



Valley Happenings

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 SGIG in Virginia
- Ill. Bruce L. Edwards, 33°, IGH**
Assistant Personal Representative
- Bro. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH-Elect**
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. C. Thomas Dubose, 32°, KCCH-Elect
Venerable Master

Upcoming Activities

- July 26**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM (No Dinner)
Speaker: Ill. David A Burkus, 33°, IGH
- August 23**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Speaker: TBA
- September 27**
Valley of Newport News Stated Meeting
Feast of Tishiri
Meeting at 7:30 PM (Dinner @ 6:30 PM)
Speaker: TBA
- October 25**
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 except July & August 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,

As I begin writing our July - September 2023 summer newsletter, I wish each of you a wonderful summer filled with the many joys of life.

As for your management team, we will continue to manage the day-to-day operation of our Scottish Rite and Scottish Rite Foundation. I especially want to thank those who work tirelessly to keep our facility and grounds in top condition. Our Grounds Committee led by Brother Robert R. Jones, 32°, KCCH, maintains eight acres with little to no support. The trees on our property contribute to a short life span for our mowing equipment, etc. In fact, we are in the process of raising funds to replace one of our zero-turn mowers at a cost of approximately \$8500. The Grounds Committee needs brethren to operate this equipment, weed eating, trimming, and many other duties. Any assistance would be appreciated.

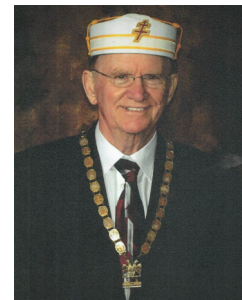
Our Golf Committee recently completed another outstanding golf tournament in which many of you participated. Thanks to all the players and support personnel who made it possible. This is one of our major fundraisers supporting our Speech and Language clinic at ODU.

Our Haunted House is another major Fund Raiser that is now in jeopardy of being shut down for lack of support. We need Brethren and/or their ladies to lead the nightly activities if we are to continue. Call our Haunted House Coordinator, Ill. Bruce Edwards, 33°, IGH, if you are interested in supporting this effort.

Our Kitchen will be closed for June, July, and August Stated Communications. We will start serving a meal at the September Stated communication catered by Mrs. Abby Stanfield who caters for Warwick Lodge No. 336. We will also require an attendance commitment prior to the meeting. I would be remiss if I failed to give Ill. David Burkus, 33°, IGH, a big thanks for all he has done to prepare and serve meals at our stated communications for the past several months. Ill. Dave remains our Kitchen Committee Chairman and will be coordinating the catering effort commencing in September. Brethren,

it is my hope and prayer that more of our membership will step up and take part in our activities here at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. The skills needed include but not limited to are mechanical, electrical, plumbing, grounds maintenance, management, support for our Medical Equipment Center, and our Facility Coordinators Staff. Stop in and join the team.

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



Brethren, if you are like me, it's July, our year is over half gone, and you wonder where the time went. Sadly, this is something we experience every year, every day. Time is the one thing we can't seem to beat. As we are taught, "we are traveling on that broad level of time" What better reason to keep our loved ones close and our "bucket list" checked off.

Speaking of time, it being midyear, we will soon be making financial decisions for the 2023 tax year. Please consider the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation, a 501.3(c) nonprofit. Your contribution will not only help our Scottish Rite charities but may reduce your tax burden.

A special thank you to the Scottish Rite Brethren who contributed to the Scottish Rite Foundation to support a new lawn mower for our lawn maintenance team. If you missed the opportunity and would like to contribute, please contact our office.

Our primary way to support our charities is through our Scottish Rite members who actively participate in our fundraisers; Golf Tournament, Sausage Sales, and our Haunted House, which we have successfully done over the last two years. The Haunted House may be the Valley's most visible event to the community and the most fun event to work on. The planning and preparation for this event starts in early summer. In other words, the fun starts now. If you want to be an actor, set designer, planning/preparation for the event, sound/lighting, helper, etc. please contact me.

We have one candidate for our Fall Reunion. Membership is the strength of our institution. Please talk to the Master Masons in your lodges about our charities and the continued masonic education the Scottish Rite provides. Please encourage them to join.

Brethren, it is very easy to get caught up, even overwhelmed by the day-to-day administration, building maintenance, ground maintenance, and fundraising that takes place at the Scottish Rite. Unfortunately, and unintentionally, we do not put the needed attention to having planned times of fun and fellowship with our Scottish Rite family. This is your Valley; if you have anything to offer for the good of the Valley, an activity, fellowship event, or program that would benefit our Valley or you would like to lead, please present it at a Stated meeting or come by the office and discuss it.

We still have mild sausage for sale. If you, friends, or family would like to like to purchase sausage (\$6 per pound), please contact the office.

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



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

Brethren, Here we are – the summer of 2023 starts! It seems that summer has already been here for a month. In June schools closed, and kids are out of school! The Newport News Scottish Rite will have its meetings on the fourth Wednesday in July, August, and September. In July and August, the dress for meetings will be Lodge shirts and slacks. At the September meeting, we will go back to coats and ties. The kitchen is dark in July and August, and the dinners will begin again at our September Meeting.

The 2023 Biennial Session will be held August 20 – 22. Registration is currently open. Additional information is available at: <https://scottishrite.org/blog/2023/04/12/biennial-session-2023/>. The public session of the Biennial will be held on Monday, August 21, at 9:00 a.m. and will be streamed live online via <https://scottishrite.org>.

Ill. David Burkus, 33°, IGH, the Valley's Assistant Secretary, has been working on the Newport News Scottish Rite and the Orient websites. I have seen some of the items that Ill. Dave has included in our website (<https://www.nnscottishrite.org/>), and they are quite good, interesting, and informative. Our website is a tell-all about Scottish Rite Masonry, especially the Newport News Scottish Rite. I highly recommend you check it out at: (<https://www.nnscottishrite.org>) and see what a great job he has done. If you have any suggestions, let us know! What you can do is amazing if you are a "Computer Geek"! Don't let him tell you differently.

Feast of Tishri Cast members. Brethren, we conduct the Feast of Tishri every year at the September meeting. Under the Statutes of the Supreme Council, the Feast is "obligatory," a sacramental sharing of our fraternal spirit. The Feast is done under the authority of the Lodge of Perfection. Illustrious Sirs Pete Eure and Bob Tiller have done the main parts for a long time, and I believe they would be willing to let others take on these parts. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this meaningful observance.

Be on the lookout for your 2024 Membership cards in your mailbox. During the Summer, the Supreme Council sends out next year's membership card (2024) with a reminder about your annual dues obligation. Your dues help pay for the operation and care of our building and facility. We have approximately 20 members who have not paid their 2023 dues. If you have any problem with your dues, please contact me, and I can work with you. This office is here to help and support you and the Newport News Scottish Rite.

The Valley has completed this year's work with the Americanism Committee, chaired by Brother Gerald Frey, 32°, KCCH. The Newport News Scottish Rite and the National Sojourners have presented an ROTC Certificate and Medal to recipients at Christopher Newport University and JROTC Certificates and Medals to eleven High Schools. A special thanks to the presenters: Ill. Jack Goodwin, 33°, IGH, Ill Richard Rawls, 33°, IGH, Brother Steve Dowd, 33°, IGH-Elect, and Brother Jerry Frey, 32°, KCCH, who traveled all over the area to present JROTC Awards to deserving Cadets. All who worked on the Americanism Committee, Great Job!

The Scottish Rite office is open Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to Noon.

Fraternally,

*Bro. Steven F. Dowd, 33°, IGH-Elect
General Secretary*



Brethren,

Hopefully, by now, everyone has heard the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will hold its Annual Conference on September 28-30, 2023 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA.

The Annual Conference is a great opportunity to interact with Scottish Rite Masons around the Commonwealth. Educational Programs will be offered, reports from the Scottish Rite Foundation will be provided, and special events will be held for our ladies. Every Scottish Rite Mason is encouraged to attend this event. A good time will be enjoyed by all.

Information regarding the Conference can be found on both the [Orient of Virginia](https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-conference) (<https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-conference>) web page and the [Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite \(2023 SR Conference — Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite\)](#) web page. I look forward to seeing you all at this year's Conference.

Scottish Rite Workshop Report

The Scottish Rite Workshop was held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Acca Shrine Center in Richmond with good representation from the eight Valleys. We were pleased to have Most Worshipful Donald E. Strehle, 33°, IGH-Elect, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, and several elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers present. The highlight of the workshop was the “fireside chat” by Illustrious and Worshipful Arturo de Hoyas, 33°, GC, Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America. Brother de Hoyos remarks and answers to several questions posed to him were well received.

Brother Timothy Shrum, 32° KCCH, Valley of Alexandria, gave a report on the campaign to establish an Endowed Scholarship in the name of Illustrious and Admiral William “Gene” Sizemore, 33°, GC, former Grand Executive Director. The Orients of District of Columbia, Florida, and Virginia have collaborated in the campaign, along with support from the Active and Emeritus Members of the Supreme Council and Deputies. The original goal was \$50,000, and in excess of \$124,000, has been raised with six days remaining in the campaign.



Golf Tournament Report

Newport News Scottish Rite Golf Tournament Report

The 19th Annual Illustrious William M. Johnson, 33°, IGH, Memorial Golf Tournament was held June 8, 2023, at Riverfront Golf Club in Suffolk, Virginia. The tournament was a huge success by exceeding our charity obligation due to the efforts of many Brethren and friends. The tournament had 84 golfers able to participate.

There were 48 total sponsors, including 18 Benefactors - \$500 sponsors; 2 Gold - \$350 sponsors; 2 Silver - \$250 sponsors; 24 Bronze - \$150 sponsors; and 2 Donors of less than \$150. These sponsors were individual Masons, businesses, Lodges from District 14, and appendant bodies. We had more than \$2,300 in prizes donated and awarded.

It is NEVER too early to start planning the 20th annual tournament scheduled for June 13, 2024, at Riverfront Golf Club. Please mark your calendars, start building your foursomes, and solicit support from local businesses you patronize for prizes.

Your Golf Tournament Committee comprised of Illustrious Page Neale, 33°, IGH, Bro. Richard Russell, KCCH, Bro. Sewell Rowley, 32°, KCCH-Elect, Ill. Bruce Edwards, 33°, IGH, Ill. Tom Mainwaring, 33°, IGH, Bro. Lew Strickland, 32°, KCCH-Elect, Bro. Steve Vaughn, 32°, Ill. Jerry Whitlock, 33°, IGH, and Bro. Paul Nelson, 32°.

Please help us in making next year's tournament an even bigger success!!!

Congratulations to our new Honor Men-Elect

We would like to congratulate our new Honor Men Elect. Recently, our Secretary, Brother Steven Franklyn Dowd, 32°, KCCH, was informed he had been selected to receive the 33rd Degree in August during the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction in Washington, D.C. Then on July 11th at Poquoson Lodge No. 49, he received his 50-year Masonic Veteran's Emblem from the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia. It seems good things do come, to those who wait.

We also were informed we have three KCCH-elects in our Valley. We have Brother Charles Thomas DuBose, 32° (member of Achilles Lodge No.281 and Venerable Master of our Valley's Knights of Saint Andrew), Brother Lewis Clyde Strickland, 32°, (member and Past Master of Poquoson Lodge No. 49), and Brother Sewell Major Rowley, Jr. (member and Past Master of Poquoson Lodge No.49 and our Assistant Valley Secretary).

The new KCCH-elects will be receiving their degree and hats at the September Virginia Scottish Rite Conference in Alexandria.



Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation Report

With support from the Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation's Medical Equipment Center, individuals from the Fort Eustis and Langley Air Force Base community, along with their families, decided to place other's well-being above their own in assisting international needs. Volunteers linked up with Newport News Scottish Rite Medical Equipment Center, which already assists families in need of medical equipment from Virginia Beach to Richmond. This joint effort gathered, cleaned, and repaired non-perishable medical equipment to assist **Embrace Relief** in supporting refugees facing forced displacement due to the armed conflict in Ukraine. These individuals sacrificed their personal time and energy in contributing to this international humanitarian cause by volunteering a total of 198.5 hours in order to donate \$21,400 of medical equipment and supplies.

What Makes a Good Man?

What makes a good man? It's a small question, but the answer certainly isn't. The 31st degree, Inspector Inquisitor, causes us to reflect on this question. The answer I might give would perhaps be very different from yours, and your answer would likely be different from some of our other Brothers. There would be some overlap in our answers. But the answers won't be identical even amongst Brothers with similar values.

So what makes a good man? Is it the presence of virtues or the absence of vice? Who are the good men you know? What makes them good? Do you follow their example? Are you setting good examples for others to follow? It's dizzying and difficult to consider all the various ways we could view these questions.

We must remember our earlier degrees teach us morality and goodness are not destinations, but rather an on-going journey. Therefore, we should not ask this question in its totality- it is only for the Grand Architect to judge us. But rather we must each day have the intention to be good, and then follow those intentions with good actions. So, the question isn't are you a good man? But rather do you intend to be a good man today, and what action will you take to make it so?

Brethren, my advice in answering these queries is the same as always: Follow the lessons of the Blue Lodge. Just as the operative mason must always check his work by the square and compasses, and use the common gavel to knock off the rough corners of each stone in his building, we, as speculative Masons, must use those tools to check the stones in our spiritual building, and be prepared to contend with our rough corners, and chip away at them a little at a time.

I hope these questions give you pause for reflection; I know they have mine!

Edited from an email sent by Bro. Maynard Edwards, 32°, KCCH, on May, 8, 2023, titled "What Makes a Man Good?"

Think Soberly

By Gerald L. Frey, 32°, KCCH

At the center of each Scottish Rite room sits a Volume of Sacred Law. Its position is not an accident or happen-stance, however, it is a reminder that Masonry not only holds its membership to a higher standard as well as a reminder we all have to overcome our faults and prejudices. To that end, we can call to mind:

Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith".

It is our faults and prejudices which provide us with a measure by which to guard our thoughts, speech, and actions. We are told in our obligations not to participate in piques and rivalries, not to speak ill of one another, and to ever presume others are worthy of just consideration. Scottish Rite leads us through our obligations and ritual, to work toward the point of consideration, contemplation, and even meditation on everyone we encounter. This uplifts us when given thought to, being aware of those around us as we walk our daily path.

What is around the corner is unknown to each of us, yet when armed with numerous admonishments to be mindful of others, I believe we are forearmed to deal with this uncertainty. Why forearmed? Each profession instills its own preset responses to expected events: uniformed services, medical, legal, and, indeed, all professions. Each in their turn looks to us as individuals to already come with a basic sense of worth and character, yes, moral character. Romans 12:3 is an essential part of our everyday carry. Masonry and more specifically Scottish Rite provides rituals to reinforce this imperative principle.

It is only by being aware of our individual strengths and shortcomings that we can grow. It is easy to lose sight of the significance of the intrepid path from rough ashlar to working toward the perfect ashlar. Scottish Rite repeatedly asks us to work and put in the time and effort to better ourselves. Self-examination is far from an easy or painless task. Often, we slow down this process when it becomes uncomfortable, some even halt altogether.

Our ritual reminds us of several facts. Learning, self-examination, and reinventing ourselves are routinely uncomfortable and difficult. Yet, the process helps us move toward being a better person. While the struggle is uncomfortable and difficult, it is no less satisfying when we get closer to being the person overcoming our weaknesses and tempering our strengths. The effects, interestingly, are not completely invisible to those around us. Just as often they notice something is different, even if they cannot precisely put their finger on it.

Perhaps when we subtly move forward during this process of internal changes, we are seen just a little bit differently by others. Noticing this in ourselves is a rarity, usually, our concentration is on other items in our lives. Many have said that the obvious is rarely obvious, just as the most uncommon trait is common sense.

Another result of this self-growth is the realization that for all we know, we know so very little. Humility sets in, graciousness grows, and charity comes to the fore. Is it any reason that Freemasonry and Scottish Rite dwell on self-growth? Human nature is more Darwinian than any of us would like to admit. The proof of this is the innumerable acts of barbary everywhere in the world.

There is an offset to human nature, which is the reminder of our obligations, rituals, and principles. They are the staggering number of instances of kindness performed daily by you. The sincere thank you's to those who assist you, the holding of a door, unasked, for someone carrying a burden, the gentle smile to a stranger as you pass, and too many more to describe or name. These are made easier as we look to assist others rather than think solely about ourselves.

Scottish Rite provides tools to be a better individual, which means a better us. Knowing ourselves, honestly knowing ourselves, moves us toward the perfect ashlar. Understanding ourselves and steering clear of titles, acclaim, position, and the rest will afford us the ability, when asked, to accept any of these without hesitation and without doubt, more importantly without false doubt of carrying out the task with a purpose.



*Bro. Orvil Cranfill Metheny, 32°
December 27, 2022*

*Bro. John W. Wallace, 32°
December 30, 2022*

*Bro. Donald Scott Kinkade, 32°
February 19, 2023*

*Bro. Merwin Grant Lozaw, Jr., 32°, KCCH
May 21, 2023*

*Bro. Woodrow Everette Hitt, 32°
June 20, 2023*

*Bro. Norris Ketchum Roberts, 32, KCCH
June 23, 2023*

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

