



VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Gary E. Hutchinson, 32°, KCCH

The Richmond Valley has several significant events and programs this Spring, including:

- Our ongoing **“Bring-A-Mason-To-Dinner”** program. Several of us have already had non-Scottish Rite Masons join us at dinner to experience what we do and what we are about. To participate simply (1) look in your Blue Lodge and invite a Mason, not already a Scottish Rite Mason, (2) call the Scottish Rite Office (804-264-2050) and make a reservation for you and your guest(s). The Scottish Rite will cover their meal cost.
- **2024 Spring Reunion** – While this reunion was initially postponed, our Valley Personal Rep has rescheduled it for Saturday, June 1st. Let’s all try to get at least one petition and help make this a very special event. Just think, if each of us got only one petition, we would have a huge class! So, look in your Blue Lodge and invite a Mason, not already a Scottish Rite Mason, to dinner and to make a petition.
- **Our Monthly Educational Programs** – As a part of your Monthly Stated Communications, we have brief, but interesting presentations, by Brother Scottish Rite Masons, on Masonic education and morality. Hopefully, this will continue to provide each of us with additional insight in to our Scottish Rite Degrees, as well as motivate each of us to think about these Degrees and what they really mean to each of us and the Scottish Rite. As always, your thoughts and participation are encouraged. In May, we continue with a special program by our Orator, Brother Peyton Anderson, in Lodge and with our Prelate, Brother Tom Varner, presenting the Scottish Rite “Red Degrees,” which most of us have never heard of. Both should be very interesting and thought provoking.
- **Executive Council** – In April, our Valley Rep held our first Executive Council Meeting in quite some time. It was well attended, with very good participating. And like the rescheduled reunion, I believe you will see more exciting things happening in the coming months.

Finally, we want every member of our valley, new and old, in attendance at each month’s Stated Meetings and dinners. But equally important we want each member of our valley, new and old, participating and engaged in the meeting, dinners, in the Valley.

So, be present, have a voice, participate. Call the Scottish Rite office at (804-264-2050) and make your dinner reservations.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Spring and summer are the perfect time to advertise your Scottish Rite. Most Lodges go casual in the warmer months. This gives us a great opportunity to wear our Scottish Rite shirts to the place where all Masons are eligible to become a member. Then there's all the Graduation picnics. Another opportunity to spark interest!

Traditionally, stated meeting on June 24 is when we present scholarships and recognize teachers. To make a good impression, we need to make a good showing! Every young man that gets a scholarship might one day look back on that evening and think he wants to become one of us. Every young lady recipient has a father that might be impressed, and a future husband that she might tell about us.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 20, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....Dinner

TBA

Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

Monday, June 24, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....Dinner

Education Night

Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

No Meeting in July

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS — 2024 —

MAY

Sunday 12 Mother's Day

Monday 20 Stated Meeting

Monday 27 Memorial Day
Office Closed

JUNE

Sunday 16 Father's Day

Monday 24 Stated Meeting
Education Night

JULY

Thursday 4 Independence
Day
Office Closed

AUGUST

Monday 26 Stated Meeting
Family Night

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH



Once more Spring is among us revealing her beauty. We anticipate sunny and pleasant days. Along with all that, we look forward to taking on some projects in our home, our yard, our flower garden. And outdoor sport activities are beginning to be more and more enticing.

Our Spring Reunion honoring Ill. Brother Ronald Everette Butler, Sr., 33°, originally scheduled on Saturday, April 20, was postponed. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 1 at MAHOVA, 500 Masonic Ln, Richmond, VA 23223. We will be welcoming four new Masters of the Royal Secret to the Richmond Valley.

Reunions at MAHOVA open up new possibilities for us in terms of reducing our Reunion expenses drastically and being able to afford to hold Reunions with fewer than 10 candidates.

New members, you are encouraged to come to meetings regularly and to be active. To gain the full value of your membership, participation is necessary.

We still have over 35 members who have not paid their 2023 dues. If you would like to help to contact any of these brethren, stop by or call the office. Perhaps, there is someone on the list that you have a close relationship with and are able to contact. Sometimes a friendly voice on the phone will encourage a brother to pay his dues or discover whether an issue exists that the Valley may be able to help with.

The programs for May and June are listed in this newsletter. Please note. There is **NO MEETING IN JULY**. As per our By-Laws, 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.

Should you need to, please remember to update your email list and mailing address for the office.

Dinner reservations are required by Wednesday noon, the week prior to the meeting. Our caterer provides us with excellent meals at a reasonable price. Thus, we have been able to keep the price of dinner at \$15.00 with a reservation and \$20.00 at the door without a reservation.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

Have you ever heard of the "Red Lodge Degrees"? These are the Scottish Rite versions of the three Craft Degrees and they are quite different from the York Rite (or "Blue Lodge") Craft Degrees you receive here in Virginia. If you can attend our May 27 meeting in Richmond, I plan to review them.

In the Scottish Rite Master Mason Degree, the ruffians are not captured and punished. Instead, their fate is described in the Scottish Rite 9th and 10th Degrees. In the 9th Degree called "Elu of the Nine", King Solomon assigns nine craftsmen to capture the ruffians and return them to Jerusalem. One ruffian is trapped in a cave and killed, contrary to King Solomon's command. King Solomon becomes angry and assumes that the craftsmen disobeyed him, but after learning what happened, he realizes he had judged hastily.

In the next Degree called "Elu of the Fifteen", King Solomon sends fifteen craftsmen after the last two ruffians, who are finally captured, returned to Jerusalem, tried, and executed. According to Albert Pike and Henry Clausen, the three ruffians symbolize ignorance, tyranny, and fanaticism.

The lessons of these two degrees are to keep our passions within due bounds and to be tolerant in more than us? Remember that it is supposed to be the internal and not the external qualifications of a Symbolic Masonry, our degrees teach general behaviors like meeting on the level, doing good unto others, and the three ruffians, while also encouraging important character traits like courtesy, truthfulness, loyalty, and respect.

Perhaps the DeMolay ritual, which was developed from the Scottish Rite philosophy, teaches the lesson that I will not be hasty in my judgment of others, but will give them the benefit of the doubt rather than I judge them to have acted." This is a striking lesson not only for impressionable teenagers, but for you are somebody's idea of what Masonry is.

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

Susan Combee, Director

Communication is a pivotal part of making connections and experiencing the world around us. When individuals have difficulty in adequately expressing themselves or understanding those around them, they often feel as though something is missing in their world.

Our ability to understand those around us, as well as express our thoughts, feelings, and ideas is often impacted by a variety of speech disorders starting as young as infancy. We, as Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center help children with communication disorders in a variety of ways. A speech sound disorder involves challenges with producing specific speech sounds. Articulation (speech sound disorder) therapy focuses on pronunciation of the sounds used to form words (e.g. a lisp or saying "l" correctly). Stuttering is treated through education, ease, and empowerment. Language therapy can involve receptive or expressive disorders. Receptive disorders are challenges with processing language or show they understand what others are saying. Expressive language disorders make it hard for children to share their thoughts. Often these children have limited vocabulary, difficulty using complex sentences or unable to use language appropriately in a social setting.

Effective communication enhances our ability to express our basic needs and desires, to create, play, work, and love, and it prevents isolation, misunderstandings, and confusion. The Speech-Language Pathologists at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center work to foster stronger communication skills and improve a child's ability to carry out tasks necessary for successful daily living. Our goal is to empower children with the necessary skills to communicate, based on each person's unique situation.

More children than ever need the support and guidance of the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center's important services. If you know of a child who would benefit from our services, please ask the parent to call us (804-266-6699). We are happy to provide guidance in the next step to stronger communication skills. If you would like to support us in saying, "Yes, I want to help a child achieve their communication goals!" please visit our website (www.speech4children.org) and provide a gift through "donate now". You also can call our office at 804-266-6699 to give a gift using your credit card or mail a check to 4202 Hermitage Road, Richmond, VA 23227.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry Hilton, 33°

Greetings fellow Scottish Rite Masons. 2024 is off to a great start and things are looking up for all of us. Thank you for attending the business meetings and dinners we have had so far this year.

Congratulations to the Lodge of Perfection officers who are putting on some excellent programs that are truly educational. This has given us one more reason to attend the meetings. I want to thank Bro. Russell Wright for introducing a new SR Mason each month so we can all get to know them better.

It was quite a thrill to see Bro. Richard Harvey get all those certificates from the Master Craftsman Online course program. WOW, talk about doing some serious studying! Now we all know it can be done so who will be next?

The Executive Council met on Wednesday, April 24, and had a good turnout as well as a terrific exchange of ideas amongst the Brethren. We will have some ideas to share with everyone at the next business meeting for further discussion. These meetings will be held quarterly, and I hope will build fellowship, brotherly love, and positive energy for the Richmond Valley. The next meeting will be July 24.

Planning continues for the 100th Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia to be held on Sept. 26-28. Bro. Lin Spears, Conference President, has put together a great program led by the Thursday night visit to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. I think Friday night will be a new experience for the Brethren, and Saturday night will be the icing on the cake for this special occasion. Richmond can be proud of this event, and I hope many of you will take part in the meetings and the festivities during that weekend. Call the Office for more information and to register.

Finally, it saddened me to postpone the reunion scheduled for April 20. But even with dark clouds, a ray of sunshine appeared, and the reunion is rescheduled for June 1. It will be held at the Masonic Home. Please come out and support the new candidates with their top line signers in attendance also. This may help us get more new SR Masons regularly as we move into the future.

Thanks for all you do for Masonry, and especially, our Scottish Rite Richmond Valley!

our opinions towards others. How often do we jump to conclusions without knowing all the facts or make a quick judgement on someone different a man that matter to us. These types of examples are one of the ways in which the Scottish Rite adds to our Masonic knowledge. Whereas in to others, and helping distressed brethren, the Scottish Rite describes specific misbehaviors to avoid and combat, such as those exemplified by alty, heroism, and patriotism.

essons of these two degrees best: "I promise that I will be tolerant in my opinion, giving to others the same right to their belief which I expect from , realizing that they may be actuated by worthy motives unknown to me, and that under the same circumstances I might have acted even more agers, but for us who have many occasions each day to show what we have learned from Masonry. As our Grand Master likes to say on occasion,

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

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Donald Alexander King Cunningham, Jr., 32°
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman, Robert Siegel, 32°, KCCH

Brethren, the June Stated Meeting is the time for recognizing our student scholarship winners and our Teachers of the Year from Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Hanover County and Richmond City Public Schools. The recognition of these award recipients is only enhanced by your presence. Your enthusiastic support will help make this occasion a very memorable experience for the students and teachers who will receive the awards. Please attend the meeting on Monday, June 24, to honor our teachers and students and to show that the members of the Richmond Valley are very supportive of public education. Let's fill the dining room! I predict you will have a very enjoyable evening and will agree that it was a good use of your time.

I would like to thank the following members of the education committee for their invaluable assistance: Richard McGrath and Terry Hilton.

Called from Labor

ALEXANDER MURRAY CAMPBELL, JR.
1948 2024

EDWARD MOORE HUGHES
1934 - 2024

WAYNE ALFRED ROBISON, SR.
1930 2024

CHARLES THOMAS SYKES
1946 - 2024

RALPH WOGALTER
1927 - 2024

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

Stuart Cook
Tom Fifer
Moring E. Gravitt

Whit Hanscom
Robert A. Watts
Dale Wright

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