The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2018

Volume 6, Issue 3 Valley of Newport News, Orient of Virginia, AASR

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

Greetings Brethren!

Brethren, greetings to each of you. We are presently closing out our 2nd quarter with many positive achievements. A special thanks to our Venerable Master, his Officers and their ladies for a great picnic this year. We enjoyed music, games for the children, great food and exceptional fellowship. Our Golf Tournament was a success thanks to all who participated and to the outstanding Golf Committee Co-Chaired by Brothers Page Neale and Richard Russell. The Golf Tournament is held in support of our ODU Childhood Speech and Language Center. I also want to extend my appreciation to our Brethren and DeMolay members who turned out in support of our Spring grounds cleanup. The cleanup and weeding went well and was completed in approximately three hours. Again, thanks to all for the outstanding support.

For those of you who might not be aware, Brother Richard Rawls, KCCH, has been appointed to the position of Director of Work for the Valley. Ill. and Most Worshipful Bill Rorer has stepped down as Director of Work to serve the Valley on the Finance Committee. His expertise acquired through his many years of training, ie, education, work and association with our Grand Lodge will enhance our capabilities in the area of Valley finance. Thank you Ill. Brother Rorer for your continued support and dedication to the advancement of Scottish Rite Masonry.

Moving into the third Quarter, I am pleased to report a positive outlook for our Valley. Conversion of our facility lighting is ongoing and progressing well. We are meeting our maintenance challenges through the efforts of our Brethren with expertise in this area. Brother Gerald Frey has stepped up to make some repairs to our parking lot asphalt. Brother George Winslow has assumed the responsibility for managing our Handicap Equipment Center. He has implemented policy changes and improvements to the handicap equipment building by personally financing the installation of vinyl siding for the building, a roll up door for the grounds maintenance side and contemplating a concrete driveway plus an extension of the building to accommodate the increased demand for handicap equipment. The exceptional Valley support and dedication of Brother Winslow is greatly appreciated.

At our May Stated Ill. Jack Goodwin, Valley of Portsmouth, was unanimously voted on to receive an Honorary Membership in the Valley of Newport News. Ill. Brother Goodwin served as Personal Representative to our SGIG in Virginia for the Valley of Portsmouth for many years. He is the Treasurer for our Tidewater Scottish Rite Foundation. He has supported the Valley of Newport News for many years and was instrumental in the implementation of our Valley Foundation. To my knowledge Ill. Brother Goodwin is the first to ever to receive an Honorary Membership from the Valley of Newport News. Congratulations Ill. Brother Goodwin.

In summary, I am pleased with the progress we are making in meeting specific goals established for our Valley. I would encourage those of you who have the time to participate in your Valley activities. It is most rewarding.

May God bless you and our Scottish Rite.

Sincerely and Fraternally, Ill. Jack L. Smith, 33° IGH



Valley of Newport News

Ill. James D. Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of 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

III. Gerald E. Burks, 33° IGH Treasurer for the Valley of Newport News

Bro. J. Richard Rawls, 32° KCCH Assist. 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. Page S. Neale, Jr., 32° KCCH Venerable Master

Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix Bro. J. Richard Rawls, 32° KCCH Wise Master

Newport News Council of Kadosh Bro. Gerald Frey, 32° KCCH Commander

Newport News Consistory Bro. Page S. Neale, Jr., 32° KCCH Master of Kadosh

Knights of St. Andrew Bro. Manual Joseph Lacerda 32° KCCH 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

July 25 Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting at 7:30pm

August 4 Grand Lodge of Virginia 1-Day Conferral

August 22 Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting at 7:30pm

> *August 25* Virginia's Little Ole Opry Show starts at 7:30pm

September 21-22 Orient of Virginia Scottish Rite Conference

September 25 Knights of St. Andrew Stated Meeting 7:00pm

September 26 Valley of Newport News SR Stated Meeting Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm



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Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection - Bro. Page S. Neale, Jr., 32° KCCH

Brethren, by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have moved from spring to the hot days of summer. The grass is growing and the trees and azaleas have bloomed. The fruits of your labor are providing you with those home-grown tomatoes, cucumbers, and whatever else you may have planted. We have just completed the Scottish Rite picnic and have attended Memorial Day observances, remembering the men and women who have given the ultimate to provide us with the safety and security that this country has to offer. A special "thanks" goes to all our deceased veterans, living veterans, and those who still serve today. May God bless each and everyone.

As you know, the Spring Reunion was a great success and there are now five new Masters of the Royal Secret; three from the Valley of Portsmouth and two from the Valley of Newport News. This is a good time to remind ourselves of the importance of recruiting new candidates for our Fall Reunion. It is not too early to start scouting around right now.

I want to say that since the summer is here, it is traditionally the time of year that we make plans and take that well deserved vacation. Please enjoy your time off, your families and yourselves and return home safely

As mentioned previously, the annual Scottish Rite picnic was held on May 19th., with around sixty to seventy in attendance.

This was a good turnout but we wished it had been more. There were games for the children which numbered around eight or so and music provided by Sandra Green. In addition, there was corn hole boards set up for the adults. Food offerings included hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, drinks, and ice cream. Brethren, this was a fun event and seemed to be enjoyed by all. Thanks to all picnic committee members for your hard work and dedication to making this picnic such a success. The committee included: Bruce Edwards, Manual Laserda, Hilton Maney, and George Winslow. Thanks also goes to Pete Eure for helping with the clean up at the end of the day and to Barbara Davis for serving food and working in and around the kitchen. My special thanks also go to my wonderful wife Pam for working with me the day before to set up tables, chairs, and doing the decorations and the food shopping and for entertaining the children with games and fun stuff. Thanks again to all the team, it couldn't have happened without you.

By the time this newsletter arrives at your home, the Ill. William M. Johnson Memorial Golf tournament will be in the books and the golf committee sincerely thanks all who participated in it as a player or as a worker or both.

Some important upcoming dates to place on you calendar includes the following: September 21, and 22, 2018: Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia at Smith Mountain Lake hosted by the Valley of Danville.

October 19, and 20, 2018: Fall Reunion

December 19, 2018: Scottish Rite Christmas Dinner and entertainment.

In closing, I just want to say thank you for all that you do for Masonry in general and to the Scottish Rite in particular and please remember to "Do Good Unto All".

Sincerely and Fraternally, Page

Message from Orient of Virginia Conference President

My Brothers,

In just over three months we will be enjoying the amenities of Smith Mountain Lake for the "Fellowship and Fun" conference. I want to update you on the status of several things.

First of all, we currently have seventy-three (73) registered for the Thursday evening Dinner Cruise on the Virginia Dare, that means we still have some space available, so if someone in your Valley has been procrastinating, urge them to get their registration in. The cutoff date for the cruise is August 1st.

The cruise starts at 6:30pm from the pier at the hotel; however, boarding starts promptly at 6:00pm so remind everyone to be there early. Since this will be prior to most people getting registered, we will have someone at the dock checking names off a list as you board. Just look for someone wearing an orange shirt with a clipboard.

I had two 3-bedroom suites that I was holding for anyone that needed a hospitality room, since no one claimed them I have released them back to the hotel to rent out as needed.

Another thing, if you will be arriving after 5pm please contact the Hospitality Company the mans the front desk as they close at five but will make special arrangement to get you registered.

All Conference activities except the hospitality suite are located on the ground floor, just take the elevator all the way down, regardless of which of the three buildings you are staying in, the ground floor runs under all three.

This will probably be my last update before the conference, Valley secretaries have all they need for conference registration, it was in the packs you received in March, so just remember the deadline of September 1st.

See you in September.

Fraternally, Ray Anderson Conference President



American Committee Report - Bro. Brian Croteau, 32° KCCH

The Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Americanism Committee presented awards to cadets at 13 High School JROTC and three College ROTC programs between 18 April and 6 June. We also presented awards on behalf of the National Sojourners. Thank you to the many Brethren who covered ceremonies for me when there were more than one in an evening or when I had other conflicts. Thanks to Scottish Rite Brethren III. Bro. Aaron Zeno, III. Bro. Rob Parker, and Brothers Les Kahn, Mason Ware, and Justin Boone. Thanks also to Transportation Lodge Brother Duane McCarty.



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

Brethren,

Just received information that Ill. Brother Arthur "Art" Packard, 33°, was in the hospital and was not doing well. As the "old Scottish Rite Masons" will remember, Ill. Art was the Secretary of the Newport News Scottish Rite, for many years. He set the bar of being the Secretary very high. This Secretary and the Office Staff of the Newport News Scottish Rite, sends prayers of love and respect to Ill. Art and Pat. God Bless you both!!!

We had our Spring Reunion with Portsmouth Scottish Rite, here at the Newport News Scottish Rite Masonic Center in April and added seven new "Masters of the Royal Secret". We would like to welcome Brother Michael D. Vandeveer, 32°, and Brother James A. Ridenhour, Jr., 32° to the Valley of Newport News. The Spring Reunion was in Memory of Ill. Mayer Alvin Sarfan, 33°. Ill. Brother Sarfan was a 60-year Scottish Rite Mason and was coroneted 33°, Inspector General Honorary on October 19, 1993. Ill. Brother Sarfan passed away on October 21, 2017.

Our dues continue to come in to this office. We have received payment from 416 member and have 96 unpaid members. Your dues help to maintain the Newport News Scottish Rite Masonic Center and pay our utility bills. Please check your dues card and if it does not say 2018, you are behind in your dues. Also, if you have paid your dues and have not received your 2018 dues card, please contact this office and we will correct the error.

If this office can be of assistance to you, please let me know. We are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9 AM To 12 Noon. As the Supreme Council is closed on Friday, we are too.

I would like to thank Brothers Page S. Neale, 32°, KCCH, Bruce L. Edwards, 32°, KCCH, Ill. Aaron S. Zeno, 33°, E. Van Wilson, 32°, KCCH, for their help, answering phones, and aiding in assisting in all functions of this office. Without their help and dedication, this office could not do its job.

Adrian "Pete" Eure, 33°, Secretary

VIRGINIA'S LITTLE OLE OPRY

The Virginia's Little Ole Opry is returning to the Valley of Newport News Scottish Rite Masonic Center on Saturday, August 25, 2018. The show will start of 7:30pm.

> Adult Tickets - \$15.00 Children 12 and under - \$8.00

Tickets available at the Newport News Scottish Rite Office (757-599-6617) and from Valley of Newport News Members.

Please come out and join us for a "Great Family Night" of entertainment.

III. Aaron S. Zeno MSA State Coordinator VA

The Purpose of the Masonic Service Association of North America

The Masonic Service Association of the United States was created in 1919 by the Grand Lodges of the United States for the purpose of performing a number of services under one central organization. Some of those services have changed over the years, but, now as the Masonic Service Association of North America, MSA remains an organization dedicated to serving Freemasonry, our country, and the world.

MSA's three major functions are:

1.Education and Information

Since 1923, MSA has published the Short Talk Bulletin every month. It is considered the most widely distributed Masonic publication in the world. Some of the greatest contemporary Masonic authors have contributed to the Short Talk Bulletins over the past 95 years.

In the Grand Jurisdiction of Virginia, every lodge and every Grand Lodge officer is on the complimentary mailing list. Accompanying the Short Talk Bulletin is "Emessay Notes," a digest of newsworthy Masonic events and information.

MSA and its Masonic Information Center have many publications to tell the world about Freemasonry, including a variety of pamphlets, digests, and brochures, which have been distributed to more than 3 million people in the past 20 years. These publications are available at our web store for purchase and immediate shipment.

Groupings of Short Talk Bulletins relating to specific Masonic subjects, degrees, mentoring, leadership, and others, are also available for purchase.

In 2013, MSA began a multi-year project of reproducing all previous Short Talk Bulletins in a series of volumes. Each book would be about 750 pages, with Short Talks re-edited by noted Masonic scholar, S. Brent Morris, re-typeset, and indexed. The large, hardbound volumes have proven very popular with Masons and lodges.

Volume I, covered the years 1923-1937. MSA sold out its stock of Volume I, however a reprinting will occur in the Spring of 2018. Volume II included 1938-1952, Volume III covered 1953-1967, Volume IV included 1968-1982, and Volume VI included 1983-2002. The final volume in the series, Volume VII, will include 2003-2017.

2. Disaster Relief

In 1923, MSA issued its first disaster relief appeal. Since then, MSA, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, has become a recognized and credible Masonic group in North America, trusted by all Grand Lodges to forward aid around the world when disaster strikes. This has been one of MSA's key services. Total disaster aid collected and distributed by MSA since 1923 has surpassed \$12 million - a milestone of which we are very proud.

Virginia has been the recipient of Masonic aid in 2003 and 2011 as a result of hurricanes, and also during the 9/11 attacks.

Every dollar received is given to the affected Grand Lodge without deduction for administrative expense, bank or PayPal fees, or cost of mailing thankyou letters.

3. Hospital Visitation

From its start on November 11, 1919, the cornerstone service provided by MSA is our work with those who have served in the military. Today MSA has approximately 180 Hospital Representatives and State Coordinators, plus hundreds more volunteers at virtually every Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and at many state Veterans hospitals in the United States.

MSA is one of just 54 organizations certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide services at VA Hospitals and Medical Centers around the nation – and it is the only Masonic organization with this certification.

Such strong participation by MSA helps strengthen the relationship between Freemasonry and our Military Veterans. The needs of MSA volunteers are being made known to VA leadership, and a healthy working relationship has been created.

Masonic volunteers at VA Medical Centers and state veteran's facilities throughout the U.S. give about 100,000 hours of time a year and provide substantial services for our Military Veterans who have made so many sacrifices for all of us.

MSA is a member of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). Of the 54 organizations, only 16 have more registered volunteers and only 13 provide more annual hours than MSA. In both statistics, just three nonveteran groups – the American Red Cross, Elks, and K of C – have higher totals than MSA.

What all this means is that not only has Freemasonry long been associated with leadership and service to Veterans at the VA, but also the U.S. Masonic Fraternity, through its Masonic Service Association, is today a nationally known leader in serving our Military Veterans.

We appreciate the support of you and the Grand Lodge of Virginia. We thank you for your continued contributions that let us do the work Grand Lodges might otherwise find difficult to do themselves. We remain "Freemasonry's Servant" and look forward to serving you in the future.

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Newport News Scottish Rite

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