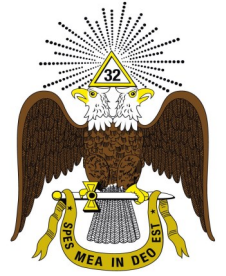




Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin

November—December 2023



CONGRATULATIONS

Honour Men of 2023



Photo by: Ill. Michael R. Aulicino, 33°

INSPECTORS GENERAL HONORARY

Allen D. Beckner, Donald E. Strehle (at large) and
Scott C. Springer. Not shown: Joel David Ratliff, Sr. (WV)

KNIGHTS COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR

Mark E. Cummings, Ronald E. Craft, Jr., Robert J. Worthington,
Ralph L. Shepard and Jeremy D. Anspaugh

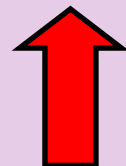
Thanks

to the
KENA Highlanders
for opening our
Friday morning
session of the
VA Scottish Rite
Conference
2023



November Meeting
Date Change

First Friday
November 3rd



CHANGE

Ill. Norman L. Hoff, Jr., 33^o, Assistant Personal Representative of the SGIG in VA

We proudly note that our Masonic origins date back to the Mason companies of the Medieval Ages. The fundamental principles of today's Masonic Fraternity can be traced back to the 10th Century Old Charges. Their 15 Articles addressed the guild's or its craftsmen's business practices, and their 15 Points focused on the spiritual, moral and ethical behavior of the guild and its members. We like tradition and are told 'it is no man's power to make innovations in the body of Freemasonry.' However, that does not mean that we don't progress, improve and change.



Change can make us uncomfortable or even afraid. Or, conversely, we might find that a proposed change is exciting and welcomed. It all depends on the details and how well we can understand the risks and rewards inherent in the change. More importantly, it depends on how well we can minimize or control the risks to increase the probability of enjoying the rewards.

We are living in an age of abundant change. New technologies seem to be appearing at an accelerating pace, and many of them bring promises of improved communications, more extensive and rapid access to information, and, when employed wisely, increased knowledge and understanding. While some technologies are not particularly new, we are seeing helpful, new usages of them such as using Zoom communications technology to bring together widely dispersed Brothers for committee coordination or educational programs. We have recently seen the Valley of Missouri's excellent, new "Cinematic Degrees," which encapsulate the lessons and visual pageantry of our Degrees in three to six minute professionally produced on-line presentations. We will soon be hearing more about how we might be able to incorporate some of these Cinematic Degrees to augment our currently conferred and communicated productions.

We are also just beginning to wonder about how new Artificial Intelligence technologies and applications might eventually improve our ability to educate or communicate with our members, manage our business activities, or enhance our various Valley meetings and events. One layer of complexity to be considered as new technologies expand our reach to a larger percentage of our audience, is the wide range of ages and interests among our diverse membership. While our common bond is through Freemasonry, we have members whose birthdates place them in each of the six major named generations since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Twelve, or 1% of our current members belong to the "GI Generation" or sometimes called "The Greatest Generation." Most of these Brothers experienced WWII and the Great Depression, and most have somewhat different "world views" than those 95 (or 9%) of the Gen Y and Gen Z Brothers born since 1981. The three Generations born between 1927 and 1980 (the Silent, Baby Boomer and Gen X generations) are somewhat equally represented in our Valley with 300 (28.4%), 391 (37%) and 258 (24.4%) Brothers in their respective groupings. While the numbers of members in these three groups are similar, and represent about 90% of our total membership, It is important to remember that the life experiences and resulting world views within each of these three groups are quite varied.

As we contemplate the future and attempt to access and enjoy a virtual fellowship with all our members via simultaneous, group communications, we need to consider the style, presentation and content of our message. "Content" may be the least of our concerns since we all share the same respect and concern for the principles and philosophy of our Fraternity. But style and presentation are already changing with new technologies, and promise to change significantly more in the coming months and years.

Fraternally,

Norm

By-Laws Change Proposal

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

Our current By-Laws impose a restriction on Trustees holding an elected position in a Valley Body. The Supreme Council Statutes impose no similar limitation and this self-imposed restriction can impede the normal line officer advancement.

Therefore; at our September meeting, III. Norm Hoff, Jr., 33°, Assistant Personal Representative, proposed the following By-Laws language replace the current Art III, Sec 5 of our Valley By-Laws (text to be deleted is **bolded** and ~~struck-out~~):

ARTICLE III, SECTION 5: Duties and Election of the Trustees

A Board of Trustees consisting of five members shall hold legal title to all real and personal property of the Valley. The Board shall have custody of Valley funds available for investment in the best interests of the Valley and in conformity with legal statutes and the Statutes of the Supreme Council. These funds include the Permanent/Building Fund, The Bayliss Education Trust Fund, The Glass Education Trust Fund, and the Life Membership Trust Fund. The Trustees shall make recommendations to the Executive Council concerning insurance coverage; building maintenance and repairs; alterations or additions; and policies, rules, and regulations for the use of the building. An interim report on the status of the funds in their charge shall be reported to the membership at the July Stated Meeting, and a final yearly report presented to the membership at the January Stated Meeting. The trustees shall be elected at the January meeting to a staggered three-year term – two elected in year one, one elected in year two, and two elected in year three. No trustee shall be eligible for re-election to three consecutive three year terms. ~~and no member may be a Trustee if he is an elected officer in one of the four Bodies.~~ The Board of Trustees shall meet at least twice a year and annually elect a chairman. All actions of the Board of Trustees shall require a majority vote of the Board.

We will vote on this proposed change at our January 12, 2024, stated meeting.

7 LESSONS FROM THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

by Eddie Jaku, a Holocaust Survivor

Provided by Gwen Cohen—with slight changes—same message.

1. **Gratitude and Appreciation:** Understand the power of gratitude and appreciate the simple joys in life. Find happiness in the present moment and cherish your blessings, rather than dwelling on what you lack.
2. **Living in the Present:** Learn the importance of living in the present moment, letting go of regrets from the past and worries about the future. By fully immersing yourself in the here and now you can find joy and fulfillment in the present -- making the most of each day.
3. **Cultivating Meaningful Relationships:** Recognize the significance of strong and meaningful relationships. Invest time and effort in nurturing connections with loved ones, fostering deep bonds of trust, love, and support. Understand that happiness is often found in the company of those who matter most.
4. **Embracing Authenticity:** Embrace your true self and live authentically. Understand that trying to fit into societal expectations or seeking approval from others only leads to unhappiness. Embrace your uniqueness and be true to yourself.
5. **Finding Purpose and Meaning:** Having a sense of purpose and meaning is vital. Identify your passions, values, and the things that give you a sense of fulfillment. By aligning your actions and goals with your purpose, you can experience a deep sense of meaning and contentment.

(Continued on Page 4.)

7 LESSONS FROM THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

by Eddie Jaku, a Holocaust Survivor

(Continued from Page 3.)

6. **Practicing Self-Care:** Prioritize self-care and understand the importance of nurturing your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Take time to engage in activities that bring you joy, reduce stress, and recharge your energy. By taking care of yourself, you can better show up for others and maintain your happiness.

7. **Grappling with Challenges:** Recognize that life is not without challenges. Instead of avoiding or resenting them, view challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. Try to develop resilience and a positive mindset, reframing setbacks as stepping stones to success. By embracing challenges, you can become a better version of yourself.

By incorporating these principles into our own lives, we can cultivate happiness and lead a more fulfilling existence.

Master Craftsman II

Ronald E. Craft, Jr., KCCH and Michael D. Taldo, KCCH, Master Craftsman Instructors



Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia Master Craftsman Study Group Group Study for Master Craftsman II "Ritual and History"

January - June 2024

Course Description

Scottish Rite Ritual & History familiarizes students with the basic structure of the Scottish Rite as well as aspects of the rituals and symbols of the twenty-nine degrees (4°–32°) and honors of the Scottish Rite. Consisting of 6 lessons, it utilizes *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide*, third edition, by Arturo de Hoyos and *A Bridge to Light*, 4th edition, by Rex Hutchens as its textbooks.

The Valley of Alexandria's Study Group will use a virtual format as we work together through the course. Working online enables participants to interact with the instructor and group without leaving home. Other than the cost to purchase the course and book, the study group is offered free of charge.

Registration Process

- 1) Create an account on the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction website scottishrite.org/. You will need your member ID. To view all Master Craftsman courses go to: mastercraftsmancollege.org
- 2) Enroll in the Master Craftsman: Ritual & History Course, which consists of the online quizzes and other study material. Currently, the cost is \$40.
- 3) Purchase *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide*, third edition which is \$75.00 in the Scottish Rite online Bookstore: srbookstore.myshopify.com
- 4) You should receive a copy of *A Bridge to Light* from the Valley when you joined. If not, that can also be found in the bookstore for \$27.50.
- 5) Register for the Alexandria Scottish Rite Study Group. Email: education@alexandriascottishrite.org

Schedule: TBD

Questions? Contact Brothers Mike Taldo, 32° KCCH or Ron Craft, 32° KCCH at education@alexandriascottishrite.org

How many people know how Darius the Great became king?

Matthew T. Duley, 32°, Orator, Council of Kadosh

It is often the little things along the way that make a journey interesting. On road trips I always enjoy those road-side signs that point out some unique historical event or person associated with a location I am passing through. I can still remember asking my parents to stop the car at the first sign of a cannon as we approached the Gettysburg battlefield so that I could read about the engagement, not yet comprehending the scale of what was ahead. In any book I read, I pay attention to the footnotes, which occasionally offer up delightful nuggets of information that inspire me to additional reading. Many years later, I produced a program called "The Masonic Incident at Antietam" which I delivered in my Lodge.

As part of our journey as Masons, we should always be in search of more light. One of my favorite movies growing up was "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Accordingly, as part of my personal journey, I have focused on the connection between the Ark of the Covenant and our Craft.

Having seen numerous television documentaries on the possible location of the Ark today, one prominent theory is that it resides in a temple in Ethiopia. In further exploration of this theory, I recently acquired a rare book – a first edition, second impression of "The Queen of Sheba and Her Only Son Menyelek" by Wallis Budge published in 1922 by The Medici Society in London. The book is described as 'Being the History of the departure of God & His Ark of The Covenant from Jerusalem to Ethiopia, and the Establishment of The Religion of the Hebrews & The Solomonic Line of Kings in that Country. A complete translation of the Kebrä Nagast with Introduction by Sir E. A. Wallis Budge.' Sir Budge served as the keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum.

For some background, the Kebrä Nagast ("Glory of the Kings [of Ethiopia]"), is a famous text that was believed to have originally been written in Coptic, later translated in Arabic, followed by translations into Ethiopian and then English.

During my journey through this text, I was rewarded with many treasures. I learned more about the topic of the "Divine origin of kings", the lineage of the house of David, and the concept of a Divine "pearl" passed through the bloodline.

I learned about the history of arks. Yes, there was more than one...the Ark of Michael versus the Ark of Mary (Zion), otherwise known as the Ark of the Tabernacle. I read about how the immaterial Zion in Heaven was believed to be replicated in the material form of the Ark of Zion on earth (hmm, "as above, so below"). The text raised several questions: Is the ark allegedly in Ethiopia a copy of the one in Israel or was a copy left in its place? How was the alleged theft of the Ark discovered? How did the people know that God was pleased with their prayers? Was it stolen or was it taken with the plausibly deniable knowledge of King Solomon?

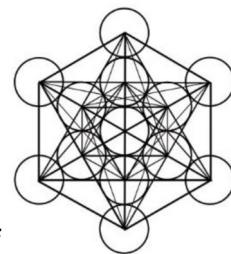
Although Solomon lamented the loss of the Ark, he was made to realize by his council that this act was the Will of God and that it was his son, of the House of David, who should continue to reign.

There is often more to the story. In one example, the narrative describes how the operative stone masons came to King Solomon in search of better tools to cut the massive stones that the King desired for his temple, and the clever way in which Solomon obtained an object through the help of a bird, which he gave to the masons. The object was imbued with seemingly Divine power that allowed the masons to cut the stones with ease, but only until such time as the temple was completed. There were even further narratives about the very special nature of that object and the cleverness of King Solomon which I will leave for you to discover. The book also served as a starting point for my learning about many other topics, such as the mysterious Benben stone, the "Book of the Bee" first written in 1222, and the Westcar Papyrus. How many people know how Darius the Great became king?

Sacred Geometry

Farley W. Warner, KCCH, Orator, Lodge of Perfection

There is a hidden lineage of Initiates known in ancient Egypt as the Masters of the Net. These Initiates knew a great secret that behind everything in physical existence is an invisible matrix of energy which is the source of all physical manifestation. These Masters of the Net knew we can materialize anything in the physical world by utilizing forms we call sacred geometry in conjunction with this invisible energy matrix which also constitutes the divine blueprints of consciousness and energy. Ancient traditions knew that the sacred geometry patterns which underlie all of creation are, in their deepest essence, thought forms from the mind of God. Sacred geometry forms are packets of divine consciousness, which hold structural patterns which then move down from the higher planes to manifest on every level of creation, therefore, our visualizations of these sacred geometry patterns can at their highest-level form a literal communion of our human mind with the divine mind.



As three-dimensional beings our senses can only directly perceive three-dimensional or lower aspects of any fourth-dimensional or higher-dimensional objects moving through our world. This concept can promote understanding spiritual manifestations, especially the possibility that forms of sacred geometry used in ancient spiritual traditions are actually lower dimensional projections of higher dimensional existence. These two-D or three-D geometric patterns often contain hidden power to energetically connect us to the higher dimensional realities embodied in their full higher dimensional forms. This brings us to the ancient symbol of the point in the center of the circle. This was the hieroglyph for the spiritual being of the Sun, Ra, in ancient Egypt, and has become the image typically used today for the Sun. This pattern is also the sign for the First Logos, the Godhead, the source of creation in both the Rosicrucian and Masonic traditions. The circle is considered a perfect form in the divine alphabet of sacred geometry because it is completely balanced. Every point on the periphery of the circle is the exact same distance from the divine plane at the center. The sphere, the form of the circle in three dimensions, is the boundary of creation being the key to manifesting energy and consciousness from higher worlds into physical matter. The European Masons, who built the great cathedrals of Europe, called the royal art, achieved the transformation of the physical world into the new golden age through applying the divine patterns of sacred geometry. Just as the Masons transformed stones and trees into temples, creating a physical chalice for the divine to pour into, the royal art is a high secret of original masonic initiation, which is the establishing on earth the sacred geometric patterns for the next round of human development. The Masonic use of the compasses and the square are based on practical tools to create circular and square forms in perfect design. The compasses make creation of a perfect circle possible by first establishing a stable, fixed, divine center using one point of the compasses, and utilizes the other point to mark or draw the perfect circular rotation boundary around that center. Master Masons would sometimes be buried with their personal drafting compass, which had been filled with their own energy and with divine energy through a lifetime of movements around the center, including acts such as performing circumambulations around the altar which represents the center point of the lodge. In addition to the Masons, the great sacred builders of the past from Europe, Egypt, India, and many other great world cultures knew that each time they created a circle or sphere in their designs, they were re-creating the original act of creation from the Godhead.

The five Platonic solids are derived from the primal, sacred geometry form of the sphere. There are only five perfect ways to divide a sphere. Each way of dividing it creates a different form which releases a different power. Every face on a particular Platonic solid has the same shape as the other sides on that form, being either a triangle, square, or a pentagon. The same number of faces meet at every vertex of the form, and every line on every face is the exact same length. The original forms of the Platonic solids are spherical. Then each face is flattened to make the Platonic solids as they were taught to the Greeks, and as they are known today. Each of the five ways of dividing the sphere creates a form connected to the elements of nature. The first form, the tetrahedron, is the form behind the power of fire. It has four triangular faces. The tetrahedron is the most fundamental form which can be created using straight lines and is one of the key forms from the mind of God in that it holds the pattern of the original one point of the Divine unity, which is being solidly supported by the three points of a trinity for manifestation purposes. *(Continued on Page 7.)*

Sacred Geometry

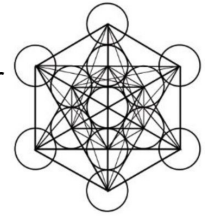
(Continued from Page 6.)

The tetrahedron creates stability and a strong structure for physical manifestation, just as the spirit is the foundation behind the crystallization of physical matter. The second form, the cube, is the form behind the power of earth. It has six square faces. The cube of earth is the form for creating the physical plane itself. The cube is a sealed chamber and an Alchemical retort in which we are placed as young spiritual beings in order to go through deep spiritual transformation processes during our earthly lives. The next form, the octahedron, is the form behind the power of air. It has eight triangular faces. The octahedron is a form which manifests from the creation of physical space which is filled with air or gas. The octahedron is created by connecting the ends of the three angles that create three-dimensional physical space when the ends of this three-dimensional cross are all connected. The octahedron can also be seen as essentially two pyramids, one pointing upwards and one pointing downwards, connected at their bases. This is the true origin of the pyramid, being the form used by traditions all over the world as a place of spiritual initiation. The octahedron itself is the basis for the form of human soul travel which has been popularized in modern times as the Merkabah or a star tetrahedron, and which technically is known as the stellated octahedron. This can also be seen from another perspective that stellation essentially adds onto every one of the eight faces of the octahedron a tetrahedron, which is the form for fire. This also converts the entire octahedron into a form with penetrating tetrahedra, within the octahedron form for air which fuels the fire hidden inside. The icosahedron, the fourth form, is the form behind the power of water. It has 20 triangular faces. Instead of using simple, one-dimensional lines that create the octahedron, the icosahedron is manifested from three golden mean rectangles, each which are two dimensional in nature. The golden mean, also known as the Phi ratio, is a major sacred geometry pattern intimately linked to life Energy. The icosahedron being the platonic solid related to water, indicates it is the "element" that is the basic prerequisite for life as we know it. The fifth and final form, which was kept hidden in the writings of Plato and the Pythagorean school in Greece because of its tremendous potential power, corresponds to the fifth element, the ether, and is the source of the other four earthly elements. This is the dodecahedron with 12 pentagonal faces. The ancient Greek concept of ether has always been understood as the dynamic a life force which fills all of space and is connected to the heavens. The dodecahedron is deeply connected to the number five. It is the only platonic solid with five pentagonal faces. Five-sided geometry, like the pentagram, is directly connected to the human etheric body and the Phi ratio. The dodecahedron can perfectly hold inside of it five cubes, so that when all five cubes are in place, they create a pentagram of a five-pointed star on every face of the dodecahedron. The human body is itself a pentagram, connecting the heart to the five extremities being the head, two hands and two feet.

Each of the platonic solids has a complementary opposite form known as its dual. Every platonic solid has a specific number of faces, and a specific number of corner points, each of which is known, technically as a vertex. These numbers of vertices perfectly match the number of faces on a different platonic solid, and in return the number of faces on this platonic solid, matches the number of vertices on its dual. When the duals are placed inside one another, each vertex or corner of both forms appear in the exact center of a face of its dual. This principle is connected to the divine thought form of the point in the center of the circle, the corner of the platonic solid being a point and the face shape of the dual form is the surrounding boundary. There are six square faces on the cube, in the center of which perfectly fit the six corners or vertices of the octahedron. There are eight triangular faces on the octahedron in the center of which fit the eight vertices of the cube. Water is the basis of living beings, animated by the ether. For the ether to operate in a living body, water must be present. And so, we find that the icosahedron of water and the dodecahedron of the etheric life force are platonic duals that have complementary matched polarities. There are 20 triangular faces on the icosahedron in the center of which the 20 vertices of a dodecahedron fit, and 12 pentagonal faces on the dodecahedron in the center of which the 12 vertices of the icosahedron fit. This leaves one remaining platonic solid, the tetrahedron of fire, which is dual to itself. The tetrahedron has four faces in which fit the four corners of an inverted tetrahedron. This platonic dual with the upright and inverted pair of nested tetrahedra is connected to movements of energy upwards and downwards based on the direction the topmost point of each tetrahedra is oriented. This is connected to the form of the human Merkaba, which is the human soul vehicle manifested as the star tetrahedron.

(Continued on Page 8.)

By visualizing these key thought forms in the mind of God and exploring their transformations, we can greatly improve our capacity to perceive the sacred geometry thought forms from higher planes, and our ability to create packed thought forms to open higher states of consciousness. This shift of consciousness can transform and optimize our spiritual destiny.



A Year of Gratitude

Serving as Venerable Master in 2023 with the Alexandria Scottish Rite

Michael D. Taldo, KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

In the intricate tapestry of history, where the threads of tradition and community interweave with the challenges and changes of our times, serving as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection at the Alexandria Scottish Rite in Alexandria, Virginia in 2023 has been a privilege and an honor. As I pen these words of gratitude, I wish to express my deepest thanks to the dedicated members of our Scottish Rite Valley, including our two Illustrious Secretaries, our assistant personal representative, Illustrious Norm Hoff, and the Lodge of Perfection line and my predecessor Frank Anthony KCCH. The journey of this year has been marked not only by the bonds we share as Freemasons but also by the larger historical events that have shaped our world, emphasizing the unique role we play in society.

****A Year of Gratitude****

Serving as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection is a responsibility I did not take lightly. It is a role that requires dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the Valley and the principles of Freemasonry. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve our esteemed Scottish Rite and to be a part of this exceptional community that values brotherhood, philanthropy, and personal growth.

First and foremost, I wish to express my gratitude to Illustrious Norm Hoff, our personal representative. Your guidance and support have been invaluable. Your wisdom and experience have illuminated my path as I navigated the responsibilities of this prestigious role. Your commitment to the Valley has set a shining example for all of us, and I am honored to have had the chance to learn from you.

I must also extend my heartfelt thanks to the two Illustrious Secretaries. Your dedication to the administrative aspects of our Valley has allowed us to function smoothly and efficiently. It is no small task to keep the records, maintain the schedules, and facilitate communication among our members. Your work behind the scenes ensures that our fraternity can focus on our core mission of promoting virtue, improving our community, and supporting our brothers.

To the Lodge of Perfection line, without you, doing things as simple as holding the meeting would have been much more difficult.

To the Valley for stepping in at all points be it line work, philanthropy or other tasks.

****A Year in the Face of History****

The year 2023 has been a momentous one, marked by significant historical events that have affected our society at large. In such times, the role of Freemasons in promoting moral and ethical values becomes even more critical. As we have navigated these challenges, it has become evident that our principles and values are timeless, offering a guiding light in an ever-changing world.

Two of the major historical events of 2023 was: the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine and the new flare up of conflict in the middle east. As these challenges continue to loom large, the principles of stewardship and responsibility, central to our tenants, are ever more relevant. In our commitment to protect and preserve, we demonstrate the moral strength that underpins our fraternity. (Continued on Page 9.)

A Year of Gratitude
Serving as Venerable Master in 2023 with the Alexandria Scottish Rite
(Continued from Page 8.)

Furthermore, the world has been grappling with social and political upheaval. In these tumultuous times, the values of tolerance, and justice upheld by Freemasonry are beacons of hope. We, as Scottish Rite Freemasons, are devoted to building a better society by promoting understanding and harmony. The age-old commitment to truth, honor, and integrity remains our lodestar as we navigate the complexities of an interconnected and stressed world.

Throughout 2023, we Scottish Rite Freemasons have continued to play an essential role in humanitarian and philanthropic endeavors. The near end of the global pandemic has created unprecedented challenges, and our fraternity has stepped up to support our teachers and kids in times of need. From providing ~\$16,000 relief to the kids with speech defects to supporting ROTC and first responders, we have demonstrated the power of compassion and benevolence in action. Isn't that the essence of placing our immortal mark on mankind?

As the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication of our members in these noble pursuits. The sense of duty and commitment that our Scottish Rite Valley exhibited in such trying times is a testament to the strength of our fraternity.

****In Closing****

Serving as Venerable Master in 2023 with the Alexandria Scottish Rite has been a deeply enriching experience. I am thankful for the support and guidance of Illustrious Norm Hoff, the diligent work of the two Illustrious Dave's, and the legacy of those that came before. I am proud to be a part of this timeless institution that stands as a beacon of moral and ethical values in a world of change and challenges.

As we look to the future, it is clear that the principles and values of Freemasonry remain as relevant as ever. Our commitment to morality, compassion, and philanthropy continues to be a source of inspiration for our society, even in the face of historical events that shape our world.

In the spirit of brotherhood, unity, and unwavering dedication to our principles, I express my profound gratitude for the opportunity to serve, learn, and grow with the Alexandria Scottish Rite in 2023. Together, we stand as a force for good in our ever-changing world, upholding the principles that have guided us for centuries.



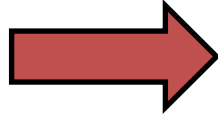
September 30, 2023, Alexandria Hilton Mark Center Hotel
Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia Attendees

Photo by: Ill. Michael Aulicino, 33°

2024 Proposed BUDGET



A LOOK at the BUDGET



Here is the draft budget for next year that will be presented at the November meeting and will be voted on at the December meeting.



Ill. Allen D. Beckner, 33°, and Lady Linda Past President, Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia



Feast of Tishri

L-R: Ronald E. Craft, KCCH, Ill. Scott C. Springer, 33°, Michael D. Taldo, KCCH, John T.G. Aakesson, KCCH, Frank T. Anthony, KCCH, and Rick A. Cady, KCCH.

Alexandria Scottish Rite Proposed Operating Budget


Category	PROPOSED BUDGET
	2024
Estimated Income	\$222,625.00
Dues	\$ 107,600.00
Fees	\$ 8,525.00
Rent	\$ 80,000.00
LMIP interest	\$ 19,200.00
Dinner	\$ 3,300.00
Misc	\$ 4,000.00
Admin. Expenses	\$76,000.00
Salaries	\$ 31,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,700.00
Telephone + IT	\$ 9,000.00
Postage and Mailing	\$ 2,500.00
Printing	\$ 13,000.00
Audit	\$ 3,300.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,500.00
Taxes-Stormwater Utility Fee	\$ 12,000.00
Building & Operating	\$87,800.00
Insurance	\$ 16,000.00
Utilities	\$ 33,000.00
Security	\$ 13,800.00
Maintenance & repairs	\$ 25,000.00
Philanthropic	\$2,250.00
Education	\$ 200.00
Teacher of the Year	\$ 1,650.00
Members - dues remitted	\$ 400.00
Contributions & Fees	\$29,095.00
Supreme Council - Cap	\$ 27,170.00
Supreme Council - Candi	\$ 900.00
SR Conf of VA	\$ 900.00
GWMNM	\$ 125.00
Dinners/Refreshments	\$16,250.00
Meetings & Installation	\$ 4,800.00
SR Conf & Workshops	\$ 4,750.00
Feast of Tishri	\$ 300.00
Blue Lodge Relations	\$ 1,200.00
Reunions	\$ 4,000.00
Ladies Nights	\$ 600.00
Special Events - Picnic	\$ 600.00
General Items	\$12,000.00
Degrees, Robes, etc	\$ 1,500.00
Transportation	\$ 6,000.00
33 & KCCH investiture	\$ 1,800.00
SR Conference Host	\$ 700.00
14th degree rings	\$ 2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$223,395.00
Income over Expenses	-\$770.00

Assistant Secretary's Corner

III. David H. Smith, 33°, Assistant Secretary

ALEXANDRIA VALLEY OFFICE

Our adjusted office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If you plan on stopping by, please call first at 703-998-9044, we could be out getting the mail, going to the bank, etc. Thanks.

 **NOVEMBER Meeting Date Change:** Because of the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, we have moved our November meeting date to November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. starting with a pre-meeting dinner. **Reservations are needed by Nov 1st**, send an email to assistantsecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or call 703-998-9044 and leave a message if I'm unavailable.

HAVE YOU MOVED or Changed your Email address: Help us keep your contact information up to date. It's important so we can keep in touch. Also, please provide your current **email address**, we are missing about 210 addresses. If we don't have it you miss out on lots of updates.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2023

November 3—6:30 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Dinner

Reservations by COB—Nov 1

Valley Meeting—7:30 p.m.

ELECTIONS in C of K and RC

(Council of Kadosh, Capter Rose Croix,
& Lodge of Perfection)

November 10 & 11

Grand Lodge of Virginia

Grand Annual Communication

Short Pump, Richmond, VA

November 11

HOLIDAY—Veterans Day

November 23

HOLIDAY—THANKSGIVING DAY



**DATE
CHANGE**

DECEMBER 2023

December 8 – 6:00 p.m.

Executive Council Meeting

Valley Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

ELECTIONS in Consistory & LOP

(Consistory, & Lodge of Perfection)

December 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

Office Closed—Dec 25—Jan 1, 2024

JANUARY 2024

January 1, 2024 - New Years Day

January 2 – HOLIDAY Office Closed

January 12– 6:00 p.m.

**Awards Dinner & Installation of
Officers for 2023**

Pre-Meeting Dinner

Reservations by COB – Jan 10

Short Meeting

(Lodge of Perfection)

January 15 HOLIDAY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 17 – 7:00 p.m.

Loudoun SR Club

Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

January 24 – 6:30 p.m.

Shenandoah Club Meeting

Spurmont Lodge –

Spurmont, VA

Update your calendars
don't miss these events!



SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

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Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Frank T. Anthony, KCCH, Content Coordinator
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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. · · 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
MICHAEL D. TALDO, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
MARK E. CUMMINGS, KCCH elect
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
DYLAN M. PHILLIPS
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
RONALD E. CRAFT, JR., KCCH elect
Master of Kadosh

