

The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter



January - March 2021

Volume 9, Issue 1 Valley of Newport News, Orient of Virginia, AASR

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

Greetings Brethren, another quarter has come and gone. We are now entering the first quarter of 2021. Last year was one for the record books, in fact, the most disruptive that I have experienced in my 47 years as a Freemason. The Covid-19 virus impact was unprecedented. As you all know we have curtailed our lodge meetings, dinner's, Christmas activities and many other functions enjoyed by our membership. However, through it all we have managed to preserve. Your Scottish Rite Office has remained open for business following the guidelines established by the Governor and our Grand Master. Our Medical Equipment Center has remained open in support of those in need of medical equipment and we managed to complete the expansion of the medical center. I pray my brethren that each of you continue to be cautious and follow all CDC guidelines as you move about.

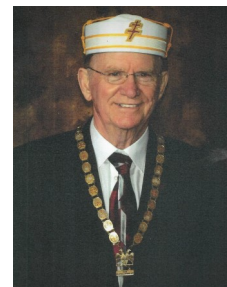
As we move into January 2021, with the COVID 19 vaccine being distributed, I am hopeful that we can achieve some sort of normalcy. At the present time we are limited to no more than ten brethren at any stated communication. Therefore, I will make a decision within the next week if we will conduct a limited stated communication or cancel the January meeting altogether. Further details will be available on our Valley website.

Our membership numbers continue to concern me. The Valley lost 30+ members this year with only two brethren receiving the Royal Secret at our Fall Reunion. Therefore, a membership drive is now underway for the Spring Reunion. It is time brethren that we come together in an all-out effort to solicit new members. I have authorized a reduction in initiation fees from \$175.00 to \$125.00 for this drive. Please contact your Lodge Ambassador to the Scottish Rite (check our website for the name of your Lodge Ambassador) or call your Secretary, Ill. Pete Eure at 599-6617 for petitions or applications as may apply. Our survival depends on each of you. Brethren thank you in advance for your due diligence.

Although our kitchen is temporally closed, the Valley is short a cook or aka kitchen committee chairman. If you have cooking skills or know of a brother who has and is willing to serve in that capacity please contact me at 641-4139. If I am unable to fill the position, I will be have no choice but to shut down all future dining activities.

In closing, I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful, safe Christmas and New Year's. I look forward with optimism to a new year and the opportunity to see as many of you as possible. To those of you who are having medical issues or just unable to get out, please let your Secretary know. We would enjoy speaking with you!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
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

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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

The following meetings are subject to change due to the COVID-19 situation...stay tuned !

January 27, 2021

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

February 24, 2021

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

March 24, 2021

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

Orient of Virginia "Mini-Conference" is being planned for March 2021 in Lynchburg, VA. More information will be provided as it is received.



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

Brethren,

First, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!! As much as we could have, while dealing with the Corona Virus. We will soon be getting the virus shots and maybe – the end will come when we are back to normal! We have had our monthly Scottish Rite meetings, since July. The attendance has been lean, but, we have adhered to all of the mandates from the Grand Master of Virginia and the Governor of the State. We are currently planning to hold our January meeting on January 27th at 7:30pm. No dinner will be served. Dress for the meeting will be coats and ties. **NOTE: This could change depending on the directives from our Grand Master and the Governor.**

Our dues continue to come in and we urge everyone to look at their dues cards or notices, and if you have not paid your dues, please send your dues to this office. If you have any questions, concerning your dues, please call the office. Our phone number is – 757-599-6617 or email us at: nnsrtemple@verizon.net.

Please log on the Newport News Scottish Rite Website and see what Brother Steve Dowd has done to improve our website. You will be amazed at what you will see. Brother Dowd has been given the task of upgrading the Orient of Virginia website, by MW and Ill. Alan W. Adkins, 33^o, GC, Deputy in Virginia. He has already brought the website up to date and has made the site more informative and enjoyable to see. Great Job, Steve!!

If anyone has trouble with dues, because of the Corona Virus, call the office and let us know. We are here for you and will help you anyway we can.

God Bless and Stay Safe!!!

Adrian "Pete" Eure, Secretary

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

Brethren, I hope this new year finds you, your family and loved ones in good health. The year 2020 has certainly been challenging for all of us. I pray you have all been safe from the virus.

The restrictions placed on our normal behavior have been difficult to accept. Yet we have all pulled together to do the right thing. Being a proud citizen of the land of the free has taken on new meaning this year. It seemed every time we adjusted to a new restriction the rules changed. Whether it was gathering for worship, eating out, going to the movies, or attending Lodge we either stopped or adjusted. Sanitizing, social distancing, wearing a mask, etc., became the standard. "Zoom" long attributed to how fast someone traveled is now how we meet. Home delivery is now how we get our groceries. Fast food is drive thru only.

I have every confidence that America will beat the virus. Hopefully in the next few months through our resolve and a vaccine, we will see the end of the virus. What concerns me most is what will our "new normal" be? Will having our freedoms restricted and being quarantined change us? Will watching "Dancing with the Stars" replace Lodge night? Will Zoom meetings replace the camaraderie of meeting in person?

For me, Zoom church cannot replace the fellowship of worshiping with your friends, singing with the choir and listening to church bells. I look forward to a strong Masonic handshake, sitting in lodge with my Brothers practicing our Masonic ritual and renewing our obligations. And who could resist a warm "Southern Hug" from our Scottish Rite Ladies, not me! Brethren we learn and grow from every challenge. 2020 has been a year of challenge and change for each of us, but let's make sure our "New Normal" does not exclude the fellowship found in our religious activities and our Masonic journey.



Together Brethren,
Bruce Edwards, KCCH

Newport News Scottish Rite

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*Bro. Russell Hugh Van Brimer, 32^o
September 29, 2020*

*Bro. Richard W. Bennett, 32^o
June 7, 2020*

*Bro. William F. Overby, 32^o KCCH
November 16, 2020*



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