

History of the Scottish Rite Ladies

The Ladies of the Newport News Scottish Rite are happy to be able to wish the men of the Newport News Scottish Rite a happy 100th anniversary. The Ladies have another 67 years before they reach that landmark.

With the help of the Portsmouth Ladies, the Newport News Scottish Rite Ladies were chartered on February 27, 1980. There were 59 charter members. The Ladies met at St. Tammany Hall until the new Scottish Rite Masonic Center building was completed and dedicated in 1987 at its present location.

The objectives of the Ladies of the Newport News Scottish Rite are to support the Newport News Scottish Rite bodies in their fraternal and educational programs and endeavor to promote memberships. The Ladies are also in charge of the receptions such as the one for the 100th anniversary and receptions for the ring ceremonies.

Pat Packard and Delores Eure are the only charter members who are still members. Pauline Williams, first president of the Ladies, Margaret Lett, Scottie Ludlum, Rita Lowery, and Nellie Cooper are still alive but are no longer members.

The first officers were:

- Pauline Williams - President
- Delores Eure - 1st Vice President
- Helen Phelps - 2nd Vice President
- Andrea Britt - Secretary
- Pat Packard - Treasurer (Pat has been secretary since the Ladies group started until March 2013.)

Officers for the men were:

- J.P. Williams Jr. - Venable Master
- J. S. Ludlum - Wise Master
- Adrian Eure - Master of Kadosh
- Mark Hutchinson - Commander
- Leslie C. Hicks was secretary of Scottish Rite when Ladies started.

The Ladies have contributed to the Scottish Rite in many ways such as:

- Helped to pay for the double-headed golden eagle over the stage in the auditorium
- Helped pay for some of the furnishings such as sofas and lamps
- Paid for the warming ovens, freezer, copier, and floor polisher



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- Sponsored a hole each year for the Scottish Rite golf tournament which benefits the Childhood Speech and Language Center at Old Dominion University

- Made tablecloths for the reception tables

Some ways the Ladies have raised money:

- Held garage sales
- Held bake sales
- Held a white elephant
- Have a raffle at the beginning of each dinner.

Several of the members commented on what being a Scottish Rite Lady has meant to them:

- Made a whole lot of great friends/lost a lot of friends.
- Helped me to be able to speak in front of people.
- Makes someone a better person and that included her husband.
- Made a lot of great friends.
- My first conference was at

Natural Bridge and it was great fun

- Masonic members share things in common.
- Makes someone a better person.
- Have a lot of good times especially at conferences here and at other Valleys.

The Newport News Ladies meet once a month (except July and August). Our programs have included speakers on Volunteers in Mission, Food Bank, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Jamestown, estate planning, gangs and graffiti, Lifelong Learning Center, how to make a Christmas ornament and a spring wreath, and held a silent auction and jewelry show. The December meeting is especially fun when we have a Yankee Swap.

