subordinate Lodges had to make some adjustments in conducting their programs. We attempted to make every effort we could to have a "normal" business meeting with a dinner, but things just did not work in our favor.

As my year serving as your Venerable Master ends in February, I felt it was in the best interests of the Progressive Line to allow it to advance. There are equally qualified Brethren behind me in line and I felt it is best for all. I thank each of you for your support in this very difficult and unique time in our lives. I pray that each of us will remain as healthy in the future as when this pandemic began. May the Lord bless each of us and, with his will, all of this too shall pass.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

The year 2020 is now behind us and I am pretty confident in saying that none of us are going to miss it. Next year, 2021, brings with it changes. The biggest one you will notice is our new location. We will be moving to Tuckahoe Lodge for our Stated Meetings only. However, there will not be a meeting in January. Our first meeting there should be in February. I always enjoyed Ill. Alvin Lehman's "railroading" the elections each January. This year, however, the February Meeting will be election and installation for the Lodge of Perfection only.

The best we can hope for is that this pandemic will be over soon and we can get back to our regular dinner meetings and have a normal Reunion. As of now, our Spring Reunion is scheduled for May 15, 2021 at ACCA Shrine. Ill. Sam Dunn, 33°, our Personal Representative, has agreed to extend our super low Degree Fee of \$265 for this Reunion. This will also include the 2021 dues. Any Master Mason who is in good standing in his Blue Lodge is eligible. Do not let a good Brother miss this opportunity. Petitions may be printed from our web site.

Let us all do our part and send in a new Petition.

**SCOTTISH RITE
MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, January 25, 2021

NO GUARD MEETING

NO BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2021

NO GUARD MEETING

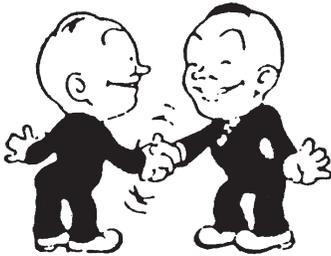
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

Election & Installation

Program during Stated Meeting

for the Lodge of Perfection only

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME
A SCOTTISH RITE MASON. . .
DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°



As we complete our Christmas and New Year celebrations, we realize that we are welcoming in a new year with new ideas and a recommitment and rededication to the ideals of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry. Your New Year's Resolutions should have already been made and acted upon. Be an active Mason!

Our Personal Representative, Ill. Sam Dunn, 33°, has made his feelings known in his article in this newsletter. I can only echo his words and stress that rumors can tear us apart. Please, brethren, do not be a rumor mill. Those of you who have started it, need to stop. Ask for the answers to your questions.

Arrangements for our Stated Meetings only, have been made with Tuckahoe Lodge at Bethlehem and Dickens Roads. There will be no meals until we are allowed to gather together for meals. **There will be no Stated Meeting in January.**

Our current and incoming Masters have been hard at work preparing their programs for 2021 and will be communicating those plans during the coming months. Do not forget the election and installation of officers for the Lodge of Perfection only at our February Stated Meeting. The incoming Venerable Master will have announcements concerning his appointments and programs. **The Masters of all four Bodies are expected to attend.**

Our Spring Reunion will be on May 15. It will be held at ACCA Shrine and will be in memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley, Jr., 33°, IGH. Our Membership Chairman, Bro. Charles Robinson, 33°, needs your help, and he will be looking to every member to help our Valley grow.

Brethren, at this writing we still have many of our members who have not sent in their 2020 dues and are now on our delinquent list. Please remember that your Scottish Rite cannot fulfill its obligations unless you have fulfilled yours. **Dues for 2021 were due and payable by December 31, 2020.** Have you fulfilled your commitment?

INCOMING VENERABLE MASTER

Lin Spears, KCCH

Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why?

All are great questions pertaining to the Richmond Valley of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite at this time. Some of the questions can be answered, but a lot of them cannot.

We are going through some very trying times. Most of you have been tested in many different ways. Our lessons in Masonry, hopefully, have been helpful. Our Grand Master, MW Douglas Vernon Jones, 33°, and Ill. Samuel E. Dunn, our Valley Personal Representative, are doing a great job adjusting. Work with the leadership and be helpful in any way you can.

Help someone. It always makes you feel better. If you do have questions, call the office. It is a good chance Bob will know the answer.

THANK YOU

Sam Dunn, 33°

On a joyful note, I wish on behalf of the Richmond Valley to thank the Trustees and members of Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 for the donation of the Stations that for years have been in the upstairs Lodge room. In my opinion, these are the most beautiful stations I have ever seen. These Stations will remain with the Scottish Rite, even if it is a new building or a remodeled current building. These Stations will remain a constant reminder of the love Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 has for the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry. Again, thank you for this beautiful and generous donation.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33^o

It is time for a New Year and I pray that soon 2020 will be so far back in the rearview mirror that it will appear as only a bad dream. COVID still has a hold on us but its strength is weakening. We all pray that we will return to a form of normal in the near future. We will not be meeting in January due to the limited number of people being allowed to assemble. I pray that those limitations will be expanded in the near future, and I believe everyone shares my desire to be able to enjoy fellowship with one another very soon. I am a firm believer that this dreadful infection will make our Fraternity stronger, we are tired of being cooped up and need the love and support of our members to feel whole again.

Let us talk about the building. The purchaser still has until Jan. 27, 2021 to perform their due diligence. Every day for the past month, I have received a call from one of our members telling me they are sorry that the contract has fallen through. The contract as of this date, December 26, 2020, is still in effect. The purchasers are the only one that can pull the plug and sink this deal.

It is amazing to me that in May 2018, the Lodge of Perfection cast a unanimous vote to sell the property. However, there appear to be members that seem to be happy to try to sabotage this sale. At this point, with COVID, we really do not need more issues by the spreading of rumors. I will say one more time that I am willing to discuss the sale of the property with anyone that has a desire to know the truth. Call 804-370-1861 to find out what is happening. As your Personal Rep, it is my duty to keep the Valley informed which I have done my best to do. Trust me, you know as much as I. I am very upset when I ask why the rumor mill does not contact me. I am told that these people are scared of me. That is the most ridiculous statement that I have ever heard. I have spent my life trying to help my fellowman not to cause fear. Trust me; I know the source of most of the rumors. I pray for each of you every day that you will seek the truth and not spread rumors. As soon as I know what is happening with the building it will be made public. Each member of the Valley deserves to know the true standing of the property.

It is my sincere desire that our Valley will unite and continue to grow. May God bless you, the Scottish Rite, the Childhood Language Center and this Great United States of America.

WOMAN'S CLUB NOTES

Valerie Layman, President

As of November 2020, the Scottish Rite Woman's Club has been in existence for 50 years. Unfortunately, our attendance has declined the past couple of years. Now with the building being sold and not knowing where the Scottish Rite will eventually land, the time has come to disband the club. The last meeting was held on Monday, November 23, 2020 and a vote was taken to disband the Club. The motion passed. With the help of some members of the Club, the items in our closet have been donated or disposed of during the last month.

We have enjoyed our relationship with the men, participating with their projects and contributing to the Childhood Language Center. I thank the ladies for all the support given me the past four years. I wish the Scottish Rite all the best for their future endeavors.

RICHMOND VALLEY

COMING EVENTS

— 2021 —

JANUARY

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Friday 1 | New Year's Day |
| Wednesday 13 | Honour Court |
| Monday 25 | Stated Meeting Cancelled |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Monday 22 | Stated Meeting at Tuckahoe Masonic Lodge |

MARCH

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 22 | Stated Meeting |
| Friday 26 & Saturday 27 | Scottish Rite Workshop in Lynchburg, VA |

APRIL

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Sunday 4 | Easter |
| Wednesday 14 | Honour Court |
| Monday 26 | Stated Meeting |

FELLOWSHIP REPORTS

Please take a moment and communicate with our shut-in Brethren either by card or a phone call. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and you will feel better for it.

new since last newsletter

Buddy Bass

Linwood G. Bennett, Jr.

G. Wayne Boswell

Eddie O. Creasy

V. Reid Shelton, Jr.

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

Published by the Scottish Rite
Bodies in the Valley of Richmond,
Orient of Virginia

JOHN W. INMAN, 33° - Editor

Third Class Mail privileges
authorized at Richmond, VA

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Alan Wayne Adkins, 33°, G.C.

Deputy in Virginia

Clifford A. Parker, 33°

Orient Personal Representative

Samuel E. Dunn, 33°

Personal Representative, Richmond Valley

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Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

Harvey L. Fleshman, KCCH

Wise Master, Knights Rose Croix

Peter D. Klei, 32°

Commander, Knights Kadosh

Jacob A. Crocker, 32°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

TOM VARNER, KCCH

If you are anything like me, it is good to put 2020 in our rearview mirror and start 2021 with a whole new perspective. Although we still have some difficult months ahead, the COVID-19 end is in sight. Meanwhile, the authorities tell us that this winter will have many casualties and hardships. These events will challenge our faith and we will need to look to God for the guidance to get us through them.

Since our Masonic gatherings have been greatly restricted, many of our Brothers are isolated at home. They miss the warm conversation, the touch of a friendly hand, the enjoyment and satisfaction of being part of something greater than ourselves.

The other day, one of our members asked me to send a card to a homebound Brother who is suffering from throat and tongue cancer. I was glad to do so and would be happy to address any similar requests for assistance. I encourage you to do the same. I think it is important to remember that we have taken sacred obligations to help each other when troubles occur, and to reach out to people who are not as fortunate as we are. We are pledged together for mutual assistance, and this looks to be a winter in which our brethren will need our support the most. These are some of the real benefits of being a Mason; no other organization takes care of its members and their families the way we do.

Perhaps we should follow the Book of John: "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." As we turn to God for guidance, let us remember that the 23rd Psalm offers the familiar and comforting words: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." I hope to see each of you soon and look forward to when we can dwell together again in unity.

Called from Labor

WILLIAM THOMAS BUCKNER, JR.

1927 - 2020

CHARLES EDWARD DRINKARD

1932 - 2020

WENDELL GAYLE HAYNIE

1931 - 2020

ELBERT RICHARD HINES

1927 - 2020

CHARLES EDWARD HUDSON

1943 - 2020

OSCAR WILLIE KENNEDY, JR.

1935 - 2020

JERRY FRANKLIN LAMBERT

1941 - 2020

WILLIAM ANDREW LLOYD, SR.

1932 - 2020

ARNOLD BENJAMIN LOWENSTEIN

1936 - 2020

FRANK BROOKS McALLISTER

1925 - 2020

ROBERT BRAXTON MILLER

1928 - 2020

LARRY EDWARD PRALL

1943 - 2020

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

REQUESTED
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