

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Rob Eades, KCCH

I have been quite adamant about what we need to do to grow our numbers. What I haven't gotten around to saying is that our membership is strong, and now post-COVID, we are coming together again to solve this and other challenges. Your hard work stands out as evidenced by producing our last Reunion Class. Let me give a huge thank you to the Scottish Rite Guard under the direction of Ill. Mack T. Ruffin, 33°, IGH. The Guard mustered twenty of their number to be there just in case they were needed. Thank you again.

Thank you to Mrs. Susan Combee, Executive Director of the Childhood Language Center, for conducting tours of the Center, and then speaking to us on behalf of the Center and her staff at our March Stated Meeting. Ill. Matt Szramoski, 33°, IGH, we thank you for being with us and bringing your inspiring message for the evening.

If you missed this Reunion, you missed a chance to welcome fourteen new Masters of the Royal Secret. You also missed a terrific presentation of all twenty-nine degrees, presented by Ill. Alan Adkins, 33°, Grand Cross, SGIG of the Orient of Virginia, and Bro. William Heltzel, 32°, KCCH. Thank you for your dedication in taking on this task.

How many of you knew that the Richmond Valley was instrumental in the formation and beginnings of the John Moncure Chapter No. 2, Order of DeMolay, here in Richmond, and that it occurred 100 years ago this year? The Chapter met in our former Temple at Harrison Street and Park Avenue. We will commemorate our association with the John Moncure Chapter at our May Stated Meeting. Our Prelate, Bro. Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH, will be our speaker. I ask you to come out to this celebration in May and take advantage of his extensive knowledge of DeMolay in Virginia. Senior DeMolays who are members of the Richmond Legion of Honor, please wear your Cordons and you'll be recognized at dinner.

June will bring us our Education Night Program under the direction of Bro. Robert Siegel, KCCH, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Brethren I can't express too strongly that YOU are the key to our success. It is through your individual and collective actions that makes us what we are here in the Richmond Valley. I ask each of you to come out and be a part of our history. Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

We had another successful Reunion, with fourteen new Masters of the Royal Secret in our midst. We all need to thank Ill. Alan Adkins and Bill Heltzel, KCCH for a job well done. We couldn't have done it without them. The Scottish Rite Guard had over twenty members there to help out and support the class. A very nice showing!

These guys are eager to get involved so introduce yourself, find out what their interests are, and guide them in the right direction. I know there are some open positions in some of the degrees. We also have some activities coming up, like the car show on May 21. Invite them to join you for a day of entertainment.

All of us need to remember, the more involved we are, the more enjoyment we will get out of our Scottish Rite.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 23, 2022

5:30 PM GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM Dinner
 Celebration of 100 Years for DeMolay
 Cost \$10.00 / \$15 without reservation

Monday, June 27, 2022

5:30 PM GUARD MEETING
6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM Dinner
 Education Night
 Cost \$10.00 / \$15 without reservation

NO MEETING IN JULY

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2022 —

MAY

Sunday 8	Mother's Day
Monday 23	Stated Meeting
Monday 30	Memorial Day Office Closed

JUNE

Sunday 19	Father's Day
Monday 27	Stated Meeting

JULY

Monday 4	Independence Day Office Closed
Wednesday 13	Honour Court

AUGUST

Monday 22	Stated Meeting
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SEPTEMBER

Monday 5	Labor Day Office Closed
Monday 26	Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°



Spring is a beautiful time of the year. The April showers have departed and we are now graced with our May flowers, along with all that yard work, blisters, and working your fingers to the bone that goes with the coming of spring.

Our Spring Reunion honoring Ill. Robert Lewis Gibbs, 33°, is now history, and we welcome 14 new Masters of the Royal Secret into the Richmond Valley. To our new members, come often and be active. In order to get the full value from your membership, you need to participate.

Our delinquent list is now down to 23 members who have not paid their 2021 dues. If you would like to help get ahold of these brethren, stop by or call the office to see if there is anyone on the list that you can contact. Sometimes it only takes a friendly voice on the phone to remind a brother to pay his dues.

The programs for May and June are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember that there is NO MEETING IN JULY. The By-Laws provide that the Valley is dark in July and December. Your next newsletter will be the August issue, so please save this issue for reference and to remind you of upcoming events.

Please remember to update your email list and mailing address for the office. Reservations remain required for the dinners by the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

Looks as though summer is coming and, beyond my allergies, I welcome summer whole heartedly. Many things have taken place since the first of the year. We had a fair turnout for the Scottish Rite Workshop. I know people are a little nervous about being out in crowds and it will take some time to overcome these fears. I pray that things will return to normal soon and we can join together to build our membership.

We gained 14 new members at the April Reunion, and we look forward to fellowship with these fine members as Masters of the Royal Secret. I have had the pleasure of knowing a few of these men from their Blue Lodges, and other appendant bodies, and I look forward to seeing them flourish and bloom in the Valley. The Reunion was well conducted and as usual Ill. and MW Alan Adkins, 33°, GC, SGIG and RW Bill Heltzel, KCCH, did a wonderful job communicating the degrees. The Scottish Rite Guard was there in full force to help direct the new members.

We have been invited to Longwood University on June 15, 2022, for Scottish Rite Day from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you are interested, let Ill. Bob Carpenter know by May 1, 2022. Radford University has set up July 12, 2022, to visit their campus from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. A head count to Bob is needed by June 1, 2022. If you have not had an opportunity to visit these Universities to see their Language Departments, now is an excellent time. Unfortunately, due to COVID protocols, James Madison University is not allowing visitors this year.

Please attend your stated communications so that you will see how many great things your Valley is doing. Your Venerable Master has planned excellent programs this year, please support your Lodge of Perfection and the other Bodies as they work hard to make the meetings enjoyable. Please make a special effort to attend our June Stated Meeting where we honor the teachers of the year in our surrounding localities and to honor our scholarship recipients. They appreciate your support.

Welcome John Parrish as our new leader of the Master Craftsman program. Bro. Terry Hilton, KCCH, and Bro. Harvey Fleshman, KCCH, will always be available to help. Also, welcome Russ Wright as a new member to the VMAP program. He will be a great asset.

Please make this the summer of your Rite. Help it to nourish and bloom. God bless you; God bless the Rite; and God bless this great United States of America.

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER REPORT

Elizabeth Kuhfuss-Beville, M.S. CCC-SLP

Comfort Zones Are Meant to Be Broken - "Come on in and make yourself at home!"

This invitation is courteous and welcoming, but it is also a bit daunting, is it not? When you are entering someone else's territory, you are adjusting to that person's way of doing life. It may be different from what you are used to, and it may be uncomfortable at first (or even for quite a while).

One "solution" to such a dilemma is to stay safely within your areas of comfort. Your own home, your favorite coffee shops or getaway locations, your reliable route to and from these locations, your same circle of friends... the list goes on. We can establish a bubble of familiar territory in which we are comfortable and feel safe.

Another possibility is to take the risk of expanding your horizons and venturing into the unfamiliar and unknown.

For some of our clients, this is an immense challenge. Children who have selective mutism have a heightened level of anxiety which makes it uniquely difficult to expand their comfort zones. Students who stutter may also be reluctant to engage with others due to underlying discomfort or fear related to their communication skills. For children with myriad speech sound, language and/or pragmatic (social) disorders, there may be hesitations around interacting with others depending on their personality and willingness to take risks. All of this requires a bit of extra encouragement on the part of the parents and therapists to support these young ones as they begin to branch out and enter some, perhaps intimidating, new territories.

On the clinician side of the equation, there are also notable barriers to engaging in this process of continued growth and expansion. It may feel much easier to stick with familiar games, activities, and treatment methods than to research and try new alternatives when they present themselves as a beneficial option. Planning therapy is faster with "tried and true" practices (which can still certainly be useful and implemented) than it is when attempting to think outside the box and incorporate child-specific focused activities. Implementing new strategies (or even strengthening technique application for familiar ones) can feel like a stretch beyond our natural inclinations.

Could all this risk and discomfort be worth it? Absolutely.

To get a report that a Kindergarten student is adapting well in his school environment and talking to his classroom teacher (when that took quite some time to develop in preschool) ... To see a young girl walk confidently down the hall without her parent escorting her...

To hear that a family no longer requires the support of therapy because their young child is blossoming, and the parents feel equipped to support him as his language continues to expand and develop... To feel the joy upon receiving a note in the mail handwritten by a student who has fought and persevered through the learning process to make gains in her reading and writing, despite difficulties due to dyslexia...

It is unbeatable.

All four of those students are ones I count myself immensely blessed to have witnessed their growth. That growth only took place because I took the risk to expand my skill set to meet them where they are, while they took the chance to come into my therapy room and make themselves... "at home!"

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

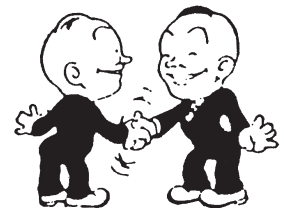
Tom Varner, KCCH

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them". Familiar words to us all, yet so profound in their meaning. I am reminded of Ecclesiastes and other Biblical passages often lately, as my wife is going through a family tragedy. Her oldest sister Carol is only 64, yet in the last six months she has suffered rapid onset dementia to the point where she can no longer walk, talk, or feed herself. As Carol was much older than Diane and acted as a surrogate parent, Diane is devastated. We have had many conversations lately as to why God allows this sort of suffering. Why do bad things happen to good people? Where can we find meaning in life? Every one of us has experienced loss and suffering like this. These are mysteries we will probably never know in this world, but they will be revealed completely in the next.

As I write this, we just finished Easter weekend. Christians believe that God himself knows what suffering feels like and that Jesus suffered and was killed so that we don't have to suffer in the next world. We live in a fallen world, where sin and injustice prevail in many places, but as King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Remember that Job's friends blamed him for his misfortunes and that he questioned God, only to learn that He is with us in the midst of our storms and that He is in control. We know that God will set all things right at the end of time, as it is written in the Book of Revelation, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Our 18th degree also proclaims the final justice of God. So, how can this help Scottish Rite Masons live our lives? Consider that the meaning in life comes not from money or success, but from how much we have helped our fellow man and how well we have been obedient to God. The chasing after life's pleasures without keeping God foremost is a meaningless activity and will not bring happiness. Live every day as if you are accountable to God for your actions and with God's purpose in mind. Perhaps the last words of Ecclesiastes are the most significant: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind." I wish you and your families the best of happiness and fulfillment.

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

SOME NOTES TO REMEMBER

1. Remember to use the new office Email address.
It is srsecy@richmondscottishrite.org. The old email will not be monitored after February 28th.
2. Make sure you are using the new Valley mailing address.
PO Box 9581, Henrico, VA 23228-0581. The post office is no longer forwarding our mail, and, in many cases, it just disappears instead of being returned to the sender.
3. Please make your dinner reservations on time. No later than the Wednesday before the meeting. Remember – late reservations now cost \$15.
4. If you have questions, please call, or stop by the office. We are there Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 3:30 PM.
5. My cell phone is available for calls when the office is closed. 804-837-0360.

Called from Labor

OCTERLONY TUCK ADAMS
1929 - 2022

HARRY EDWARD AMOS
1929 - 2022

ANDREW DAVID BATES
1939 - 2022

MARSHALL GRAY FOLKES, JR.
1931 - 2022

REUBEN PENDLETON GREENE, JR.
1921 - 2022

OTIS LEE HALL
1933 - 2022

COLLAS ELDGRIDGE LOWRY
1928 - 2022

DALE KENNETH LUCAS
1931 - 2022

SHERMAN LEVITT McLAUGHLIN, SR.
1936 - 2022

OTTO ROBERT NAUMANN, JR.
1929 - 2022

KENNETH GARDNER PANKEY
1937 - 2022

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

William Hershey
John Inman

Doug Messimer
Mike Riabouchinsky

REQUESTED
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