**CORRECTED COPY****VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE*****Duane E. Cunningham, 32°, KCCH***

Thirty-five years ago, the Richmond Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center opened its doors. Since then, more than twelve thousand children in the Greater Richmond area have received high-quality speech and language services. These interventions have strengthened their ability to communicate — a fundamental skill for learning, socialization, and lifelong opportunity. The impact on their young lives has been profound and lasting.

This year marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. We are relocating the Center to a modern, purpose-built facility on West Broad Street in the Innsbrook area. The new location will support expanded services and accommodate future growth. With dedicated individual treatment rooms, play areas, and learning spaces, the facility includes every element needed to deliver the highest standard of speech and language therapy.

Over the past several months, our professional staff and dedicated board members have worked tirelessly to identify the ideal location, develop a design that meets both current and future needs, and oversee the renovation. Their commitment and countless hours of planning have brought this vision to reality.

As we prepare to move, I am reminded that **we stand on the shoulders of giants**. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to the visionary brethren of our Valley who first championed this cause thirty-five years ago. Their foresight, passion, and determination set us on this important path. We also thank the generous brethren, their families, and community partners who supported the Center over the years through donations, volunteer labor — from painting walls and repairing fixtures to interviewing and hiring professional staff — and faithful stewardship of every gift entrusted to the program.

The early champions, some of which sit in lodge with us today, built the strong foundation upon which we now stand. Because of their enthusiastic leadership and unwavering support, the Valley of Richmond has been able to change thousands of young lives for the better.

Let us honor their legacy by carrying this important work forward with the same spirit of Masonic brotherhood and community service that has defined the Center since its inception.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE***Benjamin K. Smith, 32°*****A Reflection on the Feast of Tishri**

One of the privileges I have this year is the opportunity to present our Feast of Tishri at our September meeting, and I hope you'll plan to join us for this special evening.

The Feast of Tishri is one of the Scottish Rite's most meaningful traditions. While many of us look forward to the fellowship and shared meal each year, this observance is also rich in symbolism and timeless lessons. Rooted in the ancient Feast of Tabernacles and long associated with the Lodge of Perfection, it reminds us of the importance of gratitude, remembrance, and the responsibilities entrusted to each of us as Scottish Rite Masons.

During the presentation, we'll explore the journey from the wilderness to the dedication of King Solomon's Temple and consider why those events continue to hold such significance within our Rite today. More importantly, we'll reflect on what they teach us about our own journey as Masons—how we build, how we serve, and the legacy we leave for those who follow.

My hope is that this will be more than a presentation about history or symbolism. I hope it will encourage each of us to pause, reflect on the blessings we have received, and renew our commitment to the principles that unite us as Brothers.

Whether this is your first Feast of Tishri or one you've celebrated for many years, I believe you'll leave with a deeper appreciation for this cherished Scottish Rite tradition. I look forward to sharing the evening with you and hope you'll join us for a memorable night of fellowship, thanksgiving, and renewed purpose.

MEMBERSHIP***Charles A. Robinson, Jr., 33°***

With the heavy smoke and the extreme heat we have been experiencing, we seem to be spending a lot of time inside this summer. This gives us the opportunity to just hang out with the guys and shoot the breeze. Eventually we get around to egging each other on, like why don't you go back in line and whip our lodge into shape, or if you become District Deputy, to show our support we will follow you around on your official visits, or why haven't you gotten the rest of your degrees yet. We could point out that instead of having a couple hundred guys from your Lodge to hang out with you could have over 800 from your Valley. We could talk about how each Degree teaches a lesson and the different ways to learn those lessons, from taking the Master Craftsman courses either individually or as a group or participating in the Missouri Scottish Rite Academy. Every Brother needs the opportunity to join the Scottish Rite. Why not give him that opportunity by giving him a petition? The fall reunion will be October 10, 2026, and petitions can be gotten right off our web site.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

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)

Monday, September 21, 2026

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

Monday, October 26, 2026

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

Monday, November 23, 2026

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

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lambros Deligan, 33°, IGH



August is arriving. Could we be anticipating cooler temperatures while still experiencing some hot days? Perhaps we will still be staying indoors to stay cool a bit less. However, scheduling early morning work in the yard or a golf game makes for good planning. Still, caution is required. Stay hydrated. Drinking lots of water is recommended.

September will follow quick enough and that will bring us the Scottish Rite Conference of the Orient of Virginia. This year the 102nd Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will be held from Sunday, September 27 to Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Caesars Virginia - A Caesars Rewards Destination, 1100 W Main St, Danville, VA 24541. Delegates 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. As the Orient Conference falls on the fourth Monday in September, that will necessitate moving our September Stated meeting to the third Monday, September 21, 2026.

Dues notices for 2027 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 2025 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. Gray Wilfred Bradford, 33°, IGH, will soon be upon us. Take the time now to contact your prospects and get them signed up for Saturday, October 10, 2026. 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 the October – December issue, so please save this issue for reference and to remind you of upcoming events.

Again, remember that your 2027 dues notice will be mailed shortly, and you should have it sometime in August. If your dues were current as of June 1, 2026, your 2027 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.

-- REUNION DINNER --

Calling all Brethren:

What: Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies Reunion dinner
An evening of fellowship and relaxation, adult beverages & a great meal.
When: Saturday October 17, 2026, 6:15PM
Where: Masonic Home of Virginia 500 Masonic Lane Henrico, VA 23223
Attire: Business Casual (sport coat, open collar). Ladies comfortable summer attire.
Social: 6:15-7:00 pm... Beer & wine, open air fire pit area & inside lounge
Dinner: 7:00pm
Menu: Shrimp cocktail, choice of filet or cordon bleu*
green & starch, roll, coffee-tea or water, and dessert
Cost: Singles \$55. Couples \$100.

Reservations and payment must be made in advance with Scottish Rite office.

Reservation deadline is September 30, 2026. - There will be no ticket without an advance reservation.

*Please confirm your meal choice and dietary restrictions when you make your reservation

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry F. Hilton, 33°

Summertime greetings, Brethren. Excitement continues to build for the Richmond Valley of the Scottish Rite, and I am pleased to share the latest updates.

Wor. Bro. Paul Rinko has done outstanding work with the Henrico Planning Commission. Drawing on his legal expertise, Bro. Paul has built a strong working relationship with Henrico staff and collaborated with our attorney to ensure the Provisional Use Permit conditions properly support the building's future use. The Planning Commission approved the permit on July 9, and it now goes before the Board of Supervisors on August 11. Barring any unforeseen issues, we are hopeful the PUP will be approved by the full Board that evening, allowing us to move forward with plans for the new Richmond Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Thank you, Bro. Paul, for all your efforts to make this happen.

Meanwhile, the SR Childhood Language Center continues moving toward a new home for the CLC—one that will undoubtedly be the premier stand-alone center in Virginia, and perhaps beyond. Congratulations to the Brethren who have worked so hard to make this possible. More information will be shared as the project develops.

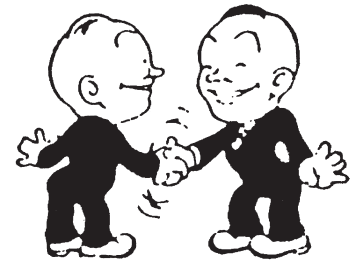
As noted in our last newsletter, the upcoming conference will be held in Danville at the new casino resort. All SR Masons are invited and encouraged to attend, and we expect to have a strong delegation representing our Valley. If you are interested, please contact Ill. Lambros for more information. The conference dates are September 27–29.

Looking ahead, please note that our September stated meeting will be held on September 21, 2026.

Please also mark your calendar for October. MAHOVA Day will be held on October 3. Our fall reunion will be held on October 10, with the 4th Degree presented live as part of the reunion. Then, on October 17, we will hold the SR Dinner to celebrate our Valley and support the CLC.

Thank you for your continued support of all things Masonic, and especially the Scottish Rite. Our Brotherhood is strong and growing stronger every day.

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

Do you know what an “elevator speech” is? If you were at a hotel hosting a Masonic gathering, standing there in all your fine Masonic regalia, and someone stopped you and asked who all the dressed-up men were, what would you say? If they then asked what Freemasonry is about, do you have a short and concise explanation of the Craft you can give them?

When someone asks me what Freemasonry is, I tell them that we are an organization dedicated to the traditional American values of love of God, love of country, and love of

family. Are we a fraternal organization? Yes, but we are much more than that. Do we teach leadership and develop leaders? Yes, but that is not our primary purpose, any more than is doing community service, of which we do plenty. Our primary purpose comes from our ritual, which provides instructions on what kind of upstanding men we should be and what kind of exemplary lives we should lead.

Do you remember the thrill you felt as an Entered Apprentice when the Master proclaimed you to be a just and upright Mason? Are we being the kind of men of whom the Craft and our nation can be proud? Each of us should conduct ourselves in such a way that someone can point to us and say, “that’s what Freemasonry is all about”.

Our Grand Master’s theme this year is “Living Our Obligations” and his point is that we should be the kind of men that inspire others to be like us. Do we fall short sometimes? Yes, and when we do so, we should resolve to improve and make each other better. Our obligations are real, and together with the five points of fellowship, provide many opportunities to help each other. Do you see a brother who needs encouragement or assistance? Do you see a brother who is heading in the wrong direction? Our obligations provide the means to help with those concerns and to treat each other the way we would like to be treated.

We should also remember that our obligations have a strong spiritual basis. Are you relying on the word of God to direct you? When we speak of the Bible as “the rule and guide of our faith” and our “spiritual, moral, and Masonic trestleboard”, we are proclaiming that it is the very foundation on which all of Freemasonry and its values rest. In closing, to paraphrase the DeMolay ritual, “The world respects most of all the man who has strong religious convictions and who has the courage of a high moral standard based on a profound acknowledgment of the fact that from God all earthly blessings flow. I enjoy you to delight in the companionship of the devout, not only to frequent the holy places of worship but to carry their teachings into your daily lives.” Brethren, go and do likewise!

THE SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

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Benjamin K. Smith, 32°

Commander, Knights Kadosh

Gregory R. Martin, 32°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Monday 24 Stated Meeting

OCTOBER

Saturday 10 Reunion

Monday 12 Columbus Day
Office Closed

Monday 26 Stated Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Monday 7 Labor Day
Office Closed

Monday 21 Stated Meeting
Note Date Change

Sunday 27 – Scottish Rite
Tuesday 29 Conference

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3 Election Day

Wednesday 11 Veterans Day
Office Closed

Monday 23 Stated Meeting

Called from Labor

Michael Ratcliff Anderson

1946 - 2026

William Bennett Anderson, Jr.

1949 - 2026

Lawrence Milton Roberson

1937 - 2024

Robert Ferman Westbury, Sr.

1926 - 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

Mark Jones

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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