

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Whitney E. Hanscom, Sr., 32°, KCCH

Brethren, in the Richmond Valley of Scottish Rite, August is celebrated as Family Month, a time dedicated to enhancing and cherishing our family bonds. Family is the cornerstone of our lives, providing love, support, and opportunities for growth. As Scottish Rite Masons, we have a unique opportunity to enrich our family life by applying the principles and beliefs that guide our fraternity.

Charity is a fundamental tenet of Freemasonry, which encourages us to give without expectation. This principle can be applied within your family by practicing acts of kindness and generosity. Whether it's helping with household chores, actively listening to a family member, or supporting them through challenges, these small acts can significantly enhance family harmony. Consider setting aside time each week for family activities that encourage togetherness, volunteering as a family at a local charity or community event, or practicing random acts of kindness within the family, such as leaving a thoughtful note or preparing someone's favorite meal.

The Scottish Rite encourages the pursuit of knowledge and understanding, and fostering this within your family promotes open communication. Encourage each family member to express their thoughts and feelings and make a habit of listening actively and empathetically. Establishing a regular family meeting to discuss any issues or share exciting news can be beneficial. Sharing stories from your own experiences in Freemasonry that highlight the importance of understanding and empathy can further enrich these conversations.

Integrity is at the heart of Freemasonry, and demonstrating honesty and transparency in your interactions cultivates trust and respect. Consistency in your actions and words will let your family see you uphold your Masonic values. Encouraging your children to be truthful by rewarding honesty and discussing ethical dilemmas and how you can handle them as a family are excellent ways to foster a spirit of integrity and honesty.

While these principles can greatly enhance family dynamics, it's important to acknowledge that every family is unique. Some might find that focusing on different aspects, such as conflict resolution or quality time, is more effective for them. By integrating the Scottish Rite principles into your family life, you are not only honoring the traditions of Freemasonry but also building a strong, supportive, and loving family environment. Your efforts will not only benefit your immediate family but also set a positive example for future generations. We hope you find joy and fulfillment in celebrating Family Month this August. Remember, the strength of the family is the strength of our community!

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Timothy J. Leber, Sr, 32°

Brethren of my valley, I hope your summer is going well. I would like to thank the officers of the valley for their hard work and dedication thus far. In September, we will be celebrating the "Feast of Tishri", an ancient custom established as an opportunity to give thanks to each other and to our God for the many blessings that rest upon us and all regular Mason's. Historically, the "Feast of Tishri" was to celebrate a completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. After 40 years of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, the Feast is one of the first Thanksgiving festivals on record. In 1866, the Supreme Council of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction proclaimed the 15th day of October as the Feast of the Tabernacles of the Lodge of Perfection. I would like to invite you to our September Stated meeting on September 22, 2025, at 6:00 pm for dinner and meeting to follow at 7:00 pm. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at September's meeting to celebrate the "Feast of Tishri".

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, August 25, 2025

Family Night

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

Monday, September 29, 2025

Feast of Tishri

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

Monday, October 27, 2025

Past Masters/50 Year Presentation

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

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Sunday 17 – Biennial
 Wednesday 19 Session
 Monday 25 Stated Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 Labor Day
 Office Closed
 Thursday 25 – SR
 Saturday 27 Conference
 Monday 29 Stated Meeting
 Saturday 28 House of
 the Temple
 Bus Tour

OCTOBER

Monday 27 Stated Meeting

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



August is upon us, and we look with anticipation to cooler temperatures while still experiencing some hot days. Staying indoors still remains the best way to stay cool. But an early morning golf game or doing some work in the yard makes for good planning. We still need to be cautious to stay hydrated. Water continues to remain the best remedy.

September is coming upon us fast and that will bring us the Scottish Rite Conference of the Orient of Virginia. This year the 101st Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will be held September 25-27, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 5655 Greenwich Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Delegates and Honor men have been notified regarding registration and are reminded to attend to the documents emailed promptly. Any other Brother interested in attending contact the office to register.

Dues notices for 2026 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 dues beginning with 2024 will soon be on the delinquent list. Call the office if you would like to assist me in contacting our brethren about their dues obligations.

Our Fall Reunion in memory of Ill. Charles Simon Sarbaugh, 33°, IGH, will soon be upon us. Take the time now to contact your prospects and get them signed up for Saturday, October 11, 2025. 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 2026 dues notice will be mailed shortly, and you should have it sometime in August. If your dues were current as of June 1, 2025, your 2026 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.

SCOTTISH RITE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

Brethren, our charity is the SR Childhood Language Center. Beginning with this issue, we will offer a regular article to keep you informed about the good work being done by Dr. Combee and the staff at our CLC.

Speech therapy, also known as speech-language pathology, is a field focused on helping individuals of all ages overcome communication challenges. These difficulties can range from articulation and fluency problems to language comprehension and expression issues. The Speech-Language pathologists (SLPs) at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center work with children to improve their communication skills and quality of life by addressing diverse needs through various therapeutic techniques.

This summer, along with individual sessions, we offered group therapy specifically designed to improve social skills. We had three middle school aged individuals participate in developing social confidence and learning to navigate social interactions more effectively.

This six-week program offered unique advantages to the clients: ability to practice in a safe environment, improve communication skills like active listening and interpreting non-verbal cues, and building confidence while interacting with peers within the group.

Your support in fulfilling our mission is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or would like further information about the Center, please contact us at srclc@speech4children.com or call 804-266-6699. Together, we can make a meaningful difference and create a better future for our children.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry F. Hilton, 33°

Hot Summertime Greetings Brethren! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying Masonry this summer along with vacations and family time.

The Supreme Council recently announced the Honour Men for 2025. This is always an exciting time and I am happy to report that the Richmond Valley was given two 33rd Degree Elects and three KCCH nominees. RW Bro. Lambros George Deligan and RW Bro. Linwood Ray Spears were chosen for the 33rd Degree, Inspector General Honorary. Congratulations to these two fine men who will receive their degrees in Washington, DC at the Biennial Conference on Aug. 19.

RW Bro. Kenneth Wayne Caviness, RW Bro. Donald Alexander King Cunningham, Jr., and Wor. Bro. Timothy James Leber were selected as 32nd degree Knight Commander Court of Honor recipients. They will receive their degrees at the Virginia Scottish Rite Conference in Va. Beach on Sept. 27. Congratulations to these fine men. You are welcome to attend the Investiture Ceremony on Saturday afternoon so please add this to your calendar.

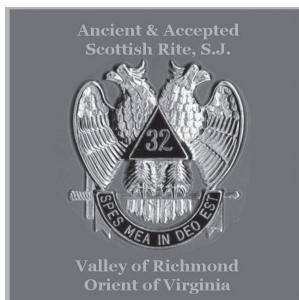
It gives me a great deal of pleasure to announce that Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347 has reached an agreement with the Scottish Rite Richmond Valley to sell their property on Bethlehem Road. This agreement still has to be ratified by the Brethren of Tuckahoe, and of course, by the Brethren of the Richmond Valley. The negotiating teams from the Lodge and the Scottish Rite should be applauded for their fine work in making this happen. Thank you to all. If all goes well, the new building will be known as the Richmond Scottish Rite Masonic Center and include the Tuckahoe Lodge room in perpetuity. Information about this agreement was shared with the Executive Council on Wednesday evening and will be presented to the Richmond Valley at the August stated meeting. A vote will be required for approval to move ahead at the September stated meeting. Questions about this may be directed to the General Secretary or the Personal Representative.

The Virginia Scottish Rite Conference will be held Sept. 25-27 in Virginia Beach. The Portsmouth Valley will be hosting this conference. Information has been distributed and we hope to have a great turnout for the meetings and the banquets. Wives are welcome to attend. See other info in this newsletter for the details.

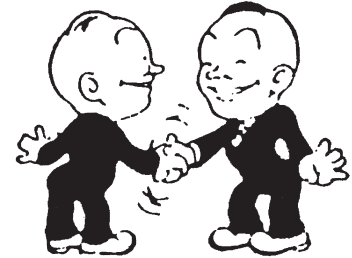
A special Reunion and Renew Dinner will be held on October 18 at the Masonic Home. Please plan on attending this event to celebrate our newest Scottish Rite Masons as well as have fellowship with your fellow Scottish Rite Masons. Wives and family are invited.

Please remember those who are ill or have health problems. Reach out and let them know you are thinking of them.

Thank you for all your do for Masonry, and more especially, your Scottish Rite.



SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

While making my way through the various degrees, I was struck by the 22nd degree, known as "Knight Royal Axe, Prince of Libanus". Its main lesson is the fulfilling and rewarding nature of simply doing work. During the degree, a noble Prussian Knight arrives at a carpenter's shop on Mount Lebanon, asserts himself, and requests to be made a "Prince of Libanus". His petition is, of course, rejected and he is told to prove himself and earn his reward by working with the simple tools of saw, plane, and axe.

According to former Grand Commander Henry Clausen, the axe is nobler than the sword, as it can build civilizations as well as combat intolerance, bigotry, superstition, unkindness, and idleness. The Knight's experience is a simple illustration also of how we arrive at the door of Masonry. Regardless of our station in life, we enter the West Gate in a humble condition, wearing the same clothes, are taught the same things, and must prove ourselves step-by-step through our own efforts. The importance of doing work to improve ourselves so that we may benefit others is emphasized again and again in our degrees.

Have you ever wondered why our degrees are called "work" and why the Lodge is "at labor"? We are all engaged in the moral and spiritual work of building ourselves into living stones according to God's plan. The Entered Apprentice Charge tells us to improve our Masonic knowledge by conferring with well-informed brethren. The emblem of the Three Steps teaches that we should industriously apply our minds to the attainment of useful knowledge, so that we can use it to discharge our respective duties to God, our neighbors, and ourselves. The Beehive emblem instructs us to be industrious, never sitting down contented while our fellow beings are in want around us. We are taught by the trowel that we should be engaged in the noble emulation of deciding who can best work and best agree.

I encourage each of you to do the satisfying work of learning all you can about Masonry and to acquire the necessary skills, knowledge, and abilities, so that no matter what task you are asked to perform, you will be prepared to do so. As the Lord said in the Book of John, "we must do the works of Him who sent me." Go, and do likewise!

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Summer is winding down and with that is our annual end of summer celebration - The Scottish Rite Conference. The Valley of Portsmouth will be hosting it this year in Virginia Beach. The Conference will begin on Thursday, September 25, 2025, with a trip to Top Golf. This is always a great chance to catch up with old friends, many of whom we only see once a year, and share notes with the other Valleys. Hosting a conference is a huge undertaking so, with our attendance, let's help Portsmouth Valley make it a success!

This is an honors year. During the conference there will be a KCCH Investiture. Since it is not a degree, it is open to all. Come show your support for those that are chosen to receive this Honor.

Called from Labor

Donald Jerry Graham
1951 - 2024

Philip Ray Johnson
1930 - 2025

Wilson Daniel King
1936 - 2019

Donald Lee Kuykendall
1937 - 2022

William Stephen Richardson, Jr.
1934 - 2025

Raymond Paul Turner, Jr.
1935 - 2022

Lynn Thomas Woodcock
1941 - 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

Robert C. Eades

John Hart

REQUESTED
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