

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Duane E. Cunningham, 32°, KCCH

Greetings, Brethren,

In our April meeting, we had the privilege of participating in the Rose Croix Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal—a tradition especially dear to me. This solemn rite honors our Brethren who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above in the past year. As each name is read, we recall shared moments: their kind words and support, their dedicated labors, their acts of charity. In those quiet reflections, we feel anew the sadness of their absence and the light they once brought into our lives.

Yet the Ceremony also calls us to celebration and renewal. We rejoice in their advancement to higher light while turning inward to examine our own lives. The symbolic relighting of the candles reminds us of rebirth, rehabilitation, and the renewal of purpose.

This is a season for each of us to search our souls: Are we truly living the life of love to which we are called? Amid the blessings we enjoy, we might well ask—as echoed in the 16th Degree—“What light do we ourselves create, and what light remains for those who follow?” Such questions invite personal meditation. Fortunately, the 18th Degree, Knight Rose Croix, provides a clear blueprint: **Faith, Hope, and Charity.**

At this symbolic relighting, let us rededicate ourselves to the vows we so often repeat in our Rite. May we love one another so that our light shines brightly in the world. In doing so, we prove ourselves men and Masons who not only cherish the eternal truths of our rituals but live them fully through our daily conduct.

“That God is good and merciful, and loves and sympathizes with the creatures He has made;...that all men are brothers, whose wants we are to supply, their errors to pardon, their opinions to tolerate, their injuries to forgive; that man has an immortal soul, a free will, a right to freedom of thought and action; that all men are equal in God’s sight; that we best serve God by humility, meekness, gentleness, kindness and other virtues which the lowly can practice as well as the lofty; this is the ‘new law,’ the ‘Word’ for which the world has waited and pined so long; and every true Knight of the Rose will revere the memory...” — Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°

We had a successful spring reunion in April. The Scottish Rite Guard turned out in droves. Thank you for a great job supporting our candidates! It looks as though our class sizes are starting to trend up. We need to keep that momentum going! Our fall reunion will be October 10, 2026. With the new programs rolling out, we are hoping for a very large class. Start collecting those petitions now. Petitions are available in the office or on the Richmond Valley website.

Have a good summer.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Robert R. Siegel, 32°, KCCH

The June Stated meeting is the time for recognizing our student scholarship winners and our Teachers of the Year from Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Hanover County and Richmond City Public Schools. The recognition of these award recipients is only enhanced by your presence. Your enthusiastic support will help make this occasion a very memorable experience for the students and teachers who will receive the awards. Please attend the meeting on June 22, to honor our teachers and students and to show that the members of the Richmond Valley are very supportive of public education. Let’s fill the dining room! I predict you will have a very enjoyable evening and will agree that it was a good use of your time.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 18, 2026

(Note Date Change)

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

Monday, June 22, 2026

Education Night

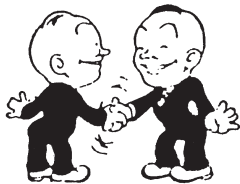
5:30 PM.....Guard Meeting
6:00 PM.....Dinner
7:00 PM.....Business Meeting
Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

JULY - DARK

Monday, August 24, 2026

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.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 33°, IGH



Despite periodic setbacks, Spring is arriving. The days are getting longer and the sun is shining. Let's all take great care of our personal wellbeing as we have fun in the sun with sport activities and engage in outdoor home projects.

Our Spring Reunion this year was held in memory of Ill. Wayne Alfred "Rocky" Robison, Sr., 33°. The Reunion was held on Saturday, April 18, at MAHOVA, 500 Masonic Ln, Richmond, VA 23223. There seven candidates were made Masters of the Royal Secret via the presentation of the degrees cinematically.

New members are encouraged to come to meetings regularly and to be active. To gain the full value of your membership, participation is important.

We are accepting orders for the newly selected Richmond Scottish Rite Polo Shirt. Order forms are available through the office. A downloadable fillable pdf is also available through the website <https://www.richmondscottishrite.org>. The cost is \$35. You may order one for your Lady, as well, at the same price. If you order your shirt with a pocket and your name embroidered, the cost is \$40.

We still have over 30 members who have not paid their 2025 dues. If you would like to help to contact any of these brethren, stop by or call the office. Perhaps, there is someone on the list that you have a close relationship with and can contact. Sometimes a friendly voice on the phone will encourage a brother to pay his dues or discover whether an issue exists that the Valley may be able to help with.

The programs for May, June and July are listed in this newsletter. Please note. There is **NO MEETING IN JULY**. As per our By-Laws, the Valley is dark in July and December.

Your next newsletter will be the August issue, so please save this issue for reference and remind you of upcoming events.

Should you need to, please remember to update your email list and mailing address for the office.

Dinner reservations are required by Thursday noon, the week prior to the meeting. Our culinary staff, chaired by Brother Scott Davis, provides us with excellent meals from fine local restaurants at a reasonable price. The price of dinner is \$15.00 with a reservation and \$20.00 at the door without a reservation. See you there!!!

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE

As I sit down to write my first article for the Scottish Rite newsletter I decided to write a letter of gratitude. Stepping into the role of the new Executive Director of the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center is both an honor and a responsibility I carry with deep appreciation. Each day brings opportunities to learn, lead, and to build upon a foundation that has already changed so many lives. As I begin this journey, I am especially grateful for the unwavering support of the Scottish Rite and their longstanding commitment to the Childhood Speech and Language Center.

Your belief in our mission to provide high-quality speech and language services to children in need creates a ripple effect that extends far beyond our walls. Because of your generosity, children are given a voice, families are given hope, and futures are reshaped in meaningful ways.

As the new director, I am inspired by the trust placed in me and motivated by the impact we continue to make together. I am thankful to be part of an organization that not only values communication but truly understands its power. With the continued support of the Scottish Rite, I look forward to growing the center, strengthening community connections and ensuring that every child we serve has the opportunity to thrive.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Marilyn Collins, Executive Director
Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry F. Hilton, 33°

Greetings Brethren all. The Richmond Valley is thriving. It is an honor to serve you and be with you in all things Richmond Scottish Rite.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Reunion. This event was a success for the seven Masons who joined us on April 18. It was also a success for the 30+ Valley members who came out to support these new Brothers and enjoy the fellowship of being together. Welcome to our new members—we encourage your active participation.

Next, thanks to everyone who went to Charlotte for the SR Conference called “Rite on the Road”. This Conference is held every two years and we are fortunate that 7 Brothers from Richmond were able to make the trip. This conference certainly gets praise for the speakers and presentations, but it also earns points for giving us the chance to have fellowship with Brothers from other Valleys and learn what works for them. We need to give a shout-out to Bro. Peyton Anderson who presented a session on the value of AI in our world today and how to use it in our Masonic efforts. We will endeavor to take some of the ideas we heard and put them to work here in Richmond.

Work continues on plans for our new building. Wor. Paul Rinko is handling the paperwork with Henrico County and doing a great job. We hope to get approvals to move forward this summer.

As we look forward to fall, please save the date for the Statewide Conference that will be held in Danville. This year the dates will be Monday, Sept. 28, and Tuesday, Sept. 29 so our stated meeting will move to Sept. 21. The event will be held at the new Caesars Casino and Resort. Please mark your calendars for this special event!

Our June meeting will be Education night. Let’s have a good turnout for the Teachers and Students who we will be honoring at this dinner. Bring your wives and family and enjoy an OUTBACK STEAK dinner! Remember, we want to get better with each meeting and every day in between. May God bless you in all that you do.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

Have you ever wondered what happened to the twelve Fellowcrafts in the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree? I think their story provides several important Masonic lessons. You may recall that fifteen Fellowcrafts conspired to extort from Grand Master Hiram Abiff the secret word of a Master Mason. In the Royal Master Degree of the York Rite, we learn that these men were experts in the arts and sciences, especially chosen by King Solomon for their skills in sculpture. Realizing the seriousness of their intended crime, twelve of them recanted and appeared before King Solomon, confessing their guilt and asking for his pardon. Did King Solomon immediately pat them on their heads and say all was forgiven? No! He sent them out in four directions in search of the three ruffians, and when found, to bind them and bring them before him. The three who went to Joppa learned that the ruffians had tried to leave Israel, had failed, and then gone up into the country. And this is where the Fellowcrafts made another critical mistake: Instead of pursuing the ruffians further, they returned to King Solomon and reported their findings.

Why would they do that? Were King Solomon’s orders unclear? No, of course not. These are striking examples of how, even when we know what we are supposed to do, we sometimes end up doing something else. We have taken solemn obligations to perform certain tasks; obligations just as clear and binding and important as King Solomon’s orders to the Fellowcrafts. One of the reasons we memorize our obligations is so they become ingrained habits that govern our thoughts and deeds. And let us not forget the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule, which are just as clear and binding as our obligations.

As I grow older, I realize more and more how much easier life is when I just do what I am supposed to do and not do what I am not supposed to do. So, when we engage in “Living our Obligations”, as our Grand Master puts it, we are benefiting ourselves as well as our fellow man. There’s another point here. We should expect that, when we do the wrong thing, there are consequences. Nowadays, you hear “it is better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission.” I don’t think King Solomon would agree; it is likely that he did forgive the twelve Fellowcrafts eventually, but his trust in them was never as great as before. And I can assure you that God does not agree. When King Saul directly disobeyed God’s instructions, the prophet Samuel rebuked him, telling him that God took more pleasure in obedience than in burnt offerings and sacrifices.

As Masons, we are called to a higher plane, to be examples to the world on how Godly men behave and treat each other. We are bound to hold each other up and whisper a kind word of counsel when needed. And will we fall? Yes, often, but we can then approach God with a contrite and penitent heart and seek and receive his forgiveness. Our goal should be to please God and to continually seek Him. As King David said in the 51st Psalm, “Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit in me”. Let us figuratively use our common gavels to stay on this true path.

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

MAY

Sunday 10 Mother's Day
Monday 18 Stated Meeting
Date Change
Monday 25 Memorial Day
Office Closed

JUNE

Sunday 21 Father's Day
Monday 22 Stated Meeting
Education Night

JULY

Friday 4 Independence Day

AUGUST

Monday 24 Stated Meeting

Called from Labor

John David Hughes, Jr.
1963 - 2026

Jay Anthony Metting
1957 - 2025

James Linwood Price, Jr.
1928 - 2026

Jimmy Lynn Reamy
1944 - 2025

Mack Thomas Ruffin III
1933 - 2026

Herbert Marshall Shelton
1936 - 2026

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

Sam Dunn

Mark Jones

ADDRESS SERVICE
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