



Welcome to the “first” issue of our new newsletter, “The Beacon”. It dawned upon me that most Valley’s have newsletters or magazines to communicate with their Brethren on past events and upcoming new events, but most of them have names for their publication. So we were talking in the Office the other day on what we could name our newsletter besides “Valley of Newport News Quarterly Newsletter”.

Many newsletters use the words “Rite” or “Lite” in them, so we went off onto a different tangent. We tried to think of ways to communicate it was a Scottish Rite publication without using those two words. “Double-headed eagle”, “Perfection”, etc., were tossed around and then we started thinking about Newport News and its nautical background. Well, the word “beacon” was brought up.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “beacon” has three definitions:

- 1 - a lighthouse or other signal for guidance
- 2 - a source of light or inspiration
- 3 - a signal fire commonly on a hill, tower, or pole

So “beacon” fit in perfectly! Our newsletter provides guidance, it is a source of light and inspiration, and it is a signal of what is to happen in our Valley in the near and far future by letting all know what is happening and hopefully exciting all to come to our meetings and events.

*May “The Beacon” inform and continue “shedding light in masonry”!*

**Valley of Newport News Officers**

**Ill. James D. Cole, 33°**

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**Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, GC**

Sovereign Grand Inspector General

**Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH**

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**Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH**

Assistant Personal Representative

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General Secretary

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Asst. Secretary

**Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH**

General Treasurer

**Bro. Robert R. Jones, 32°, KCCH**

Almoner

**Ill. Page S. Neale, Jr., 33°, IGH**

Chairman of the Trustees

**Lodge of Perfection**

**Bro. Manuel J. Lacerda, 32°, KCCH**

Venerable Master

**Chapter of Rose Croix**

**Bro. Gene S. Monroe, 32°**

Wise Master

**Council of Kadosh**

**Ill. William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH**

Commander

**Consistory**

**Ill. Joseph E. Gadea, 33°, IGH**

Master of Kadosh

**Knights of St. Andrew**

**Bro. Charles Thomas Dubose, 32°**

Venerable Master

**Upcoming Activities**

**April 12**

Assembling at the Valley to make sausage for sale

**April 13-14, and 16**

Selling sausage between 9:00 am till 5:00 pm

**April 15**

Spring Reunion (to be held at ACCA Shrine, Richmond, VA)

**April 26**

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting

Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)

Speaker: TBA

**May 24**

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting

Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)

Speaker: TBA

**June 28**

Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting

Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)

Speaker: TBA



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

**They all need your support.**

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 6:30 PM prior to all meetings.

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

Greetings Brethren,

Brethren, as you know time stands still for no one. We are now entering the second quarter of 2023. The immediate past quarter, Jan.- April, has been jam-packed with activity i.e., the election of new officers, end-of-the-year financial reviews and course corrections, facility rentals, and many other activities. On March 25th, just before this edition goes to press, we will be attending our annual workshop in Richmond. The meeting is usually filled with outstanding speakers who bring us very informative information. I highly recommend the annual workshop to all able-bodied Scottish Rite Masons. In addition, Bro. Thomas Debois, 32°, is working diligently to reestablish the Knights of St Andrew. He is holding organizational meetings as well as recruiting new members. If you are interested in becoming a Knight, please contact our Secretary, Bro. Steve Dowd, 32°, KCCH, at 757.599.6617.

Moving forward into the second quarter, we are looking forward to our spring Reunion and new member initiation. The location of our Spring Reunion is depended on other Valley schedules. We are looking at participation in the Richmond Reunion and if that fails to materialize, we will join the Valley of Norfolk in May. Further information to follow. With spring upon us, our grounds will be requiring lots of TLC. Everything from mulching and removing debris to facilitate mowing operations, landscaping, weed eating, and other activities necessary to maintain the grounds in pristine condition. Bro. Robert Jones, 32°, KCCH, works year-round on our grounds, supports fundraising activities, and maintenance on our building. If you are so inclined to support these activities, your assistance would be more than appreciated.

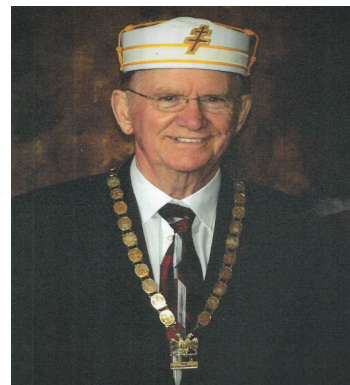
I would like to express my appreciation to the Brethren of this valley who contributed many hours of their time and expertise to make our Haunted house event, sausage grinds, and other fundraising activities such a success. Brethren, it takes a significant number of volunteers to pull these events off. If you would like to participate in a most rewarding and satisfying team effort, you are more than welcome. Contact Ill. Bruce Edwards, 33°, IGH, for further details. He can be reached at 757.599.6617.

In conclusion, I would ask each of you to reach out to a friend and brother who would enjoy the fellowship and comradery of being a Scottish Rite Mason, give them a petition, and invite them to submit it for our Spring Reunion. Our meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except in November and December when we meet on the second Wednesday.

*Sincerely & fraternally,*

*Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH*

*Valley Personal Representative*



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

What is happening, my Brother? Well, there is a lot going on in the Valley you may not have heard about:

On Saturday, March 25 a statewide Scottish Rite Conference, Spring Workshop, was held in Richmond at the ACCA Shrine Temple. Mt. Wor. Donald E. Strehle, 2023 Grand Master spoke about "Now is the Time" for Virginia Masons to turn the tide on our declining membership. He encouraged all Masons to be active in their communities, support our youth groups, and continue our commitment to charity. Mt. Wor. Strehle was followed by Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, GC, the Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Scottish Rite. Ill. de Hoyos conducted an educational "Fireside Chat". For approximately an hour, Ill. de Hoyos sat in front of the podium in a comfortable chair and took questions from the audience on Scottish Rite Masonry. It was an open forum and a very interesting and educational time.

We will have a joint Spring Reunion with the Richmond Scottish Rite held at ACCA Temple on April 15. A cinematic presentation is being provided by the Valley of St Louis that acts out all of the Scottish Rite Degrees in costume. This is a first time event for Virginia Scottish Rite, approved by the Grand Sovereign Commander. Ill. & Mt. Wor. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, GC, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) will be on hand to confer the mandatory degrees. If you would like to attend, please contact the office for more information at 757.599.6617.

Start making your plans, the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will be held September 28 – 30, 2023 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Check out the Virginia or Newport News Scottish Rite websites for more information!

On the local front, our Newport News Scottish Rite "Spring Sausage Sale" will begin Wednesday, April 12. As always, we could use your help preparing and selling the sausage. With your support this has been a great fund raiser for the Valley. Sausage will be \$6 per pound with a choice of mild or spicy. If you would like to purchase sausage or help with the preparation, please contact me or Bro. Randy Maney, 32°, KCCH.

Many of our members are taking the Master Craftsman classes at the Scottish Rite. The classes are taught by our Director of Education, Bro. Jerry. Frey, 32°, KCCH. These informative classes are an excellent way to learn more about the Scottish Rite. If you are unable to attend classes but would like to learn more about Masonry and the Scottish Rite you are welcome to check out books from our librarian, Ill. Joseph Gadea, 33°, IGH, who does an excellent job of maintaining our library.

It is time to start planning for our Haunted House. This takes a lot of volunteers to accomplish. It is not all about the scare. We need help building sets, lighting, electrical, sound, advertising, ticket sales, and actors. It is a lot of work, but a lot of fun and fellowship. If you or a family member would like to help, please contact me.

Mt. Wor. Strehle's Official Visit to Masonic District 14 was held Friday, March 17, at the NNSR. Approximately 180 attended the event including Most Worshipfuls Alan Adkins (1997), Skip Parker (2002), and Bill Rorer, Jr. (2010), and nine District Deputies. I would like to thank all who attended and particularly Ill. David Burkus, Bro. Steve Dowd, 32°, KCCH, Pam Neale, Barbara Davis, and our youth groups; Bethel 39 of Job's Daughters, Hampton Assembly #2 Rainbow Girls, and the Tidewater DeMolay.

Golf anyone, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Ill William M. Johnson Golf Tournament will be held June 8, 2023, at Riverfront Golf Course, Suffolk, Virginia. This fundraiser supports the NNSR Old Dominion Rite Care facility. If you are interested in playing, being a hole sponsor or know a business that would like to enter a team or sponsor a hole please contact the office.

Finally, as part of our continuing building maintenance projects and your personal comfort, you may have noticed an upgrade to our "Restrooms". Brothers Bob Jones, 32°, KCCH, and Randy Maney, 32°, KCCH, have installed 10 new toilets at the Scottish Rite. Many thanks for all the work they do at the Scottish Rite.

As you can tell your Valley has a lot going on, but we could not do it without the help of our Brethren.

Please join us for our stated meeting and support our fundraisers.

***Sincerely & fraternally,***

***Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH***

***Asst. Valley Personal Rep.***



## Valley Secretary - Bro. Steve F. Dowd, 32°, KCCH

Boy! Where has the time gone? Are the years getting shorter? This office saw a lot of activity in 2022 and we are looking forward to a busy year in 2023. One of the most important subjects for most secretaries – is dues!! Please look at your membership cards and if it does not say “2023”, or you don’t remember if you have paid your 2023 dues, then you may be in arrears for your dues. It is with your dues that we pay our bills, keep the Newport News Scottish Rite facilities operating, and the grounds, a place of pride for the neighborhood. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Ill. Dave Burkus, 33°, IGH, we have more than 80% of the members have paid their 2023 dues. Thank you everyone!

As a note, the Statutes of the Supreme Council state: “Anyone who is in arrears for two (2) years must be suspended for Non-Payment of dues”. For every year that a person is on our membership list, Newport News is assessed \$31.00, for the Supreme Council Per Capita. Last year’s per capita fee was ten thousand dollars. So, you can see the burden that is placed on the Newport News Scottish Rite if members don’t pay their dues on time.

Please look at your membership card and call the Scottish Rite office if you have any questions and let’s get them up to date. You can use your credit card to pay your dues in the member area of the Supreme Council web site (<https://scottishrite.org/>) or you can call the office and to discuss other options. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday: 9 AM to Noon.

Another item that plagues Secretaries is keeping up with members’ contact information. As we have over 300 members, it can be a daunting task to keep the rolls accurate. If any of your “profile” information changes, ie, things like street or email address, phone number, job status, etc, either change it on the Supreme Council’s member page or call the office and we will update it for you.

We have several members who give several hours per week, helping to answer the phone, maintaining the building, and setting up the dining room. These members are a great help and this office would like to thank them and say “Job well done”. But we can always use help especially with the spring and summer seasons rapidly approaching us. We have one Brother pretty much doing all of our grounds work by himself and I know he would love some support help. We are not asking for every day type of support, but maybe a morning or afternoon helping one day. As they say, every little bit helps.

*God Bless and Stay Safe!!*

Bro. Steven F. Dowd, 32°, KCCH

General Secretary



Twice a year, we hear how the other seven Valleys in our Orient are doing. BUT, have you wondered what they currently are doing in their Valleys? Also sometimes our SGIG puts out little bits of information for all Scottish Rite Mason in the Orient. To help keeping yourself abreast of what is going on, take a look at the Orient’s website at:

[www.vascottishrite.org](http://www.vascottishrite.org)



## Scottish Rite Education

Let me begin by leaping to the end of this presentation, by quoting two eminent sages of Scottish Rite Masonry, Albert Pike and Rex Hutchens.

*If you have been thus disappointed, our labor has been in vain. Whether these degrees have for you a real value depends upon your capacity to understand them, and upon the amount of study and the degree of reflection you **have** bestowed upon them.*

Albert Pike

The future of Scottish Rite Freemasonry rests in the hands of its members. It will be what we make of it: an institution of moral leadership, educational advancement, and philanthropic endeavors or merely a social club with empty and vain pretensions. To achieve the former requires the combined and concerted effort of a great many of us and a renewed commitment to learn and live learn the simple lessons of practical morality and the sublime teachings of religion, philosophy, then live them, that our light may so shine before men **that they will** continue to desire our fellowship and join in our assemblies.

The seed is self-improvement, and the fruit is moral progress. Each of us must become the Magister Interior, the Inward Master, for until *we* have mastered out selves our influence over other men can bring no good result.

***Good men; better men.***

***We seek no more; we offer no more.***

***It is enough.***

Rex Hutchens

It is with some trepidation that this task is taken up by the Valley of Newport News, not least of which is myself. Illustrious Jack Smith has granted permission to provide a classroom environment to share the lessons of the Master Craftsman Courses to our membership. These courses are a method by which we as Scottish Rite Masons can learn not only the degrees of our Body, but also to learn how best to apply them to our lives and those around us.

A simple question may present itself to each of you, "Why not self-study?" Why indeed. These classes will not be lectures or scholarly dissertations, instead they are designed to be a forum of discussion, which in turn will, hopefully, turn into ideas and thoughts which better explain our Rite to those both in Symbolic Lodge and to others in our Craft. Shared knowledge is a strong encourager of growth. Knowledge that tells the story of how and why the degrees are defined increases their understanding and preservation.

Illustrious Jack Smith has permitted these classes to be undertaken in the Library Conference Room on the fourth Thursday of each month, beginning in March. Becoming better acquainted with Scottish Rite and its richness is a sure path forward, with our new members and a way to perfect the skills we need to provide leadership for our Rite not just now but into the future. Our history is rich and deserves the time and energy to continue its legacy. Scottish Rite education is the way to care and maintain its knowledge, not only of our Rite, but also its lessons that are so valuable and worthy of understanding, and yes, sharing them inside and outside of Valley.

I look forward to learning with you about our Rite at 7:00PM, in the Library Conference Room, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your "Bridge to Light" when you come.

## Golf Fundraiser Report

**WHAT?****WHEN?****WHERE?****WHO?**

**WHAT?** The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Illustrious William M. Johnson, 33<sup>o</sup> Memorial Golf Tournament

**WHEN?** June 8, 2023

**WHERE?** Riverfront Golf Club, 5200 River Club Drive,  
Suffolk, Virginia 23435

**WHO?** YOU!!!



As you all know, we are holding our 19<sup>th</sup> Illustrious and Most Worshipful William M. Johnson, 33<sup>o</sup>, IGH, Memorial Golf Tournament on June 8, 2023 and we need everyone's support and/or participation. This tournament supports our charity The Scottish Rite Childhood Speech & Language Center at Old Dominion University and we are hoping that every Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Newport News will support it by player participation, prizes, monetary donations or labor.

Points of contact are as follows: for the Black Hats - Bro. Sewell Rowley, 32<sup>o</sup>; for Red Hats - Bro. Richard Russell, 32<sup>o</sup>, KCCH; and for White Hats - Ill. Page Neale, 33<sup>o</sup>, IGH.

Many of you have contributed in one way or another, but we are still seeking those who have not but would like too. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions are a tax-deductible organization (EIN: 82-4228610). Make checks payable to: The Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation, Inc.

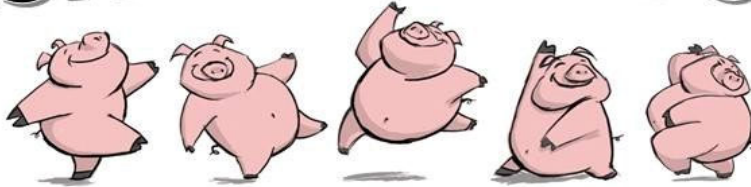
Should you need a brochure for signup, please contact the co-chairs as follows:

Richard A. Russell: email [poppy414@verizon.net](mailto:poppy414@verizon.net) or phone 757.656.0816

Page S. Neale: email [pneale1@cox.net](mailto:pneale1@cox.net) or phone 757.660.1158

Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation

# FRESH SAUSAGE SALE



Your choice, **Mild** or **Spicy**, only \$6.00 per pound



### PLACE ORDERS

757-599-6617 or

nnsrfdnevent@gmail.com

Please provide name, phone #, and amount of mild and/or spicy



### PICK UP ORDERS

65 Saunders Rd, Newport News

April 13 & 14 (9am to 5pm)

April 15 (10am to 4pm)

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

**Bro. Willard Louis Eastwood, 32°**

**January 3, 2023**

**Ill. Hassel Johnston, 33°, IGH**

**February 20, 2023**

**Bro. Jack Glenn Jones, 32°**

**March 8, 2023**

**Bro. Leonard Isaac Levenson, 32°**

**March 12, 2023**



**Our Departed Brethren**

**Their spirit to God,  
their memory in**

**our hearts.**

