



Our 2024 Valley Officers Being Installed

<p><i>Valley of Newport News</i></p> <p>Ill. James D. Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander</p> <p>Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, GC Sovereign Grand Inspector General</p> <p>Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH Personal Representative of the SGIG in Virginia</p> <p>Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH Assistant Personal Representative</p> <p>Ill. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH Secretary for the Valley of Newport News</p> <p>Ill. David A. Burkus, 33°, IGH Asst. Secretary for the Valley of Newport News</p> <p>Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH Treasurer for the Valley of Newport News</p> <p>Bro. Robert R. Jones, 32°, KCCH Almoner for the Valley of Newport News</p> <p>Ill. Page S. Neale, Jr., 33°, IGH Chairman of the Trustees</p> <p>Newport News Lodge of Perfection Bro. Sewell M. Rowley, 32°, KCCH Venerable Master</p> <p>Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix Ill. & M.W. William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH Wise Master</p> <p>Newport News Council of Kadosh Bro. Vince R. Mundie 32°, KCCH Commander</p> <p>Newport News Consistory Bro. Sewell M. Rowley, 32°, KCCH Master of Kadosh</p> <p>Knights of St. Andrew Bro. C. Thomas Dubose, 32°, KCCH Venerable Master</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Activities</u></p> <p>January 24 Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting (Consistory & Lodge of Perfection) Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM) Speaker: TBD</p> <p>February 28 Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting (Council of Kadosh & Lodge of Perfection) Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM) Speaker: TBD</p> <p>March 16 Scottish Rite Workshop Acca Temple in Richmond 9:00 till Noon</p> <p>March 27 Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting <i>Rememberance and Renewal</i> (Chapter of Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection) Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM) Speaker: TBD</p> <p>April 20 SPRING REUNION One-Day Event (Starts @ 8:00 PM)</p> <p>April 24 Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting (Consistory & Lodge of Perfection) Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM) Speaker: TBD</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Inside this Issue</u></p> <p>Page 2 - Upcoming Activities</p> <p>Page 3 - Valley Personal Representative</p> <p>Page 4 - Assistant Personal Representative</p> <p>Page 5 - Valley Secretary</p> <p>Page 6 - VA Scottish Rite Conference Report</p> <p>Page 7 - Golf Tournament & DeMolay Activity</p> <p>Page 8-9 - Meeting Schedule & SR Bodies</p> <p>Page 10 - 2024 Officers</p>
<p>Please support your Blue Lodge, your Scottish Rite and all other Masonic Bodies you are a member of. They all need your support.</p>	

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

Greetings Brethren,

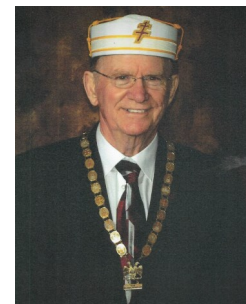
Welcome to 2024! I would be remiss if I did not thank our Scottish Rite Team for their outstanding performance in 2023. Thanks to their Team effort, our Valley is running like a well-oiled machine! However, even the best running machines break down on occasion. We all appreciate and welcome Brethren who are ready to roll up their sleeves and join our "Team". Positions are open on our Grounds committee, Fund raising activities, Office staff, and especially the Medical Equipment Center dispensing medical equipment to the public Monday – Thursday, three hours per day. At the present time, I have temporally diverted my time to reducing inventory and organizing/restructuring the Center. If you are interested in working in, or managing, this facility, please contact me at the office (757.599.6617).

A special thanks to Ill. Dave Burkus, our assistant Secretary, for assuming the responsibility for managing our Food Service Committee. Due to a shortage of support personnel, Dave had to resort to catering our Stated dinners. Expect the price per meal to increase in 2024 due to the aforementioned. Also, I am pleased to announce we have submitted the name of Bro. Jonathan Oliveras, 32°, as our candidate for the Scottish Rite Fellows Program. Bro. Oliveras will participate in our regional area workshop and be in attendance at a mandatory meeting with the Grand Commander in Washinton, D.C. Brother Oliveras, congratulations and thank you for your acceptance of this honor.

During this quarter, you will receive notice and it will be mentioned at the meetings, the upcoming Spring Workshop in Richmond which is held each year around the same time. Please give some thought about attending this function. It is free, has coffee & donuts prior to the meeting, and concludes with a free lunch at the conclusion of the meeting. The workshop will be held at the Acca Shrine Temple in Richmond. Our secretary will provide you with the time and address at your request.

Finally, brethren, I encourage you to get involved in your Scottish Rite. The many activities, plus the fellowship, are beyond any expectations you may have. Looking forward to seeing you in 2024.

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



Assistant Valley Representative - Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH

Brethren,

As we start our new year, each of us needs to give thanks for our many blessings. Maybe our resolution for the new year should be to pause each & every day and give thanks. For me, like most of us, our families and loved ones come first, for they are our greatest blessing. We, as Masons, are also blessed with our Masonic family.

Although we may debate, sometimes argue, and often disagree amongst ourselves; our Masonic family stays strong. We practice meeting on the **level**, acting upon the **plumb**, and parting on the **square**. These simple symbols have been part of our fraternity for centuries. They are not difficult to remember, but sometimes the simple truths they represent are hard to practice.

These practice makes our Fraternity unique. Readings from the Bible and what we have learned from our ritual should be at the forefront of your thoughts and actions. As we learned in the Entered Apprentice degree, the ritual reminds us “*how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity*” and further reminds us of our commitment to each other. In a world where it seems every issue seems to polarize our society; we have simple teachings holding us together.

In the upcoming year, I look forward to the fellowship our Fraternity offers knowing we practice friendship, morality, and Brotherly Love in our daily lives. Thus, may we ever meet, act, and part.

Here are a few dates to put on your calendar. The Newport News Scottish Rite will have our Spring Reunion on Saturday, April 20. If you know a Master Mason who would like to further his Masonic knowledge and be part of the Scottish Rite, please pick up an application from the office or go online at nncottishrite.org and get an application. Our Spring Sausage Grind will be on Tuesday, April 23. This is not only a great fundraiser for our Valley but a day of good fellowship. Please plan on helping.



Sincerely & fraternally,

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

From the Supreme Council, AASR, USA, SJ:

If the petition for membership does NOT include the following, it is not a valid one!!

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following standard wording be adopted as official language to be included in all membership petitions and publications:

Do you wholeheartedly approve of the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, undying loyalty to the principles of civic and religious liberty, separation of church and state, and protection of and respect for all individual rights as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America.

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

Brethren,

First, we hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year!! We have had our monthly Scottish Rite meetings this past year and while attendance was around 30, I hopefully look forward to seeing more Brethren in attendance in 2024. Last year we conferred the Scottish Rite degrees on ten Masons using the new Cinematic format. I have been very impressed with these new Masters of the Royal Secret. Their enthusiasm and willingness to engage in various aspects of different activities supporting Newport News Scottish Rite is impressive. Welcome Brethren!

Please see the annual schedule of meetings posted in the enclosed in our newsletter (see Page 8). As a reminder, our monthly meetings are on the 4th Wednesday with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our meeting dates for this quarter are January 24, February 28, and March 27. The desired dress for most of our meetings is a coat and tie. During June, July, and August, we will be in Lodge shirts. However, please know that your presence is vital to all of us, no matter how you are dressed!

Our dues continue to come in and I urge everyone to look at their membership cards and make sure they indicate 2024. As of this date, we have 43 members who have a current dues balance and 8 members with dues in arrears. If you have not paid your dues, you can remit them through the Valley Office (cash, check, or credit card) or the Supreme Council website's "Member Login" area (credit card only). If anyone is having trouble with paying your dues (financial issues, sickness, etc.), please call and speak with me. We are here for you and will help you anyway we can. If you have any questions concerning your dues, please call the office and talk with Ill. Steve Dowd, 33°, IGH, or Ill. David Burkus, 33°, IGH. Our phone number is – 757-599-6617 or email me at: nnsrsecretary@gmail.com

Please log on the Newport News Scottish Rite website (<https://www.nnscottishrite.org/>) to see all the great information on Scottish Rite and what we are doing as a Valley and our great philanthropic endeavors. Ill. Dave Burkus is working hard to continually improve our website. If you would like to assist in maintaining and updating the Valley and Orient websites and our Facebook presence, please reach out to us. Geeks are always welcome!

The Orient of Virginia Workshop will be in the morning on March 16, 2023, at the Acca Shrine Center in Richmond. For those who want to carpool, we generally depart from the NNSR parking lot between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. The Orient Workshops are another great opportunity to hear directly from the Orient Senior Leadership, specifically, Ill. And M.W. Alan Wayne Adkins, 33°, GC, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) in Virginia.

God Bless and Stay Safe!!!

*Fraternally,
Ill. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH
General Secretary*



Conference Vice President - Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33^o, IGH

Brethren,

Happy New Year to you all. It is time to mark your new calendars in support of Scottish Rite Masonry in Virginia. Please note the following dates and make your plans to travel to Richmond in March and September in 2024.

2024 Workshop

The Scottish Rite Workshop is on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Acca Shrine Center in Richmond. **The Workshop will start at 9:30 AM and should conclude with lunch at 12:00 Noon.** Coffee and doughnuts will be available starting at 8:30 AM.

2024 Orient of Virginia Conference

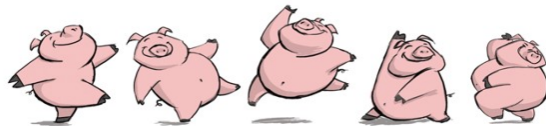
The 100th Orient of Virginia Scottish Rite Conference will be held on September 26-28, 2024, at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa, Short Pump, VA. The agenda will be shared as soon as it is provided.

I look forward to seeing everyone active at the Valley of Newport News and the Orient of Virginia in 2024. Please make Scottish Rite Masonry a priority this year.

Fraternally,
J. Richard Rawls, 33^o, IGH
Conference Vice President

Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation

FRESH SAUSAGE SALE



Your choice: **Mild, Spicy, Chorizo, Maple, & Sweet Italian**

Pick up orders on April 24 and 25
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



Golf Tournament Report

Our Valley's 2024 Golf Tournament

The 20th Annual Illustrious William M. Johnson, 33°, IGH, Memorial Scottish Rite Golf Tournament for the Valley of Newport News will be held on June 6, 2024. Last year's tournament welcomed 84 golfers, so it is not too early to start putting your team(s) together for a great day of fun, fellowship, Laughs, camaraderie, and golf. Remember this tournament helps support our charity, the Language and Speech Center at Old Dominion University.

Brochures will be placed in the Scottish Rite office, at various golf courses, golf businesses, and the different Lodges on the Peninsula and Southside. Registration and checks should be made out to the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. Your golf committee contacts are Richard Russell, Page Neale, Sewell Rowley, Paul Nelson, Bruce Edwards, Tom Mainwaring, Lew Strickland, Steve Vaughn, and Jerry Whitlock.

Tidewater DeMolay Activities

Tidewater DeMolay hosted their 8th Annual Christmas Wonderfest Vendor Fair at the Newport News Scottish Rite building on Saturday, December 8, 2023. This is one of two vendor fairs the DeMolay conduct each year and serves as the primary fundraiser for the youth. The social hall and lobby were filled with lots of vendors (including the local Eastern Star and a couple of Masonic Brothers who were also vendors) and customers. A great day was had by all!


























Following the event, representatives from the Chapter attended the dinner before the December 20, 2023 Scottish Rite meeting and presented the Valley with a \$1000 donation from the Fair proceeds in recognition of the Valley's ongoing support of the Chapter.



From Left to Right: Bro. Carl C. (Past Master Councilor- PMC), Bro. Taylon B. (PMC), Illustrious Jack L. Smith, 33°,IGH, Bro. Dennis D., and Bro. Logan B.

2024 SCHEDULE OF NEWPORT NEWS SCOTTISH RITE MEETINGS

(as prescribed by the Statutes of the Supreme Council**)

<p>JANUARY  </p> <p>Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>	<p>FEBRUARY  </p> <p>Council of Kadosh and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>
<p>MARCH  </p> <p>Chapter Rose Croix and Lodge of Perfection <i>(Remembrance and Renewal)</i> Coat and Tie</p>	<p>APRIL  </p> <p>Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>
<p>MAY </p> <p>Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>	<p>JUNE  </p> <p>Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Lodge Shirts, NO Dinner</p>
<p>JULY  </p> <p>Chapter Rose Croix and Lodge of Perfection Lodge Shirts, NO Dinner</p>	<p>AUGUST </p> <p>Lodge of Perfection Lodge Shirts, NO Dinner</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER </p> <p>Lodge of Perfection <i>(Feast of Tishri)</i> Coat and Tie</p>	<p>OCTOBER  </p> <p>Council of Kadosh and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>
<p>NOVEMBER  </p> <p>Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>	<p>DECEMBER    </p> <p>* (Installation of Officers) Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie</p>

* NOTE: December is the Annual Stated Meeting, all 4 bodies will hold election and installation of its officers:

** The Statutes of the Supreme Council state in Article XV – Section 9, Stated meetings of a Lodge of Perfection must be held at least monthly, and of a Chapter of Rose Croix and a Council of Kadosh, as least once in two months, except during the months of July and August and September. A Consistory must hold regular meetings at least once every three months.

Scottish Rite Degree Bodies

The Scottish Rite degrees are designed to explore different world philosophies, ancient religions, and systems of ethics. Through all of these avenues, people have tried to uncover certain universal mysteries. The Degrees of the Rite do not tell a Mason what he should think about these enigmas. Instead, they instruct him on what great thinkers and civilizations of the past have thought and create an ideal situation to gain insight. Agreeing with Socrates that the unexamined life is not worth living, the Rite supports this self-examination by providing reference points.



Lodge of Perfection

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/lodge-of-perfection>

These degrees, the 4th through 14th, are called Ineffable Degrees because their principal purpose is the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of Deity.



Chapter of Rose Croix

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/chapter-rose-croix>

These degrees, the 15th through 18th, are very complex. They attempt to invest the candidate with a deeper understanding of Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and History.



Council of Kadosh

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/council-of-kadosh>

The degrees of the Council of Kadosh, 19th through 30th, are chivalric and philosophical, but also contain mystical material. The word "Kadosh" is a Hebrew word meaning "Holy".



Consistory

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/consistory>

The Consistory Degrees, 31st through 32nd, are very different from all the preceding degrees. They attempt to illustrate the creation of the ideal balance between the spiritual and the temporal.

2024 Officers for the Valley of Newport News

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Bro. Sewell Major Rowley, 32°, KCCH
Senior Warden	Bro. Raleigh John Pacheco, III, 32°
Junior Warden	Bro. James Russell Longstreet, 32°
Orator	Bro. David Scott Macon, 32°
Prelate	Bro. Derrick Ray Barker, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Robert Ray Jones, 32°, KCCH
Expert	Bro. Gerald Lee Frey, 32°, KCCH
Assistant Expert	Bro. William Jack Spencer, 32°
Captain of the Host	Bro. Michael Leon Davenport II, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Frank Anthony Pecci, 32°

ROSE CROIX

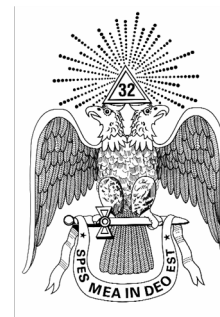
Wise Master	III. Bro. William Earle Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH
Senior Warden	Bro. Manuel Joseph Lacerda, 32°, KCCH
Junior Warden	Bro. Justin Robert Boone, 32°
Orator	Bro. Derrick Ray Barker, 32°
Prelate	III. Bro. Joseph Efrain Gadea, 33°, IGH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. John Wesley Lash, III, 32°
Expert	Bro. Carlin Drew Carpenter, 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Michael Leon Davenport II, 32°
Standard Bearer	Bro. Paul John Nelson, 32°
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Dennis Douglass Drahos, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Frank Anthony Pecci, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Bro. Ryland Vince Mundie, 32°, KCCH
First Lt. Commander	Bro. David Crocket Westcott, 32°
Second Lt. Commander	Bro. David Wayne Murray, 32°, KCCH
Chancellor	Bro. Manuel Joseph Lacerda, 32°, KCCH
Orator	Bro. Leonard Saine Mayo, 32°, KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. John Wesley Lash, III, 32°
Turcopolier	Bro. Joseph Efrain Gadea, 33°, IGH
Draper	Bro. John Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH
First Deacon	Bro. Sewell Major Rowley, Jr., 32°, KCCH
Second Deacon	Bro. Robert Ray Jones, 32°, KCCH
Bearer of Beauseant	Bro. Gene Stanley Monroe, 32°
Bearer of White Standard	Bro. Michael Leon Davenport II, 32°
Bearer of Black Standard	Bro. Paul John Nelson, 32°
Lieutenant of the Guard	Bro. Carlin Drew Carpenter, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Frank Anthony Pecci, 32°

Consistory

Master of Kadosh	Bro. Sewell Major Rowley, Jr., 32°, KCCH
Prior	Bro. Hilton Randolph Maney, 32°, KCCH
Preceptor	Bro. Manuel Joseph Lacerda, 32°, KCCH
Chancellor	Bro. Gerald Lee Frey, 32°, KCCH
Minister of State	Bro. Derrick Ray Barker, 32°
Prelate	Bro. Lewis Clyde Strickland, 32°, KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Paul John Nelson, 32°
Expert	Bro. Nicholas Vain, 32°
Assistant Expert	Bro. Michael Leon Davenport II, 32°
Captain of the Guard	Bro. John Wesley Lash, III, 32°
Tiler	Bro. Frank Anthony Pecci, 32°



Supreme Council Presentation / Sausage Grind

At our October Stated Communication, Ill. Matthew T. Szramoski, 33°, IGH, was our speaker for the night. His talk was about how to increase membership and also ideas on how to retain members and keep them entertained / busy in the Valley. Ill. Matt is also the Director of Development for the Supreme Council, which supports the financial needs of both the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., and the Scottish Rite Foundation, SJ, U.S.A., Inc., which coordinates and executes fundraising initiatives for the Supreme Council.

At the completion of his talk, he presented our Personal Representative to the SGIG, Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH, with an award to the Valley for our donations to the Supreme Council in the past years.



In November after the Haunted House had been “torn down” and stored for next Autumn, our volunteers set up and ground sausage as our next fundraiser. We have a pretty good system set up by now. We have guys cutting the meat up into grindable sizes, which is then passed down the line to the grinders. After the meat is ground it gets transferred to the spice “adders” who then mix the sausage up.



The ground sausage is then passed up to the packers. They load it into containers and weigh it to ensure it is 16 ounces. The boxes are then cleaned up and sealed. Finally they place a seal on the box stating the date and what type of sausage is in the box.

We now are doing five types of sausage: mild, spicy, sweet Italian, chorizo, and maple. The final three need to special ordered. The next sausage fundraiser will be on April 23 with pick up starting on April 24.



Upcoming Member's Birthdays

Samuel Caleb Bryant	1/1	William Daryl Grubbs	1/28	Clifton M. Trinidad	3/3
Jonathan Oliveras	1/2	Michael Dean Vandevener	1/29	Donald G. Moore	3/4
Timothy Stephens Brandon	1/3	Jimmy Joe Fryrear	1/29	Robert G. Murray	3/8
Jeffrey Paul Wilson	1/4	James Daniel Higginbottom	1/29	Donald C. Hardison	3/9
Jimmy Terry Landrom, Sr.	1/4	Jerry S. Whitlock	2/1	Lawrence E. Carmichael	3/9
Ralph Curtis Mainwaring	1/5	Thomas E. Lasher	2/1	Burrell F. Corbett	3/10
William Henry Newton	1/6	Calvin W. Barnes	2/2	Rusell T. Lambert	3/13
Robert Eugene Laubacker	1/6	Michael D. Johnstone	2/3	Patrick C. Murphrey	3/14
Richard Aubrey Russell	1/7	Richard H. Pulley	2/4	Manuel J. Lacerda	3/14
Carlton Bert Nurney	1/10	Elliot L. Errera	2/4	William M. Gibson	3/14
Joseph Adrian De Ryder, Sr.	1/10	Rawleigh J. Linkous	2/9	Dennis D. Drahos	3/16
Clifford Arthur Leach	1/10	Robert F. Calaway	2/10	Robert B. Watkins	3/17
Lewis Ray Nobles	1/11	William H. Maniford	2/10	John E. Mitchell	3/18
John Roger Ward	1/11	Robert R. Jones	2/13	Tony R. Auby	3/18
Michael Alex Korb	1/12	Derrick R. Barker	2/15	George M. Polizos	3/18
James D Fulton	1/13	John W. Lash	2/18	Timothy J. Miller	3/19
Kurt Daniel Williams	1/16	C. Thomas DuBose	2/20	Mark K. Brinkley	3/21
James Kent Carter	1/17	Bernard L. Gerlach	2/22	William G. Leary	3/24
David Carr Whitt	1/17	Gilbert D. Clapper	2/22	William C. Black	3/24
Danny Clyde Howlett	1/18	Joseph E. Gadea	2/27	Edward E. Sofianek	3/24
Sherwood C Emerson	1/21	Robert P. Bishop	2/28	Alva C. Brookshire	3/26
Doyal Virgil Godwin	1/22			Vernon L. Dockins	3/27
Foy Jackson Holland	1/23			William J. Valvo	3/28
Marion Culpepper Love	1/23			John K. Kelly	3/28
Frank T Wootton	1/25			Brian D. Joos	3/28
James Everett Dilley	1/25			Story W. Smith	3/30
William Earle Rorer	1/25			Charles H. Craig	3/31
John Bernard Godfrey	1/26				
Winfred Otto Isgett	1/28				

**Bro. William Joseph Poggione, 32°
September 21, 2023**

**Bro. and Rev. Layman Harvey, Sr., 32°
October 6, 2023**

**Bro. Ricky Lee Smith, 32°, KCCH
October 29, 2023**

**Bro. William Richard Gorman, 32°
January 2, 2024**

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

