



VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Rob Eades, 32°, KCCH

I hope everyone enjoyed this holiday season with family and friends. Speaking of family and friends, I hope you had an opportunity to visit our Blue Lodges in the month of December. That's a special time for everyone. January is the time for the Richmond Valley to once again engage in the business of electing and installing our leadership for the coming year. It is a time to look forward to getting back together, having a meal in the spirit of fellowship, and moving into the new year.

The year 2022 has been a transitional period where we have cleared up old business and made ready for the new. The sale of our building and move to our temporary home is now completed but the process is far from over. It's now time to decide the path for the continuance of our journey. The building we occupied and the functions we housed there were in a great measure the face of the Richmond Valley. We can't let that stall, for if we do, we may well go by the way of some of our other once great organizations. We all know that our work here is far too important to let that happen.

Now as I complete my second term as Venerable Master, I want to thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me. The number of members here in the Richmond Valley makes the opportunity to serve once an improbability. A second term is all but an impossibility, yet here we are. I want you to know that I value the fellowship and friendship of each of you more than words will allow. It is important we remember that while the building might have been our face, we the members are the heart and soul. I know that together we will continue to move onward, and I look forward to making that journey with you.

Happy New Year everyone.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Robinson, Jr., 33°, Chairman

I trust everyone enjoyed the Holidays. Now with a new year upon us, it's time to roll up our sleeves and focus on protecting the future of our Scottish Rite. The date for our spring reunion has been set for April 15, 2023. We are still working on the logistics but are planning on having a huge reunion that includes the 70 who have come in over the last few years along with any new petitioners. We are trying to make this a reunion like no other that has ever been done in Virginia and we just might set the new standard. Put the date on your calendar and come join us as we try to make history. Don't forget to bring a candidate with you.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

Behold what havoc the scythe of time makes among the human race! Brethren, in the last two months we have lost two main columns of our Valley, Illustrious Robert Carpenter and Illustrious Ronald Butler. Both Senior DeMolays, long-time Masonic Veterans, each a Mason's Mason. We honor their service and know that they have left a rich legacy for us to follow. In the 18th Degree, Knight of Rose Croix, we are told that "all our temples are demolished, our working tools are broken, and our columns are cast down and scattered", and it sometimes feels that way when we lose brethren who have contributed so much to the Craft. The Senior Warden follows later "How can the just, loving and merciful God who is omnipotent, allow these wrongs to become the law of the universe?" As the candidate progresses with patience, he follows the constellations of faith, hope, and charity, which regenerate and lead him to the True Word. We do not know the ways or understand the will of God very well, but Masonry teaches us to be patient many times, from "awaiting a time with patience" to "time, patience, and perseverance will accomplish all things". Later in the degree, we learn about the passions that infest the hearts of men, the need to subdue them, and the importance of patience in self-control. Patience is a skill that must be learned, and it helps us to endure calmly these types of adversity, difficulties, obstacles, and struggles. We remember that Job, whose lamentations we have included in the Master's prayer at the grave, suffered greatly but never lost his faith and hope in God, and endured through patience. Although we don't mention him by name in any Masonic Degree, Job's life is a striking example to us when these challenges arise. After the loss of everything he owned, he said "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord", "Though God slay me, yet will I trust Him", and finally "I know now that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth". Our faith in God is tested and honed by these tragedies; we don't understand the reasons for them, but we should love and trust God as He is revealed in "the Rule and Guide of our Faith". The answers to all of life's problems are found in those sacred pages.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 23, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Dinner
 Installation of Officers
 Cost \$15.00
 (\$20 without reservation)

Monday, February 27, 2023

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting
 7:00 PM.....Dinner
 Program to be Announced
 Cost \$15.00
 (\$20 without reservation)

RICHMOND VALLEY	
COMING EVENTS	
— 2023 —	
JANUARY	
Sunday 1	New Year's Day Holiday
Wednesday 11	Honour Court
Monday 23	Stated Meeting
FEBRUARY	
Tuesday 14	Valentine's Day
Monday 27	Stated Meeting
MARCH	
Monday 27	Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH



Brethren, congratulations on the impressive turnout and support for Most Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle's Visit to the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies in November. The Grand Master's message and the dinner served by our new caterer were outstanding.

Now, as we embark upon a new year, our expectations are both festive and goal oriented. We have renewed our spirit through the holiday season and now look forward to a new year of service to Freemasonry and the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies.

Indeed, January not only brings in a new year, but a re-commitment and re-dedication to the ideals of the Scottish Rite through the election of new officers for 2023. Does your New Year's Resolutions include being an active Mason?

Our incoming Masters have been hard at work preparing their programs for 2023 and will be communicating those plans during the coming months. The incoming Venerable Master will have announcements concerning his programs and appointments at the January meeting. All officers are expected to attend so that they can be installed.

In April, the newly installed Wise Master will present his program involving Easter and the celebration of the lives of our deceased members since the last Ceremony of Remembrance. His plans are still being formulated, however, look forward to a memorable evening.

As we turn our attention to the coming months, we cannot forget our Spring Reunion on April 15. This Reunion is in memory of Ill. Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33°, IGH, who among his various Masonic leadership positions, served the Scottish Rite as General Secretary for 17 years. Our Membership Chairman is already working on plans for April, and we hope that it will result in a sizeable class to honor Bob's memory. Give him all the help you can.

Last, a note regarding our meals follows. Due to the challenging cost increases in the prices of food in general and catering in particular, we are no longer offering the prepaid meal plan. The cost of the meal will be \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required by Monday, noon, of the week prior to the meeting. Reservations after the deadline will cost \$20.00 per person. May the New Year find you in good health. I look forward to seeing you at the January stated meeting.

When talking with people about our work at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, you are reminded of how incredible and exciting the world can be. It allows you to see growth and progress in your day-to-day life.

While there may be setbacks, you will see the joy on each child's face as they learn. No single day at work is the same. Here are some of our favorite reasons why we love what we do:

- You are the witness of so many wonderful "firsts"
- You celebrate

YOU can be a part of this remarkable journey.

YOU are welcome to stop by the Center; especially during the afternoon hours, you are reminded often that it is good to be curious and take risks, to have fun and be a part of something meaningful.

YOU can be a part of a child's personal growth and speech development. You can be around them. YOU can be a part of a teachable moment; including areas such as social skills, problem-solving, and self-regulation.

YOU can provide a gift (monthly, yearly, periodically) that will support our work at the Center and keeping the Center up-to-date with technology, just to name a few areas of support.

Please feel free to visit our website: speech4children.org or call (804) 266-6699. We are proud to share the success of our Lodge meeting about the Center's success. Most importantly, YOU are part of making the Center the premier site for speech-language services in Virginia.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

I trust everyone had a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas. I pray that you and your family have a joyous, happy, and healthy New Year. The New Year brings a feeling of excitement and joy as we look forward to a renewal of our history and the promise of new opportunities. The January stated will be our annual election and installation of our new officers. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the officers for their hard work during these trying times. Their efforts have resulted in keeping the light of Masonry shining on the Valley of Richmond. Knowing the incoming officers, I feel a flood of excitement and enthusiasm for a successful and stronger Valley.

There has unfortunately been over the past two month some undertow and criticism on the operation of the Valley. I don't agree. However, I am and have always been open to listening to any productive discussion. Many members have offered advice and they have shared Bible verses that they feel apply to certain situations. For all of these I am grateful. However, my favorite Bible passage comes from Psalm 133, BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY! We as Masons are supposed to promote FRIENDSHIP, MORALITY and BROTHERLY LOVE. If you are not supporting these principles, you are guilty of destroying the fiber of our gentle Craft.

This quote was in our new Masonic Herald. It was from Joseph Fort Newton: Freemasonry's simplicity, its dignity, and its spirituality sustain me in all that I try to do and permit me to forget the incredible pettiness of mind that we sometimes encounter, sustaining me sometimes encounter, sustaining me and enabling me to join hands with my Brethren everywhere, to do something, if it be only a little, before the end of the day, to make a gentler, kinder, and wiser world in which to live. {Great words to live by}.

In January we look forward to announcing two committees that will play a pivotal role for the future of the Richmond Valley. The first committee's role will be to identify a future home for the Richmond Valley. They will explore critical questions like do we purchase land and build a new building or do we find an existing building and retrofit it to meet our needs. Does our flagship charity, the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center, move with us or stay in its current location. This committee will be responsible for exploring all options and coming up with a list of all recommendations for the Brethren to consider.

Ultimately, the decision will rest with all of you. All voices need to be heard and please understand your ongoing constructive comments and recommendations will be a key part of this process. The second committee will focus on the Scottish Rite experience in the Richmond Valley. Their work will largely center on building a healthy Valley and coming up with a renewed sense of direction and purpose. Critical questions will be considered; for example: Does the Valley have a sense of purpose and what are we passionate about {activities, programs, charitable endeavors}. When a member attends a meeting, they make an investment of time—time taken away from family, occupation and other things they find important, was their time well spent, and do they leave the meeting saying, "I'm looking forward to coming back next month!" Does the Valley deliver as promised or do we really promise anything in the first place.

These and many vital questions will be explored with an eye directed toward the very real, and critical, bottom line, how do we not only attract but also retain and activate our membership. Every idea and suggestion matters, and this committee will be looking to you to help chart the future course. As we look to the future please search for candidates for our Spring Reunion, we must have a minimum of 10 candidates for it to be prudent to perform the degrees. Also make your children, grandchildren or friends' children aware of the Scholarship program, we love helping the children further their education.

Thank you and God Bless you, the Valley, the CLC and this great United States of America.

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

center, I often get the question, "Why do you like working with children?" Such a fun question! Working with children reminds you progress in amazing, measurable ways. You'll love seeing things from their eyes. It makes you a happier and more positive person

new things. You can feel good about making a difference in the lives of children and families. Working with children is incredible; we working with children:

the little things every single day • You are a crucial part of a child's development • You see so many smiles

and visit with our clients and their families. Children offer adults a lot more advice on life than you could possibly imagine. We be different!

n play an integral role in a child's learning, through interaction with the children. Children absorb and learn from what is happening as appropriate social interactions with adults, the importance of following directions, and problem solving social and non-social

the Center. We always require updated assessments, the purchasing of new games/toys, supplying treats for the treasure chest, need.

e are happy to share our love for children and our love in helping each child have a voice. We would enjoy talking with you at a ng a difference in a child's life. As one Mason stated this week, together, we can make the Scottish Rite Childhood Language

10. State your planned career and major course of intended study: _____

11. List school and community activities in which you have participated:

12. List work experiences, including summer employment: _____

13. How are you financing your education?
List Percentage from: Work _____% Family _____%
 Financial Aid _____% Loans _____% Other _____%

Have you applied for other scholarships? Yes _____ No _____ If Yes, how much have you been awarded, and from whom? _____

Have you received a scholarship from the Scottish Rite in the past? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, how many times? _____

Estimated total costs for one (1) year? _____

14. Write a statement that you believe will help the selection committee know you better. Comment on some significant experience, interest, or influential person in your life. You may wish to only describe yourself or bring some particular matter to our attention.

(PLEASE, NO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, AS THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED)

CALL THE SCOTTISH RITE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

I UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENT TO BE PRESENT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 26, 2023 FOR THE AWARDS PRESENTATION, AND AGREE TO BE PRESENT IF I AM SELECTED AS A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL TO:
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND
RICHMOND SCOTTISH RITE
PO BOX 9581
HENRICO, VA 23228-0581

UPS or FEDEX:
LIBRARY AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND
RICHMOND SCOTTISH RITE LANGUAGE CENTER
3518 MAYLAND COURT
HENRICO, VA 23233-1421

Please make sure that all information is correct and legible as the Initial Announcement and All Subsequent Communications from the Scottish Rite will be Email only.
Please make sure that your email address is correct and legible.

*This form may be used for 2023 Applications only and is void after April 14, 2023.

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Charles A. Robinson, Jr., 33°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

Brethren,

Well, another year has come and gone, and I hope that each one of you had a very joyous holiday. I would like to take some time to thank those who have decided to continue as officers of the Scottish Rite for the coming year. As many of you know, I have been dealing with some health issues for the past year. It is looking, by the test that have been done, that everything is moving in the right direction. I like to thank all the members of the Scottish Rite for the support that you have given me throughout the year, especially Rob Eades, 32°, KCCH, for allowing me an extra year to get through my treatments.

There is a lot going on with our valley this year. I am asking that each of you please try to remain patient with your leadership. I will do my very best to keep each of you informed about our progress of where we are going to make our new home. We also have two reunions this year. The spring reunion is April 15, and the fall reunion is October 14. I hope that each member will try their best to have a new candidate for one of the reunions.

Brethren, I am looking forward to the coming year. I still feel like I have just started as a new member of the Scottish Rite, and here I am, going in as Venerable Master. I can only pray that I will do a good job. One important lesson that I have learned in masonry is, we can achieve anything when we work together. If you have not been to a meeting in a while, I encourage you to come out. Let me know if there is anything I can help you with in the coming year.

S&LF,

Doyle Lee Miller, 32°, KCCH

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE *****

THERE WILL BE NO ANNUAL DINNER TICKETS FOR 2023.

Due to the rising cost of food and other goods,
the meal cost will be \$15.00 per person.

Reservations must be made no later than Monday, one week before the Stated Meeting. Reservations received after that will be \$20.00 per person.

Please call 804-264-2050 or email sroffice@richmondscottishrite.org to make your reservation.

Called from Labor

WILLIAM LEE ANDREWS

1935 - 2022

HARRY JAMES BERWICK, JR.

1930 - 2022

CONLEY CARROLL BRASWELL, JR.

1946 - 2022

KENNETH LEE BURTON

1925 - 2022

RONALD EVERETTE BUTLER, SR.

1941 - 2022

ROBERT EDWARD PRESTON

1941 - 2022

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

“whom virtue has united, Death will not separate”

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