



October—December 2023



Our new 50-year Masonic Brethren
Bro. Chris Robinson, Jr. and Bro. Calvin Barnes

Valley of Newport News

Ill. and M.W. Janes D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill. and M.W. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, GC
Sovereign Grand Inspector General

Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Virginia

Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH
Assistant Personal Representative

Ill. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH
Secretary for the Valley of Newport News

Ill. David A. Burkus, 33°, IGH
Asst. Secretary for the Valley of Newport News

Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH
Treasurer for the Valley of Newport News

Bro. Robert R. Jones, 32°, KCCH
Almoner for the Valley of Newport News

Ill. Page S. Neale, Jr., 33°, IGH
Chairman of the Trustees

Newport News Lodge of Perfection
Bro. Manuel J. Lacerda, 32°, KCCH
Venerable Master

Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix
Bro. Gene S. Monroe, 32°
Wise Master

Newport News Council of Kadosh
Ill. William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH
Commander

Newport News Consistory
Ill. Joseph E. Gadea, 33°, IGH
Master of Kadosh

Knights of St. Andrew
Bro. C. Thomas Dubose, 32°, KCCH
Venerable Master

Upcoming Activities

Walk of Terror

October 13-15, 20-22, 27-29, & 31
(Most nights are 7:00 PM till at least 10:00 PM)

October 14, 2023
FALL REUNION

One-Day Event (Starts @ 8:00 PM)

October 25, 2023

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
(Lodge of Perfection & Council of Kadosh)
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: Ill. Matthew T. Szramoski, 33°, IGH
(Grand Junior Warden)

November 8, 2023

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
(Lodge of Perfection & Consistory)
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: Bro. Gerald L. Frey, 32°, KCCH

November 15, 2023

Start of Fall Sausage Sale

December 20, 2023

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
(Annual Stated meeting & Election of 2024 Officers)
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
There will be no program due to elections

Our stated meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM with the exception of meeting on the second Wednesday in November and December. A deliciously prepared Dutch Treat dinner is served at 6:30pm prior to all meetings except July & August meetings.

Please support your Blue Lodge, your Scottish Rite and all other Masonic Bodies you are a member of. They all need your support.

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Valley Personal Representative - Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH

Greetings Brethren,

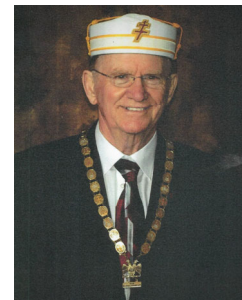
I hope each of you has enjoyed a great summer. We have completed our annual Scottish Rite Conference hosted by the Valley of Alexandria. It was a great Conference with very interesting topics, lots of fellowship and acquaintance renewal. Next year's Conference will be hosted by the Valley of Richmond. I highly recommend attending our annual Virginia Scottish Rite Conference if you have never attended one.

On Saturday, September 30th, during the Conference, the KCCH investiture was held at the Alexandria Scottish Rite Masonic Center with 31 Brethren from the Orient of Virginia being Invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight of the Court of Honour (KCCH). Three Brethren who received the honor were from the Valley of Newport News: Brothers Charles Thomas Dubose, Sewell Major Rowley, Jr., and Lewis Clyde Strickland. Illustrious Brother Steven Franklyn Dowd was Coroneted a 33° at the Supreme Council Session in Washington, D.C. in August. If you see these Brethren, please congratulate them.

We are now in the final quarter of 2023 with a lot of activity going on in the Valley of Newport News. Our Haunted House Fund raiser is getting underway as this newsletter goes to press. Just FYI, this effort requires approximately 45 people per night to operate. If you would like to help, please contact Ill. Bruce Edwards, 33°, IGH at 757.599.6617.

I would be remiss if I did not apprise you of a deep concern for our Medical Equipment Center. As you know or may not know, we issue a tremendous amount of medical equipment to those in need without cost or obligation. This effort has grown to an unmanageable level without additional help. I have personally devoted my time four days a week to assist Brother George Winslow, 32°, KCCH, in receiving, issuing, and repairing medical equipment. We can barely keep up. Year-to-date we have issued equipment at a value of \$300,000. Brethren, I am asking for your help in performing this vital function. The equipment comes in faster than I can issue it and I need support. If you would like to serve in this effort, please give me a call at 757.641.4139. Thank You!

*Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH
Valley Personal Representative*



Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to the change in seasons and the Holidays ahead. The Fall Season is upon us - days are getting shorter, leaves are changing, coolness in the air, squirrels are storing food for the winter, and it's time to prepare. You may want to consider the following things to do.

It is the time to make critical tax decisions. Please consider the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation (our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization), it supports and enhances the Hampton Roads community in which we live. The Valley Foundation's philanthropic endeavors include the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech & Language Program (SRCLP) locally operated at Old Dominion University (ODU), and the Valley's Medical Equipment Center, here at the Masonic Center. For additional information on Planned Giving see our website at: <https://www.nnscottishrite.org/planned-giving>

The end of the year may also be a good time to prepare, review, or update your will. The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite has partnered with an online service called **FreeWill** to provide a valuable service to anyone who needs to create a Will, Living Will, Beneficiary Plan, and more. Did you know about 70% of Americans don't have a will? That means they don't have a legal document that outlines their wishes for their final departure to the Celestial Lodge above. You may want to consider the Scottish Rite Foundation in your plan.

To start your journey, go to:

[Home - Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., U.S.A.](#)

Go to the How To Give Dropdown menu

Select Free Will

Two of our fall fund raisers are just around the corner. Please share our Haunted House web site with your friends and family, help the Valley by posting it on your social media accounts: walkofterror.org. This is our third year for the Walk of Terror Haunted House, please check out the website for all the details. We will also have our Fall Fresh Sausage Grind on November 15. Again, please pass the word and help us sell our freshly-made sausage. This past Spring we ground 1,100 pounds of sausage. These events are not only a great opportunity for our Fraternity to interact with the community, but also raises funds for the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation.

Brothers all, may you and your families have a joyful holiday season. May you be blessed with good health and good fortune.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

*Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH
Asst. Valley Personal Representative*



From the Secretary's Desk - Ill. Steve F. Dowd, 33°, IGH

Brethren,

At our September Stated Communication, we held our Annual Feast of Tishri. Thanks to the entire team for their efforts. A special thanks to Brother Tommy DuBose, 32°, KCCH, and Brother Chip Carpenter, 32°, who took on the main speaking roles for this Celebration. I'd also like to thank Illustrious Bob Tiller, 33°, IGH, who was the Degree Master and coordinated the entire celebration. I received many compliments and praise on your presentation. Great Job everyone!!!

As the year is winding down, it is time to elect and install the Newport News Scottish Rite officers for 2024. We will have the election and installation on December 20, 2023. If you are interested in being a part of the line in any of the Scottish Rite bodies, please reach out to the incoming Masters: Lodge of Perfection – Bro Sewell Rowley, 32°, KCCH; Chapter of Rose Croix – MW and Ill Bill Rorer, 33°, IGH; Council of Kadosh – Bro. Vince Mundie, 32°, KCCH; and Consistory – Bro. Sewell Rowley, 32°, KCCH. This year has passed so quickly, and we have said "good-bye" to twenty-three of our Scottish Rite Brethren.

By now, you have received your 2024 membership card and dues notice. I would like to thank those who have already mailed in their 2024 dues payment and encourage others to send in their dues prior to December 31, 2023. If you have any questions concerning your dues, please contact me or Ill. Dave, at the Scottish Rite office (757-599-6618) or e-mail me at nnsrsecretary@gmail.com. We will promptly clear up any questions you may have. Remember, without your dues, the Newport News Scottish Rite cannot function. Again, thank you for paying your dues before December 31st.

Those of you who are LMIP or 50 Year members, you should have received a letter from Ill. James Dean Cole, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, with a dues notice card showing a ZERO balance. This was done, in order to give you a chance to donate to our Building Fund, Almoner's Fund, or the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation. Please consider providing that additional support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 14th **Fall Reunion.** As of this writing, we have seven candidates!! Outstanding work Brethren. This reunion will be a First for the Valley! The degree presentation will be the "Cinematic" presentation of all the degrees provided by the Orient of Missouri. This will be a tiled meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. Please bring your dues cards.

November 8th Our Stated meeting. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with our stated meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

December 20th Our Stated meeting with Election and Installation of Officers. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. with our stated meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

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Brethren,

The Orient of Virginia Annual Scottish Rite Conference was held on September 28-30, 2023 and was hosted by the Valley of Alexandria. The Valley of Newport News was well represented with 12 members attending. Informative education programs were provided, hospitality rooms were well attended, and most of all, everyone had the opportunity to interact with Scottish Rite Masons from all over the State. A good time was had by all who attended.

Moving forward to 2024, I ask that you mark your calendars for the following events:

1. Orient of Virginia Spring Workshop, March 16, 2024, at the ACCA Shrine Center in Richmond, VA
2. The 100th Orient of Virginia Scottish Rite Conference, September 26-28, 2024, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/ Short Pump, VA

The Valley of Newport News will be hosting the Orient of Virginia's Annual Conference in 2027. Although this seems to be well in the future, the time will past quickly and planning has already begun. If you would like to assist with the planning of this conference, please let me know. It takes many members from our Valley to provide a great conference and I look forward to working with you all.

Fraternally,
J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH
Conference Vice President

Valley Secretary's Comments

(Continued from Page 5)

I would like to thank our Assistant Secretary, Illustrious Dave Burkus, 33°, IGH, for all his help and support this year. His knowledge of all things Masonic, his dry wit, and his expertise have made the office run smoother, more efficiently, and a great place to work. Thank you, Ill. Dave!!

Again, we will have our stated meetings on November 8th and December 20th, at 7:30 pm, dinner being served at 6:30 pm. The cost of the meals is \$10 per person. Mark your calendar and plan on being at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center for our meetings.

The Scottish Rite office is opened Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to Noon. Our office phone number is 757-599-6617 and my email is: nnsrsecretary@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for your support this year. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the Valley General Secretary.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Ill. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH
Valley General Secretary





A HANUKKUAH BLESSING

Praised are You, Our God,
 Ruler of the universe,
 Who made us holy
 through Your commandments
 and commanded us to
 kindle the Hanukkah lights.

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating liberation from the Syrian Greeks. In the 2nd Century B.C., Jerusalem was under Syrian-Greek control. It is said the Jews were forced to pray to Greek Gods and idols. This is forbidden for Jews and so there was a resistance to the Greeks. The resistance was done by the Maccabees. They were few but were highly organized and used guerrilla warfare tactics. They managed to gather up a big enough army to defeat the Greeks and free Jerusalem.

When the Jews reached the Temple, they found it desecrated with Greek idols. They cleaned it out following Kosher guidelines, but could not find oil to light the eternal flame of the Temple – the Menorah. This was meant to be constantly alight but had been put out by the Greeks. The nearest place to get the sacred oil for the lamp was an eight-day walk. After searching for a while, they found a small pot of undesecrated oil, enough to last for about a day. The miracle of Hanukkah was that this tiny pot of oil lasted for eight days, time for new oil to be brought to the Temple. For this reason, Jews across the world light an eight-candle Menorah, known as a “Chanukia” to commemorate the eight days of the miracle.

In 2023, Hanukkah begins at sunset on December 7.



We're Back....

*Come out and "enjoy" our
 little house of horrors
 and the **Walk of Terror!!***

*Click on the OCR box to
 the left to get your
 advance tickets or buy
 them at the **Walk of
 Terror!***





Christmas

By Richard Perrotti

*Can the hardest of hearts be turned by a certain time of the year
and the milk of human kindness overflow?
As sure as "It's a Wonderful Life" will bring a tear to the eye,
the legend of Christmas continues to grow.*

*Sure, we moan and groan, "Never again," in our annual upstream swim,
swearing that next year we'll start this come June.
But with the first carol's echo, all frustration seems forgotten,
and a guest named Christmas walks into the room.*

*Have you noticed that each December we're a kinder
and gentler nation in the truest and noblest spirit of the words.
We hear it all across the land, booming loud or whispered softly,
the voice of Christmas calls out and joyously is heard.*

*Is it evergreens and cookies that makes this time so special
or some magic sent from above?
Like most basic truths, the answer is simple;*

*It's only Christmas...
And Christmas is love.*

Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation

FRESH SAUSAGE SALE

Your choice: **Mild** or **Spicy**

Pick up orders April 16 and 17
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
65 Saunders Rd, Newport News
PLACE ORDERS - 757-599-6617

This fundraising effort supports our Scottish Rite Charities:
the Medical Equipment Center for the community
and the ODU Childhood Speech and Learning Center

Tidewater DeMolay Activities

On Friday and Saturday, September 29th - 30th, 19 Scouts and Scouters from BSA (Boy Scout of America) Troops 242B & 242G contributed 70 man-hours to constructing a 16 x 16 foot paver patio between the our parking lot and our Medical Equipment Building. This project was led by Carl Carpenter (Past Master Councilor of Tidewater Chapter, Order of DeMolay) under the guidance of his father, Bro. Chip Carpenter, 32°, with support from the Valley of Newport News and Warwick Lodge No. 336. Under his leadership, the team excavating the site, spread and compacted eight tons of crush and run, spread two tons of sand, and laid two tons of cement pavers.



This is the final requirement Carl needed for his Eagle Rank, next will be his Board of Review. When asked about why he chose this project, Carl said “The Scottish Rite and Warwick Lodge have been very supportive of the DeMolay and of me personally, and I wanted to give back to them. This seemed like a great idea.”

His Scoutmaster, Mr. Grieme, was very pleased with the project, “It was a great project! I really enjoy when the Scouts do large, hands-on projects.” Mr. Grieme was familiar with the Scottish Rite building as both of his sons participated in the Junior Cotillion, but wasn’t familiar with our philanthropies: **Rite Care** or the medical equipment program. Brother Chip spent some time familiarizing him with those program, and George showed him some of the medical equipment we loan out. He plans on donating a functioning CPAP machine to the program.



The patio is still settling and final cleanup of the site is ongoing, but it is expected to be ready for use by the end of October. It will provide a place for fellowship, coaching, and will eventually be fitted with a fire pit to allow for DeMolay Flag Retirement Ceremonies and additional fellowship opportunities. More to come in the next issue of the Beacon .

Upcoming Member's Birthdays

James R. Longstreet	10/1	Wayne D. Golden	10/31	J. Robert Tiller	12/1
Harvey P. Whitehurst	10/5	George J. Onks	11/1	H. Randolph Maney	12/1
Gerard Senecal, Jr.	10/5	David P. Shupe	11/2	William S. Harris	12/3
John T. Britt	10/6	Bobby E. Bedsaul	11/3	Lee W. Horton	12/3
Aubrey D. Dugger	10/9	John R. Goodwin	11/5	Robert L. Thompson	12/4
Richard H. Jones	10/9	Daniel E. Singer	11/7	Joseph D. Grist	12/7
Jason M. Hart	10/10	Elijah A. Wilkerson	11/10	Brian R. Croteau	12/8
Luke A. Hunter	10/12	Richard L. Taylor	11/10	Charles L. Hall	12/11
William F. Corvello	10/14	Manley S. Felty	11/10	Alan R. Vanasse	12/13
William H. Martin	10/14	Lee L. Mcmillan	11/15	William L. Luthie	12/15
Monty R. Mills	10/14	Christopher S. Robinson	11/16	Ian W. Frey	12/16
John P. Brown	10/15	Michael J. Swecker	11/18	James E. Hudgins	12/17
Herbert V. Wuska	10/16	John C. Jobe	11/20	Martin D. Meyer	12/18
Luke D. Ludovico	10/16	Carlin D. Carpenter	11/21	Richard L. Parker	12/18
Richard I. Kempton	10/17	Christopher E. Claud	11/22	Robert L. Parker	12/18
Alton W. Earley	10/17	Justin R. Boone	11/24	Bobby D. Ashe	12/20
Robert E. Lorch	10/18	Victor V. Vogelsang	11/26	Michael W. Sellers	12/22
Robert C. Walulik	10/21	Gordon M. Hunt	11/27	Page S. Neale	12/23
Robert R. Harper	10/21	Danny E. Bowers	11/27	Thomas F. Kuykendal	12/24
David A Burkus	10/23	Arthur G. Gandy	11/28	George A. Hollingsworth, III	12/24
David J. Hardin	10/23	Michael W. Dunston	11/29	Joseph L. Watson	12/24
Ralph S. Worley	10/27	Meredith C. Hutto	11/30	Charles K. Root	12/25
George C. Dailey	10/29	John M. Fischer	11/30	John F. Drummond	12/25
Billy R. Evans	10/29	Matthew T. Szramoski	11/30	James A. Ridenhour	12/26
Donald C. Moyer, Jr.	10/29			Jerry L. Keast	12/28
Layton Rice	10/30			Joe D. Tugwell	12/31
R. Vince Mundie	10/30				
G. Thomas Mainwaring	10/31				

Bro. Garland Marshall Lewis, 32°
July 6, 2022

Bro. Charles Milton Walden, 32°
June 30, 2023

Bro. Donnan Edward Barton, 32°
July 4, 2023

Bro. Carl Lee Barrack., 32°
August 3, 2023

Bro. Sammy Chris Canavos, 32°
August 13, 2023

Bro. Roland Holladay Lewis, 32°
August 22, 2023

Bro. Joseph Dean Hohe, 32°
September 12, 2023

**Our Departed
Brethren
Their spirit to God,
their memory in
our hearts.**

