

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Lin Spears, KCCH

Thanks to the officers of the four Scottish Rite Bodies for their service in 2020. It has been a very trying year for all of Masonry. We all miss the fellowship that occurs at our meetings.

Our Venerable Master for 2020, Bro. Mike Atkins, KCCH, had plans for some great programs during his year. Unfortunately, due to schedule changes, we had to postpone them. We are planning to incorporate some of these programs for the coming year.

Our installation of officers for the ensuing year was conducted virtually in February. Only the officers of the Lodge of Perfection (minus the Junior Warden) were installed, as the officers of the other three Bodies are continuing. This is very different for our organization but we will overcome and get back to some kind of normal soon.

Masonic Organizations are being very creative in these different times. We can all increase our focus on membership and keep recruiting great members for our Valley. Ill. Charles Robinson, 33°, will keep us updated on our next Reunion.

Masonic Education with Master Craftsman (Scottish Rite), Masonic Correspondence Courses (Blue Lodge) and Royal Arch Online Education are excellent ways to improve and increase our Masonic knowledge. If we are not able to attend as many Masonic meetings, these courses can fill in the gap and keep the Masonic juices flowing.

Many of the Lodges are still active in ritual practice and are following the COVID guidelines. They are breaking into smaller groups to make this happen.

Our VMAP submission has been completed and I would like to thank Bro. Whit Hanscom, KCCH, and Bro. Mike Atkins, KCCH, for submitting this report which reflects the effort of the entire Valley.

The Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center led by Executive Director Susan Combee is adapting to the times and changing some of their methods in order to meet the needs of the children.

Brethren, keep a smile on your face and continue to do the great and important work of Freemasonry.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

There is a small glimpse of normalcy at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully, we can get to our new normal soon. Change is not necessary a bad thing.

In preparation for getting back into the swing of things, we have been planning for our upcoming Reunion. Our 2021 Spring Reunion will be held on May 15 and will be in Memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley, Jr., 33°, IGH. Our Personal Representative, Ill. Sam Dunn, 33°, has agreed to continue the special Degree fee of \$265, which includes all the normal items along with the 2021 dues.

How many of us can say we received our Scottish Rite Degrees at ACCA Shrine? NONE? This will be the first time in over 50 years that we have put on our Degrees at ACCA.

Petitions can be obtained from our web site or picked up from the Scottish Rite. Let us help our Brothers improve themselves in Masonry and look out for our future at the same time.

Get those petitions out and back in.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, March 22, 2021

5:30 PM.....NO GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
(in person or virtual)

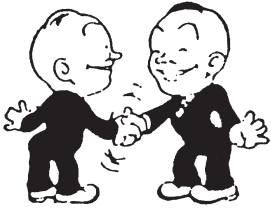
Monday, April 26, 2021

5:30 PM.....NO GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
(in person or virtual)

Ceremony of Remembrance

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°



Spring starts on March 1 (meteorological spring). Heading through March and into April, we look forward to showers to bring the May flowers. A new beginning as spring blooms in the Valley. Let's all pull together for a new beginning and bring in those Petitions for the Spring Reunion in memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley, Jr., 33°, on May 15, 2021. Membership is the life blood of the Richmond Valley. Please work hard to increase your involvement.

Scholarship applications are still available in the office or on the Valley website. They must be turned in no later than April 15, 2021. Please use the 2021 form as all others are now void. Any applications received in the office after April 15 will not be considered.

Spring also brings that time of the year when we honor JROTC and ROTC cadets from the surrounding school systems. If you would like to participate in the presentation of these awards, please call the office. Unfortunately, most school systems are not having in person presentations due to COVID. Your assistance in recognizing the efforts of our young men and women will be greatly appreciated.

Our Wise Master, Bro. Harvey Fleshman, KCCH, will present our Ceremony of Remembrance at our April Stated Business Meeting. We look forward to the plans being laid down by Bro. Harvey.

Congratulations to our new Venerable Master, Bro. Lin Spears, KCCH, on being virtually installed on Monday, February 22, 2021. We look forward to his leadership during 2021. At the same time, congratulations are in order for Bro. Mike Atkins, KCCH, for completing his year as Venerable Master during 2020 with the many challenges presented by COVID causing disruption in our Valley.

Brethren, your membership card for 2021 was included in your dues statement you received last September. As of this writing, we still have over 50 members who have not paid their 2020 dues and will be subject to suspension. Your support of your Valley through your dues is vitally important. Reminder notices have already been sent by the Supreme Council.

NOTES FROM THE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

Susan Combee, Executive Director

A child without a voice is limited in their ability to make choices, interact socially, communicate basic needs and wants and, most importantly, can be closed off from the world in many ways. The ability to express one's self is paramount. Speech therapy can help a child achieve a greater ability to use and understand language, to communicate with others and to express himself or herself to the greatest extent possible.

Speech delays can create many challenges but intensive therapy has many benefits including:

- * Improvement in the ability to understand and express thoughts, ideas and feelings
- * Intelligible speech so others can understand the child
- * Achievement of school readiness skills
- * Development of pre-literacy skills
- * Development of practical social skills
- * Greater self-esteem
- * Increased independence

Here at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, our main objective is to help children overcome barriers that may cause anxiety or frustration. Our speech-language pathologists work with children to successfully accomplish individual goals that impact communication. The end goal is to provide children with the tools to overcome any obstacle and live a fulfilled life where they feel confident in expressing their thoughts and feelings.

Our staff appreciates the continuous support of the Center. We take great pride in our mission and the children's accomplishments! With your help, we continue to make a valuable difference in the community!

MASONIC HOME UPDATE

Terry Hilton, KCCH, Development Director

It is always a pleasure to be able to talk about the Masonic Home. I know that the Campus has been closed for a while now to outside visitors and that makes it tough to get good information about what is happening. The good news is that our CEO, Anne Hagen, has been working hard to keep the communications flowing on a regular basis. Let us check on the latest information.

The Board of Governors has agreed along with other highly respected medical professionals and communities that the best way to ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff is to be fully immunized for both the flu and coronavirus. We are happy to report that the vaccine was well received and appreciated by all who participated and as of February 11, our campus residents and staff became fully immunized. In that regard, last week we were able to reduce many of the restrictions that our residents have endured over these last many months.

Residents across our campus met to hear of these changes first hand and to personally acknowledge all the hard work of our Infection Control Task Force, led by our Senior Administrator Robert Adkins. Residents are now able to enjoy the dining room again for their meals, playing Bingo, and most recently, are taking a virtual food tour with unique dining experiences from places like France, Spain, and the Caribbean. The annual Candlelight dinner, while delayed, is always a highlight of the winter season and enjoyed by all.

We look forward to the day when the Home will be operating normally again, hopefully in the near future. If you have friends or loved ones interested in moving to the Home, we would love to hear from them. We are again accepting applications and we have room available. Please have them contact our Admissions Coordinator Susan Berryhill at sberryhill@mahova.com, or 804-222-1694 phone extension 77295. Thank you as always for your support of our Masonic Home.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, KCCH

As I work through the Master Craftsman program, I am continually struck and enlightened by the Biblical passages in our various Scottish Rite degrees. Lately, I have been working through the Rose Croix degrees (15-18), which are similar to the Royal Arch Mason, the Knight Templar Order of the Red Cross, and the several Knight Mason Degrees.

In all of them, they tell the story of Zerubbabel, who was a Prince of Israel in captivity in Babylonia. King Solomon's Temple had been destroyed 70 years before and the remaining Israelites had been exiled to Babylon. God spoke to King Cyrus, assisted by the prophet Daniel, and the King decreed that the Israelites could return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

Accordingly, led by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and Haggai, the Israelites returned to the Holy Land. This story is told in the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. But with the King's blessing, did all go well? Not at all, as the Samaritans remaining in the area constantly obstructed the Israelites and even stopped their work for a number of years until Zerubbabel appealed to King Darius for assistance, which was granted.

During that time, the Craftsman held a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. Finally, the Second Temple was completed, and the Israelite remnant could begin their religious observances again. The 15th Degree is called the Knight of the East or the Sword or the Eagle, and the sword reference is to the weapon carried by the Craftsman while rebuilding the Temple walls.

What can we as Scottish Rite Masons take from this 2500-year-old story? As this pandemic seems to be lessening somewhat, we are going to have our own chances soon to "Rebuild our Temple". Are we ready to come out of exile? Additionally, there are any number of non-Masonic groups and people nowadays who may try to be obstructions to us. We must be prepared to work hard, strengthen our leadership, use all tools available, and defend our teachings and beliefs.

Another lesson is that God is able to work His will even through non-believers like King Cyrus and the pagan Samaritans. He is working His Will on us even through this pandemic. As it says in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We know our purpose, to build spiritual and moral temples in the hearts of men. Let us now take up our mat and walk.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

I extend greetings to all of our brethren and pray that you and your loved ones are well and avoiding all the evil that life has sent our way. As you read this newsletter I hope that you are looking out the window seeing beautiful sunshine, jonquils breaking through the Mother Earth and the robins celebrating the approach of spring. God has truly blessed us with his wonderful works of nature, we just need to slow down and appreciate all he has given us.

With the advent of Spring, it is a time of renewal of mind, body and spirit. It is also a time to renew your Masonic faith. COVID has caused us to be unable to assemble as friends and Brothers in our normal way. I believe that we will be back together enjoying fraternal fellowship very soon. This will be a blessing but also a time to rebuild our fraternity. I have always believed what doesn't kill you will make you stronger.

I along with your Grand Master and our Deputy to the Supreme Council firmly believe that we will emerge from this pandemic larger and stronger than before, but it will take everyone's efforts. Can we count on you?

As you read this newsletter we will have installed the Officers of the Lodge of Perfection and I look forward to their guidance and direction for a great year in 2021. I really cannot begin to express my gratitude for the hard work of our Deputy to the Supreme Council, Ill. and MW Alan Adkins, 33°, GC, and our Grand Commander, Ill. and MW Jim Cole, 33°, for navigating our Valley through these troubling times. I realize that some people feel that we should have had some Zoom meetings to keep everyone informed of happenings in the Valley. Our Zoom account is setup through The House of the Temple and it has been a learning process for our General Secretary and myself to get up to speed with all this new technology. I feel that we now have a grasp on the new-fangled ways of life and will be Zooming our meeting if necessary, in March. Maybe, however, the Governor will relax some of our restrictions and we will meet in person.

Now let's talk about our building. Our original Purchase Sale Agreement (PSA) failed to produce the outcome we had hoped for and has been terminated. As I write this article, I am expecting another PSA from another client. Once I receive the PSA, I will keep everyone informed. I truly appreciate all the notes and calls of support that I have received in the past month. Thank you and God bless each of you.

Finally, I am excited to announce the appointment of Ill. and MW Doug Jones, 33°, as the Assistant Personal Representative for the Richmond Valley to the Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia. This is a true blessing to our Valley. As I have always stated, I am available anytime to answer your questions at 804-370-1861.

Thank you, God bless you, God bless the Rite and God bless America.

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2021 —

MARCH

Saturday 20	Scottish Rite Zoom Meeting in place of the Spring Workshop
Monday 22	Stated Meeting

APRIL

Sunday 4	Easter
Wednesday 14	Honour Court
Monday 26	Stated Meeting

MAY

Sunday 9	Mother's Day
Monday 24	Stated Meeting
Monday 31	Memorial Day

JUNE

Sunday 20	Father's Day
Monday 28	Stated Meeting

CHAPTER ROSE CROIX

Harvey Fleshman, KCCH, Wise Master

Needless to say this has been a very trying year for all of us, and one from which it will take extra effort to recover. After being in lockdown for the past year, it will be difficult to get back in the habit of going out to our various meetings. I have missed seeing all of my friends and brothers.

Our Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal had to be cancelled in 2020 and we could not honor the memory of 60 of our Brethren who had laid down their working tools and whose account now rest with God.

It is not known what the coming months will bring as the COVID Virus is still problematic. Our Grand Master still has to cope with the task of leading our Fraternity, while under many restrictions over which he has no control. Please be understanding and supportive. Sadly, during the past year, 45 more of our Brothers have passed away. I am sure each of us has lost close friends.

With the number (now over 100) and the uncertainty as to the location, many adjustments will have to be made in the ceremony. The intent, however, is the same – to honor these friends and brothers. Your attendance and support will be most appreciated.

At the last Reunion, there were 20 Petitioners. There were 24 signers on those Petitions, as some signed more than one. There are approximately 1100 members in the Richmond Valley. If each of those members secured a Petition and talked to your friends in your respective Lodges, and if only ten percent responded, it would be a great Reunion. That would be a great tribute to Ill. Charles Robinson, 33°, IGH, our Membership Chairman and his efforts. Also, remember the Sovereign Grand Commander is a born and bred Virginian. I am sure he would be most appreciative, as would MW Alan Adkins, 33°, GC. It would also be a great tribute to the memory of Ill. Malcolm R. Holley, Jr., 33°, IGH.

I will conclude by saying that I hope when we are able to resume our meetings, you will be there and be greeted by your friends and brothers.

"Remember The Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center!"



**ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION
VALLEY OF RICHMOND, ORIENT OF VIRGINIA
PO Box 9136, Richmond, VA 23227-0136
EMAIL – srsecy@verizon.net PHONE – 804-264-2050**

**2021 SPRING DEGREE CONFERRAL
IN MEMORY OF
III. MALCOLM R. HOLLEY, JR., 33°, IGH**

PETITION

May 15, 2021
DEGREE FEE (includes 2021 dues) \$265.00

FEE INCLUDES A \$20.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT
WHICH MUST ACCOMPANY THE PETITION

**PRINT ALL
INFORMATION**

NAME (In Full) _____ PREFERRED NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____ PHONE: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ CELL: _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____ BIRTH PLACE _____
OCCUPATION _____ EMAIL _____
(If retired, show occupation at time of retirement)
EMPLOYED BY _____ WORK PHONE: _____
WIFE'S NAME: _____

I am now a Master Mason in good standing in _____ LODGE NO. _____
Located in _____

“THE SUPREME COUNCIL REQUIRES ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:
The inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and
the forbearance of a state sponsored religion. Principles embodied by the Founding Fathers of the U. S. of America.”

APPLICANT SIGN HERE: _____

Recommended and vouched for by: _____ (Attach a copy of your Blue Lodge dues card.)
(Two SR Masons or Worshipful Master
and Secretary of Blue Lodge under seal)

1. **PRINT NAME:** _____ Phone _____
2. **PRINT NAME:** _____ Phone _____

OFFICE USE ONLY	
FEEES	\$ _____
DUES	\$ _____
DEPOSIT	\$ _____
BALANCE DUE	\$ _____

You may pay by cash, check, or credit card: VISA MC DISC AMEX
Credit Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____ CVC Code: _____
Signature Authorization: _____

THIS FORM VOID AFTER 5/15/2021

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Jacob A. Crocker, 32°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE!

Applications for the 2021 Scholarships funded by your donations to the Scottish Rite Library and Scholarship Fund are available. They can be found on the Richmond Valley's website, or can be obtained by calling or stopping into the office. Please avail yourselves of this assistance that is available for your sons, grandsons, or other college student to help them with their education.

Applications need to be returned to the office no later than April 15, 2021. The scholarship announcements will be made on approximately Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Take this opportunity to help our youth grow into the leaders of tomorrow. **Urge them to apply now!**

Called from Labor

JOHN PATRICK DRISCOLL
1947 - 2021

JOHN MARSHALL STONE
1937 - 2021

DALLAS WRIGHT WAMPLER
1930 - 2021

JAMES BRYANT GARRISON
1926 - 2021

DARREN PORTER WAGGONER
1960 - 2021

NELSON EMORY WHITT
1939 - 2021

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

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

Al Dranoff

Art Gregory

Cliff Gregory

Clarence Whitley

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