

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Whitney E. Hanscom, Sr., 32°, KCCH

I would like to begin with wishing everyone a Happy New Year and that I hope your holidays were filled with good cheer and good memories. Living in the greatest country in the world, we have so much to be grateful for. Our founding fathers had a vision to make this country a place where suffering and injustice should not be created by others. Through Freemasonry, we learn how to constantly improve ourselves, our communities, our country, and the world we live in. Let's keep the momentum going. Let's take it to the next level. By improving ourselves we can be a light to the people around us; and thus affect our communities, our country, and the world. Let's us not forget to practice gratitude every day, for only then can we open up to wonders of giving and charity. Every day, think about all the things you are grateful for and see what happens. It's amazing, Brethren.

On a lighter note, we have many great speakers lined up the year. The Sovereign Grand Commander will be visiting our valley; however, I won't tell you what month he is coming so it will be a surprise. We also have a lot of educational speakers lined up to help us all in our journey. We have a couple of other surprises coming. Stay tuned Brethren!

Finally, I would like everyone to think about what activities, events and happenings would make the perfect Scottish Rite year for you. I may be calling on you so please give it some thought. If we can't get your ideas in this year we can pass it on to our future leaders for their consideration.

Thank you all for your support and friendship as Brothers. It is one of the things I think about every day. God bless you, and God bless our Friendly Craft.



My Fellow Scottish Rite Brethren,

As I stated in our last newsletter, we are at the end of my year as your Venerable Master, and we will be insulating our newly elected and appointed officers for 2025.

I am excited for our leadership and our Valley for this coming year.

But before we fully close this chapter in our Valley's story, I would like to think that 2024 has been a good year for our Valley. And I certainly hope each of you agree.

A few of our goals and accomplishments for this year have included:

- More educational and, hopefully, meaningful programs during both our Stated Meetings and dinners,
- Continued spotlighting of our newest Scottish Rite Brethren, with the intent of helping get them involved and vested in the Rite and this Valley,
- Continued support of the 'Bring-A-Mason-To-Dinner' program,
- More aggressive activity with our Blue Lodge Ambassadors program, as we continue to increase our membership,
- Our recently started Cutlery Team, serving better, dinners,
- Better attendance and participation, at Stated Meetings and dinners
- Continued promotion and improved support of our SRCLC,
- Our Orator has set a very high standard to follow,
- A very successful 100th Anniversary Scottish Rite Conference, with a large Valley participation.
- Beginning of working toward reactivating our ladies' meetings and programs.

Brethren, I find The State of the Craft and of our Valley to be in very good shape, despite some concerns, including currently being without a home, there is strong evidence that our Richmond Valley is doing a good job of 'caring for and maintaining' our Valley and the Scottish Rite Craft. As we move forward into next year and thereafter, I respectfully request that we, as individual Scottish Rite Masons and as a Valley continue to do our best work advancing our craft, our Richmond Valley, and our Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center.

In closing my last newsletter article, and my term, I want to let you know that it has been a sincere honor and privilege to serve the Richmond Valley as your Venerable Master this past year. And I want to thank all my officers, chapter leaders, the current and past Valley Reps, our General Secretary and Kathleen and each brother that participated this year for all the support, encouragement, and flexibility to make this year a success.

Thank you,
Gary E. Hutchinson, 32° KCCH, 2024 Venerable Master

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 27, 2025

5:30 PM..... Guard Meeting
 6:00 PM..... Business Meeting
 Election of Officers
 7:00 PM..... Dinner
 Installation of Officers
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

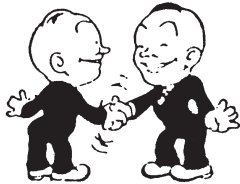
Monday, February 24, 2025

5:30 PM..... Guard Meeting
 6:00 PM..... Dinner
 7:00 PM..... Business Meeting
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

Monday, March 24, 2025

5:30 PM..... Guard Meeting
 6:00 PM..... Dinner
 7:00 PM..... Business Meeting
 Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Monday 27 Stated Meeting

FEBRUARY

Monday 24 Stated Meeting

MARCH

Monday 24 Stated Meeting

Saturday 29 SR Workshop

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



Brethren, congratulations on the impressive turnout and support for Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman's Visit to the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies in November. The Grand Master's message and the Outback Dinner served by our Culinary Committee, Chaired by Brother Scott Davis, 32° 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 2025. 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 2025 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 29, 2025, 8:30AM, 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 Reunions. The first will be held on April 4, 5, 6, 2025 in Guthrie, OK. The second will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the MAHOVA Caldas Family Conference Center. These Reunions will be in memory of Ill. David Elam Amstutz, 33°, IGH. Ill Charles Robinson, 33°, IGH, our Membership Chairman and Brother Bill Heltzel, 32°, KCCH are already working on plans for the April, Guthrie, OK, Reunion, and we anticipate that their efforts will result in a sizeable class to honor David's memory. Let's show our support by bringing in petitions.

Last, please note the following regarding our meals. We now have a Culinary Committee that will be serving meals prepared in various local restaurants. We will continue to offer you these meals 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. In addition, you may purchase a meal ticket for 2025 meals at \$150.00 per person by cash or check. Please add \$5.00 per person additional for payment by credit card.

May the New Year find you in good health and good cheer. I look forward to seeing you at the January stated meeting.

One of my favorite degrees is the 18th, Knight of Rose Croix. It is one of our five core degrees we have today. It starts with the world wreathed in darkness, overcome by evil, and all is in great distress. The evil ways of mankind and how God seems to have abandoned us to our fate, but undaunted

On his way, he sees the constellations of faith, hope, and charity, which give him purpose and courage. He sees the infinite goodness of God, the immortality of the soul, how justice will prevail, that evil and sorrow will be overcome.

What can we learn from this? First, that we must have faith in God and hope that all things will work out for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." Our faith teaches us that

In the Bible, charity is an interchangeable word with love, and this degree teaches the "New Law" which is with all your soul and with all your mind. And... You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

As a Scottish Rite Mason, you are a new person: The old temple had the pillars of wisdom, strength, and courage about our own faults. As Albert Pike wrote, "To be trustful, to be hopeful, to be indulgent; these are the supports of every Masonic Temple. For he only is wise who judges others charitably; he only is strong who is a father year for you and your family.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Holiday greetings to all. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and look forward to a new year of fellowship and good times in the Richmond Valley.

It is with sadness as I write this article knowing that RW Rick Kidd, our SR Guard Commander, passed away. Please keep Linda and the Kidd family in your thoughts and prayers as they struggle with this grief. He was a good Mason and did an excellent job in everything we asked him to do for the Scottish Rite.

As we look forward to 2025, please think of ways you can help the Richmond Valley. Most importantly it is highly likely we will be making decisions relative to a new Home for the Valley and all that entails. Please remember the Brotherly Love that will be needed as we consider options and all the many questions that will arise during this process. It is my hope that we can work together to come up with solutions that will benefit our Scottish Rite for many years in the future.

The Executive Council will resume meeting to discuss the business of the Valley. Please take advantage of these meetings as we welcome new ideas and creative ways of achieving our goals during 2025. I would like to see us develop a fund-raising event to help our charity, the Childhood Language Center as well as our Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to Bro. Scott Davis and his Culinary Committee for the fantastic meals we have had over the last few months. Our main goal was to serve a better meal for the same price or less than we had to pay the caterer. While this has been a work in progress, I am very appreciative of the efforts of Scott and his serving crew and think that things can only get better this year. If you have ideas or want to help serve, please contact the office.

Please remember the special Reunion Trip we are planning to Guthrie, OK, in April. This will be a highlight of our year and will be a once-in-a-lifetime event for those who are able to attend. Thanks to RW Bill Heltzel, KCCH, for putting this together. Reservations are required and there are other details so contact RW Bill if you are interested. I will be there in support of all our candidates. It will give us a chance to remember Ill. Bro. Dave Amstutz, a Member of the College of the Consistory in the Guthrie Valley. I believe he is the only member from Richmond to achieve this high honor.

Best wishes to our new officers who will be installed in January. Thank you for your service!

GUTHRIE SPRING '25 IS ON!

The Richmond Valley is pleased to announce Guthrie Spring '25. Virginia Scottish Rite Masonry is going on the road. With the concurrence of Richmond Valley leadership and the SGIG, the Master Masons of Virginia are invited to attend the annual conferral of the Degrees of the Scottish Rite in Guthrie, Oklahoma on April 4, 5 and 6, 2025. Whether already a Master of The Royal Secret, or as a candidate in pursuit of additional Masonic Light, every Virginia Mason is encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

As our method of bringing new brethren to the 32nd Degree evolves in the new century, we are also blessed to be able to enjoy 100 years of experience in the traditional presentation of our degrees. Early in the 1920s, the members of the Valley of Guthrie made a monumental commitment to our craft. A century later, the Scottish Rite Temple stands as a centerpiece of education in the degrees of our Rite. Each spring, Guthrie is honored to present the 29 degrees of our Rite in a single presentation on its historic stage. Every Master Mason in Virginia is invited to experience the beauty and the majesty of our degrees. Candidates will receive the work as a courtesy to their home Valleys. Petitions should ideally be received by the January Stated Meeting.

For additional information contact Bill Heltzel 32° KCCH on 804-363-2602 V/T or e-mail at guthriespring25@yahoo.com which has been established for this very special event.

To paraphrase Horace Greely: Go west, Master Mason, go west!

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

and was always conferred at Reunions. Reading it again recently, I was struck by its religious significance and relationship to the world we stress. A hero steps forward to discover the True Word and bring light back again. He then encounters three strangers who lecture him about I, he begins his journey.

determination while he passes scenes of desolation and death. Finally, he discovers the True Word, the light returns, and he is taught about row will be defeated, and that all our actions have consequences.

work out properly, no matter how dark and bleak they may seem. As it says in the Book of Romans, "And we know that all things work together ches us that God is in control, that He will fulfill His promises to us, and that a spirit of hope and optimism will uplift us.

y of Love", where we are to show others the same love that God gives us. As it says "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and

ength, and beauty, and the new restored pillars now have faith, hope, and charity added to them. We must be tolerant of others and humble in an age of selfishness, of ill opinion of human nature, of harsh and bitter judgment, are the most important Masonic Virtues, and the true strong who is hopeful; and there is no beauty like a firm faith in God, our fellows, and ourself." I hope that 2025 will be a successful and fruitful

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MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Happy New Year! The new year is a new beginning, a chance to try things differently in the hopes of getting better results. Your Scottish Rite is no different. We are going to have a spring reunion in Guthrie Oklahoma on April 4, 5 and 6. They will be performing all 29 Degrees on stage and in full costume. Very few of us have ever seen all the degrees. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us. Can you imagine how impressive this would be for a new candidate? Let's make sure everyone that might want to join us gets the chance to go and let's take a big class with us.

Called from Labor

William Harrison Pearson, Jr.
1931 - 2015

Floyd Swann Puryear
1941 - 2022

Randolph John Kangas
1947 - 2023

Carl Eddie Tate
1939 - 2024

Wayne Lee Myers
1943 - 2024

Samuel Newcomb Kirkland, Jr.
1931 - 2024

Walter Linwood Olphin, Jr.
1928 - 2024

Harold Edward Lester
1935 - 2024

Richard - Clark Kidd
1942 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

Samuel E. Dunn

George W. Thomas, Jr.

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