

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE 2025

Whitney E. Hanscom, Sr., 32°, KCCH

Brethren of the Richmond Scottish Rite,

As my time as Venerable Master draws to a close in January, my heart is filled with gratitude for each of you and for the privilege of serving this Valley. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your steady commitment to our work. Whatever has been accomplished this year has been the result of many hands and many hearts laboring together in a common cause.

Scottish Rite Masonry gives us more than impressive ritual; it gives us light. We are taught lessons of tolerance, integrity, duty, brotherly love, and reverence for God. These teachings are not meant to remain within our walls. The true measure of our Masonry is how we live it. I challenge each of you to carry what you have learned into your homes, your workplaces, your churches, and your communities. Let your daily conduct reflect the obligations you have taken and the degrees you have witnessed. Be patient, be just, be charitable, and let your example speak quietly but clearly of the values we profess. Support your officers. Encourage one another. Look after a Brother. Keep the light of this Valley bright.

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE 2026

Duane E. Cunningham, 32°, KCCH

It is an honor to step into the role of Venerable Master of Richmond Valley Lodge of Perfection on January 26, 2026. Having served as Senior Warden, I had the privilege of observing the outstanding leadership of Whit Hanscom from across the Lodge. Whit brought us thoughtful and engaging speakers while fostering genuine warmth in our fellowship. He set a fine example of Masonic leadership, and I am fortunate to follow in his footsteps.

This year, my priorities are threefold:

- Foster meaningful fellowship among our Brothers
- Present impactful Masonic education in our meetings
- Shine greater light on our treasured Richmond Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center

The Scottish Rite is a special place where Brothers from across the region connect, build lasting friendships, and explore ways to strengthen Masonry and our communities. Richmond Valley remains a beacon of brotherhood and warmth—one I treasure not only at our monthly meetings but every day.

As I continue to grow in Scottish Rite Masonry, the lessons of the degrees become ever more profound in guiding how I live my life. I want to devote a portion of our meetings to briefly exploring how these degrees resonate with each of us. Our Director of Work, Illustrious Charles Robinson, is leading this initiative—an entirely fitting program for the University of Freemasonry.

Our Richmond Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center is an absolute treasure and a source of great pride for us all. Exciting developments are underway, and this year we have scheduled dinner talks at two meetings to share the good news and celebrate its impact.

I am grateful to be joined in the West by David Vass and in the South by Jonathan Turner—two outstanding Brothers whose years of Masonic wisdom and experience inspire me daily. I look forward to their guidance this year and to supporting them when their time comes in the East.

I am thrilled by the reinvigoration of the Knights of St. Andrew, our dedicated service organization within the Scottish Rite. Under the leadership of Robert Hundley, the Knights are becoming an even more integral part of the Valley, and they have my full support.

A special note of appreciation goes to Scott Davis and his team, whose hard work ensures our dinners are delicious, enjoyable, and perfectly executed. Their dedication makes every meeting a true pleasure.

Perhaps the most exciting development in decades is the new Richmond Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Under the direction of Illustrious Terry Hilton, our Valley's Personal Representative, rapid progress is being made in acquiring land and engineering this remarkable facility. It will undoubtedly become a shining light for Masonry throughout Central Virginia.

Finally, I ask each of you to help spread the word. Invite your Brothers to join us at the Valley. Encourage them to connect with our vibrant Masonic community here in Richmond. Remind them that the Scottish Rite offers opportunities to deepen their understanding of Freemasonry, form new friendships, and contribute to something truly greater than themselves.

Bring a Brother to our next meeting—let's grow our family and share the light together.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas anytime.

See you in Lodge!

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 26, 2026

Election of Officers

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

Monday, February 23, 2026

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

Monday, March 23, 2026

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

JANUARY

Thursday 1 New Year's Day
 Office Closed
Monday 19 Martin Luther
 King Day
 Office Closed
Monday 26 Stated Meeting

FEBRUARY

Monday 16 President's Day
 Office Closed
Monday 23 Stated Meeting

MARCH

Monday 23 Stated Meeting
Saturday 28 Orient Workshop

APRIL

Sunday 6 Easter Monday
 Office Closed
Saturday 18 Reunion
Monday 27 Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 33°, IGH



Brethren, congratulations on the impressive turnout and support for Most Worshipful Matthew Todd "Matt" Szramoski'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.

We are now embarking upon a new year. We have expectations that are both festive and goal oriented. We will renew our spirit via the holiday season and anticipate a new year of service to Freemasonry and the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies.

January not only brings in a new year, January also involves a re-commitment and re-dedication to the ideals of the Scottish Rite through the election of new officers for 2026. I trust your New Year's Resolutions include being an active Scottish Rite Mason.

Our incoming Masters have been working to prepare their programs for 2026 and will be communicating those plans during the coming months. The incoming Venerable Master, Duane Eugene Cunningham, 32°, KCCH, will have announcements concerning his programs and appointments at the January meeting. All officers are expected to attend so that they can be installed.

The Knights of Saint Andrew have been reconstituted under the leadership of Knight Commander Robert Hundley, 32°. We are looking forward to their service to the Rite.

On Saturday, March 28, 2026, 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 Reunion to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the MAHOVA Caldas Family Conference Center. The Reunion will be in memory of III. Wayne Alfred "Rocky" Robison, Sr., 33°, IGH. III Charles Robinson, 33°, IGH, our Membership Chairman, is working on plans for the Reunion, and we anticipate that his efforts will result in a sizeable class to honor III Rocky's memory. Let's show our support by bringing in petitions.

Last, please note the following regarding our meals. Our Culinary Committee serves meals prepared in various local restaurants. We offer you these meals at the subsidized price of \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required by Thursday, 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 2026 meals at \$150.00 per person by cash or check. Please add \$5.00 per person additional for payment by credit card.

Brethren, may the New Year find you in good health and in good cheer. I look forward to seeing you at the January 26, 2026, Stated Meeting.



PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry F. Hilton, 33°

Seasons Greetings Brethren. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to a wonderful New Year.

As I reflect on all that we accomplished in the Richmond Valley in 2025, I see time after time when we all did better. That is one of our continuing goals. By this, I mean getting better at Fellowship and Brotherly Love, having outstanding meetings, being involved in our communities, and taking care of our families. Making the final decision on purchasing a new property, working together to develop a fair deal between both groups, and signing the contract just before Christmas makes 2025 one for the record books! Thank you for sharing your support in so many ways that make our Valley special. We are truly blessed to have good friends everywhere we turn!

Now, as I look ahead to what is to come in 2026, I see more good things. We must continue to develop our Valley by striving to increase membership overall and Valley activities, in particular. Think about the things you would like to see as new events and bring them up at a meeting. We have an in-house genius at special programs and implementing ideas for just about any event you can imagine. But we need to hear about it and then work together to make it happen. We need to do more than just have a monthly stated meeting. Please think about this and let me know your ideas so we can pursue them. Whether it is 10-15-or 25 people who might attend, let's get the idea out there and then work to make it successful!

We will be working through the various stages of getting permits for the new building, demolishing the old building, and finalizing plans for the Richmond Scottish Rite Masonic Center. I hope you are as eager as I am to get to work on this. We have a building committee and will be adding sub-committees for separate development issues as we move the project along. You can expect regular reports on what is happening. This will be a team effort so don't be surprised if you are asked to help out!

Thanks for all the hard work that RW Bro. Whit did during his year as Venerable Master. Our ritual has improved, our programs were planned in advance, and I am truly grateful for RW Whit being a part of our Valley. Congratulations to Wor. Bro. Duane Cunningham who will be taking over as Venerable Master on Jan. 26. I know he has some great ideas for his programs this year. Please come out and join us for dinner and Masonic Brotherhood. Bring a Friend from your Lodge and let them see what the Scottish Rite is all about!

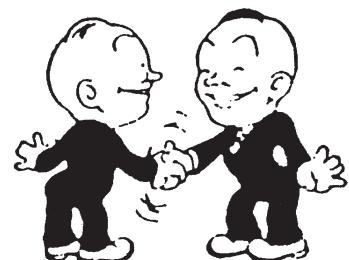
Remember, we want to get better with each meeting and every day in between.

Ancient & Accepted
Scottish Rite, S.J.



Valley of Richmond
Orient of Virginia

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*

Short dreary days. Cold rain and snow. Stuck inside. When I was a boy growing up in Waynesboro and Charlottesville, I dreaded the long months of fall and winter when I couldn't do the things I loved: playing baseball, fishing, riding bikes, building forts in the woods with my friends. It was a time of low spirits waiting for the rebirth of spring, the monotony broken only by the extreme but brief joy during Christmas and my February birthday. It almost seemed like entering a long tunnel in October only to emerge in March, blinking in the sunlight.

When I joined DeMolay in Waynesboro in November 1977, my perspective began to change. Suddenly, I had a reason to look forward to these dark months as a time for celebration, a beginning rather than an ending of enjoyable pursuits. There were Job's Daughter Installations of Officers, DeMolay Brotherhood Weekend, and many other joyful occasions to anticipate. Now as a Mason, there are even more reasons to look forward to fall and winter as a rebirth of happy times: Grand Lodge and Grand Royal Arch Chapter in November, Masonic Installations in December, and Scottish Rite Installation in January.

I think we are lucky to belong to such an outstanding fraternity that offers us fellowship and brotherly love each and every day throughout the year. As we go through this busy Christmas season and then the joy of the New Year, let us take this opportunity to show our appreciation for what we have. I encourage you to remember and reach out to those who are in a dark place needing the warm touch of a brotherly hand, the sound of a friendly word, and the helping funds from the box of fraternal assistance.

My best wishes go to you and yours. Happy New Year! See you in January!

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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RICHMOND SCOTTISH RITE

3518 Mayland Court
Henrico, VA 23233-1421

Phone (804) 264-2050

E-Mail srsecy@richmondscottishrite.org

Office open: 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Monday -Thursday

Friday by Appointment

James Dean Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Alan Wayne Adkins, 33°, G.C.
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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy and restful Holiday season. The season gives us time to reflect on all that we've accomplished throughout the past year and to make plans for the upcoming year. The first couple months of the year are usually very busy for masons as we visit many lodges trying to support a new District Deputies and hear the message they bring from our new Grand Master. This gives us an opportunity to see many brothers who have not yet joined the Scottish Right. Since our program for the evening is presented at dinner and it's open, feel free to invite anyone you think might be interested in eventually becoming a Scottish Rite Mason to join us for dinner and the program. Please be sure to make dinner reservations for you and your guests by calling the office at 804-264-2050. Reservations are due by noon on the Thursday prior to the meeting date.

Called from Labor

Gray Wilfred Bradford
1942 - 2025

Timothy J. Edwards
1953 - 2025

James Montgomery Farrar, Jr.
1930 - 2025

Paul William Gilley
1940 - 2025

Warren Kirkland Graves
1938 - 2025

John Alan Jamieson
1939 - 2025

William Thomas Naumann
1939 - 2025

Herbert Griffith Turner, Jr.
1947 - 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

Albert Dranoff

REQUESTED
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