

The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter



August-September 2022

Volume 8, Issue 3 Valley of Newport News, Orient of Virginia, AASR

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

Greetings Brethren,

It has been some time since our last printed Newsletter; however, I am happy to report we are again communicating through our website. Ill. Dave Burkus, 33°, IGH has assumed the responsibility of becoming the Editor of the Newsletter and the webmaster for the Orient and Valley websites. By the way, he has also stepped into the role of Assistant Secretary for the Valley of Newport News. Thank you, Ill. Brother Dave, for your support! I commend all who are working so hard raising funds to keep our Masonic Center solvent.

Fundraisers, such as sausage sales, the 2022 House of Terror (our haunted house), and William M. Johnson Golf Tournaments, are major contributors to our fund-raising activities. In mid-2019, we put together a 501(c)(3) Foundation to raise tax-exempt funding in support of our charitable endeavors such as the Childhood Speech and Language Program at Old Dominion University, The Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia, and our outreach program dispensing medical equipment throughout the region. The Foundation is composed of Scottish Rite Brethren, it is a separate entity, and is treated as such. For the past several years, the Foundation has rented space in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center along with others to offset Facility Operating costs for the Scottish Rite and to facilitate the operation of the Foundation. However, as the Foundation continues to grow and the dues-paying Scottish Rite members continue to decline, it has become necessary to rethink the way we do business. At present, the yearly operating expense for the Scottish Rite exceeds income for dues by 80%.

For the Foundation to expand our fund-raising activities, such as Grants, individual contributions, etc., the Foundation needed a larger footprint, i.e., a building such as the Masonic Center to encompass all rentals and fund-raising activities. To overcome the disparity between income and expense for the Scottish Rite and to secure our Facility for continued use by the Scottish Rite; your Scottish Rite trustees, the Foundation Directors, and your Scottish Rite Management Team have agreed with the Newport News Scottish Rite Trustees and the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation Board of Directors, to lease the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, in its entirety, to the Foundation for five years. The lease is an operating lease encompassing all operating expenses for the facility and grounds. All expenses directly related to the function of the Scottish Rite will be borne by the Scottish Rite. Such as building insurance, Officers' salary, reunion and conference expenses, office supplies, per capita tax to the Supreme Council, etc., but the bulk of expenses will be borne by the Foundation.

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Valley of Newport News

Ill. 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

Bro. Steven F. Dowd, 32°, KCCH
Secretary for the Valley of Newport News

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

Bro. J. Richard Rawls, 32°, KCCH
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
Ill William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH
Venerable Master

Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix
Bro. Patrick C. Murphrey, 32°, KCCH
Wise Master

Newport News Council of Kadosh
Ill. Page S. Neale, Jr., 33°, IGH
Commander

Newport News Consistory
Ill. William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH
Master of Kadosh

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

Chartered October 12, 1912

Our stated meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. A deliciously prepared Dutch Treat dinner is served at 6:30pm prior to all meetings w/e of July & August. The Ladies of the Scottish Rite meet at all meetings w/e of the July & August Stated meetings.

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

Upcoming Activities

August 24

Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting
Speaker: Ill. James D. Cole, 33°, SGC
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner at 6:30 PM)

September 28

Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting
Celebrating the Feast of Tishiri
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)

September 23-24

Fall Reunion

October 7-8

Orient of Virginia's Fall Conference in Virginia Beach

October 14-16, 21-23, & 28-31

Walk of Terror 2022



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Valley Secretary - Bro. Steve F. Dowd, 32^o, KCCH

Notes from the Secretary

It has been an interesting seven months since Ill. Adrian “Pete” Eure, 33^o, IGH (Secretary Emeritus) retired. I truly appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as I am learning all the requirements of being a Valley Secretary.

On June 1st, Ill. David Burkus, 33^o, IGH started as the Valley Assistant Secretary. He has quickly taken on several tasks, including the responsibilities as the Valley & Orient Webmasters and our Valley’s newsletter which he is trying to get started up again. Most of these tasks were ones I couldn’t get a “Round TUIT”. Thanks Dave, I greatly appreciate your help.

By now you should have received your 2023 membership cards in the mail. Along with the membership card, you should have received a dues notice (if you pay annually). There are several ways to pay your annual dues. You can stop by the office or return your notice to us with a check or credit card information. You can also go to the Supreme Council’s website members area (<https://members.scottishrite.org/login>) and pay there.

We are still trying to find some Brethren to help with the Americanism Committee, Fellowship Hall, and Kitchen crew to help with meals.

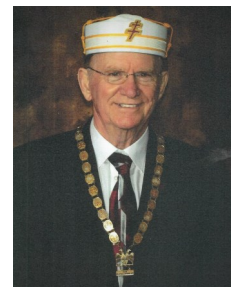
Steve Dowd, 32^o, KCCH

Valley Personal Rep - Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33^o, IGH (Continued from Page 1)

The Scottish Rite will maintain use of the facility for normal Scottish Rite activities such as office space, reunion activities, Lodge Meetings, etc. Income from Foundation lease payments to the Scottish Rite plus dues income will more than offset operating expenses for the Valley. The only thing you the membership will experience is minimal expenses being read by the treasurer during our stated communications. The implementation of this Operating lease is expected to be a win-win for both Valley and Foundation. It is also incumbent on each of us to work as a team to support the many activities undertaken in Your Valley.

Brethren, as I close this message, I invite you to contact your Valley Office (Editor) if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future newsletters.

Sincerely & fraternally,
Ill. Jack L Smith, 33^o, IGH
Personal Representative



Golf Tournament Report

The 18th Ill. William M. Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament in support of the Rite Care, Speech, and Hearing Clinic at Old Dominion University (ODU) was held June 9, 2022, at Riverfront Golf Club in Suffolk, VA. It was a beautiful day beginning at 6:00 AM with the committee members arriving to setup for registration, mulligan sales, and raffle ticket sales. In addition to your committee members, Dr. Corrin Gillis, Associate Professor – Communication Disorders and Special Education, along with three graduate level students worked on registration, passing out “goodie” bags, and helping with the putting contest. It was great to have these folks from ODU work with us and show us their appreciation for what we, as Scottish Rite Masons, do for them and the Clinic. The committee wanted to give a huge shout out to Barbara Davis (Bruce’s friend) and Pam Neale (Page’s wife) for arriving early to help with a myriad of items.

For the tournament, there were 77 who signed up; but only 74 golfers played. There were 39 sponsors supporting this tournament: individual Masons, businesses, some of the Lodges in District 14, and some appendant Masonic bodies. For the Valley of Newport News sponsors: the Knights of Saint Andrew, the Ladies of the Scottish Rite, the Black Hats, Red Hats, and White Hats along with several individual members. There were more than \$1,200 in prizes donated and awarded. After golfing, the participants enjoyed a delicious lunch of fried chicken, barbecue, baked beans, coleslaw, cookies, and drinks.

All in all, it was a great day and very successful event as we met and exceeded our charity obligation. Your committee wants to thank everybody for their participation, contributions, and patience in this tournament. Please put June 8, 2023 on your calendar for next year and plan on participating. If you would like to join our golf tournament committee, please don’t hesitate to ask, we can use all the help we can get. Your committee members were Brothers Sewell Rowley, Bruce Edwards, Tom Mainwaring, Lew Strickland, Steve Vaughn, Paul Nelson, Derrick Barker, and Jerry Whitlock.

Ill. Page S. Neale, Jr., 33^o, IGH and Bro. Richard A. Russell, 32^o, KCCH
Co-Chairs, Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Golf Committee



How fast time passes. Hard to believe we are in the middle of the summer. Hope everyone enjoyed their July 4th holiday?

Our rentals at the Scottish Rite have significantly improved this year. This is primarily due to the removal of the Covid restrictions. Although we actively promote our facility **YOU are our most valuable asset.** Please promote and recommend our facility to your friends and neighbors. We have a **great** facility for **any** venue. In these times of inflation, ever-increasing expenses, and maintenance costs, using our facility to cost share our operating expenses is essential.

We will be having our next Scottish Rite sausage grind on November 16. If you have not joined us in making sausage; please mark your calendar, it is a fun day of fellowship. Our sausage is made from very fresh, lean, ground pork butt which is seasoned mild or spicy. This spring we ground over 1,000 pounds of sausage. This is a great fundraiser with **your help** we can do more.

“Walk of Terror Haunted House” – that’s US! Halloween will soon be here, and we plan on having a great scare. Visit us on our website (<http://www.nnscottishrite.org>). Share our website with your friends and family, share us on social media, and please get the word out. Brethren, this event has the potential to be our most successful fundraiser. If you would like to be an actor and participate in the fun, please go online and sign up. If you are not comfortable scaring people, we need help building sets (carpenter and electrical skills), taking tickets, and selling food. Last year’s haunted house was a great success. We had a positive response from everyone who went through it. Join the fun!

Many of you may not know that our Scottish Rite Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity. We support Rite Care and the Old Dominion Childhood Speech and Learning Center. Our Medical Equipment Center is a community outreach program that provides free, medical equipment to the community. Two years ago, the Medical Center provided over \$170,000 of used medical equipment, and last year we provided more than \$220,000. We are on course to surpass this amount this year. You should be very proud of what our Foundation does. This can not be done without member participation. If you would like to help or volunteer, please come by or call the Scottish Rite office. If you would like to make a charitable donation to the Foundation, please make checks payable to the **Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation.** You will receive a letter from the Foundation recognizing your contribution.

Brethren as you can see there is a lot more going on at your Scottish Rite than our monthly stated meetings. I left out the great work our Golf Committee does putting on our annual golf tournament each year. Please consider joining us, our success depends on you!

Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH

Brethren,

The **Orient of Virginia Scottish Rite Annual Conference** will be hosted by the Valley of Norfolk on October 6-9, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach, located at 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach. This is an opportunity for the Brethren to attend a conference that is basically in our own back yard. It is my hope that you all will mark your calendars and make plans to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet Scottish Rite Masons from all over the Orient and to simply enjoy time with them. Several programs will be presented as part of the conference and there will be several hospitality rooms.

The Valley of Newport News will share a Hospitality Room with the Valleys of Norfolk (Host Valley) and Portsmouth. Your help and assistance with the Hospitality Room would be appreciated. It would be great to have members of OUR Valley attend and show everyone in the Orient that we are alive, active, and doing the work of the Scottish Rite.

Please see the attached flyers that detail information for the 2022 Orient of Virginia Conference.

Fraternally,
Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH



2022 Spring Reunion Class

Our Spring Reunion had a class of three new members. Pictured (left to right): Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH (Class Custodian), Bro. Nicholas Vain, 32°, Bro. Michael L. Davenport, II, 32°, Bro. Michael J. Indovina, 32°, and Ill. Page S. Neal, Jr., 33°, IGH (Class Custodian).

Editor's Comments - Ill. David A. Burkus, 33°, IGH

Welcome back! I have been busy lately helping our Secretary, Bro Steve Dowd, 32°, KCCH, catch up on some items he was behind on. One of those items was getting our Valley's newsletter back on line. Since I had some experience with doing newsletters or magazines in my past, he "volunteered" me to do this issue, which I gladly accepted. If you have any ideas or comments about this issue or possible future items, please let me know.

Did you know our Valley sponsors the Tidewater DeMolay? These young future leaders need our support financially; but more importantly, our support at their meetings. How can they really learn about our wonderful fraternity, without our support and guidance. They meet in our Lodge room on the 2nd and 4th Thursday's of the month at 7:00 PM. One of the items they do which I really support—is the ceremonial burning of old and tattered United State flags. Sorry, being a retired veteran of the U.S. Navy I really hate to see tattered flags flying which I feel is a disgrace to our Country and the veterans who supported our Country and flag. You can bring old, tattered flags to the Valley and deposit them in the container in the container for collecting them in the vestibule.

Our Fall Reunion is set for September 23rd and 24th, which is earlier than normal due to setting up for the "Walk of Terror" in October. Please come out to support our new members. Friday night will start at 6:00 PM and Saturday morning will start at 8:30 PM. We also need support with the degree casts and setting up the various props for the degrees. Please contact Ill. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH, if you can help.

Being the "young" guy working at the Valley at 67, should give you an idea of the age of most who work to support the operation of the Valley. If you could provide some time working here, please contact Ill. Bruce Edwards, 33°, IGH. We need help with the lawn care, building maintenance, answering phones, and especially with our medical-support equipment.



WALK OF TERROR
2022

Oct 14, 15 & 16	Fridays & Saturdays
Oct 21, 22 & 23	7pm - midnight
Oct 28, 29, 30	Sundays & Halloween
....and Oct 31 !!	7pm - 10pm

65 Saunders Rd
Newport News, VA
walkofterror.org



The following Brethren's death have occurred or been reported since our last Newsletter:

*Bro. Raymond Warren Randall, 32°
February 1, 2009*

*Bro. David Lee Hicks, 32°
December 18, 2009*

*Bro. Donald Edward Spitzer, 32°
March 4, 2010*

*Bro. John Wilson Thomas, 32°
June 3, 2011*

*Bro. Charles Randolph Tison, 32°
Arch 13, 2014*

*Bro. Kurt Kurosawa, 32°
December 28, 2014*

*Bro. Floyd Melbourne Chilcott, 32°, KCCH
October 10, 2020*

*Bro. Clarence Weldon Collier, 32°
January 28, 2021*

*Bro. William Nelson Minter, 32°
April 24, 2021*

*Bro. John Albert Brockwell, 32°
June 10, 2021*

*Bro. Joseph Junior Hogge, 32°
August 14, 2021*

*Bro. Clyde Franklin Estes, 32°
August 31, 2021*

*Bro. Otis Steele Childress, Jr., 32°
September 1, 2021*

*Bro. Clifford Lee Trent, 32°
October 11, 2021*

*Bro. Thomas Lee Coffman, 32°
October 19, 2021*

*Bro. Charles Francis Lascola, 32°
November 9, 2021*

*Bro. Alvin Smith Knight, 32°
November 14, 2021*

*Bro. William Kenneth Kilgore, 32°
November 17, 2021*

*Bro. Robert Wiley Lowry, 32°
December 4, 2021*

*Ill. George Fleming Black, Jr., 33°, IGH
January 18, 2022*

*Bro. Walter Lee Flora, 32°
January 18, 2022*

*Bro. Walter Gaylord Locket, 32°
January 22, 2022*

*Bro. Lawrence Raymond Brown, 32°
January 24, 2022*

*Ill. Billy Maurice Brady, 33, IGH
April 29, 2022*

*Bro. James Grant Wilson, Jr., 32°
May 3, 2022*

*Bro. Charles Hubert Capps, 32°
June 12, 2022*

*Bro. John Turpin Myles, 32°
May 20, 2022*

*Bro. Thomas Lee Turlington, 32°
May 27, 2022*

*Bro. Lewis Beryl Thurston, 32°
May 27, 2022*

*Bro. George Thomas Insley, 32°
June 27, 2022*

*Bro. Richard Everett Davis, 32°
June 27, 2022*

*Bro. Rhea Eldridge Harris, 32°
June 28, 2022*

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