



## VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

*Gary E. Hutchinson, 32°, KCCH*

It's that time of year again, the fall season. I love the Indian summers with their cool mornings and evening, while most of the day remains warm. Great golf weather. But sadly, it indicates my year as your Venerable Master is coming to an end, with only a couple of meetings left before the installation of our elected and appointed officers for 2025.

These past months have been filled with many Scottish Rite activities, including an exceptionally well planned, executed, and attended (especially by our Richmond Valley) 100th Annual Scottish Rite Conferencing. Congratulations to all involved, with a special 'thanks' to our Richmond Valley Scottish Rite Guard and their well-received Arch of Steel at Saturday evening's dinner. The event was a big success and spoke volumes about the health of Freemasonry, and particularly the Scottish Rite, the Valley of Richmond, and our Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center.

Now we are preparing and planning our Fall Reunion on Saturday, October 26th at MAHOVA, beginning at 7:30 am. Get there early, you can meet and engage with our candidates and enjoy our standard coffee and donuts. And you still have time to get a petition in for this Reunion.

Our October Stated Communications is on Monday, October 28th, which is scheduled to begin at 7 pm after our dinner program (Past Venerable Master Night / 50-year presentation) at 6 pm. This month's meeting will include a presentation from your Orator and a study of the 14th Degree. As always, all are encouraged to come for dinner, being provided by our newly formed Culinary Committee, and stay for our Stated Meeting immediately after. Remember to call the office to make your dinner reservation.

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) invite a Mason, not already a Scottish Rite Mason, from your Blue Lodge, (2) call the Scottish Rite Office (804-264-2050) and make a reservation for you and your guest(s) and (3) the Scottish Rite will cover the cost of their meal. A great deal.

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, to participate and be engaged in the meeting, dinners, in their 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*

2024 is quickly winding down and though we like to reflect on all we have accomplished this year, let's not forget to keep our eyes focused on our goals for next year. We have a very special, once in a lifetime event planned for all our Scottish Rite members and all Master Masons that want to join our Scottish Rite in the spring of 2025. We will be heading to Guthrie, Oklahoma, for a three-day reunion. On April 4th, 5th and 6th the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma, will perform all 29 Degrees on stage and in full costume. What an experience this will be for a candidate joining the Scottish Rite. We just need to get the petition in his hands. Start making your plans to join us now.

**SCOTTISH RITE  
MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Monday, October 28, 2024**  
 5:30 PM.....Guard Meeting  
 6:00 PM.....Dinner  
 7:00 PM.....Business Meeting  
 TBD  
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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**Monday, November 25, 2024**  
 5:30 PM.....Guard Meeting  
 6:00 PM.....Dinner  
 7:00 PM.....Business Meeting  
 TBD  
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

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**RICHMOND  
VALLEY  
COMING EVENTS**

**OCTOBER (2024)**

Saturday 26 Degree Conferral  
 Monday 28 Stated Meeting

**NOVEMBER (2024)**

Wednesday 6 Grand Annual  
 - Sunday 10 Communication  
 Monday 25 Stated Meeting  
 Wednesday 27 Office Closed  
 Thursday 28 Thanksgiving  
 Office Closed

**DECEMBER (2024)**

Tuesday 24 Office Closes  
 at Noon  
 Wednesday 25 Christmas  
 Holiday

Thursday 27 Office Closed

**JANUARY (2025)**

Wednesday 1 New Year's Day  
 Office Closed  
 Monday 27 Stated Meeting

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



It is hard to believe that two years have passed since I was appointed General Secretary. Ill Brother Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°, had just passed away. He served Richmond Valley over 17 years. It is because of his good work and capable leadership that I was able to take on and fulfill the responsibilities of General Secretary of the Richmond Scottish Rite.

We have held two Reunions since October 2023. The first was held on October 14, 2023, in memory of Ill Robert Wales Carpenter, Jr., 33°. Ill Brother Charles Robinson, 33°, Director of Work, via Cinematic presentation conferred the degrees to 15 Brethren, who became Masters of the Royal Secret. On June 1, 2024, in memory of Ill Ronnie Butler, 33°, the degrees were conferred Cinematically to 5 Brethren at MAHOVA. On October 26, 2024, in memory of Brother Samuel Richardson, KCCH, we are again anticipating conferring the degrees Cinematically to 5 Brethren again at MAHOVA.

The Richmond Scottish Rite Valley, on September 26 to 28 hosted the 100th Annual Scottish Rite Conference at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump. The Conference was well attended, 250 Brethren registered to attend some portion of the Conference. Ill Brother Bill Sizemore, 33°, GC, and Ill Brother Arturo DeHoyos, 33° were presenters at the educational sessions. Ill Brother Bob Cockerham, 33°, SGIG made a presentation on the future of Cinematic Degrees. Our Keynote speaker, Ill & MW James Dean Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander was outstanding as usual. To lighten the mood on Thursday evening we had a reception and tours of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and on Friday evening we had our Beach Party and Hawaiian Shirt event.

Our very own, Ill and MW Brother Alan Adkins, 33°, SGIG was the perfect host. In October we will recognize our new 50-year members, along with our Past Venerable Masters. November will bring the Visit and reception of our newly installed 179th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

Regarding our meals, we now have a Culinary Committee, Chaired by Brother Scott Davis, 32°. The following Brethren have stepped up to assist Brother Scott, David Vass, KCCH; Charles Robinson, 33°, Brother Stephen Witt, Matt Johnson, KCCH, Don Cunningham, 32°, Tim Leber, 32°. The goal is to serve meals prepared by local restaurants. In September we had Lee's Chicken. In October we will have a Chinese meal from Peking on Broad Street. In November we are planning to procure a steak dinner for our special event.

Remember, reservations are required for dinner and must be made by the Wednesday of the week before the Stated. The cost for dinner with a reservation is \$15.00 per person. In October and November, the meal will be served at 6:00 PM, Stated will be held at 7:00 PM. The meal time schedule for the new year will be announced by the first of the year.

Our delinquent list is slowly shrinking. We now have over 30 members who have not paid their 2023 dues. We will activate the committee of Brethren, who last year volunteered to contact delinquent Brothers. Sometimes all it takes is a kind word or a sympathetic ear to convince a Brother to continue his membership in the Richmond Valley.

We are anticipating with excitement our year-end holidays. We will be celebrating Halloween and looking forward to Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year, where our New Year's Resolutions will guide us in 2025.

Remember that the Valley is dark in December. Our first Stated Meeting of 2025 will be the election and installation of officers on January 27, 2025, at our annual meeting. The office staff wants to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Merry Holiday Season as we gather with family and friends in celebration.

## GRAND MASTER'S BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Gary Dwight Huffman was born on May 6, 1964, in Roanoke, Virginia. He graduated from Northside High School in 1982 and attended courses at Virginia Western Community College, Radford University and the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and hold accreditation from the Professional Career Development Institute of Atlanta, Georgia.

In July 1986, he began a career with the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department, where he worked his way through the ranks and served in the position of Fire Marshal for ten years prior to his retirement on June 1, 2014. During his fire service career, he attended the Law Enforcement Academy through the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and served two terms as President of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association.

Brother Huffman was raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 21, 1999, in Vinton Lodge No. 204, where he served as it's Worshipful Master in 2015. He is now a member of Lakeland Lodge No. 190 as result of a consolidation with Vinton Lodge in 2022. He is also a member of Boone Lodge No. 247.

He served as Grand Purveyor in 2011, Grand Tiler in 2015, and Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master in 2018, and was elected to the Office of Grand Junior Deacon in 2018. He is the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Florida, near Virginia.

Brother Huffman is a member of the Valley of Roanoke, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. He is a KCCH and holds membership in the Scottish Rite Research Society. He is a member of DC Shanks Royal Arch Chapter No. 31, Bayard Commandery No. 15 Knights Templar and Kazim Shrine Temple, where he has served as Captain and Secretary- Treasurer in the Provost Guard Unit. He served as Chief of the South Atlantic Shrine Association for Provost Guard Units. He served as Captain of the Mystic Pirates Unit and holds Membership in the Clifton Forge, Giles County, New River Valley and Roanoke Valley Shrine Clubs. In addition, he holds honorary membership in Acca, Oasis, Sudan, Khedive, Omar, and Hejaz Shrine Temples. He serves on the Greenville, South Carolina Shriners Hospital for Children's Hospital Board of Governors and has held the Chairman position for Building and Equipment Committee, and Human Resources Committee. He currently Chairs the Marketing and Communication Committee.

Brother Huffman is Married to the former Paula Ann Compton of Botetourt County. They live in Roanoke, Virginia and together they have two children; a daughter, Jordan Huffman Cox, Graduate of Roanoke College and a teacher, who is married to Brother Randall Hunter Cox. They have three small children and live in Salem, Virginia. Paula and Gary have a son, Brother Mason Cole Huffman, a graduate of Liberty University who is currently employed at Liberty and pursuing a Masters Degree.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER *Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH*

I am often called to perform Masonic funerals. When I do so, I think of our fifth degree, that of Perfect Master, in which King Solomon extolls the virtues of our beloved Grand Master Hiram Abif. Unlike the fourth degree, which is draped solemnly for mourning, the Perfect Master degree is a celebration of life. King Solomon honors the departed brother with a magnificent oration on his great abilities and skills, and how he symbolized the virtues of industry, honesty, charity, freedom, and spiritual power. These are striking lessons for us also.

In the fourth degree, we are taught the importance of performing our duty; in this degree, it expands that lesson to the importance of industry, that is to say, staying busy and doing our duty NOW. Albert Pike wrote that "Life is far too short and fleeting to waste time in idleness, follies or dissipation." The 24-inch gauge in our Entered Apprentice degree teaches us to dedicate sixteen hours each day to the service of God, the relief of a distressed worthy brother, and our usual vocations, while the beehive in the Master Mason degree teaches that we should never sit down contented while our fellow creatures are in want. Who among us can claim that we never waste time?

I think the best we can do is to know what we are supposed to accomplish, develop our plans, and work each day to advance them forward. We should be lifetime learners, constantly reading and studying to improve our knowledge and abilities. As Albert Pike wrote, "To sleep little, and to study much; to say little, and to hear and think much; to learn, that we may be able to do, and then to do, earnestly and vigorously, whatever may be required of us by duty, and by the good of our fellows, our country, and mankind,—these are the duties of every Mason who desires to imitate the Master Hiram." When our time comes to translate from this imperfect to that all-perfect celestial lodge above, we can take comfort in our belief in eternal life, that we made the most of the life we had, and that our family and friends can rejoice in and cherish the memory of, despite their sadness, the many contributions we made for their welfare.

## THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Monday -Thursday  
Friday by Appointment

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**Alan Wayne Adkins, 33°, G.C.**

S.G.I.G. in Virginia

**Clifford A. Parker, 33°**

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**Donald Alexander King Cunningham, Jr., 32°**

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

## PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

*Terry F. Hilton, 33°*

Greetings fellow Scottish Rite Masons. 2024 continues to roll right along as we head into a couple of very exciting months.

Congratulations to all who participated in making the 100th Anniversary Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia a rousing success. There were so many of our Richmond Valley members who lent a helping hand with a happy heart and a joyful attitude. Thank you to our office staff, RW Lambros Deligan and Kathleen Nuckols who outdid themselves with all the prep work to make the whole event flow smoothly. Our goal was to put on a Conference that lived up the 100-year billing and we did it! A good time was had by all, and we had some of the best speakers ever right here in Richmond.

My hat is off to RW Lin Spears, the Conference President, who despite personal tragedy earlier this year, mustered enough pride and stamina to lead us into a great experience. Indeed, a good time was had by all in attendance. Just check out some of the photos of the Friday night Beach Party!

We were also fortunate to have our Sovereign Grand Commander with us to speak on Saturday night at the closing banquet. Once again, Ill. Jim Cole lived up to his billing as one of the great speakers of all time.

Now, back to business. Brethren, we checked out the two storage areas that we are paying for monthly. We have a full-size safe as well as Lodge furniture, most recently owned by Metropolitan Lodge and used by Temple Lodge in our previous building. We are looking for someone to acquire these. It would be a shame to take them to the dump.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. We can thank Bro. Scott Davis and the culinary committee for stepping up to do our own food service instead of using a caterer. Last month was simply outstanding, and we have some great ideas for future meetings. If you want to help, please contact Wor. Bro. Scott. Thank you.

As we continue to work together, remember the words of Dale Carnegie: "People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing". I know the SR Masons are all about fun!

### Called from Labor

DAVID LEIGHTON AHLBERT

1944 - 2021

CHRISTOPHER EDWARD CROUSE, JR.

1937 - 2023

BLANTON HILLSMAN HENLEY, JR.

1948 - 2024

RANDOLPH LEIGHTON CHELBORG

1943 - 2024

HERBERT HOBSON EADES, JR.

1941 - 2024

BILLY WADDELL HUDDLE

1932 - 2023

**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

Barrye Absher

REQUESTED  
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