



April—June 2024

Our Spring Reunion will be in Honor of Illustrious Hassel “Pete” Johnston, 33° IGH



Born on April 25, 1942, in Jeffrey, West Virginia, Hassel “Pete” Johnston passed away on February 20, 2023, in Newport News, Virginia. He was the son of the late Jason and Tennessee Johnston. Pete graduated from Scott High School in Madison, West Virginia, in 1960, where he excelled as a three-sport letterman in football, basketball, and baseball. His upbringing in a house built by his father, a career coal miner, instilled a strong work ethic and a caring soul. In 1962, Pete left home and moved to Virginia for more opportunities for himself and his family. He embarked on a remarkable 42-year career at Newport News Shipbuilding, participating in sea trials for 11 aircraft carriers built by Newport News, including CVN65 (Enterprise) through CVN75 (Harry Truman). His work also took him internationally on numerous commercial vessels. Pete retired in 2004 as a Marine Chemist and a Master Shipbuilder. Despite working full-time, often on night shifts, he built, owned, and operated a laundromat and two hardware stores. A devoted member of

Trinity Lutheran Church in Newport News. He was also a Smithfield Union Lodge No. 18 member and a 33° Mason with the Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite, where he volunteered much of his time. Known for his generosity and love of family, he attended his children’s and grandchildren’s ball games, swim meets, horse shows, go-cart races, and even coached youth football. Pete enjoyed following NASCAR and college sports. In his final years, he cared for his wife, Joan, and took immense pride in keeping his vows through sickness and health.

<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>April 20 SPRING REUNION One-Day Event (Starts @ 8:00 PM)</p> <p>April 23 MAKE SAUSAGE DAY</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>APRIL 24, 25, & 26 SAUSAGE SALE Between 9AM and 5 PM</p> <p>MAY 22 Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting (Consistory & Lodge of Perfection) Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM) Speaker: TBD</p> <p>MAY 25 MASONIC FAMILY PICNIC Open to ALL Masonic Members, Families, & Guests To be held at NNSR Masonic Center Time: TBD</p> <p>JUNE 6 20th Annual Illustrious William M. Johnson, 33°, IGH, Memorial Scottish Rite Golf Tournament</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 - VASR Conference Report & VMAP Report</p> <p>Page 7 - Golf Tournament & KSA Report</p> <p>Page 8 - DeMolay Activities</p> <p>Page 9 - J/ROTC Report</p> <p>Page 10 - Birthdays & Memorium</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,

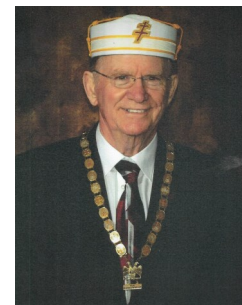
We are now in the Second Quarter of 2024. This year is on a fast track; therefore, we have very little time to waste. Having just completed our annual workshop in Richmond on March 16th, which was a resounding success, with approximately 14 valley members in attendance, excellent speakers, and a great catered lunch. Many thanks to all who attended.

Moving on, at our stated meeting in March we are looking forward to our ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal and on Saturday April 20th we will hold our spring reunion. At the present time we have four candidates with several more expected before the reunion. Brethren it is not too late for a new petition or two, if you have a Brother in mind who you feel would make a great Scottish Rite Mason, please invite him to petition.

As many of you know, I have spent many hours working in the Medical Equipment Center with the goal of reducing the inventory, organizing, and displaying medical Equipment for issuance. I was blessed to have Ms. Karen Ivy volunteer to assist in this undertaking. Her dedication and insightfulness made it all possible. I would be remiss if I did not extend my appreciation to Brothers Art Strode, Paul Rosensteel, Ill. Jim Lassiter, and Karen Ivy who have stepped up to meet the challenge of maintaining and issuing medical equipment to the public. We are still short of one or two additional brethren to fill positions that will allow us to have two volunteers each day. Remember, brethren, it's only three hours each day Monday through Thursday. We need one additional person on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. If you can spare one day a week for three hours, please give me a call at 757.599.6617.

Our auditorium stage flooring has been restored to its original beauty by the Ivy family. They lay, sand, and finish hardwood flooring. If you are in the market for floor refinishing, call your Valley Secretary for contact information. Replacement of ceiling tiles in our Social Hall is underway. The tiles were installed when the Masonic Center was built and are now in need of replacement. Thanks to the generosity of Brother Leonard Mayo, 32°, KCCH, who is funding this project. Thank you, Brother Mayo, for all you do in support of our Masonic Center.

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



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

We often hear that the Scottish Rite is the “College of Freemasonry.” A place to gain more light in masonry and expand our understanding of our history and what it means to be a Freemason. Fortunately, this Valley has educational programs like the [Masonic Book Club](#), led by Rt. Wor. & Bro. Gerald Frey, 32°, KCCH, and a [Masonic Leadership](#) program, coordinated by Wor. & Bro. Billy Spencer, 32°. In addition, the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction (scottishrite.org) [“Master Craftsman Online College and Leadership Academy”](#) provides learning opportunities to both Master Masons and Scottish Rite members:

[“The Master’s Steps”](#) is available to all Master Masons. You are not required to be a member of the Scottish Rite. In this mini-course, Master Masons learn about Masonic History and Symbolism. The course is designed not only for newly raised Master Masons but also for Masons with decades of experience.

Also available to all Master Masons is the [“Tyler’s Place Podcast”](#), which has 136 podcasts about various Masonic topics. They provide easy listening to discussions about subjects of interest to all Masons. The [“Scottish Rite Journal Podcast”](#) includes 144 readings of featured articles from the [“Scottish Rite Journal”](#). If you haven’t had a chance to read these articles or are a Master Mason and find something of interest, sit back in your favorite chair and enjoy some of the most informative articles in the Journal. The website also links to “Featured Content” articles and “Featured News” in the Southern Jurisdiction.

For the Scottish Rite Mason, the website offers online Master Craftsman courses emphasizing Masonic and Scottish Rite history, ritual, and philosophy. Courses include “Philosophy,” “Ritual and Philosophy,” “Wisdom and Reflection,” and “Why 33”. Also offered is [“Ordo Ab Chao”](#) (Order from Chaos), which addresses the Manifesto of 1802. This document presents a Romantic and Authentic history of high degrees of Masonry and announces the Supreme Council to the Masonic world.

Finally, Albert Pike’s [“Morals & Dogma”](#) is an excellent source of Masonic and Scottish Rite education, but if, like me, you are not ready for Brother Pike’s writings, check out the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction website.

Sincerely & fraternally,

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



Secretary's Corner



NEWPORT NEWS VALLEY OFFICE

The Valley office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Our phone number is 757-599-6617. To contact Ill Steve Dowd, our Secretary, please email nnsrsecretary@gmail.com. For Ill Dave Burkus, our Assistant Secretary, please email nnsrtemple65@gmail.com.

SPRING REUNION 2024

Spring is finally here! What do we look forward to the most about spring? Getting outside, taking in a ball game, and going to a Scottish Rite Reunion. Our Spring Reunion for 2024, held in memory of Ill Hassel "Pete" Johnston, will take place on Saturday, April 20th. We will have the Cinematic presentation of the Degrees and hopefully, Bro Steve Bruce, President of the Tidewater Scottish Rite Foundation, will lead a discussion on Tidewater Scottish Rite Foundation.

If you know any Blue Lodge members who may be interested in Scottish Rite membership, please reach out to them as there is still time. Petitions can be found in the Valley Office, our website, or Supreme Council website. Please return petitions to the office before Wednesday, April 17, 2024, for processing. Let's do our best to honor Illustrious Pete by making this a successful Reunion. Also, any member who first line signs five petitions will receive a special necktie or bow tie from our SGIG, Illustrious & Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins, 33°, G.C., at one of our Stated meetings.

CAPS, RINGS, NAMETAGS, and CAP BOXES

If you are searching for different pins, hats, or other Masonic accessories, make sure to visit our Emblem Sales office. Ill. Jerry Whitlock and Ill. Bob Tiller run the Emblem Sales office. In case you can't find what you are looking for there, we will be happy to assist you in connecting to other Masonic stores.

IT'S DUES TIME

Every member in Good Standing should have received your 2024 membership card and dues notice last fall. Your 2024 dues should have been paid by December 31, 2023. Please call the office if you have any questions.

STATED MEETINGS

The Valley Stated meetings are every fourth Wednesday (except November and December when we meet on the second Wednesday). Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie	Lodge of Perfection Coat and Tie	Consistory and Lodge of Perfection Lodge Shirts, NO Dinner

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

Brethren,

I would first like to thank the Brethren of the Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite who made the trip to Richmond for the Orient of Virginia Workshop. Newport News had 16 members attend where they had the opportunity to interact with Scottish Rite Masons from around the State. Illustrious Joel Bundy, 33°, IGH presented a wonderful program on Leadership which was enjoyed by all who that attended.

The Orient of Virginia Scottish Rite Annual Conference will be held September 26-28, 2024 at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump (the same location where Grand Lodge meets in November). I strongly encourage all members of the Valley of Newport News to attend. A great showing by our Valley would be great. All information associated with the Conference in September will be posted to the Orient of Virginia and Valley of Newport News websites.

Reservations for meals will need to be coordinated with our Valley Secretary, Illustrious Steve Dowd, 33°, IGH. Should you have any questions regarding the Conference, please contact me and I will do all I can to get you the answers you need.

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

2024 Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) is Underway!

Brethren, the 2024 VMAP is underway! If you're not familiar with VMAP, it is intended to help each Valley provide an extraordinary Scottish Rite experience for all our Brethren. VMAP essentially functions as a checklist, ensuring Valleys are giving due attention to each of the various aspects of the Scottish Rite Fraternal Experience.

VMAP focuses on three areas:

- Retention & Engagement – how are we serving and engaging our existing members?
- Restoration & Reinstatement – can we get back brothers that we've lost to suspension or demit?
- Recruitment – how do we bring existing Mason to further light via the Scottish Rite?

While each valley should work on each of the three areas, they are required to pick one for particular focus. Our Valley is focusing on the Recruitment area for 2024.

The Supreme Council hosts quarterly zoom sessions to support Valleys on the VMAP journey. The first meeting of 2024 was held March 11, and provided some great ideas across the board, but particularly in Retention & Engagement and in Recruitment.

Bro. Chip Carpenter, 32°, is coordinating the Valley's participation in VMAP 2024. If you're interested in getting involved, you can contact him at carpenter.chip@gmail.com / 757-593-0426, or you can contact the office and they can put you touch with him.

We are looking for more to come in the next few months, as we use the VMAP process to help move our Valley forward!

Our Valley's 2024 Golf Tournament

The 21st Annual Illustrious William M. Johnson, 33°, IGH, Memorial Golf Tournament will be held June 6, 2024, at Riverfront Golf Club in Suffolk, Virginia. As of today, we have:

- 7 Benefactor Sponsors (\$500 level, but two gave \$1000)
- 3 Silver Sponsors (\$250 level)
- 12 Bronze Sponsors (\$150 level); 1 Donor of \$100 level

We will continue to visit area Lodges to gain more sponsors. We await a response from the 63 letters sent to various people, Lodges, and businesses. We will also continue to solicit support for door prizes from close to 40 area businesses.

Your committee meets regularly and has done a lot of work already, but there remains much work to be done. We have set high goals for success that can only be achieved with your support to spread the word about this great event at your Lodges, and when you are out and about.

The tournament has been a huge success in the past, exceeding our charity obligation due to the efforts of many Brethren and friends. Please mark your calendars, start building your foursomes, and solicit support from local businesses you patronize for prizes.

Your Golf Tournament Committee consists of Brothers Page Neale, Richard Russell, Sewell Rowley, Bruce Edwards, Tom Mainwaring, Lew Strickland, Steve Vaughn, Jerry Whitlock, Derrick Barker, and Paul Nelson. Please help us in making this year's tournament a success.

Knights of Saint Andrew

The Newport News Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrew (KSA) are making a resurgence and have begun accepting petitions for members to become Knights.

As many of you know, the Knights are considered the worker-bees of the Scottish Rite, and we look forward to supporting our stated meetings, the Spring and Fall Reunions, the Medical Equipment operations, and fundraisers such as the Sausage Grind and Sales, Golf Tournament, and Haunted House.

We hope to bring back fun events, such as a Spring/Summer picnic, which is in the planning stages for May 25th.

The Knights of St. Andrew membership is open to all 32° Scottish Rite Masons (Black Hats), Knights Commander of the Court of Honour (Red Hats), and 33° Inspectors General Honorary (IGH)(White Hats). The 33° IGHs serve as Advisors and will not hold office in the Knights of Saint Andrew in the Valley of Newport News.

We will conduct our next meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, with an election and installation of Officers. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with Bro. Tommy DuBose, 32°, KCCH at oath75@aol.com or 804.815.7704.

Tidewater DeMolay Activities

DeMolay Winter Ball

Eastern Region DeMolay held their annual Winter Ball on Friday, February 16th, at Monitor Lodge. The Eastern Region is composed of Kempsville, Portsmouth, and Tidewater Chapters. The Ball was planned and coordinated by the Eastern Region Master Councilor, Carl Carpenter, a member and Past Master Councilor of the Tidewater Chapter sponsored by the Valley of Newport News. He was greatly assisted by Worshipful William "Billy" Spencer of Monitor Lodge No. 197, also a member of the Scottish Rite. Decorations were coordinated by Mom Kiki Drahos, mother of the Tidewater's Junior Councilor, Dennis Drahos Jr., and wife of Worship Dennis Drahos, Transportation Lodge No. 337, and the Valley of Newport News.

Over 60 Masonic Youth from organizations across the 757 attended the Ball, dancing the night away with a DJ arranged by Right Worshipful Billy Hobbs, DDGM for the 14th Masonic District and a Valley of Newport News member. Local lodges provided food, and everyone had a great time! Planning for another youth dance in the fall is underway!

Spring 2024 Tidewater DeMolay Installation

Tidewater DeMolay held its Spring Officer installation on Saturday, March 23rd, at 5 PM. Dennis Drahos, Jr. was installed as Master Councilor, Zachary Burkett as Senior Councilor, and Carl Carpenter as Junior Councilor. The installation was held at Transportation Lodge No. 337, where the Master Councilor's father, Worshipful Dennis Drahos, Sr., is the current Master. Worshipful Drahos conducted the Master Councilor's obligation on his son.

Illustrious Steve Dowd (a 58-year DeMolay), General Secretary for our Valley, presented the incoming Master Councilor with a certificate from the Scottish Rite. Miss Elise Hoglund was selected as Chapter Sweetheart.

Members from the Kempsville and Portsmouth Chapters of DeMolay attended, as did Brady Shrieves, the Deputy State Master Councilor. Additionally, members of local bethels of Job's Daughters and Rainbow Assemblies were in attendance. A dance and lock-in followed the installation.



2024 ROTC / JROTC Recognition Program

The Reserve Office Training Corp (ROTC) program is a college-age program whose purpose is to build a cadre of dedicated, educated, patriotic young men and women to serve in the officer ranks of the U.S. military. The Junior ROTC program is a high school-age program focused on instilling a sense of discipline, dedication, and personal excellence in young men and women, regardless of their intent to perform military service.

The Scottish Rite awards a medal to outstanding ROTC/JROTC members that:

- Are in the second or second-to-last year of their commitment to a unit and
- Have contributed the most among cadets on campus to encouraging and demonstrating Americanism through deeds or conduct during participation in extracurricular activities or community projects.
- Have demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class.
- They have demonstrated outstanding leadership by exhibiting dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship, and patriotism.
- Have not previously received this award.

The Valley of Newport News partners with J/ROTC units across the peninsula to recognize the region's outstanding young men and women. Of note, several of the JROTC units have helped with the Walk Of Terror for the past couple of years, providing actors and general assistance.

Bro. Chip Carpenter, 32°, coordinates with various units in the area to identify award dates and recipients. ***Still, we need your help – there are far more ceremonies than one brother can cover.*** If you would like to assist in presenting these awards, you can reach Brother Carpenter at carpenter.chip@gmail.com / 757-593-0426

Sign of the Good Shepherd

Predicated upon its basic foundation of belief in a personal God, the Scottish Rite gives primary importance to its Degrees and its meetings to prayer. While there is an established position and sign to be used by all Scottish Rite Masons during prayer, this position and sign are sometimes not uniformly practiced. Scottish Rite Masons (except when engaged in ritual at the altar) stand during prayer, with caps remaining upon the head as part of ta uniform. What is also required is giving the accompanying “Sign of the Good Shepherd”. This is done by folding the arms, left over the right, with the outstretched fingers touching the shoulders. This position is comfortable and easily remembered if it is realized that the sign represents the Good Shepherd carrying a lamb around his neck and holding its feet by his crossed hands. During the prayer, in this position, the head is slightly bowed.

<i>Upcoming Member's Birthdays</i>					
John T. Sours	4/2	Gilbert E. Teal	5/1	Dave E. Gwaltney	6/11
James A. Freeman	4/3	Timothy R. Seitz	5/4	Jonathan L. Beck	6/12
Sewell Major Rowley	4/6	Charles H. Moore	5/5	David J. Vincent	6/12
Steven F. Dowd	4/7	Gary T. Macklin	5/5	Adam T. Jordon	6/12
William A. Clayton	4/7	James T. Lash	5/5	Roger L. Miller	6/15
Michael L. Davenport	4/8	Raleigh J. Pacheco	5/5	Dawson C. Murray	6/15
James W. Lilly	4/12	Gary D. Coxton	5/6	Keith H. Wolford	6/17
J. Richard Rawls	4/12	Ray A. Presnell	5/10	Gregory L. Johnson	6/17
Christopher B. Riley	4/12	William D. McDaniel	5/11	William F. Dennis	6/17
Ronald L. Smith	4/13	Johnnie W. Bateman	5/14	Garrett W. Sellers	6/18
Brandon M Brugh	4/13	John R. Pierce	5/15	Lloyd C. Ware	6/18
Nicolas Vain	4/14	Douglas T. Pascute	5/16	W. Mason Ware	6/19
William J. Spencer	4/16	Donald M. Coffey	5/17	Thomas P. Gibbons	6/19
Harvey C. Woodruff	4/18	Denny L. O'Neal	5/18	Joseph A. De Ryder, Jr.	6/20
James H. Landers	4/19	John R. Gleason	5/19	David C. Westcott	6/20
Jack L. Smith	4/20	David S. Macon	5/19	Lonnie I. Norris	6/21
Jeffrey M Leckemby	4/20	Thomas S. DeCantis	5/21	Charles E. Jenkins	6/21
Timothy S. Milliman	4/22	Daniel R. Savage	5/21	Leonard S. Mayo	6/22
Douglas M. Springman	4/23	Harry Kowalski	5/25	Frederick L. Hill	6/22
Mark E. Webb	4/23	George E. Day	5/27	Lewis D. Maynard	6/25
Richard P. Shard	4/27	Arthur K. Stevens	5/29	Paul A. Rosensteel	6/25
Charles H. Hilstrom	4/28	Steven P. Vaughn	5/29	Henry C. Rogers	6/28
Anthony Wedge	4/29	David A. Burley	6/2	George E. Squires	6/29
Jeremy B. Utt	4/29	Richard Swanenburg	6/4	Clifford A. Parker	6/29
Mark W Fielding	4/29	Steven W. Rose	6/4	Tony R. Bellach	6/30
		James B. Wilson	6/9		
		James E. Lassiter	6/10		

*Bro. Doyal Virgil Godwin, 32°
August 20, 2023*

*Bro. Nathaniel Linwood Saunders, Jr. 32°
September 11, 2023*

*Bro. Robert James Sandidge, 32°
November 12, 2023*

*Bro. Frank A. Pecci, 32°
January 22, 2024*

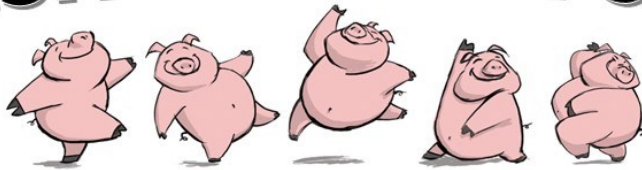
*Bro. Robert Humrich, 32°, KCCH
March 6, 2024*

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



Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation

FRESH SAUSAGE SALE



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

Only \$7.00 per pound

PLACE ORDERS

757-599-6617 or

nnsrfdnevent@gmail.com

Please provide your name, phone #, and amount of each kind

PICK UP ORDERS

April 24, 25, and 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

65 Saunders Rd, Newport News

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

