



## VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

*Gary E. Hutchinson, 32°, KCCH*

Here we are at mid-year. These past six months have really gone by quickly.

Your 2024 officers sincerely hope you find our meetings, dinners, programs, with our addition of Masonic education, morality, and degree reviews, interesting and instructional, as we do. We have more to come in the second half of the year.

If you have any input and/or ideas, we encourage hearing from you and welcome all input. Just email me (u2r Irish@msn.com) or the Scottish Rite office.

Another presentation from your Orator and several degree reviews are scheduled for our August Communications. In addition, the dinner program for August is "Family Night." We hope to have a full fledged family event, including a cook out and games and are hoping for participation by you and your entire family. More to come.

And remember our ongoing "**Bring-A-Mason-To-Dinner**" program. We have had several non-Scottish Rite Masons join us at dinner to experience what we do and what we are about. And several of our new Scottish Rite Masons have participated in this program. 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 for your guest.

And don't forget the 2024 Scottish Rite Conference, the 100th is being held by the Richmond Valley. Attendance/participation by each Richmond Valley Scottish Rite Mason is encouraged and needed. So, register and attend, I guarantee you will, at the very minimum, make new Masonic friends and enjoy yourself.

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 to make your dinner reservations.

## MEMBERSHIP

*Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman*

If you have never attended a Scottish Rite Conference before, this is your opportunity. The 100th Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will be hosted by the Richmond Valley this year. It will start off with a trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday, September 26, to be followed up with a Beach Party on Friday, September 27. There will be many informative and informational programs but, most importantly, we get to socialize with Scottish Rite members from the other valleys. This is your opportunity to find out what the others are doing and get ideas of things you want your Valley to do. It will be another 8 years before the conference will be hosted in Richmond again so you don't want to miss it. Call the office and make your reservations today.

## SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Monday, August 26, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....Dinner

Family Night

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

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### Monday, September 23, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....Dinner

TBD

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

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### Monday, October 28, 2024

5:30 PM..... GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....Dinner

TBD

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

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## RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

— 2024 —

### AUGUST

Monday 26    Stated Meeting  
                    Family Night

### SEPTEMBER

Monday 2        Labor Day  
                    Office Closed

Monday 23    Stated Meeting

Thursday 26   SR Conference  
– Saturday 28

### OCTOBER

Monday 28    Stated Meeting

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

*Lambros Deligan, 32°, KCCH*



As we close out July and head into August, we hope our 100 plus temperature days are behind us. For most of us, it is best to stay indoors and manage to stay cool. However, if you are dedicated to your golf game or need to work in the yard, then, be extra cautious and make sure to stay hydrated. You may also consider scheduling your activities as early in the morning as possible to avoid the hottest part of the day.

September is coming upon us fast and that will bring us the Scottish Rite Conference of the Orient of Virginia. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Conference and our Richmond Valley is hosting the Conference. You are encouraged to register and attend this historic Conference. It will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/ Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond VA 23233, from Thursday, September 26 to Saturday, September 18, 2024.

The events of the Conference include a Thursday night reception at the Museum, a Friday night buffet and Beach Party Dance and a Saturday night Banquet. Activities during the day include sessions with Ill and Adm. Bill Sizemore, Ill Art de Hoyos and Ill Bob Cockerham. Ill Bob Cockerham will make a presentation regarding the Cinematic Degrees. Our keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be Ill & MW James Dean Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction. What a fantastic Conference and feature guests. Don't miss out on the excitement and fun.

Dues notices for 2025 dues will be mailed by the Supreme Council soon. Unfortunately, we have a number of members on the delinquent list. Brethren who have not paid their 2023 dues. Call the office if you would like to assist in contacting our brethren about their dues obligations.

Our Fall Reunion in memory of Bro. William Samuel Richardson, 32° KCCH, will soon be upon us. Take the time now to contact your prospects and get them signed up for Saturday October 12. It is important that each of us replace ourselves, at least once, during our time as members of the Richmond Valley. Let us do it now. A Petition is available through the website or from this office, either by email or mail. Please use it.

The programs for August and September are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Preparations for Family night and the Feast of Tishri are well under way. Your next newsletter will be for October - December, so please save this issue for reference and to remind you of upcoming events.

Again, remember that your 2025 dues notice will be mailed shortly, and you should have it sometime in August. If your dues were current on June 1, 2024, your 2025 membership card will be included with the dues notice. If not, we will be mailing your card from the office. Let us all try and make sure our dues are current so that your Valley can fulfill its obligations.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH*

As I make my way through the Scottish Rite Degrees, I am especially interested in the 20th Degree, "Master of the Symbolic Lodge". In this degree, we learn the importance of truth, justice, and moderation, which the Master should always exemplify. The Degree teaches the duty of dispensing light and knowledge, which is similar to the Most Excellent Master Degree in the York Rite which teaches the duty of dispensing light and truth. What does it mean to dispense light and knowledge? What is the best way to do so?

We have all learned the importance of Masonic education, which is one way of dispensing light and knowledge. That is easy; we find willing listeners, develop an interesting program of instruction, and then act as a mentor in providing it. Another method of education is learned from the Five Points of Fellowship in which we are supposed to whisper good counsel to a Brother and, in the most friendly manner, advise him of his error and seek a reformation. That is not so easy. How many of us even in our families, even with our children, have difficulty in conveying important truths of right living and assist them in moving from their intended wrong path? It is just as difficult in a Masonic Lodge, where we sometimes have to speak with a Brother who is not acting in a Masonic manner, or who is not fulfilling his duties and responsibilities. It takes a measure of courage to approach a Brother, explain what he should be doing differently or better, and risk the pain of rejection or even losing a friend.

Near the end of the 20th Degree, a speaker representing Confucius invokes the Golden Rule, "Love thy neighbor as thyself. The Golden Rule is older than Jesus, older than Confucius; perhaps it was first expressed by Moses in Leviticus 19:18 over three thousand years ago. Perhaps taking the Golden Rule to heart is the best way to approach a Brother. No one likes to hear criticism; my least-favorite parts of any work year are when I receive my mid-year and year-end evaluations. But, yet, giving constructive criticism is our duty and our obligation, and if we provide it according to the Golden Rule, perhaps it will be received that way. How often do you hear of conflict within a Masonic Body when a Brother is replaced in office, and no one has talked to him beforehand about their concerns or encouraged him to try to do better? How often is a Brother engaging in conduct that is damaging the peace and harmony of a Lodge? It seems to me that if we do the hard work of using the common gavel on each other in the most loving way possible, that we may be able to make each other better. We all can improve what we do, we all have more to learn, and if we hear the proper words of truth in the moderating tones of brotherly love, we can continue to move from our rough ashlar phase toward being a perfect ashlar. Let's all give it a try!

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*James P. Gregory III, 32°*

I hope everyone is having a great summer thus far and staying cool in these "Dog Days" of summer, which seemed to get off to an early start this year. I would like to first thank our officers for your engagement and involvement as we all contribute unique perspectives, vision, ideas and most of all support for each other and the Richmond Valley Scottish Rite. In the spirit of fellowship, one celebration in particular, known as the "Feast of Tishri", is an ancient custom established as an opportunity to give thanks to each other and to our God for the many blessings which rest upon us all and all regular Masons. Since it is sometimes all too easy to take our Freedoms, Liberties, and each other for granted it is of even more important to recognize all the positive aspects of our lives and our fraternity, thus highlighting the importance of this celebratory occasion.

Historically, the Feast of Tishri was to celebrate the completion and dedication of King Solomons Temple. After 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness the Feast is one of the first Thanksgiving festivals on record. It was later in 1866 that the Supreme Council of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction proclaimed the 15th day of October as the Feast of Tabernacles of the Lodge of Perfection. On this day of harvest, I would like to invite you to our September Stated Meeting, September 23, 2024, for a moment at the dinner program to learn more about this special season. We hope you will leave the Business meeting with a deeper understanding of the degrees 19 – 30 within the Knights Kadosh. Until then, please take care of yourselves and each other and may God Bless all of you, your families, the Valley, and this Great land of Freedom, the United States of America!

## CLASS PRESIDENT, FALL 2023

*Joseph Dwyer, 32°*

The 2023 Fall Reunion in honor of Ill. Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33°, IGH, was a fantastic experience. For me, the Scottish Rite was veiled in mystery. I remember seeing the regalia poster in my Blue Lodge, Midlothian 211, and wondering what it all meant. Also, when I started to read the Masonic Bible given to me upon my Raising, my curiosity piqued further. I saw and read all these higher degrees and wondered what they all meant and how they were related. Luckily, I stopped wondering and guessing and finally acted and asked two of my Brothers Gary Hutchinson, and Duane Cunningham, to endorse my petition. Little did I know this was the beginning of an incredible and life-changing journey.

As the Reunion progressed, I felt the degrees start to build on each other. It was coming together like a puzzle, with each piece having its purpose, creating a masterfully painted portrait. This portrait then culminated in the Camp Scene, and when the Royal Secret was explained, it hit like a ton of bricks. I have struggled with finding equilibrium for several years. Hearing those profound words from the Camp struck me. At this moment, I knew I had made an incredibly wise Masonic decision and found another group of incredible Brothers. Joining the Scottish Rite reignited my passion for Masonry, and I cannot wait to learn more.

Finally, I would remise without acknowledging Ill. Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33rd Degree, IGH. I stand in awe of his Masonic resume. I never knew one man could do so much and be highly esteemed amongst peers, colleagues, and the community. It was also touching how our Valley recognized his spouse; her presence at the Reunion was remarkable and deeply appreciated.

## THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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## PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

**Terry F. Hilton, 33°**

Thank you, Scottish Rite Masons, for getting excited about the 100th Annual Scottish Rite Conference to be held here in Richmond on Sept. 27-28. Bro. Lin Spears, KCCH, has assembled a wonderful group of Brothers and ladies to create a terrific weekend of educational events, fun times, and great fellowship among the SR Brethren from across the Commonwealth. I won't repeat all the activities that are planned here but be sure and read about them and make your plans to attend.

It seems that the last few meetings have been getting better. Thank you for being a big part of this. Our Venerable Master has put together an agenda for the business meetings that holds our attention and gives us something to talk about. It is great to meet our new SR Masons and learn more about them. I think we all like the educational moments that give us one more reason to attend. If you haven't made it to a recent meeting, please consider attending the business meeting and staying for dinner. I look forward to seeing you!

Looking back for a minute, Thank you to Ill. Bro. Richard McGrath and Bro. Robert Siegel and Mary for another interesting and entertaining Education night. Isn't it a pleasure to hear all the stories that are behind the scholarships these young people have earned? Just think, it is because of you that we are able to sponsor these scholars and keep them headed down the path to success! Thank you.

Family Night is coming up in August. Bring your wives, kids, and grandkids. I feel certain Bro. Don Cunningham will have some great ideas for all to enjoy.

Please sign up for the 100th Conference in Virginia. Thank you. Terry Hilton

### Called from Labor

**EDWIN RICE HUGHES**  
1938 - 2024

**THOMAS EDMUND RODGERS, JR.**  
1926 - 2024

**JACK INNES WILLIAMS**  
1929 - 2022

**ROY HENRY LYTHGOE, JR.**  
1944 - 2024

**CHARLES SIMON SARBAUGH**  
1931 - 2024

**MICHAEL EARL WILLIAMS**  
1952 - 2024

**CHARLES GILBERT MILLER, JR.**  
1922 - 2024

**WILLIAM RHEA SHELTON**  
1932 - 2024

**STUART DOUGLAS RATCLIFFE**  
1943 - 2023

**JOSEPH PATRICK WESTFALL, JR.**  
1937 - 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**

Dale Wright

REQUESTED  
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