

## VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

*Whitney E. Hanscom, Sr., 32°, KCCH*

As we stand on the cusp of a new season, let us take a moment to reflect on the beauty and promise that spring holds for us all. The chill of winter will soon be retreating, and we will be greeted by the gentle warmth of the sun, the vibrant colors of blooming flowers, and the songs of birds returning from their southern sojourns. Nature itself is a testament to the cycles of life, renewal, and transformation—principles that resonate deeply within the tenets of Freemasonry.

Spring is a time of rejuvenation and new beginnings, a fitting symbol for the journey we undertake as Masons. Just as the earth awakens from its winter slumber, so too, are we called to awaken our spirits, to nurture the seeds of wisdom and virtue planted within us. It is a season to recommit ourselves to the Masonic virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth. These ideals, much like the tender buds of spring, require our care and dedication to flourish.

For us, the warming weather is more than just a change in temperature; it is an invitation to engage more deeply with our Masonic family and the community at large. As the days grow longer, let us take the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and forge new ones, to extend a helping hand to those in need, and to share the light of our fraternity with the world around us. The spirit of charity and benevolence, so intrinsic to our order, finds a natural expression in the acts of kindness and compassion we can perform during this coming season of growth and renewal.

Moreover, spring is a time for reflection and personal growth. As Masons, we are encouraged to continuously seek knowledge and understanding, to polish the rough ashlar of our character. Let us use this time to delve deeper into the teachings and symbols of our craft, to enrich our minds and souls, and to emerge as better men and Masons.

In the coming weeks, as nature dons its vibrant cloak and the world around us bursts into life, let us be inspired by the resilience and beauty of creation. May we embrace the promise of spring with open hearts and renewed enthusiasm, ready to embark on the next chapter of our Masonic journey. Together, let us build a future that reflects the highest ideals of our fraternity—a future as bright and hopeful as the season before us.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH*

Who is my neighbor? In virtually every Masonic obligation we take, we are assured that it does not conflict with our duties to God, our country, our neighbors, or ourselves. But how often do we consider who is really our neighbor and what are our duties to him?

In a conversation in the Book of Luke, a scribe states the moral law as: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." When the scribe then asked who was his neighbor, he was told the famous Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which a Priest and a Levite ignored a man beaten and left to die on the side of the road. However, a Samaritan stopped, bound up the man's wounds, took him to shelter, and left money to take care of him. This was an extraordinary act, for Israelites and Samaritans had been extremely hostile for centuries. When the scribe was asked who had been a neighbor to the injured man, he replied "The one who showed him mercy".

And so, as Masons, when we consider who are our neighbors, they are not just the people who live on our street, but all human beings. They are not just people of like mind or religion, but even those with whom we would not normally associate. In the closing charge, we are reminded that every human being has a claim on our kind offices, do good unto all.

We learn in the Entered Apprentice Degree that when we meet a fellow creature in like destitute condition, we should relieve his necessities as liberally as we can without material injury to ourselves. In the Entered Apprentice Charge, we are told that, by the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human race as one family who ought to aid, support and protect each other.

In the Scottish Rite 4th Degree, we learn that one of the attributes of God is mercy, which can also be explained as kindness. And so how does Masonry set an example of mercy and kindness for our uncivil society? By showing that we can cross boundaries to show brotherly love, that we are willing to help all people, even those with whom we disagree, and that our obligations to perform these duties are real and binding. Go and do likewise!

## SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

### 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)

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### Monday, April 28, 2025

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

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### Monday, May 19, 2025

*Note: Date Change due to Memorial Day*

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

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## RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

### MARCH

Monday 24 Stated Meeting  
 Saturday 29 SR Workshop

### APRIL

Friday 4 Degree Conferral  
 - Sunday 6 Guthrie, OK  
 Wednesday 9 Honour Court

Saturday 12 Degree Conferral  
 – MAHOVA

Monday 21 Office Closed  
 Easter Monday

Monday 28 Stated Meeting

### MAY

Sunday 11 Mother's Day  
 Monday 19 Stated Meeting  
 Monday 26 Office Closed  
 Memorial Day

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



March is coming and we are heading into Spring. Hopefully, the snow and ice conditions are behind us, and we look forward to less inclement weather. Let a new beginning commence as we can start enjoying the outdoors by working in our gardens, maintaining our lawns and, of course, playing a round or two of golf. Spring is also a time to renew our commitment to the Richmond Scottish Rite and join company at our stated meetings. I look forward to seeing you there and enjoying your company.

Spring also represents a renewed effort towards education and membership. First, we have the Spring Workshop on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at ACCA Shrine Temple. The Workshop is hosted by Portsmouth this year. Come out and support our Valley. Second, we will have two Spring Reunions and Degree Conferrals. The first Spring 2025 Reunion will be held over several days beginning on Friday, April 4, 2025, through Sunday April 6, 2025, in Guthrie, Oklahoma. A second Spring Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at MAHOVA. Both Spring Reunions will be held in Honor of Ill. David Elam Amstutz, 33°, IGH. Ill. David became a lifetime member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite, upon completing a five-year study of their enhanced Master Craftsman type program on each of the 29 degrees and became a graduate of the Guthrie College of the Consistory.

Scholarship applications are available in the office or on the website and must be received in complete form no later than NOON, Thursday, MARCH 13, 2025. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Scholarship award recipient announcements will be made by Thursday, March 27, 2025. Presentation of Scholarships Will Take Place on the Evening of Monday, June 23, 2025, at the Scottish Rite Stated Dinner meeting. Applicants selected to receive a scholarship are required to be present.

Spring is, also, the time of year when we honor JROTC cadets from surrounding school systems. If you would like to participate in the presentation of these awards, please call the office.

The Chapter Rose Croix, under the leadership of Bro. Robert Dalton Baird, II, 32°, Wise Master, will present the annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at the April 28, 2025, business meeting.

Brethren, please check your dues card. As of this writing, we have over 20 members who have not paid last year's dues and are subject to suspension. If your dues card is not a 2025 card, let's get together and take care of this matter. I realize that reminder notices may have already been received.

Last, regarding our meals, our Culinary Committee headed by Brother Scott Davis, 32° will continue serving outstanding meals in 2025. Reservations for dinner at \$15.00 a person are required. You must make your reservation by Thursday, noon, of the week prior to the meeting. Reservations after the deadline or at the door will require \$20.00 per person. **Brethren with a meal ticket**, please let us know if you are NOT coming, so as to NOT waste a meal.

## PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

*Terry F. Hilton, 33°*

This year seems to be off to a good start and I am grateful for the support and enthusiasm everyone is showing in the Richmond Valley. It is a distinct honor to serve this Valley.

I want to remind everyone about the VMAP Program and how important this is to the health and success of our Valley. Bro. Peyton Anderson has prepared a survey to learn more about our interests and how we can make changes for the better as we go along. Please take the time to complete this survey and give us your thoughts. Of course, we cannot implement all of the suggestions, but we want to be aware of them as we consider our actions going forward. If you have special concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to share them with me directly.

Thank you to RW Bill Heltzel for his work in the Richmond Valley to arrange the Reunion trip to Guthrie, OK. Bill has worked steadfastly with the Lodges and even the other Virginia Valleys to make sure everyone knows about this trip. I believe we will have a strong presence on April 4-6 in Guthrie and it will be a great learning experience for all of us. If you are interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to contact either RW Bill, or RW Lambros, or me to learn more about this wonderful opportunity to see all 29 degrees performed live on stage!

Please don't forget that we are hosting the Spring Workshop for the Orient of Virginia once again on March 29. We encourage all SR Masons to attend and we want those blue blazers from Richmond to stand out with the most Brethren in attendance. RW Lambros will be providing additional details but please plan on coming out for this program on Saturday morning followed by a hearty lunch!

Congratulations once again to our new officers for 2025. Venerable Master Whit has some outstanding programs planned for this year as well as continuing the ritual/educational portion of our Stated meetings. Please join us for our meetings and dinners on the 4th Monday of each month.

Speaking of dinners, let's give a shout out to Bro. Scott Davis and Bro. Steve Witt for all the work they have put in to make our meals better in 2025. Thank them when you go thru the line! The salads are simply the best ever, the meal choices from some excellent restaurants are served in house and have given us a more pleasant dining experience than recent history. Remember, this is a good time to bring your wife out for dinner, spend less money, and make some new friends! And please, make your reservations early so we know you are coming, (and save \$5.)

Brethren, as you read thru this I saved a new announcement for last. The Richmond Valley is going to the House of the Temple! We did this in 2018 and had a full bus for a terrific trip to Washington DC to see our Headquarters and all that it represents. Please save the date, June 14, 2025, Flag Day, and plan on joining us for a great day. Your family is welcome to come along!

I look forward to seeing you at any and all of our events. Thank you!

## CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

*Wise Master*

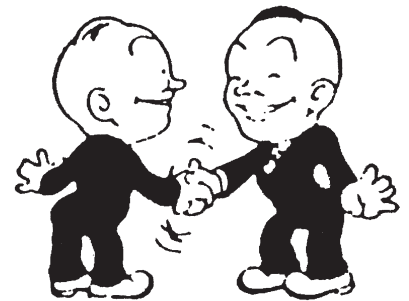
*Robert Dalton Baird II*

Greetings Brethren! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as this year's Wise Master of the Rose Croix. I look forward to working with the other members of our valley's leadership team. I would like to thank the newest members of the Rose Croix, several of whom only recently joined our Valley. It is through their dedication and your effort that our Valley will grow.

On behalf of myself and the brethren of the Rose Croix I'd like to invite you to our presentation of the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance at our April Communication. This is when we take a moment to remember the brethren of our valley who have been called from labor within the past 12 months. For me, it is one of the most impressive ceremonies that we do to honor our brethren.

I'd like to leave you with this quote from Banksy, "..., **they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time.**"

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

## THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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**Paul Joseph Rinko, 32°**  
Master of Kadosh, Consistory

## MEMBERSHIP

*Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman*

I don't know about you but I am ready for spring. With the warmer weather is a chance for us to get out for some fun and fellowship. You still have time to join us as we go to Guthrie Oklahoma for our spring reunion on April 4-6. They will be performing all 29 Degrees live. Most of us have never seen all 29 degrees live. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. For anyone wanting to join the Scottish Rite at this special reunion, applications can be printed from our web site, [RichmondScottishRite.org](http://RichmondScottishRite.org), and any two Scottish Rite members will be glad to sign your petition. All petitions must be returned back to the office no later than March 24th, 2025.

It's also not too early to start making plans to attend the Scottish Rite Conference this fall. It will be held September 25-28, 2025, in Virginia Beach. This is your opportunity to find out what the other valleys are doing and socialize with old friends. It will also be just as much fun and a whole lot less stressful than the last one was. See you there.

### Called from Labor

**Harold Wayn Fleenor**  
1931 - 2025

**Amos Owen Spencer**  
1928 - 2024

**Luther Easley Spencer, Jr.**  
1936 - 2025

**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

**Al Dranoff**

REQUESTED  
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