

## VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

*Gary E. Hutchinson, 32°, KCCH*

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with your family and friends, and as we reflect on the success of last year's Lodge of Perfection, I sincerely hope we (to a man) are ready and willing to participate in this great order of Masonry, and to actively support it, making it, even better in 2024.

The Scottish Rite is not merely one part of this wonderful fraternity of Masonry, but it is a great order of good men who engage in friendship, relief, and benevolence, as well as, and unique to the Scottish Rite, Masonic education, growth, and morality, both individually and collectively. Within the heart of each man, the Scottish Rite seeks to empower and refine a deeply personal morality and a the distinctively unifying sentiments of tolerance and fraternity.

As your new Venerable Master, together with your 2024 team of officers and officials, and, most importantly, your participation, we anticipate an exciting, enlightening, and educational year in the Lodge of Perfection, as well as at our dinners after (where your ladies and non-Scottish Rite Masonic Brethren are always welcomed). 2024 has the potential to be a very active and, with your help and input, very engaging and exciting year for the Valley of Richmond.

As we start this new year, I offer this slightly modified version of an old Irish Blessing:

May each Scottish Rite Brother rise to participate, meet, and exceed his obligations.

May the wind always be at your back and the sunshine warm your face.

May the Great Architect hold us all in the hollow of his hands,  
until we meet again . . . At 6:00 pm on the 4th Monday of each month.

## MEMBERSHIP

*Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman*

December is always a busy month with all of the Holiday festivities we attend. Then comes January. We get to start off with a fresh slate with election and installation of new officers. Our DDGM's will be making their official visits to the Blue lodges so I know to show our support we will be visiting many Blue Lodges. This will give us an opportunity to talk with many Brothers that have not yet joined our Scottish Rite.

Our spring reunion will be held April 20, 2024, and is in memory of Ill. Ronald Everette Butler, Sr., 33°, IGH. Ronnie's masonic journey started as a DeMolay and never stopped. I think he was a member of just about every lodge in the 15th masonic district. He was the Grand Marshal for MW Doug Jones and an active member in many appendant bodies. Ronnie was our long-time caterer for the Richmond Scottish Rite. We all know his favorite go to was Lees Chicken and we will always remember him personally handing out Fat Boys for dessert.

Let's honor Ronnie by making this a successful Reunion. The petitions are on the web site or available in the office.

**SCOTTISH RITE  
MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Monday, January 22, 2024**  
 5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING  
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting  
 7:00 PM.....Dinner  
 Installation of Officers  
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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**Monday, February 26, 2024**  
 5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING  
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting  
 7:00 PM.....Dinner  
 Yesterday, To day & Tomorrow  
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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**Monday, March 25, 2024**  
 5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING  
 6:00 PM.....Business Meeting  
 7:00 PM.....Dinner  
 Bring a Mason to Dinner  
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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**RICHMOND VALLEY  
COMING EVENTS**

**— 2024 —  
JANUARY**

Monday 1 New Year’s Day  
 Wednesday 10 Honour Court  
 Monday 22 Stated Meeting

**FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 14 Valentine’s Day  
 Monday 26 Stated Meeting

**MARCH**

Monday 25 Stated Meeting  
 Sunday 31 Easter

**APRIL**

Monday 1 Office Closed  
 for Easter Monday  
 Wednesday 10 Honour Court  
 Saturday 20 Reunion  
 Monday 22 Stated Meeting

**FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK**  
*Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH*



Brethren, congratulations on the impressive turnout and support for Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis’ Visit to the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies in November. The Grand Master’s message and the dinner served by our 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 2024. Do your New Year’s Resolutions include being an active Scottish Rite Mason?

Our incoming Masters have been hard at work preparing their programs for 2024 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.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the Richmond Valley will host the Annual Scottish Rite Workshop for the Orient of Virginia at the ACCA Shrine Center. Let’s have an impressive Richmond Valley turnout for this event.

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 and Renewal. His plans are still being formulated, however, look forward to a memorable evening.

As we, further, turn our attention to the coming months, we look forward to our Spring Reunion on Saturday, April 20, 2024. This Reunion will be in memory of Ill. Ronald Everette Butler, Sr., 33°, IGH, who ably headed the kitchen and hospitality committee for many years. Our Membership Chairman is already working on plans for April, and we hope that it will result in a sizeable class to honor Ronnie’s memory. Give him all the help you can.

Last, please note the following regarding our meals. The price of food in general and the cost of catering in particular continue to increase. Despite this we continue to offer catered meals for you, Brethren, at the subsidized price of \$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 and good cheer. I look forward to seeing you at the January stated meeting.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Tom Varner, KCCH**

*Brethren,*

*As the old cliché goes, another year has come and gone. I think we have had a good year. There are many things we are doing that are moving the Richmond valley forward. We had our two reunions this year and although they were not as big as reunions of the past, they still brought in new members to the Richmond Valley. We have several committees working hard for the future of our valley and I wish them success on the many issues that we face in the coming year.*

*I would like to thank each of you for the turn out we had for the reception of our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jack Kayle Lewis. This is one of the highlights of the year. The Richmond guard once again displayed a very impressive "arch of steel". I think the Grand master was very impressed to have been received in this manner. I hope that each of you had a joyous and blessed Christmas. We are blessed to live in a country that allows us to meet has masons and to celebrate the holidays in the manner of our beliefs.*

*In closing, I want to thank each of you for the support that you have shown me this year. There are still many issues we are going to face in the coming year, but we need to be patient. We have a good group leading each of our committees and I know in time we will have the answers to many of your questions. I would also like to thank Mrs. Kathleen Nuckols for all the hard work she does during the year. She is very forgiving when you forget to make those dinner reservations. Also, to our secretary, Lambros G. Deligan, 32°, KCCH. This year would have been a much greater task if it were not for his help. Thanks to all the officers who served and assisted me this year. We could not have done the things we did this year if it were not for these men. Again, thank you all. I look forward to the New Year and to the leadership change. This always brings new ideas and programs that will allow us to move forward. I hope that each of you have a blessed and safe New Year.*

*Sincerely, and Fraternally,  
Doyle Lee Miller, Venerable Master, 2023*

What's in a name? I have been thinking a lot lately about the Book of Genesis, especially the stories of Enoch and the other Patriarchs. Our 13th Degree, the Royal Arch of Solomon, tells the Masonic legend of how God revealed his ineffable name to Enoch, who inscribed it on a gold plate set on a cubical stone. He then buried it at the bottom of a deep vault for safekeeping, as God had revealed to him the impending Great Flood and destruction of the world. This holy location, later named Mount Moriah, was where Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, where David met and appeased the Destroying Angel, and where King Solomon built his majestic Temple many centuries later.

It was there, while exploring the ancient ruins under the Temple, that three of King Solomon's architects rediscovered the lost name. We see again and again in the Bible the importance of a name. After God had established his covenant with Abram, which means "exalted father", he changed his name to Abraham, which means "Father of a multitude". When Jacob was at Mahanaim, he wrestled all night with God and, as a result of

this divine encounter, his name was changed to Israel, meaning "he who struggles with God". When Israel in return asked for His name, God declined to give it.

When Moses met God at the burning bush, he asked His Name and God said, "I am that I am", meaning He was the God of the past, present, and future, the only God, the one who always "is", the one who is always present. In the Book of Judges, Samson's father meets an angel and asks his name, only to receive "Why do you ask my name. It is beyond understanding." One more example is when Saul meets the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus and his name is changed to Paul.

What do all of these stories have in common? What can we learn from them as Masons? They were signs from God that these people were starting a new life, that He had blessed them, that they would never be the same again, and that there were new and higher expectations of them. In each of our Craft degrees, the candidate is raised from the altar with a new name, as befits his new status in receiving additional light. We know that names have power, that names give us control, that they give us something to look up to. Let us strive to conduct ourselves to be worthy of the name of Master Mason, and to pray for the blessings of God on ourselves and our families. As St. Timothy said, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a craftsman who does not need to be ashamed".

## THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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

Third Class Mail privileges  
authorized at Richmond, VA

### RICHMOND SCOTTISH RITE

3518 Mayland Court  
Henrico, VA 23233-1421

Phone (804) 264-2050  
E-Mail [srsecy@richmondscottishrite.org](mailto:srsecy@richmondscottishrite.org)

Office open: 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
Monday -Thursday  
Friday by Appointment

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## PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

*Terry F. Hilton, 33°*

Greetings Scottish Rite Masons and friends:

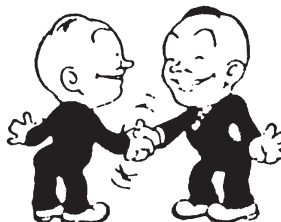
This is an exciting time for the Richmond Valley as we celebrate the successes of the past year with Illustrious Sam Dunn and look forward to the opportunities we have to shine the light on Richmond in 2024. Thank you, Ill. Sam for all you have done for the Richmond Valley.

It is a distinct honor to be named Personal Rep. I will do my very best to live up to the traditions of excellence that have been established in the Richmond Valley and in the Orient of Virginia.

The Scottish Rite Workshop will be March 16, 2024, at ACCA, our home for the immediate future. We will host each of the other Valleys and learn more about the activities of each for the coming year. Jumping way ahead to September, Richmond again takes center stage as the host for the 100-year anniversary of the Scottish Rite Conference. Please make plans to attend both events that will make a lasting impression on all SR Masons in Virginia. We have some exciting speakers and activities that will make this Conference unique, different, and worthwhile for all!

Thank you for your support as we work together to make all of this happen. If you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's all strive to be kind, helpful, and caring in the coming year.

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies  
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