

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Duane E. Cunningham, 32°, KCCH

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended our January/February meeting! It was an excellent turnout, with strong participation from all the line officers—truly appreciated.

Special gratitude goes to Right Worshipful Rob Eades, who conducted the election with his characteristic skill and to Right Worshipful Bill Heltzel, who installed the new officers with grace and authority. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated Scottish Rite Masons in our Valley.

This month, we're excited to welcome leaders from the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center: Ms. Marilyn Collins, Executive Director, and Dr. Kim Murphy, Clinical Director. Joined by Brother Dan Freye, they will share inspiring updates on the Center's exciting growth, new opportunities, and impactful work. This is always a highlight—please make plans to join us for the dinner and program.

The Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center stands as a powerful example of how Scottish Rite Masonry makes a lasting difference in our community. Through exceptional speech, language, and literacy services, it transforms the lives of young children. You'll hear real examples of these life-changing outcomes at the upcoming meeting.

At our last gathering, the Board of Trustees presented a generous check to the Childhood Language Center—the first in a renewed commitment to this vital institution. They also supported the Scottish Rite Foundation, once again demonstrating the remarkable generosity of the Valley of Richmond.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 23.

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Robinson, 33°

Spring is finally here! I, for one, am happy to exchange my snow shovel for my lawn mower. In nature, spring signals a new beginning. In Masonry it is an opportunity to advance in our masonic knowledge. The best way I know to achieve this is to come to our spring reunion. I almost always pick up on something I have missed before or forgotten. While you are at it, why not bring one of your Lodge Brothers with you so he can get his Scottish Rite degrees.

Our Spring reunion will be on April 18, 2026, and we will have a Cinematic presentation of all 29 Degrees of the Scottish Rite. This Reunion will be in memory of Ill. Wayne Alfred "Rocky" Robison, Sr., 33°, IGH. Come out to help honor Rocky. Applications can be printed right from our web site.

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, March 23, 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, April 27, 2026

5:30 PM.....Guard Meeting

6:00 PM.....Dinner

7:00 PM.....Business Meeting

Cost \$15.00 (\$20 w/out reservation)

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

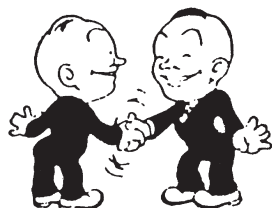
5:30 PM.....Guard Meeting

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



March is upon us so Spring follows. We have had enough snow and ice and are looking forward to less inclement weather. More pleasant weather will allow us to enjoy the outdoors again. We will be working in our gardens, maintaining our lawns and, of course, playing a round or two of golf. In the Spring we renew our commitment to the Richmond Scottish Rite and gather together at our dinners and stated meetings. I am looking forward to seeing you there and enjoying your company.

Several events take place in the Spring. First the Spring Orient of Virginia Workshop on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at ACCA Shrine Temple, 1712 Bellevue Ave, Richmond, VA 23227. The Workshop is hosted by Danville this year. Come out and support our Valley. Second, we will have a Spring Reunion and Degree Conferral on Saturday, April 18, 2025 at MAHOVA, 500 Masonic Ln, Richmond, VA 23223. The Reunion will be in memory of Ill Wayne Alfred "Rocky" Robison, Sr., 33°.

Scholarship will be awarded again this year. Applications are available in the office or on the website and must be received in complete form no later than NOON, Thursday, MARCH 19, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Scholarship award recipient announcements will be made by Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Presentation of Scholarships Will Take Place on the Evening of Monday, June 22, 2026, 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. Brother Shelby Chandler, 32°, KCCH is chairman of presentations. Several other volunteer presenters include Ill & MW Jeff Hodges, 33°, Brothers Jimmy Creech, 32°, KCCH, Sandy Mackey, 32°, Walter Davis, 32°. 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. Richard Dewayne Harvey, 32°, Wise Master, will present the annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at the April 27, 2026, business meeting.

Brethren, please check your dues card. As of this writing, we have over 30 members who have not paid 2025 dues and are subject to suspension. If your dues card is not a 2026 card, let's get together and take care of this matter. Reminder notices have already been mailed out by The Supreme Council.

Last, regarding our meals, our Culinary Committee headed by Brother Scott Davis, 32° continues to serve outstanding meals in 2026. Reservations for dinner are required. The charge is \$15.00 a person. You must make your reservation by Thursday, noon, of the week prior to the meeting. After the deadline or at the door you will be charged \$20.00 per person. **Brethren with a meal ticket**, please let us know if you are NOT coming, so that we may have an accurate meal count.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Terry F. Hilton, 33°

Springtime greetings Brethren. I know we are all ready for some warmer weather and no more ice storms! We have some exciting things happening in the Richmond Valley so let's get right to it.

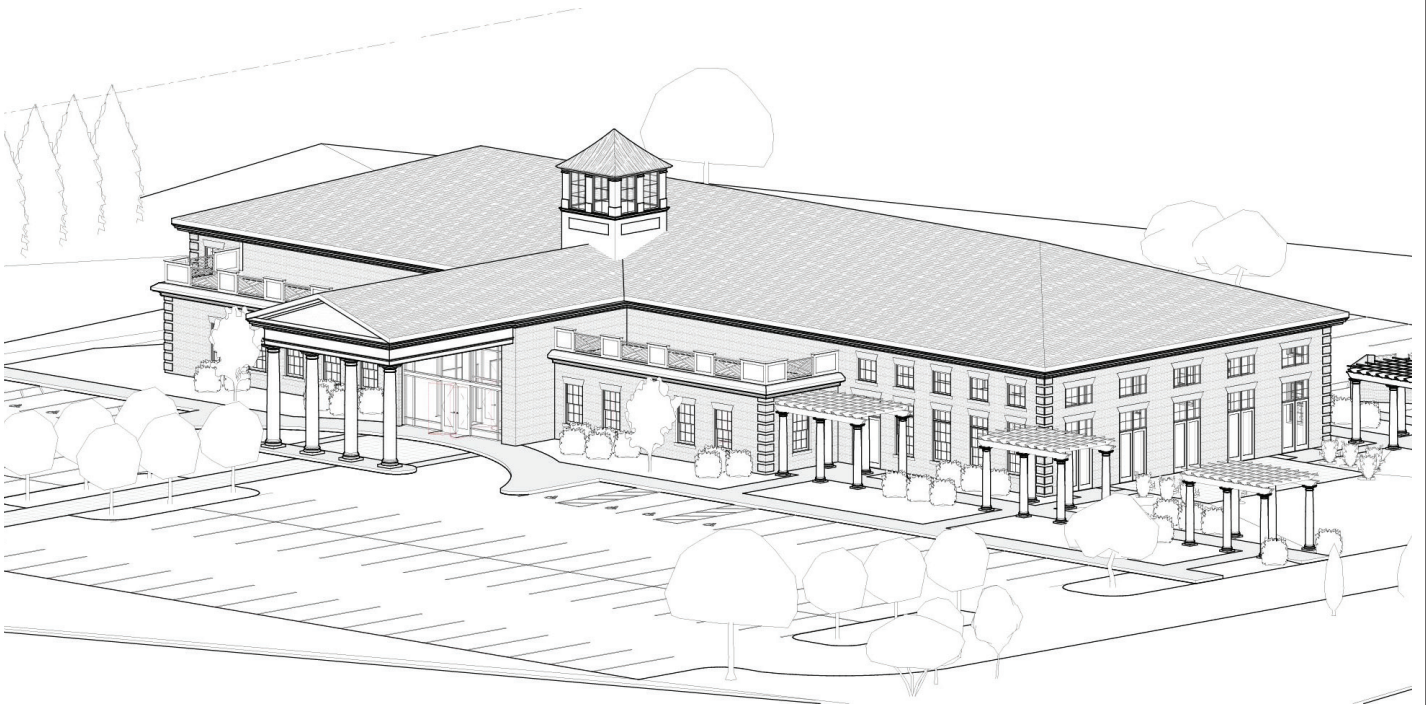
First, if you missed the last stated meeting you missed seeing the concept drawings for the new building. Bro. Peyton Anderson did a terrific job of posting the architectural drawings on the big screen for all to see. When you see the developing building on the big screen, it is very impressive. Please note the b/w drawing that is included with this newsletter to give you a better idea of your new home on the Tuckahoe property.

I want to congratulate all the new officers who were installed at the February meeting this year. Since we were unable to meet in January due to weather conditions and ice that just wouldn't go away, we postponed the election and installation of new officers one month. It is the first time I can remember we had to cancel a stated meeting and I hope we don't have to do that again. The new Venerable Master, Bro. Duane Cunningham, KCCH, got us going with a plan for some interesting programs this year including ritual presentations. It gives me great pleasure to thank RW Bro. Whit Hanscom for giving us a great year as Venerable Master in 2025. We have a good progressive line now and I look forward to working with each of these fine men.

The Scottish Rite Workshop will be held on March 28 at ACCA. This is open to all Scottish Rite Masons. We hope you will attend. It is a good chance to mix and mingle with your fellow SR Masons from around the Commonwealth and learn more about what is going on in the other Valleys. Of course, we will provide breakfast and lunch for all in attendance.

Some of us will also be attending the National SR Conference in Charlotte, NC. I look forward to hearing from some great speakers, including our own Bro. Peyton Anderson who was chosen to give a presentation on Artificial Intelligence and the SR. Please congratulate Bro. Peyton as this is a big honor and a feather in our cap for the Richmond Valley!

Stay tuned for updates on the progress of the new building and how you can be involved in one of the many naming opportunities we will have for you as a legacy gift.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
Tom Varner, 32°, KCCH

One of my favorite scenes in the acclaimed World War II series, Band of Brothers, occurs right as the Battle of the Bulge is starting. As the 101st Airborne Division arrives in Bastogne, a retreating officer informs the company commander that his unit is about to be surrounded by German divisions. The company commander replies, "We're paratroopers, Lieutenant, we're supposed to be surrounded!"

I was reminded of this scene while thinking recently about the Entered Apprentice Degree, in which we learn about the Mosaic Pavement, the Indented Tessel, and the Blazing Star. As the Mosaic Pavement is emblematic of human life, checkered with good and evil, so we daily encounter many situations in which we have to decide what is the right thing to do. Will I continue to drive safely even though others around me may not? Even though I didn't sleep well last night and am really tired, will I still go to work and do my best because my company needs me? Will I give a stranger some food when he stops me outside a convenience store and not just brush him off?

The Indented Tessel which surrounds the Mosaic Pavement reminds us that we are surrounded by the many blessings and comforts that God has provided us. It is important to remember how lucky we all are as Masons, that we have homes and friends, and most of all, a loving and merciful God who is everywhere, constantly surrounding us with his grace and kindness. God is indeed a Blazing Star, who brings light to the world, who gives us meaning and purpose. When King Solomon was elderly, he wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes and lamented that even though he had everything that a person could have, he still felt empty. Only God can provide the fulfillment that we all need; we are surrounded by his presence, and all we need to do is to believe in and call on Him. As he said to Joshua, "I will never leave nor forsake you."

**RICHMOND
VALLEY
COMING EVENTS**

MARCH

Monday 23 Stated Meeting
Saturday 28 Orient Workshop

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

Monday 22 Stated Meeting
 Education Night



FOUNDATION DONATION

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER

Daniel L Freye, 32°, KCCH

Greetings from the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center! I am honored to serve as Board President for 2026. Our dedicated board, strong leadership, and outstanding therapists are working to make us the leading childhood language and literacy center in central Virginia.

In January, we said goodbye to Executive Director Dr. Susan Combee with a farewell lunch at Casa del Barco and a team-building event at Red Door Escape Room. Some board members joined us for lunch but wisely skipped the escape room! Susan's leadership was pivotal in building the SRCLC, and we wish her well as she moves into her new role as Grandma.

In January, Mrs. Marilyn Collins joined us as our new Executive Director. Marilyn previously worked as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher in the Henrico County School system. She's thrilled to take on this position—so much so that, within her first two weeks, she was already out in the community representing SRCLC at the Friendship Circle of Virginia's 3rd Annual Disability Expo. The Expo connects eighty nonprofits, service providers, and businesses dedicated to supporting people with disabilities across all ages. Marilyn brings a genuine passion for helping children, and her enthusiasm truly energizes those around her. You will have a chance to meet her at our upcoming March stated meeting. Meanwhile, Dr. Kim Murphy, our Clinical Director, has been making our presence known at the national professional level. In November, she was a presenter at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association conference held in Washington, D.C. In January, she spoke about literacy and her research on a podcast episode of "For the Love of Literacy."

As most of you are aware, the lease for the SRCLC building expires in October 2027. The Board's Relocation Committee is diligently reviewing prospective sites, and we anticipate providing a substantive update in the next newsletter. In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Ill. Terry Hilton and the Valley Trustees for their generous donation to the SRCLC at the February stated meeting. I consider our Language Center a true example of Masonry in action, and these funds will support our mission of providing life-changing services for children in the Greater Richmond area.



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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

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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

Called from Labor

Samuel Lynn Cochran
1949 - 2024

William Benjamin Wilkinson, Jr.
1931 - 2026

Joseph Nathan Black
1934 - 2026

George Frederick, Jr.
1957 - 2026

Moultrie Shrewsbury Lanier II
1941 - 2026

James Armistead Ransone
1946 - 2025

Larry Edward Williams, Sr.
1937 - 2026

Lester Mason Gillenwater
1936 - 2026

Vernon Lee Crumpler, Jr.
1945 - 2026

James Frederick Hardee
1937 - 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

Barrye Absher

Linwood Bennett

Sam Dunn

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