

The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter



January - March 2023

Walk of Terror Highlights



Valley of Newport News

- Ill. Janes D. Cole, 33°**
Sovereign Grand Commander
- Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33°, GC**
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
- Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33°, IGH**
Personal Representative of the SGI 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**
Asst. Secretary for the Valley of Newport News
- Ill. J. Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH**
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**
Bro. Manuel J. Lacerda, 32°, KCCH
Venerable Master
- Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix**
Bro. Gene S. Monroe, 32°
Wise Master
- Newport News Council of Kadosh**
Ill. William E. Rorer, Jr., 33°, IGH
Commander
- Newport News Consistory**
Ill. Joseph E. Gadea, 33°, IGH
Master of Kadosh
- Knights of St. Andrew**
Bro. Charles Thomas Dubose, 32°
Venerable Master

Upcoming Activities

- January 25**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: TBA
- February 22**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: TBA
- March 22**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: TBA
- April 26**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: TBA



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.

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

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

Greetings Brethren,

We have arrived at the close of another exciting year in Scottish Rite Freemasonry at the Valley of Newport News. The Valley's financial position continues to improve thanks to the TEAM effort of many of our Brethren and the synergy between our valley and the Scottish Rite Foundation.

Although we have been very successful with our fund-raising activities and facility rentals this year, we must not lose sight of our Valley goals and objectives, which are, not only, to continue with present fund-raising activities while exploring new avenues of income, such as Grants through our Foundation, 401K end-of-the-year mandatory distributions, etc. We must not forget the necessity to increase our membership, support our reunions, and mentor new members. Many committees need membership participation, such as Americanism, education, grounds, maintenance, kitchen, fellowship hall, and our Supreme Council's leadership programs.

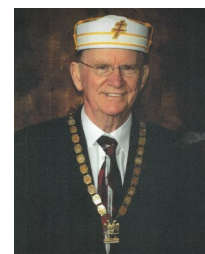
It is exciting when the Valley, in its totality, strives for pre-determined goals. I am in awe at the vast diversified talent represented in our membership. Please consider sharing your talents, knowledge, and expertise with your Valley.

Speaking of membership, our reunion will be upon us faster than we realize; therefore, it is advantageous to begin our membership drive now rather than later. As our local lodges have undergone their installations of officers around the Peninsula and the gathering of many brethren, it is the ideal opportunity to solicit petitions for membership.

In summary, our committees are very active, the Valley is moving in the right direction. I want to thank our committee chairman and members for their dedication and hard work this past year.



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



I have the privilege to serve this year as the District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 14. This may not seem to be a topic for the Valley newsletter, except for the fact the Blue Lodges and our appendant bodies are all in the same boat when it comes to membership. Most Worshipful Don Strehle, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, has set a goal of bringing in 1200 new Virginia Masons and has requested all Masonic Districts in Virginia hold a One-Day Conferral of the Masonic Degrees on April 29.

As a Masonic appendant body, we rely on our Blue Lodges for a source of membership. Brethren, this is an opportunity for all appendant bodies to get new members. If you know a man of good character who demonstrates the same high moral standards we strive to achieve, please take this opportunity to talk to them about Masonry. Invite them to your Lodge dinners, breakfasts, or social events. Nothing has changed, the candidate must ask to be a Mason, and his petition requires the signature of two Master Masons, a background check, and an unanimous vote of the Lodge. The upside is you now have a Brother you may never have had the opportunity to work with, to share your Masonic experiences, and to make him an asset to the Blue Lodge and potentially the appendant bodies. Remember we are all in the same boat, which requires good men to carry on our Masonic traditions, and a rising tide lifts all boats.

On the home front, I want to thank everyone who participated in our Haunted House and Fall Sausage Sale. The Haunted House (or "Walk of Terror") received recognition from the city of Newport News as a top tourist attraction for the Fall season. We also received many positive reviews on social media and from those who attended. With the help of many Scottish Rite Brethren, Masonic youth groups, and volunteers we were able to net approximately \$24,500 for our foundation.

The Haunted House is truly a labor of love. It takes many hours of planning, preparation, setup, and execution to accomplish. It is exhausting, frustrating, and at the same time fun and rewarding. We have done the Haunted House for two years and it has been a great success. However, without more volunteers, it may not be able to continue. Please contact me or anyone in our office if you would like to help.

We ground over 1000 pounds of fresh pork for the Fall Sausage Sales for a profit of over \$5,100 for the Foundation. It took approximately 12 Brethren 10 hours to prepare, grind, package, and clean up. I want to thank everyone for their hard work preparing and selling the sausage. Although it was a long day it was filled with fellowship and fun.

Brethren, may your new year keep you healthy, wealthy, and wise.
Remember, many hands make light work.

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





Start Your Week With More Light In Masonry!

Each of our many Scottish Rite Degrees is full of symbolism and wisdom; too much to absorb at any one time. *Monday Morning Masonry* is a series of weekly emails that offers brief Scottish Rite reflections for the week, moving progressively through the degrees each week.

These emails will create a positive direction for your entire week by giving you a single Scottish Rite lesson to consider. There will also be exclusive extras and bonus features along the way. This program is **ONLY** for Scottish Rite Masons.

To sign up, simply fill out the [link](#) below and you will begin receiving your emails on Monday!

<https://sms.scottishrite.org/MMM>



From the Secretary's Desk - Bro. Steve F. Dowd, 32°, KCCH

First, I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and a Happy New Year!! We have had our monthly Scottish Rite meetings this last year and while attendance has been lean, I anticipate seeing more Brethren in attendance. Ill. Dave Burkus stepped up and coordinated our monthly meals since last summer and they have been a huge success. Plan to come out for our monthly meetings for dinner and great Masonic fellowship. 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 the quarter are January 27, February 22, and March 22. The desired dress for our meetings is coat and tie, but 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 dues cards and make sure they are the 2023 ones. If you have not paid your dues, you can remit them through the Valley Office (check or credit card) or the Supreme Council's website Member Login area (credit card only). If anyone is having trouble with paying your dues, 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 Bro. Steve Dowd, 32°, KCCH, 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/>) and see what Ill. Dave Burkus has done to improve our website. You will be amazed at what you will see. Ill Burkus has also been upgrading the Orient of Virginia's website (<https://www.vascottishrite.org>). He has already brought the website up to date and has made the site more informative and enjoyable to see. Great job, Ill. Sir!!

There will be two Scottish Rite Workshop opportunities in March!! One is put on by the Supreme Council and the other is for the Orient of Virginia:

1 - Supreme Council Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop via Zoom, on March 18, 2023, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and we will be watching it in our Scottish Rite Lodge Room. The Sovereign Grand Commander's program started in 2021 with the purpose of informing, training, and improving the operations of our Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction. This is a great opportunity to hear discussion straight from the Sovereign Grand Commander.

While a specific agenda will be announced after the holidays, topics to be covered include Membership, Fundraising, Finance, Sentinel (Scottish Rite's member database), Education, and Philanthropy. Each workshop will conclude with Grand Commander's Town Hall discussion, which will be your chance to ask him any relevant questions or have an open discussion on any topic related to the operations of our fraternity. When the full agenda is published, I will make it available. I have participated in several of these and find them quite enlightening.

2 - The Orient of Virginia Workshop will be held in the morning on March 25, 2023, at the ACCA Shrine Center in Richmond. For those that 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° Grand Cross, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) in Virginia.

God Bless and Stay Safe!!!
Bro. Steven F. Dowd, 32°, KCCH
General Secretary

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

Happy New Year Brethren,

A New Year has begun and it is time to throw the 2022 calendar away and start populating the 2023 calendar. Several key dates should be on your calendar. Please make sure you have the following on your new calendar:

*- **Orient of Virginia Spring Workshop:** March 25, 2023. The Workshop will be held at the ACCA Shrine Center in Richmond beginning at 9:00am. Coffee and donuts available at 8:00am!*

*- **Scottish Rite Conference of the Orient of Virginia:** September 28-30, 2023. The Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center located at 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA. More details will be provided as we get closer to the Conference.*

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you at the Workshop and Conference. I hope you all have a wonderful 2023.

*Fraternally,
Richard*

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

Chili Cookoff



To be held at our January Stated dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Still looking for volunteers to bring in their Chili samples!!
\$25 prize for the winner

GREETINGS BRETHREN FROM THE VALLEY OF NEWPORT NEWS SCOTTISH RITE GOLF COMMITTEE

The 19th Illustrious and M.W. William M. Johnson, 33^o, Memorial Golf Tournament will be held this year on June 8, 2023, so please mark your calendar and start making your plans to participate. As you know this is one of our Scottish Rite charities in support of the Rite Care Center at Old Dominion University. The Rite Care Center at Old Dominion University works with children that have language, hearing, and/or speech impediments. The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation supports these efforts through your generous contributions and participation in this golf tournament and assists with tuition for graduate-level students working in this field.

On the morning of the tournament, you will be able to meet some of the students and a professor or two who work with these children. They participate by helping with registration and sales of raffle tickets and mulligan tickets.

The tournament will be a "Captain's Choice" held at Riverfront Golf Club, 5200 River Club Drive, Suffolk, Virginia, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. followed by "tee" time at 9:00 a.m. Included in the tournament will be a "goodie bag" for each golfer, raffle prizes, and a delicious lunch of fried chicken, barbecue, baked beans, slaw, a cookie, and a drink. The cost is \$80.00 for an individual player. Now, how can you help: we need players (teams), hole sponsors, and possibly prize donors, AND if you want, we can always use more committee members if you are interested.

We are asking the Scottish Rite members to voluntarily seek out Bro. Sewell Rowley, 32^o, for Black Hat donations, Bro. Richard Russell, 32^o, KCCH, for Red Hat donations, and Ill. Bro. Page Neale, Jr., 33, IGH, for White Hat donations. All groups are trying to raise a minimum of \$150 to sponsor a hole.

There are other hole sponsorships of as follows:

Bronze at \$150

Silver at \$250 (\$50/player)

Gold at \$350 (\$30/player)

Benefactor at \$500 or more (free foursome)



*Bro. William Henry Russell, 32°
July 8, 2009*

*Bro. Gary Paul Miller, 32°
January 12, 2016*

*Bro. Robert Calvin Hudgins, 32°
June 11, 2021*

*Bro. Forrest Bailey Smith, 32°
November 2, 2021*

*Bro. Lloyd Nance, Jr., 32°
November 14, 2021*

*Bro. Dennis Wade Ross, 32°
December 12, 2021*

*Bro. Thomas Madison Powell, 32°
February 28, 2022*

*Bro. Raymond Randolph Rosson, 32°
September 9, 2022*

*Bro. Roy Lee Crawford, 32°
October 6, 2022*

*Bro. Johnson Waldo Edmunds, 32°
October 6, 2022*

*Bro. Burnley Roy Doxey, 32°
November 6, 2022*

*Bro. Donald Christian Moyer, 33°
November 22, 2022*



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