



Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin

January—February 2022



Personal Representative's Message

Ill. Edmund Cohen, 33° — Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Alexandria

The Importance of our Masonic Identity

We begin the New Year with hope. We hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. We hope that no more of our colleagues, friends, and family will get sick. We hope that those who lost their jobs will find employment. In short, we hope to return to normal.

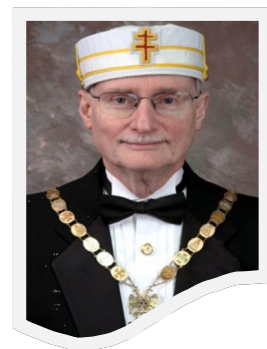
But we also wonder what a post pandemic normal will look like. Some prognosticators believe that many men will leave the workforce and retire. But this can be traumatic because for some men work has been such an important part of their self-image that retirement results in a loss of identity when they are no longer defined by their profession or job.

This can be a benefit for Freemasonry since these men will have more time to engage with our Valley. And this is a benefit for them as well, for while their employment has ended, their Masonic membership continues, and they have an opportunity to further build their Masonic identity. For these Brethren, coming to our meetings and being able to bump elbows, eat, and socialize together, will be even more important than it was in the past.

These prognosticators also suggest that many businesses, having adjusted to the pandemic by having employees work from home, will continue to utilize telework and that many employees will continue to work full time from home, or at least not come into the office more than once or twice a week. Freemasonry similarly has been affected by the pandemic. Our use of Zoom and other teleconferencing applications has allowed Brethren with a young family and a demanding job, who are unable to spare the time to travel to our meetings, to stay at home and still participate in our meetings. We will continue to make the Zoom option available even though we are now able to meet in person. Moreover, we will try to provide these Brethren with a job that does not require too significant an amount of their time so that they can remain engaged with the Valley while still able to deal with their family and work responsibilities.

It is interesting how words drafted in one context so aptly apply in another. For example, as many of you know, I always have had a private library, much reduced when we downsized and moved to Ashby Ponds, but still containing more books than is the norm, and that does not include the thousands I now have on Kindle. So it resonated with me when Reid Byers, an information technology expert and a biblio-scholar, wrote in his book, *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishings of the Domestic Bookroom*, that a personal library creates a whole constellation of good feelings: ease when tired, retreat when harassed, peace when overwhelmed, comfort when distressed, a connection when lonely, and the sovereign cure for boredom. If we look at these words through a Masonic lens, isn't that what happens when we attend Lodge?

The takeaway is that our Masonic experience is a life-long endeavor, and we should focus on building our personal and spiritual Masonic identity. Our Scottish Rite Degrees provide some guidance in this regard.



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Personal Representative's Message

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In the Fourth and Thirty-second Degrees, each of us is given a symbolic key that we are to use in the continued effort to perfect ourselves and are told that the way forward is in our own hands. The key, which was needed to complete King Solomon's temple, is needed to complete our own spiritual temple. The length of our cable tow may vary. At times it will be necessary to step back, focus on work and family matters and not over engage in Masonic activities. At other times we will be able to increase and expand our Masonic engagement.

In the Fourth and Thirty-second Degrees the importance of the keystone was not initially understood, and this may be the case in our own lives. We may not be ready to use the keystone or to understand its significance until we suffer a personal crisis and become aware of the need to further build our own spiritual temple and find our personal keystone. At other times we may be able to look beyond our own needs and "pay it forward," assisting others by becoming a role model, mentoring the next generation of leaders, and sharing our expertise and experience. We may find that mentoring is a two-way engagement and that we learn as much from our younger mentees as they will learn from us. As we engage in such a role, we will find ourselves moving closer to becoming that Perfect Ashlar that we will only attain in the Celestial Lodge above.

I hope that 2022 will be a year of growth and renewal, and that you have good health and happiness.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ed Cohen

"Idleness is the Burial of the Living Man" – 5° Perfect Master

Kerry D. Kirk, 32°

The stark admonition that "idleness is the burial of the living man" is made in the Lecture of the fifth degree Perfect Master to illustrate, by contrast, the importance of as well as the interplay between one of the crucial duties and one of the principle lessons of this Degree. The duty referred to is that of industry. And the lesson is that this life is uncertain and that actual death may call upon us at any time.

We will all physically die and presumably be laid to rest in some ceremony. This certain occurrence may be in several decades or it may be tomorrow! Given that this is so, and armed with this knowledge, a philosophical question from time immemorial is "how shall we live our lives?" What constitutes a good life in the face of annihilation?

Being attuned to this knowledge is a duty of the Perfect Master. Within this and other Masonic rituals we learn that we may be dead (metaphorically speaking) if we are a drone or idle person. In this context is meant one who contributes nothing to his own development or to anything that inures to the benefit of his family, community, nation or spiritual tradition. In fact, will the idle man even have the perspicacity to recognize the lesson put forth in this Degree for the Perfect Master?

Through the Degree ceremony, which is a commemoration of the final burial of the Master Hiram, we are encouraged to emulate the great temple architect. The sorrow of his passing, the pain of its recollection is countered and balanced by the admiration for his having conducted a wise, virtuous and productive life. His life was spent in dedication to a craft, and to building great works of art and, of course, a Grand Edifice for the glorification of the Deity in King Solomon's Temple. He represents the utmost in honesty in industry. He serves as a "model for our conduct," so that when we die, we may also be so commemorated in our burial ceremonies and recalled favorably in the years thereafter.

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“Idleness is the Burial of the Living Man” – 5° Perfect Master

(Continued from Page 2.)

More important than an admiring recognition after death, we are admonished in this Degree lecture to live a life of accomplishment, such that when we die we leave behind a legacy of goodness, a legacy of deeds, and not simply a record of years of existence accumulated. Within the fifth degree, we very soon encounter a poem (“How old art thou?”). The poem encourages its readers to mark their time in this life not by chronology of years (referred to as “Fortune’s fleeting day” and which is “waste, and folly, and decay”), but by “deeds.” This is consistent with one of the two main duties --- industry! And this, of course, is the antithesis of the life of the idle man, who wastes his days and does not prepare for his death, either mentally or in arranging his affairs.

Moreover, the idle man has no utility to society, to fellow man, brother, community and is “useless to any purposes of God.” He exists only to live the next moment or day all while consuming resources as well as enjoying the fruits of the earth and of other’s toil. While doing so, he adds nothing to the moral, intellectual, or civil stock of society. The point of the saying on which this essay question is based, is that he may as well be dead, or again metaphorically speaking, he IS dead in this life, though alive. No one benefits from this idleness, including of course, himself.

Though the Degree does not specifically address this, it is implicit throughout the lessons of Freemasonry that such a man is not beyond rehabilitation, if he were but to “open his eyes” and “seek” to understand the virtues and duties of moral philosophy or of Masonry (and this Degree) in general. The prior fourth degree tells us that “Duty is inflexible as Fate.” The Lecture of this Degree implores us to “sleep little, and to study much”...”to learn that we may be able to do” and to do so vigorously. That is a cardinal duty on the Masonic path.

In fact, Pike writes that “to learn and to do” is the “soul’s work.” So that at the end of our earthly life we leave our legacy of deeds which lives on in the minds of men. While as Theists we believe in subjective immortality (via the human soul), this legacy of industry and deeds alone ensures at least objective immortality. We are to make the most of our earthly time and make the most of our opportunities to serve and grow and to act. If we do, we may thus die at any time without regret or recrimination, as surely the idle man, or his family and community, may not. *Virtus Junxit, Mors Non Separabit.* So mote it be.

Fraternally,
Kerry Kirk

Venerable Master’s Message

Frank T. Anthony, KCCH, Venerable Master, Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Time to Disconnect to Reconnect

It seemed as if we were in a science fiction movie. We first hear about a mysterious illness in a foreign country, then similar cases start to spread across the world. Hospitals start filling up and shortly afterwards the world is shut down. We all know what happens next, since this happened to be our reality with COVID-19. It has been two years since the first case in Washington state. As humans, we have learned to adapt during this pandemic time by utilizing technology in ways we never thought of before. Everything essentially went virtual, whether it was ordering food online and having it delivered to your door or our kids going to school virtually in the privacy of their own homes. We even do hybrid stated meetings at the Valley. We, as a society, have figured out how to adapt and now it is time to for us to disconnect to reconnect.

The pandemic is a wakeup call to make us remember that humans are social beings. Aristotle once said, *“Man is by nature a social animal.”* We essentially spent almost two years locked down without basic physical contact or true social interaction with one another.

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Venerable Master's Message

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That is bad for our psyche and causes a lot of stress and anxiety. In a way, we have to relearn how to interact with each other. Thoughts now go through our minds such as, "Should I shake his hand or give him the elbow bump," or "is this person okay with me if I don't wear my mask?" Luckily, for most of us, we have common sense and can quickly figure out what to do. But how far does that common sense extend?

Pre-pandemic, a majority of our society seemed to be glued to some type of electronic device. This was driven by social media, a 24-hour online news cycle and people obsessed with taking constant selfies. Okay, a bit exaggerated but it gets the point across. When you think of it, our society many years ago has started to drift apart. No matter where anyone went, someone always had their phone. As humans, we started to lose our way on how to socially interact with others. For example, you meet up for lunch with a friend, but both of you have your phones on the table waiting for a text or a sports update; thus, not giving one another the attention to truly socially interact. Compound our pre-pandemic poor social hygiene with the COVID-19 lockdowns hitting society like a strong riptide during a hurricane, now humans are going to have a harder time adjusting to social interaction.

Here are some tips to help you disconnect to reconnect and prevent nomophobia in the process. By the way, nomophobia is shortened from "no mobile phone phobia," basically the fear of not having your phone, which can severely affect your daily life.

First, limit your technology time. Everything is good in moderation. Set a time once or twice a day, no longer than 20 minutes, to check private emails, surf the internet or interact on social media. This can reduce feelings of anxiety and stress throughout the day. This will also teach you to slowly untether from the electronic device. You will find that you become more productive around the house and also become a better listener.

Second, uninstall those time-consuming apps. This sounds a bit extreme, but sometimes the only way to disconnect from an app is to remove it completely. Overtime, you will realize you didn't really need it. How much Pokémon Go can one truly play?

Third, reconnect with friends and loved ones. Go out and meet face to face, electronic free (e.g. leave the phone in the car). Have that meaningful conversation to reconnect and get to know one another better. We are social beings, aren't we?

Fourth, get outdoors. The world is a beautiful place. Walk around and get some exercise "hands-free," meaning no phone. Enjoy the birds chirping or leaves rustling in the wind. A 20-minute walk three times a week is proven to help fight mental issues, such as depression and anxiety, and improves stress levels. After being locked down for two years, we all could use a natural brain booster. Or go outside for your morning coffee. Find an excuse to get outside and just do it.

Fifth, find a new skill or hobby. Instead of constantly digesting content that others have created, create your own. Take up cooking classes or singing lessons. Try new things you never thought you would like. Learn magic tricks or find a group of people to play cards with. There are many possibilities to choose from.

There are many more tools to discover when learning how to disconnect to reconnect. But use these five tips as a starting point to integrate back into society and with loved ones. Technology is always going to be around. Learn how to control it before it controls you. Continue to adapt and become that social animal that humans were meant to be. Let's put this bad science fiction movie behind us and start connecting with friends and family for all our mental health's sake.

As your 2022 Venerable Master, you can guess my theme this year is "Time to Disconnect to Reconnect," and I expect to reconnect with each one of you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Frank T. Anthony, KCCH

Venerable Master's Biography

Brother Frank Anthony was born in Elgin, Illinois, and spent his first eight years living in Cary, Illinois, before moving to Los Angeles, California, since his parents got tired of the cold winters. After graduating Westchester High School and attending Santa Monica College, he decided to join the U.S. Air Force after realizing college got in the way of his surfing activities, thinking, *"I can travel the world and surf in different locations."* Ironically, Frank has not picked up a surfboard since joining.



During this time, Bro. Frank was engaging in various facets of intelligence, security and cybersecurity in both combat and peacetime environments while stationed at Edwards Air Force Base in California; Lajes Field, in Azores, Portugal; Minot, North Dakota; Aviano Airbase in Italy; and at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Chantilly, VA. He was also deployed to Germany, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and had two tours in Iraq. He retired after 21 years of honorable service and is now working towards his second retirement as a government contractor supporting NRO programs as a systems engineer, senior security manager, and cybersecurity expert. His philosophy is "Retire early, retire often." Bro. Frank earned his Bachelor's Degree from Bellevue University and a Master's in Cybersecurity from The George Washington University. He also has various certifications in Cybersecurity.

In 2005, while stationed in Italy and in between Iraq deployments, Bro. Frank started on his Masonic journey after asking about the square and compass on one of his best friend's ring. A few months later he was initiated. After returning from his second Iraq deployment, Bro. Frank was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 2006 at Avaino Lodge No. 643, F.&A.M., in Aviano, Italy, where he is a life member. Later that year, he joined the American Military Scottish Rite Bodies (AMSRB), Orient of NATO Bases, and received his 32^o during the Fall Reunion in Naples, Italy. Bro. Frank then moved to Virginia. In 2007, oversight for the AMSRB was transferred to the D.C. Scottish Rite and the AMSRB changed from an Orient to a Club. This is because many of its members have moved back to the United States. Thus, Bro. Frank's Scottish Rite membership was automatically transferred to the D.C. Scottish Rite.

Since he is a Virginia resident, he proudly affiliated with Alexandria Scottish Rite in 2013. On October 10, 2014, Brother Frank was knighted in the inaugural class of the Alexandria Valley Knights of Saint Andrews, holding various positions. In 2017, a great mentor and friend, Bro. Allen Beckner, KCCH, asked if he would join the Lodge of Perfection line. In 2018, Bro. Frank was selected to participate in the Grand Commander's Fellow Program, and in 2019 he received the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. He recently took over as the 5^o Master and has participated in various degrees during the Reunions.

Currently, Frank serves as the Worshipful Master of Acacia 16, A.F. & A.M, Clifton, VA. He resides with his wife Sheelagh in Chantilly. Sheelagh is an Electrical Engineer who chose to stay home and raise their four wonderful children: Hadrian (11), Fyvie (10), Avery (8), and Livia (5).

Planning Ahead

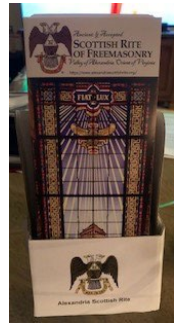
Please add the following events to your calendar. The **Scottish Rite Workshop** will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Acca Shrine Center in Richmond and the **Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia** will be held on October 7-8, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Virginia Beach.

More details will be forthcoming concerning these two meetings. Preliminary information is available on the Orient website.

Membership Committee Report

Michael P. Bible, KCCH, Chairman, Membership Committee

Your Lodge should have received your membership brochure packet by now, which contains the brochure holder and membership brochures. Please let me know if you haven't received it (tinstar123@cox.net). I'm asking all Scottish Rite members to assist your Scottish Rite Lodge Representative by ensuring that the brochures are **placed and maintained** in a prominent location where they can be seen by lodge brethren entering and leaving the lodge.



Our Spring Reunion is scheduled for Saturday April 23rd and Saturday April 30th. Now is the time to approach your Lodge Brethren who are not Scottish Rite Masons and talk to them about Scottish Rite Masonry. Hand them a brochure, most of the questions they probably have are addressed in the brochure. Add your own story about our Valley and direct them to the QR code on the back page of the brochure which will bring up the Alexandria Valley Petition.

As members of the Scottish Rite, we are **all** members of the Membership Committee and responsible for introducing the many benefits of Scottish Rite Masonry to our Brethren. The membership brochure is designed to help you do that. Use it! The Brother you share it with will benefit, and so will we!

Fraternally,
Mike Bible

Current Year Membership Statistical Changes

Accurate As Of: 12/03/2021 11:24:00 AM

January 1 Total		1155
Gains		55
Losses		48
Current Lodge Membership		1162

"Our December 2021 speaker, R.W. and Ill. Matthew T. Szramoski, 33°, Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, gave a program on the history of Virginia DeMolay and presented the Valley with a framed antique DeMolay emblem and authentic autographed photo of Walt Disney."



James D. Cole Endowed Scholarship Established

III. Norman L. Hoff, Jr. 33°, Assistant Personal Representative

On 30 October, many Brothers and Ladies from our Valley purchased tickets and joined with other Virginia Masons and their Ladies at a "Gala Celebration" at the nearby Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, in honor of MW & III. James Dean Cole, 33°, SGC. This was a highly enjoyable evening recounting Brother Cole's many contributions as our 2001 Grand Master, the 2002-2019 CEO of our Masonic Home of Virginia, our 2002-2019 Sovereign Grand Inspector General, and since August 19, 2019, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, AASR, SJ, USA. As our late Brother Paul Harvey liked to suggest, there is more to this story that most of you may have been unaware of prior to the event.

In 2020, the Supreme Council's Development Office unveiled a new Supreme Council permanent endowed scholarship program that would rely solely on the proceeds from invested funds dedicated for annual awards to outstanding college students. The initial endowed fund was funded by North Carolina Scottish Rite Brethren and was announced in November 2020 in honor of their retiring SGIG William B. Brunk, 33°. The details of this award were published in the January-February 2021 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal.

On April 13, 2021, Grand Commander Cole announced the second such award, the Ronald A. Seale Endowed Scholarship. This endowed scholarship award, named after our 18th Sovereign Grand Commander, was funded by contributions from Brethren across the Southern Jurisdiction. The details of this award were published in the July-August 2021 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal.

At the recent Gala Celebration for Grand Commander Cole, our SGIG, M.W. & III. Allan Adkins, 33°, G.:C.:, announced to the great surprise of the honoree, the James Dean Cole Endowed Scholarship. The Cole Scholarship was initially endowed at \$100,000 which will allow \$2,000 in scholarship(s) to be awarded each year in perpetuity. Future contributions will permit the annual scholarships to grow without decreasing the core, principle value. This might have been the first occasion in Brother Cole's Masonic experience that he was found to be at a loss for words.

The initial funds for the Cole Scholarship were raised through the concerted efforts of a 16-man team of two Brothers from each of Virginia's eight Valleys. Alexandria Valley's two team members were our Philanthropy Committee Chairman, Tim Shrum, KCCH, and III. James Anagnos, 33°. Brothers Tim and Jim worked steadily, speaking "mouth-to-ear" with Valley Brothers to ensure confidentiality so that word would not leak back to our Grand Commander and spoil the intended surprise announcement prior to the Gala event. This Orient-wide project was conducted under the watchful guidance of our SGIG Adkins, with the assistance of Brothers Phil Shortt, 32° and III. Matt Szramoski, 33°, from the Supreme Council's Development Office (both of whom are also members of Alexandria Valley).

III. Cole will now enjoy the gift of designing the scholarship criteria himself, so that young people may be recognized and rewarded in the way that he feels is best. One award criterion is already established by the Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship: recipients must have some type of relationship to a Scottish Rite Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction, as a blood relative or through another form of kinship or be a member of a Masonic youth group. Additional criteria could include considerations such as geographic residence or academic major. Full details of the award will soon be announced.

Fraternally,
Norm Hoff

Our Creed & Mission Statement

Scottish Rite Creed

*Human progress is our cause,
liberty of thought our supreme wish,
freedom of conscience our mission,
and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.*

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth, while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values, including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family, and country.



Do we have your EMAIL ADDRESS?

This is especially important for our monthly meetings on ZOOM and for email announcements.

If you have not been receiving Email notices, we don't have a "Good" email address for you, and you are missing some great meetings and information.



The 2021 Scottish Rite Awards

Despite challenges we had a productive year as a result of so many of our Brethren working so hard for our Valley.

We have **group awards** for those who assisted with two important projects.

The first is for our **Philanthropy program** under the leadership of **Timmy E. Shrum, KCCH**, the Chair of our Philanthropy Committee which has raised money to fund scholarships, and support programs to help children with autism and hearing and language disorders. In alphabetical order these Brethren are: **III. James C. Anagnos, 33°**, **Michael P. Bible, KCCH**, **Harold A. Chadsey, KCCH**, **Ronald E. Craft, Jr., 32°**, **Jason M. Himsey, KCCH**, **Eric J. LeHew 32°**, **Scott C. Springer, KCCH** and **Michael D. Taldo, KCCH**.

The second is for work to institutionalize our process and procedures that allow us to have a Zoom component to our Executive Council and Valley meetings. This enables Brethren who cannot attend our in-person meetings because of distance, health issues, or other constraints to remain connected with our Valley. Under the leadership of **III. Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33°**, Assistant Personal Representative, these Brethren are: **Michael P. Bible, KCCH**, **Harold A. Chadsey, KCCH**, **Keith G. Gawrys, KCCH**, **Jason M. Himsey, KCCH**, **III. James A. Loudermilk II, 33°**, **III. David C. Morris 33°**, **Joshua W. Payne, 32°**, **III. David H. Smith, Sr., 33°**, **John M. Suit, KCCH**, and **III. Peter E. Terrill, 33°**.

Receiving an individual **Certificate of Appreciation** for outstanding accomplishments this year are: **Michael P. Bible, KCCH**. For his leadership as chair of our Membership Committee, and for developing an outstanding membership brochure which is being displayed in the 42 Lodges within our area of responsibility.

Zandy D. DePriest, 32°. For his outstanding service as President of the Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club for 2 years.

And, **Ronald J. Leibfreid, KCCH**. For his leadership of the Valley's Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) and coordination of the KSA support to our Valley.

Receiving a **Certificate of Merit** for long-term service are:

Allen D. Beckner, KCCH, and **Linda Beckner**, who have been mainly responsible for our Valley hospitality suite at the SR Conferences. Indeed, despite, a host of family and medical issues, once again they both did a wonderful job organizing and running our Valley's hospitality suite at the Scottish Rite Conference this year. In addition Brother Beckner has been doing a superb job as a Scottish Rite Conference Vice President.

And, **III. David H. Smith, Sr., 33°**, for his continued outstanding work on our ASR Bulletin.

The Valley's Community Service Awardee is the **Masonic Service Association of North America Hospital Visitation Program** which does so much to raise the morale of our wounded veterans.

Master Craftsman Is Now ONLINE!

[This article appeared in the July/August 2020 *Scottish Rite Journal*.]

Stuart Pool, 32°, Master Craftsman Program Manager



That's right: Master Craftsman is now ONLINE! Since its inception in 2009, the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman education program has been a leading source for Masonic education, not only here in the Southern Jurisdiction, but also across the globe. There are currently three components under the Master Craftsman banner along with a Valley Education Tool. For the last decade, the programs have operated exclusively as a correspondence course, requiring participants to mail in quizzes for grading. They are returned with the next quiz. Over the years, surveys indicated that our members strongly supported an online option for the Master Craftsman Program. Well, we heard you! On May 13, 2020, the Supreme Council rolled out the "Master Craftsman: Ritual & History Program" in an online format. This uses for its text Ill. Arturo de Hoyos's *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide*.

The online version of the Master Craftsman: Ritual & History program is identical to the correspondence course with a few exceptions:

1. **IT'S DIGITAL!** All the questions are answered on the computer and immediately sent to the Master Craftsman Program Manager, Bro. Stuart Pool, 32°.
2. Upon completing a quiz, a link for the next quiz will be displayed on the completion screen. If you need to step away, don't worry! We'll send you an email with the link.
3. Upon completing each quiz, you will see what percentage you got right on the quiz, and you also will receive an email with a PDF displaying your answers, so you can determine what you missed and can return to your book to find the correct answer.

If you're worried about missing the notes you receive from the Supreme Council staff on your quizzes ... don't be. Every quiz still will be forwarded electronically to our reviewers, who will make comments and reply to your quiz before the essay is sent back to you.

Are you currently enrolled in the Master Craftsman Ritual & History correspondence course? Do you want to switch to the online version? No problem! Email Bro. Stuart Pool at mastercraftsman@scottishrite.org and ask about switching. We'll generate a registration number for you to enter on the provided link, so you don't need to start from scratch.

Every online quiz will require the confirmation number you received from the Scottish Rite Store when you purchased the program. If you lost the email or cannot find the number, just send an email to mastercraftsman@scottishrite.org, and we'll help. Please do not share your confirmation number with anyone, since it works for only one participant. Multiple entries of the same number will invalidate it and will likely stop your progress. Each quiz is generated for a single confirmation number, so sharing links and confirmation numbers with your brethren does not work.

We are excited about expanding our program and believe this will be a great way of moving our Masonic Education forward to more members. We hope you enjoy participating in the program as much as we enjoyed making it for you! Get started by going to www.scottishritestore.org and clicking on the "Masonic Education" tab.

The **Alexandria Valley Master Craftman's** point-of-contact is: Michael Taldo, KCCH and he can be reached at taldomike@gmail.com for questions or assistance.

The Supreme Council's new POC is: Linda Johnson

Paul McCartney and the Alexandria Spring 2022 Reunion

Ill. James A. Loudermilk, 33°, Director of Work

Ok, not really! But, in April 1969 Sir Paul did urge us all to:

*“Get back, get back
Get back to where you once belonged”*

On an unlucky Friday the 13th in March 2020, while driving and about half way to the Regional Workshop in Charlotte, NC. I received a call from the Valley advising the Workshops had been cancelled on account of COVID-19. Shortly thereafter the Valley responded to direction from Governor Norton and Grand Master Jones and cancelled the fast-approaching April Reunion. Few, if any of us, imagined then we would not be able to resume our degree conferrals until October 2021. We went two full years between in-person Reunions.

Then, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) Cole directed the eight Valleys in Virginia to hold a one-day reunion with just the five mandatory degrees (4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, 32nd) conferred and the balance communicated for Fall 2011. The impact on new member acquisition was quite favorable, and the new members became active in the Valley at least as often as graduates of our usual two Saturday reunions. The success of the one-day Reunion led our Valley to hold a one-day reunion in the Spring of all odd numbered years, beginning in April 2017. There was no impact upon the five mandatory degree work, but a noticeable impact upon cast retention and ritual proficiency for the additional degrees that Alexandria includes within a two-day reunion.

As the social distancing mandates of SARS-COV-19 dragged on, it became clear the fall 2020 reunion could not be a two-day event. Fingers (mentally) crossed, hoping the civil and Masonic social distancing restrictions would be eased, we planned for a typical one-day conferral. Alas, that was also not meant to be. Recognizing the adverse impact the forced in-person inactivity was having upon the Rite, in September 2020 the Supreme Council provided all Valleys a set of 178 PowerPoint slides to allow a virtual Reunion with obligations. The main restriction limited communication of the mandatory degrees to only an SGIG or the Deputy for an Orient.

Alexandria Valley held its first ever virtual reunion on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Through the use of Zoom technology, 35 Brothers became new members of our Valley. In addition to the candidates, more than 60 brethren watched the Reunion – most on Zoom, but a few at our Temple. There were both plusses and minuses. It was certainly easier to conduct a virtual reunion. We did it with less than 25 brothers, including then Deputy Ill. Alan Adkins, 33°, G.C. instead of the usual about 225. But a Reunion is meant to be much more than just Degree work and enrolling new Masters of the Royal Secret. We lost most of the fellowship and camaraderie a Reunion seeks to foster. But on balance it was a great success.

Spring of 2021 was intended to be a typical one-day reunion with mandatory degrees conferred and the balance communicated. Again, COVID-19 disrupted our plans. We were compelled to hold yet another virtual reunion.

At last, for the fall 2021 Reunion, Alexandria returned to the usual two-day format. I approached resumption of degree conferrals with considerable trepidation, and my concerns were not entirely misplaced. A few degree casts could not be reassembled and the degrees had to be communicated. Some cast members were forced to visibly read from scripts. Yet, all in all, the conferrals went far more smoothly than expected. Valley infrastructure improvements during pandemic included digital projection of slides which proved a big improvement. Audio support was arguably the best ever.

(Continued on Page 12.)

Paul McCartney and the Alexandria Spring 2022 Reunion

(Continued from Page 11.)

Congratulations to all our new Masters of the Royal Secret. See our traditional class picture below.



Salve Frater

Steven E. Adams
Suheil Barraghi
Kurt S. Caltrider
Dennis Gonzalo Dipp
Benjamin J. Gofton
David A. Green
James W. Langley
Thomas C. Letts
Luis Joel Martinez
Daniel J. McGuire
Arnold B. McNeal
Vincent M. Messina
Brandon C. Miller
Russell E. Pence
David T. Silcox



I am delighted to claim Alexandria Valley ritual is, at least mostly, back to where it once was! Thanks to all the many Brothers who did so much to make this possible. And I note that not every Valley, in either the Orient or indeed the overall Southern Jurisdiction, can claim that.

Now, I will close with my usual exhortation. We need petitions for the coming two-day spring 2022 Reunion. And we need many current members participating. Not just the casts, support staff, and other “usual suspects.” All of you are invited and urged to indeed get back to where you once belonged.

See you in April!

Fraternally,
Jim Loudermilk

Alexandria Scottish Rite Philanthropy On The Move

Tim Shrum, KCCH, Chair, Philanthropy Committee

I am pleased to share with you some of our recent activities and plans for the future.

First, we partnered with the Shenandoah Scottish Rite Club to present two checks to James Madison University (JMU) to assist their Speech and Language Center’s autism efforts. Our Valley donated \$1,000 and the Shenandoah Scottish Rite Club donated \$1,025. On the next page is a picture of Brother Tim Shrum, KCCH, representing the Valley and Illustrious Ray Steele 33° representing the Shenandoah Scottish Rite Club presenting checks to Dr. Susan Ingram representing the Speech and Language Clinic. Also included in the picture are two members of the JMU team who work in the Scottish Rite summer clinic. The link below is to a video discussing the Scottish Rite Summer Clinic we help through our contributions to the Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation.

[JMU 2021 Scottish Rite Summer Clinic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smg-JAmWIFY) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smg-JAmWIFY>

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Alexandria Scottish Rite Philanthropy On The Move

(Continued from Page 12.)



Second, I want to update you on our scholarship program. The Valley will continue to use the Bayliss Fund to support the Grand Lodge of Virginia Scholarship at the \$1,000 amount. In addition, under new guidelines the Valley adopted in the Fall of 2021, a total of eight \$2,000 scholarships will be presented to worthy and well-qualified students.

The scholarships are open to any student who is seeking continuing education at a four-year or two-year school (a junior college or community college), or trade/industrial post-secondary training program. Applicants must:

- (a) Be a US Citizen.
- (b) Be associated with the Alexandria Valley with either a living or deceased relative; or,
- (c) Be a member of one of the Masonic youth organizations (DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, or Job's Daughters).
- (d) Other Masonic connections will be considered if the connection isn't through the Alexandria Valley directly or through the Masonic youth organizations on a case-by-case basis as determined by the ASR Scholarship Committee.
- (e) Applicants must provide a completed application package and an essay describing their academic pursuits.

Any past recipient of the scholarships in the 2019, 2020, or 2021 award years can reapply for these scholarships at the increased amount. As usual, awardees can reapply for this scholarship renewal for up to three consecutive years of their undergraduate schooling or trade/industrial certifications. Applications deadlines for the scholarships are March 31st to the Alexandria Valley General Secretary. Applications are available online at www.alexandriascottishrite.org.

Let me conclude this section on scholarships by thanking two worthy Brothers who helped make this possible: Brothers Harold Chadsey, KCCH and Scott Springer, KCCH for their support in working to rewrite the proposal for improving the scholarships. And congratulations to Brother Harold as he steps down from his years of leadership of this subcommittee. I'm also pleased to announce that the new Scholarship Subcommittee Chair is Brother Eric LeHew, 32°.

Finally, I want to report that we are planning to have our regular in-person Friends and Family Gala on May 21, 2022, at the Alexandria Hilton, Mark Center. Co-chairing the event will be Jason Himsey, KCCH, and Mike Taldo, KCCH.

Our Alexandria Scottish Rite Gala, one of the largest in the country due to your generous support, benefits kids with speech difficulties, such as autism. The money raised helps these kids attend school to better their communication skills and, more importantly, improve their ability to learn. Your generous support will enable these kids to succeed. The kids are taught at James Madison University, by enthusiastic professors at no cost to their parents as a result of your generosity.

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At the event, we will have a great dinner and fellowship, along with a live auction, an on-line and in-person silent auction, a cash bar, and bourdon and scotch tasting. We are looking for unique and desirable items to auction as well as sponsorships. We also invite you to donate something special for the live or silent auction. Desired items include specialty items, artwork, jewelry, and gift baskets, as well as experiences at local restaurants, wineries/breweries/distilleries, and tickets to events, or travel opportunities, etc.

You may make donations or opt for table sponsorships via the event website – <https://www.biddingforgood.com/vsrf/gala>. Feel free to contact Jason Himsey, KCCH at Jason.himsey@icloud.com or Mike Taldo, KCCH at taldomike@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Valley Technical Support Team

Ill. Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33°, Assistant Personal Representative

Alexandria Valley is forming a technical support team, from which team members can be called on to provide support to stated meetings, Reunions, and other Valley events. This Tech Team will function in much the same way that our Stage Crew now supports our Reunion productions, but large and flexible enough to permit continued participation in other activities such as degree casts. Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS) based system orientation and technical training in working with sound and video systems, and with the specific computer interfaces used in our hybrid meetings can begin as soon as interested participants are identified. To become a part of the team, please contact Ill. Dave Morris at secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or Ill. Norm Hoff at norm.hoff@verizon.net.

The global Covid-19 pandemic was a significant challenge to our Valley's ongoing operations. This situation initially caused an unprecedented cessation of all meeting activities. The subsequent introduction of internet-based technologies allowed us to introduce virtual meetings with participants at multiple remote locations using their personal computers or smart phones to communicate through the use of enterprise-wide video conferencing software. The use of these technologies allowed our resumption of meetings while still complying with pandemic-based "stay-at-home" mandates.

This new capability for remote participation in our meetings enabled many members, who had previously been unable to attend meetings due to their distant residency, health limitations, or schedule impediments, to resume participation in our meetings and to enjoy the many educational and fraternal benefits of being, once again, an active part of their Scottish Rite Valley. After resuming our in-person Valley gatherings, it was apparent that we should continue the remote participation by providing the internet-based video conferencing in conjunction with our in-person meetings.

Initial attempts to combine the live and virtual components introduced a number of technical challenges which tended to interrupt or distract from the meeting. Our Executive Council responded to these challenges by tasking an ad-hoc committee to identify the issues and produce recommended procedures to alleviate them. This committee included our Venerable Master, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Director of Work, and the Chairmen of the Communications, Membership, and Training Committees, all supported by the technical expertise and guidance of Brother Josh Payne and Brothers Harold Chadsey, KCCH and Jason Himsey, KCCH.

Many recommended procedural changes have now been successfully tested and employed and are being documented to ensure continued consistently good performance. The most significant matter yet outstanding is that of training and populating a qualified team of Valley members to ensure that audio, video and computer components are properly configured and prepared for use with our meetings, Reunions and other events. We are eager to add your name to the Alexandria Valley Tech Team.

Fraternally,
Norm Hoff

Secretary's Corner

Ill. David C. Morris, 33° General Secretary

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALEXANDRIA VALLEY OFFICE

Our regular hours. M—F 10 – 3:30 p.m., Please Call 703-998-9044 first.

CAPS, RINGS, Patents and Cap Boxes all Reunions thru SPRING OF 2021

All items are in and ready to be picked up, please call the office at 703-998-9044.

NOTE: 2020 Fall Class we have all your items, if you have completed your Registration. 2021 Fall Class – We have your Rings, Patents and Caps, but have NOT received your Cap Boxes.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP – NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME

If you purchase before the end of the year, you will not any dues to pay and no increases in years to come.

DON'T FORGET YOU NEED YOUR 2022 DUES CARD FOR STATED MEETINGS

AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL

An optional "Automatic Membership Renewal Program" for paying Dues through the Scottish Rite Portal will be offered when paying online. You will get an email reminder a few days before a payment is processed and you can opt out, at any time.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2022

January 1 NEW YEARS DAY



January 14 – 6:00 p.m.
Pre-Meeting Awards Dinner
INSTALLATION of OFFICERS
Valley Meeting – 8:00 p.m.
(Lodge of Perfection)

January 17 - HOLIDAY MLK, Jr. Day

January 19 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

January 26 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg



FEBRUARY 2022

February 11 – 6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
(Council of Kadosh, Rose Croix, & Lodge of Perfection)

February 14 Valentine's Day



February 16 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30pm
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge
February 21 – HOLIDAY
Presidents' Day

February 23 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Cassia Lodge – Woodstock



MARCH 2022

March 11 – 6:30 p.m.
Pre-Meeting Dinner
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

March 12 – 8:30 a.m. – Noon
(April 2nd—new date)
VA Scottish Rite Workshop
Acca Shine Center, Richmond

March 16 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30pm
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

March 23 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg

March 25 - 26
Scottish Rite
Leadership Workshop
Charlotte, N.C.

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°, Editor
Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

TBD, Content Coordinator

All Scottish Rite Members whose names appear in this
Bulletin are of the Thirty-second Degree,
unless otherwise indicated.

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Treasurer:
Illustrious Oral (Neil) McNeil Marple, 33°

Thomas G. Little, KCCH
Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Almoner Emeritus

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Fax Number: (703) 778-2804

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change
of address, phone number, or email address. This is
very important so that you may receive The Scottish
Rite Journal and other publications and correspond-
ence without delay.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our
supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and
the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere
our ultimate goal.

ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES DEAN COLE, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILLUSTRIOUS ALAN WAYNE ADKINS, 33°, G.M.C.
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in
the Orient of Virginia

ILLUSTRIOUS EDMUND COHEN, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria

ILLUSTRIOUS NORMAN L. HOFF, JR., 33°
Assistant Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
FRANK T. ANTHONY, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
JASON M. HIMSEY, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
JOHN M. SUIT, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
EDWARD E. C. WILKINSON, JR.
Master of Kadosh

