

The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter



April - June 2020

Volume 8, Issue 2 Valley of Newport News, Orient of Virginia, AASR

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

Greetings Brethren,

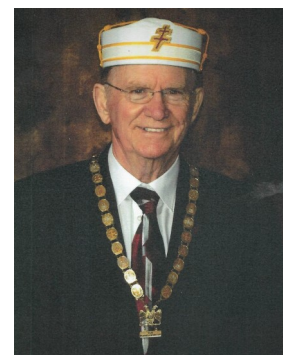
At this writing, our Nation and the rest of the World is undergoing a challenge which is the Corona virus. Many who have contracted the virus are doing very well and a few are not. It is critical that we all practice good hygiene, (washing our hands) and limit our exposure to large gatherings just as we would for the flu, colds or any other disease. However, our Craft is aging and it would behoove us to limit contact with our Brethren especially if you have respiratory problems and/or compromised immune systems. Working together we can minimize the impact of this virus on our gentle Craft. Going forward, I will monitor the situation making the necessary decisions and taking action as needed to limit social contacts to keep you my Brethren as safe as possible.

We are now entering our 2nd Quarter of 2020 with our Reunion currently scheduled for April 24th & 25th. At the present time, we have six candidates from the Valley of Portsmouth and two from the Valley of Newport News. There is time remaining to bring in additional petitions. Brethren, our growth and most of all our existence depends on new members. I encourage all to solicit your Masonic Brethren, friends and neighbors who are Masons, to join our great fraternity. If you need a petition please contact your Scottish Rite Office at 757-599-6617.

I am pleased to report that our Scottish Rite Foundation is doing well. As you may know, our Foundation was set up to provide support for the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Center at Old Dominion University and to support our Medical Equipment Community Outreach Program. In the last few months, the community demand for medical equipment has increased significantly. Therefore, to meet the demand for equipment and our need for storage space we have undertaken a project to expand the Medical Center's footprint. We have been working with the City of Newport News to negotiate and complete the necessary drawings and building permit approvals. The expansion will consist of an additional 25X40 foot wing. We estimate completion by June of this year. I would be remiss if I didn't thank you my Brethren for supporting our Golf Tournament and Valley fundraisers that directly support our Foundation. In addition, all donations to the Foundation are tax exempt, greatly appreciated and recognized.

In closing, I remind each of you that our Masonic Center is a 28,000 sq. ft. facility with daily activities which require personnel to manage, perform maintenance, communicate with the public and support many other center activities. We need to solicit volunteers to assist with the management of our Masonic Center. If you have some time to contribute to this endeavor please contact me or Brother Bruce Edwards at 599-6617. Thank you and may you be blessed in all you do.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33° IGH
Personal Representation



Valley of Newport News

Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33° G.C.
Deputy in Virginia

Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33° IGH
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Virginia

Bro. Bruce L. Edwards, 32° KCCH
Assistant Personal Representative

Ill. Adrian L. "Pete" Eure, 33° IGH
Secretary for the Valley of Newport News

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

Bro. J. Richard Rawls, 32° KCCH
Treasurer for the Valley of Newport News

Ill. Harold C. Joyner, 33° IGH
Almoner for the Valley of Newport News

Bro. Page S. Neale, Jr., 32° KCCH
Chairman of the Trustees

Newport News Lodge of Perfection

Bro. Brian R. Croteau, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix

Bro. Brian R. Croteau, 32° KCCH
Wise Master

Newport News Council of Kadosh

Bro. Patrick C. Murphrey 32° KCCH
Commander

Newport News Consistory

Bro. Bruce L. Edwards 32° KCCH
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

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS**



April 22

Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting
Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

April 24-25

Valley of Newport News Spring Reunion

May 26

Knights of St. Andrew Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

May 27

Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting
Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

June 4, 2019

18th Annual Ill. William M. Johnson, 33°
Memorial Golf Tournament

June 23

Knights of St. Andrew
Feast of Bannockburn at 6:00pm

June 24

Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting
Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm



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Valley Secretary - Ill. Adrian "Pete" Eure, 33° IGH

Brethren,

Year 2020 is passing so fast that it is hard to stay up with it. Here it is April and we are looking at Spring! As Valley Secretary, I get mail from some of our members who live out of State. Here in the Valley of Newport News, we have a member who will have turned 104 years old as of March 16th. Brother Leonard Isaac Levenson, 32°, received his Scottish Rite Degrees in the Valley of Newport News, in the Masonic Temple at 33rd Street and Washington Avenue in the Spring of 1957. Brother Levenson was in the Marine Corp in World War II and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He fought in the Pacific against Japan. Brother Levenson now lives in Chamblee, Georgia. Brother Levenson is a Sixty-year Scottish Rite Mason and I have asked the Valley of Atlanta if they would present Brother Levenson his Sixty-year certificate and pin. I got an immediate answer from the Valley of Atlanta that they would be most happy to present the certificate and pin for the Valley of Newport News. We would like to thank Ill. Brother E. Ray Knittel, 33° PGM, the SGIG in Atlanta and Ill. Ross Laver, 33°, Secretary of the Valley of Atlanta, for their help presenting Brother Levenson his certificate and pin. Brother Levenson sends the Valley of Newport News donations to the Building Fund several time a year, with witty and funny remarks. He also talks about his love of Masonry and especially the – Shrine. He is certainly proud to be a Mason. The Supreme Council is planning an article about Brother Levenson in its next Scottish Rite Journal. Please go on our Website – nnscothshrite.org. and read about our oldest member.

Please look at your dues card and see if your dues card reads 2020. If it does not, please send your dues to this office as soon as possible. We're in the process of suspending 27 members for nonpayment of dues. Without your dues, we cannot maintain our building and grounds and pay our bills. If you have any questions concerning your dues, please contact this office and let's talk.

Remember, our meetings are always held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except in November and December when our meetings are held on the Second Wednesday due to the Holidays. We still have our "Dutch Treat" dinner at 6:30pm. The cost is \$8.00 per person. We would like to invite your wife also, and have her meet with our Ladies of the Scottish Rite during our meeting. Our Spring Reunion will be held on April 24 and 25, 2020 in our Auditorium. Please come and support the Degree Teams and welcome our new Scottish Rite Masons.

This office is open Monday thru Thursday, 9:00am thru Noon, come and see us – the coffee pot is always hot and ready!

Adrian "Pete" Eure, Secretary

Scottish Rite Trivia

Ill. David Burkus, 33° IGH

Since this is the first set of questions, I will start off with an easy set of questions with the last one being a little bit of stumper (or possibly one to research). The answers will be given at the April stated meeting and the next issue of our newsletter.

1. In the Lodge of Perfection, what is the title for the person who sits in the East?

- Commander
- Sovereign Master
- Worshipful Master
- Venerable Master

3. We normally meet in the "Lodge of Perfection", which is for Scottish Rite Masons who have at least how many degrees done?

- 4
- 14
- 18
- 30
- 32

2. How many degrees are required per Reunion?

- Four
- Five
- Six
- Seven

4. What is the degree associated with the "Lodge of Perfection?"

VMAP Chairperson - Bro. Steve Dowd 32° KCCH



VMAP! VMAP! VMAP!

We hear that name bantered about every year. It stands for the “Valley Membership Achievement Project”. But what does it really mean? How does it apply to the Newport News Scottish Rite? Why do I care?

Thank you all for the efforts you made in our successful completion of the VMAP 2019 project. The year plaque has been added to our VMAP award.

VMAP is a grassroots-developed project with the mission and goal of helping each Valley ensure that **every** Scottish Rite Brother is provided with the best possible member experience and value for his membership. That is the VMAP Mission Statement.

The degree work, education, and member activities of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite represent the heart, soul, and product of our great International body of Freemasonry. Every brother has a right to expect that the purpose of the Scottish Rite is carried out to the fullest extent possible by our Valley, and with the quality expected of an enlightened Masonic Fraternity.

It takes active involvement by several dedicated Brothers in order to make the most of this program! If you are interested and willing to advance Scottish Rite Masonry, please contact the Office staff.

It is important to note that VMAP is still **NOT** a contest or competition between Orients or Valleys, NOR is it a “report card.” VMAP is simply an opportunity for our Valley to challenge itself to be a more vibrant and engaged version of itself through self-evaluation.

The intent of VMAP is to help our Valley carry out its service to the Scottish Rite by providing the very best experience for its members. VMAP requirements are broken into the following 11 specific Subject Areas which cover the full scope of the Scottish Rite experience.

- 1. MEMBERSHIP RETENTION / ENGAGEMENT**
- 2. SCOTTISH RITE EDUCATION FOR MEMBERS**
- 3. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT**
- 4. NEW MEMBER ENGAGEMENT**
- 5. REUNION EXPERIENCE**
- 6. SCOTTISH RITE EDUCATION FOR CANDIDATES**
- 7. PHILANTHROPY**
- 8. PUBLIC IMAGE**
- 9. DEGREE CONFERRAL PROFICIENCY**
- 10. VALLEY LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT**
- 11. VALLEY ORGANIZATIONS**

Each specific subject area contains mandatory tasks followed by a series of optional tasks from which we are asked to choose and complete a specific minimum number of these tasks. These mandatory and optional tasks are designed to challenge our Valley, its members, and leaders to excel across a broad spectrum of Scottish Rite related subjects.

VMAP is designed to provide every Scottish Rite candidate, member, and leader with a useful working tool for planning and promoting a well-rounded series of Valley activities to engage and involve every member in the life and work of their Valley. In other words, VMAP is designed to help our Valley provide its members with a superior Scottish Rite experience.

VMAP will make our Valley stronger, more successful, and provide an enhanced Scottish Rite experience and value for our members. We greatly look forward to your participation in VMAP 2020!

Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection - Bro. Brian Croteau 32° KCCH

Here we are, trying to get this year underway, and life has thrown a COVID curveball at us.

Let's start with that topic:

As of this writing, no decision has been made regarding possible cancellation of meetings or other activities. In the words of an Army Drill Instructor I knew, "Let your conscience be your guide..." If it doesn't HAVE to happen, then stay home. If you're in charge of others, think of the larger group first. If you're more susceptible to illness than others, protect yourself and stay home. If you're already not feeling well, think of who you might see or meet or rub elbows with, and stay home.

I'm pretty good at coming up with programs at the last minute. It's your judgment as to whether they're any good or not... That said, I'd like to see more of you folks, all y'all, delivering programs than me. We have ten months left in the year, and I want to do fewer than half of them. That means AT LEAST six for you folks. I am happy to help you with ideas, proofread your first efforts, and coach you through your speech-making anxiety. You got this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Americanism - Bro. Brian Croteau 32° KCCH

ROTC/JROTC - Like everything else this spring, I anticipate we'll have some bumps in the road for the scheduled awards ceremonies in late April and early May. These are fine young men and women and we want to do right by them. As of this writing there are no changes, but a couple of comments such as "stand by for more information later..."

There are more schools than I can do alone, though I typically do most of them. The conflicts for me this year will be those at times I cannot be there or get there in time because of other commitments, or when there are more than one on a given day/time. I have yet to perfect being two places at once. Thank you to those brothers who have already volunteered for specific locations. As details solidify in the coming weeks, I may be asking you for help.

Memorial Day Weekend Flag Placement and Recovery – Over the last several years we have assisted American Legion Post #25 at Peninsula Memorial Park. We enter from the Nettles Drive side. This year, I'd like some people to commit to the Tuesday retrieval of flags. Generally, there are many fewer who help with that than there are for the placement. We'll discuss this at a stated soon.

Valley Director of Degrees - Bro. J. Richard Rawls 32° KCCH

Brethren,

The Spring Reunion of the Valley of Newport News is scheduled for April 24-25. This date may need to change due to the current situation with the coronavirus COVID-19. The Valley Personal Representative will make a decision regarding our Reunion the first week of April. I would ask that all members of our various degree teams continue to prepare for our Reunion by reviewing your scripts for your respective degrees. If you don't have a copy of the script for your degree, please contact your Degree Master. If you are not currently on a degree team, there are openings available for you to be part of presenting our degrees to our new members. Please consider being a part of the degree work performed at the Valley of Newport News.

In the meantime, stay safe, study your parts and do all you can to prepare for our Spring Reunion.

Fraternally, Richard



Assistant to the Personal Representative - Bro. Bruce L. Edwards, 32^o KCCH

As many of you may know the Scottish Rite building for the Valley of Richmond is for sale. The Norfolk Scottish Rite is moving from its Granby Street location in Norfolk to the Khedive Shrine Center in Chesapeake January 1, 2021. These Valleys' have been forced to make hard decisions due to a decline in membership and the rising cost of maintaining their aging buildings. These problems are not acute to Richmond or Norfolk. We face the same challenges in our Valley and many of our Blue Lodges.

The Newport News Valley building is faced with the expensive replacement of two air conditioning units, roof leaks, tile floor repairs, replacing corroded auditorium light fixtures, and the list goes on. More disappointing our Valley membership is now below 500.

On the good side, we are managing our building problems. Many thanks to Brothers Leonard Mayo, Randy Maney and John Gleason for volunteering to do many of the small building repairs that we would otherwise have to pay a contractor to fix. Our facility rentals have made a good start this year. Hopefully the coronavirus will not slow rentals down. We had a very successful Scottish Rite fundraiser with a concert by the Virginia Li'l Ole Opry. Thanks to everyone that supported the fundraiser, hopefully more fundraisers to come. Our Newport News Scottish Rite Foundations (501-3C) allows members and non-members to make tax deductible contributions to support our charities. Also, check out the best Scottish Rite website in the state (nnscttishrite.org). We are working hard to keep you informed and our Valley strong.

Brethren, our biggest challenge and where we are falling behind is membership. Not only new members but membership participation. The same strong beliefs that attracted you to Freemasonry are still here. The same Brotherhood, friendships, likeminded men and educational opportunities are still here. I encourage each of you to engage Master Masons about continuing their Masonic education, become a Scottish Rite Mason and obtain the 4th through 32nd Degrees.

BeAFreemason.org

As SGC Cole mentions in the video (<https://vimeo.com/393968775/db87ee8209>), he needs our help in spreading the word about BeAFreemason.org by sharing it on all our social media pages and mentioning the site to our friends and acquaintances who may be interested in becoming Masons.





18th Annual Ill. William M. Johnson, 33° Memorial Golf Tournament June 4, 2020

Proceeds Benefit the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Learning Center at Old Dominion University.

When: June 4, 2020

Where: Riverfront Golf Club,
5200 River Club Drive, Suffolk, VA

Time: 9:00am Shotgun Start

Cost: \$80 per player Fee includes Green Fees, Cart,
Range Balls, and Dinner!

Make checks payable and mail to:
Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation,
Inc. EIN 82-4228610
65 Saunders Road
Newport News, VA 23601
For Golf Course info visit:
<http://www.riverfrontgolf.com>

Helping Children Communicate

18th Annual Ill. William M. Johnson, 33^o Memorial Golf Tournament

Registration Form

Team Captain: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

My Foursome

1)Name: _____

2)Name: _____

3)Name: _____

4) Name: _____

Make checks payable & mail to:
Newport News Scottish Rite Foundation,
Inc. EIN 82-4228610

65 Saunders Road
Newport News, VA 23601

Golf Course information available at:
<http://www.riverfrontgolf.com/>

Riverfront Golf Club
located at
5200 River Club Drive
Suffolk, VA 23435
Phone: 757-484-2200

Levels of Sponsorship

CONTRIBUTOR
less than \$149.00

BRONZE
\$150.00

SILVER
\$250.00 (\$50/player)

GOLD
\$350.00 (\$30/player)

BENEFACTOR
\$500.00 or more (free foursome)

For more information contact:

Page Neale 757-660-1158
pneale1@cox.net

or

Richard Russell
757-329-8517

poppy414@verizon.net

18th Annual
Ill. William M. Johnson, 33^o
Memorial Golf Tournament
June 4, 2020



*Some of the Children you support by playing
in our Charity Golf Tournament !*

Become a Hole Sponsor!

Levels of Sponsorship

CONTRIBUTOR

less than \$149

BRONZE

\$150.00

SILVER

\$250.00 (\$50/player)

GOLD

\$350.00 (\$30/player)

BENEFACTOR

\$500.00 or more (no player charges)

Name for Hole Sponsorship: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Newport News Scottish Rite

Valley of Newport News
Orient of Virginia
65 Saunders Road
Newport News, Virginia 23601

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Newport News, Virginia
Permit No. 54

*Bro. Lawrence Kelia Keolanui, 32^o
November 9, 2019*

*Bro. Edward Stanley Wheeler, 32^o
November 20, 2019*

*Bro. Gene Molan Ferguson, 32^o
January 11, 2020*

*Bro. Fred ralph Hoffman, 32^o
February 10, 2020*

*Bro. Eldon Tate Deskins, 32^o
February 20, 2020, 2019*



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