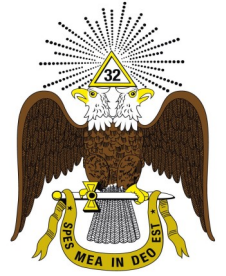




Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Scottish Rite Bulletin

March –April 2021



Personal Representative's Message

Edmund Cohen, 33° — Personal Representative of the Deputy in Alexandria

What are We focused on?

If you keep up with the literature on management, you get exposed to the flavor of the month, and whole organizations reorient themselves around a new management principle which, after a lot of effort and turmoil, can become passé and is replaced by the next new thing.

In the early 1990s it was Total Quality Management (TQM) which came to us from Japan at a time when that country was reversing its reputation for poorly made inexpensive products to being valued for its high quality, high-tech manufactured goods. This was when Detroit automakers were focusing on style, larger tail fins, for example, rather than quality control, and asking the buyer to come back with a punch list of things that needed to be fixed. The foreign car manufacturers told their customers to throw out the punch list, since everything on the car was going to work just fine right off the showroom floor. Books by Peter Drucker, W. Edwards Deming, and others spoke about adopting TQM to American companies by bringing cultural change and process improvement to their organizations.



Related to TQM was Six Sigma, adopted by Motorola and GE. This added additional statistical process controls to identify and remove the cause of defects, and a concern for customer needs and customer satisfaction.

A third fad was Business Process Reengineering which touted the need to move from a procedure to a process based approach, and more of a macro than a micro look at the organization's processes. It suggested the need to integrate a wide number of business functions through enterprise resource planning, supply chain management, and using cross-functional teams to re-engineer separate functional tasks into complete cross-functional processes.

Another was Matrix Management used, for example, by IBM and Proctor and Gamble. The idea is that people with similar skills would be managed as a discipline. For example, all engineers would be in an engineering department, reporting to an engineering manager, but also be assigned to different projects and report to a different project manager while working each of these projects. However, the managers often were not satisfied that their work was being done, and the engineers felt they were wasting a lot of time in endless staff meetings.

I can describe a dozen more, but you get the point. Each of these fads had an essential element of insight into business issues and purported to offer the manager a clear and simple way to improve effectiveness, motivate workers, and satisfy customers. But these theories were one-size solutions that did not fit all situations and could not deal with every problem or work in every environment.

More recently I have been focused on two additional theories. The first is *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World* by Cal Newport. The other is *Measure What Matters* by John Doerr, which focuses on objectives and key results (OKRs). Without backing away from my larger point that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, I think these two books capture something of importance to our Craft.

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Personal Representative's Message

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Deep work is a reaction against today's business culture with open office spaces, instant messaging, and a constant, active presence on social media. In the current Internet environment, organizations often confuse "busyness" with productivity and confuse response time with effectiveness. The "deep work" insight is that when you switch from one task to another, your attention doesn't immediately follow – a residue of your attention remains stuck thinking about the original task. When you constantly switch back and forth on tasks, or when you work in a constant state of semi-distraction, you are more likely to demonstrate poor performance on whatever comes next. To produce at your peak level, you need to work for extended periods with full concentration on a single task free from distraction.

Measure What Matters by John Doerr, endorsed by Alphabet and Google, focuses on objectives and key results (OKRs). The objective is what is to be achieved, and the key results are measurable ways to get to the objective. The key takeaway is to focus on what is really important – not what doesn't matter.

So how does any of this relate to Freemasonry? Well, deep work builds on values like quality, craftsmanship, and mastery of a subject or area – the traditional attributes that improve our skills and create new value. These are Masonic values going back to our operative roots, but also a part of our speculative heritage when Freemasonry discussed and embraced Enlightenment values that were quite radical for that time. These included an appeal to reason over religious or temporal authority, an emphasis on science and evidence rather than superstition, support for individual liberty and constitutional government over the divine right of kings, and religious tolerance and the separation of church and state.

In today's environment, obtaining more light in Masonry also requires deep work. Instead of skimming the surface, content with a superficial understanding of Masonic philosophy and symbolism, we need to set aside quality time when we are not tired or distracted, in order to focus on a Masonic book or reflect upon a Masonic principle, and try to internalize what a Masonic way of life means for us and how we can implement it in our daily routine. Talking about Masonic values is easy, fitting our actions to these principles is much harder, but it is our actions not our words that define our character. Similarly, a focus on objectives and key results is equally relevant to our personal lives and to Freemasonry to ensure that we are focused on what is most important.

As individuals, we should be setting measurable goals for each week, quarter, and year to ensure that we are achieving what is important and not just coasting through life. Remember, the issue is not how busy we are, but whether we are using our time to the best advantage.

From a Brother to Brother viewpoint, I submit that what is most important is building relationships and forming friendships. This is what sustains the Lodge. Where the social fabric is strong, the organization is active and healthy; where it is weak, the organization struggles. This means that our goal must be to maintain outreach to the Brethren on a regular basis and to support activities, including family activities, which will encourage the Brother to come to Lodge events. And we need to set a realistic and measurable result, for example, to increase attendance at Lodge meetings and events, by 5% each quarter. Perhaps the "how" is to institute a Lodge communications team that will call the Brethren on a regular basis. Another "how" is to have programs, and advertise them well in advance, so that Brethren and families want to attend.

Moving from the fellowship aspect of Freemasonry to the institutional and structural dimension, I am concerned that too often our Lodges and Chapters are either on autopilot replicating what they did last year and the year before, or are pursuing an unrealistically broad set of goals and objectives. What is important is not how much we are doing, but whether we are focused on what is important. In order to do this we need to determine what is the most important thing the Lodge needs to focus on – what are our essential goals and how will we measure the results? *(Continued on Page 3.)*

Personal Representative's Message

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I suggest that the job of the Lodge is to increase membership. Thus, while many other activities are important to make the Lodge and Chapter an exciting and enticing place to be, they cannot be the main goal. If the Lodge is not growing – it is dying. Keep in mind, we cannot be satisfied that we are getting candidates. The question is whether the number of candidates we get is sufficient to replace the members we lose.

To change the trajectory of recruitment requires both analysis and planning. First, we need to compare, perhaps on a rolling five-year average, our membership losses (deaths, demits, and suspensions) against our raisings and affiliations. If there are more losses than gains, this analysis will make it very clear how many more members we need to attract each year to reverse the trend. Ideally, we want to recruit each year more members than we lose, and this should be our ultimate goal, but we can start with interim goals. We might set a goal to half the loss this coming year, and then half it again the next year. The idea is to stretch ourselves, but not so much that the goal is unrealistic.

The next question is how are we going to achieve the goal? If, for example, we need five more members this year than we historically get, we might task 10 specific Brethren to get one candidate and follow up during the year to track their progress. If all 10 are able to recruit one candidate we have doubled our goal, but even if only 5 are successful, we will have achieved our goal. There are many other strategies that the Lodge leadership can deploy, but the point is that not only must the goal be clear, the “how” we intend to reach the goal must be equally clear, and then we must monitor progress on a regular basis, making mid-course corrections as necessary.

I know that Freemasonry, like the rest of our society has been dealt a blow by the pandemic, but we need to focus on the future, and the bottom line is this requires that we establish priorities by separating the important from the routine. Once we are focused on the important problems, we need to do the hard work of analysis, understand root causes not symptoms, and then put together a plan to deal with the problem. This includes setting realistic goals, specifying in detail the actions we need to take in order to obtain the results we are seeking, and regularly monitoring our progress. We may have failures along the way, but we can learn from them and adjust and try again until we succeed. I am convinced that if we commit to doing this in a serious way, we can become high-functioning individuals and organizations.

The approach I suggest is not one of those management fads, but something that can help our great Fraternity, and I am convinced that if we put these principles to work right now, do the work necessary to get a large class for our one-day virtual Spring Reunion on Saturday, April 24.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ed Cohen

King Solomon—Wisdom, Sex, Money, and Power

Dr. Michael Pobat, 32° PDDGM



Unfortunately, there is not much written about King Solomon. Most of the information we have is derived from interpretations of biblical writings in the First Book of Kings and the Second Book of Chronicles. There are a variety of interpretations, so this research reflects an analysis and synthesis of the information and the story of King Solomon as constructed through an academic and Masonic research lens.

As Master Masons, we know of King Solomon as a result of our participation in the Master Masons Degree and the building of King Solomon's magnificent Temple. King Solomon plays a prominent role in the unfolding of the drama, deceit, and eventual death as seen in our Master Masons Degree. *(Continued on Page 4.)*

King Solomon—Wisdom, Sex, Money, and Power

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But, after the drama concludes, and we celebrate the raising of our new Master Mason, the question we may all have is: who was King Solomon?

In summary, King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived and also one of the most foolish. God gifted him with unsurpassed wisdom, which Solomon squandered by disobeying God's commandments - and now the rest of the story....

And King David said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon, and let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, "Long live King Solomon!"

The story of King Solomon begins with King David. David was among the greatest of earthly kings - maybe the greatest. From boyhood he performed many feats in battle - he killed lions and bears to defend his father's flocks and herds - he slew giants and conquered kingdoms - and he established a fortress for his people in Jerusalem. He sired a royal dynasty, fathering many sons to be the princes of Israel, including Prince Solomon. Before King David dies, he appoints as king his son Solomon, who is 12 years old at the time, and not the oldest son, with these words:

"I go the way of all the earth. You shall be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes and His commandments and His testimonies. As it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn."

This classic blessing is often quoted by fathers to their sons on the day of their Bar Mitzvah. It restates the cardinal rule that has guided the Jewish people from the time of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai: in order to prosper keep the Torah.

Shortly after Solomon is anointed king, God appears to him in a dream in which He invites Solomon to make a request for himself. Solomon answers: *"I am but a small child, give therefore your servant an understanding heart to judge your people."*

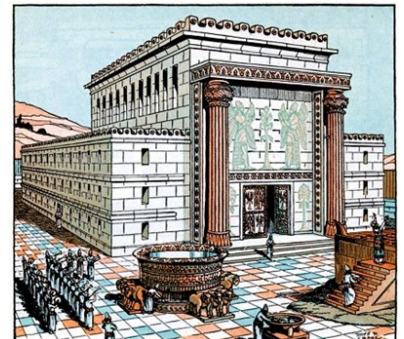
His request pleases God who tells him: *"Because you have not requested riches and honor but only that which would benefit all the people, I will give you not only an understanding heart like none other before or after you, but also riches and honor like no other king in your days."*

Born in 848 BCE, Solomon dies at age 52 in 796 BCE, ruling as king for 40 years -- the best years in all of Israel's history -- 40 years of peace and prosperity. Solomon was the second son of King David and Bathsheba. His name means "peaceable" and even as a baby Solomon was loved by God. He is known as *chacham mi'kol ha'adam*, "wisest of all the men." The Bible relates that kings from all over the world came to hear his wisdom, which included not only Torah wisdom, but also wisdom in secular knowledge and science.

His fame spread through all the surrounding nations. He composed over 3,000 proverbs, and 1,005 poems. He discoursed about trees, from the cedars of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows from the wall. He also discoursed about animals, birds, creeping things and fish. Kings and men of all nations came to hear Solomon's wisdom.

As we all know, the crowning achievement of Solomon's reign is the building of the Temple which his father, King David, could only dream about. King David brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem's Mount Moriah -- "the gate of heaven" -- but because he had been a warrior who had blood on his hands, he was not permitted by God to erect the Temple. However, this is left for his son to accomplish, which as we know, he does.

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King Solomon—Wisdom, Sex, Money, and Power

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The Bible devotes several chapters to the construction of this most important building to the nation of Israel -- the place of communion between the Jewish people and God. It tells that the entire Temple both inside and outside, including floors and doors were overlaid with gold. Besides this there were bronze structures such as columns, an immersion tank, and basins. The magnificent structure took seven years to build.

When it is finished, Solomon dedicates the Temple:

"Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built? Yet have regard for the prayer of Your servant, and for his supplication, O Lord my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer, which Your servant prays before You today; that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may listen to the prayer ... of your people."

This is the pinnacle of Jewish history. Everyone is united. There is peace and prosperity. This is as good as it gets for Israel - the closest ancient Israel gets to achieving the Messianic ideal of creating an ideal nation that is alight to the nations. This is the zenith. So why doesn't this golden age last you may be asking?



Solomon makes one serious mistake. In violation of the Torah's prohibition, he takes too many wives. In fact, he has 700 wives and 300 concubines. If we go back to the Book of Deuteronomy where the idea that Jews would one day want a king is first discussed, Moses warns that the king should not have too many horses or too many wives. The great Torah commentator Rashi tells us that this means no more than 18, and that King David had only six.

The Torah placed limits on the number of wives and wealth the king could have so that he would stay focused on his responsibilities and not be distracted and corrupted by materialism and power. Solomon was certainly aware of these prohibitions but felt that his great wisdom and spirituality would enable him to handle these challenges and be an even

greater king. Unfortunately, he did not foresee the problems that some of his many foreign wives would cause.

The first question is why did Solomon "need" so many wives? The answer has nothing to do with lust or love. Throughout history the overwhelming reason for marriage amongst nobility and royalty was to create political alliances.

The Middle East in Solomon's time is composed of many city-states, and all the kings of these city-states want to send their daughters to marry King Solomon and, in this way, form an alliance with him. Solomon may also have had an additional reason for his marriages to these foreign wives, and this was his way of bringing these nations closer to God.

There is a larger problem with having so many wives - not all of them were Gentile. As such, before they married the king, they had to convert to Judaism. But that leads to another question. The Talmud states: We (the Jewish people) will not accept converts in the Messianic Era, similarly, they did not accept converts, neither during the time of King David, nor during the time of King Solomon.

So how did King Solomon skirt this issue and still marry so many foreign women? The answer is that an exception was made for the future wives of the king and a special court was set up to handle their conversions. Since many of these weddings were arranged for political reasons, it is certain that some of the conversions were not entirely sincere nor did all of Solomon's wives completely abandon their native religious practices.

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King Solomon—Wisdom, Sex, Money, and Power

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As with Moses and David, we again see the incredible level of accountability these great leaders are held to. For a wife of King Solomon, prophet, wisest of all men, King of Israel, to worship idols other than God is an inexcusable mistake that Solomon is held directly accountable for.

The Bible states: In his old age, his wives turned away Solomon's heart after other gods. This, of course, does not mean that King Solomon began worshiping other gods, but the Bible uses these harsh words because he did not prevent his wives from carrying on their previous religious practices. As a king, he is held responsible for the actions of those under his influence.

In conclusion, during Solomon's long reign of 40 years, the Israelite monarchy, according to the Bible, gained its highest splendor and wealth. In a single year, according to the First Book of Kings, Solomon collected tribute amounting to 666 talents of gold which is equivalent to nearly 40,000 pounds. Solomon is described as surrounding himself with all the luxuries and the external grandeur of an Eastern monarch, and his government prospered. He entered into an alliance with Hiram King of Tyre, who in many ways greatly assisted him in his numerous undertakings. For some years before his death, David was engaged in collecting materials for building the temple in Jerusalem as a permanent abode for the Ark of the Covenant. Solomon is described as completing its construction, with the help of an architect, also named Hiram, and other materials, sent from Hiram King of Tyre.

One of King Solomon's greatest strengths was wisdom, granted to him by God. He was a prolific writer, poet, and scientist. His skills in architecture and management turned Israel into the showplace of the Middle East. As a diplomat, he made treaties and alliances that brought peace to his kingdom. One of the better-known stories of King Solomon's wisdom is when two women called upon him, asking him to determine which of the two of them should be awarded a disputed infant. Both mothers claimed to have given birth to the baby. Since they couldn't decide, Solomon came up with what sounded like a logical idea. He suggested the baby be cut in half and split between the two women. When one of the women immediately understood that the beloved child would be killed, she no longer cared whether she got to raise him. All she wanted was that he be safe. The other potential mother didn't care, she wanted her piece. Solomon decided the real mother -- or at least the one who should be the real mother -- was the one who would rather give up her child than see it be destroyed.



Certainly, King Solomon's greatest weakness was turning to worldly pleasures to satisfy his curious mind instead of the pursuit of God. He collected all sorts of treasures and surrounded himself with luxury. In the case of non-Jewish wives and concubines, he let lust rule his heart instead of obedience to God. The Bible ends Solomon's story relating that God was angry with him and told him: *"Since you are guilty of this, and you have not kept My covenant and My laws ... I will tear the kingdom away from you ... But I will not do this in your time, for the sake of your father David. Instead, I will tear it away from your son ... I will give your son one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."*

After Solomon died and was buried in the City of David, his son, Rehoboam succeeded him as king. Under Rehobaum's rule, Solomon's empire was lost and his kingdom was divided into two parts.

King Solomon's sins speak loudly to us in our materialistic culture. When we worship possessions and fame over a supreme being, we are headed for a fall. As a Master Mason these words ring true and remind us all, what is really important in life....hope, faith, charity, and brotherly love....the tenets of Freemasonry.

Fiat Lux....Let There Be Light!

Wise Master's Message

James A. Loudermilk, 33°, Wise Master, Alexandria Chapter Rose Croix

Happy New Year Brethren! You will be reading this in the March-April Bulletin, but I began writing it just after the start of the New Year. Our virtual installation on Friday, January 8, was quite gratifying with 97 brothers attending. It was especially pleasing to see so many of my distinguished predecessors taking part including my immediate predecessor Tim Goolsby, KCCH. We owe Tim, and the other heads of bodies a great debt of thanks for the grace and style with which they handled this past year. Other past Wise Masters attending were Mike Huff, KCCH, Greg Valker, KCCH, Sheldon Richman, 33°, Norm Hoff, 33°, and Ed Taylor, KCCH, who was our Wise Master in 1995. These fine men and Masons have supported and mentored so many of us, over many years, and it is inspiring to see their commitment continue.

Let us hope for a glorious 2021, and trust it will prove far happier than the year just past! We must, however, recognize the pandemic is not yet behind us. The earliest projection for herd immunity I have seen is early July and many call for the September - October time frame. The Valley will truly need your continuing support and interest over the coming months. I will endeavor to make the virtual Chapter meetings as interesting as I can.

As you know, the Chapter meets in February, March, July and November. That may mean three virtual meetings this year. At our March stated meeting, the Chapter is responsible for the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. The traditional Scottish Rite observance was of Maundy Thursday, the middle day of Holy Week. But in 1994, the Supreme Council changed to a nonobligatory celebration to be held near the vernal equinox, when day and night are nearly equal, the astronomical first day of Spring, falling this year on Saturday, March 20. We will, as usual, celebrate the lives of our Brethren who ascended to the Celestial Lodge in the year past. For many years we have observed a beautiful ceremony, including prayer and roses deposited upon our Altar in remembrance, and enjoyed an inspirational speaker. There will have to be a few adjustments this year, as we cannot physically deposit roses upon our altar in a virtual meeting. Join us and see what we are planning. We will have a terrific speaker: our Illustrious Brother Kenneth Fuller from the DC Valley, who is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. Brother Ken is also a distinguished York Rite Mason having served the District of Columbia as Grand Master, Grand High Priest, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, and Grand Commander, and in many other capacities as well.

The January Bulletin reported on our first virtual Reunion on 5 December 2020 during which we communicated all 29 degrees using materials specially prepared and provided by the Supreme Council, and welcomed 35 new Masters of the Royal Secret. We will have another Virtual one-day Reunion on Saturday, 24 April. Our Deputy in Virginia, Ill. and Most Worshipful Alan Adkins, 33°, G.C. will again communicate the five mandatory degrees, which only an SGIG or Deputy may do, and 16 brethren will communicate the balance. Virtual reunions ARE NOT going to become a regular event. This may, and I hope will, be the last opportunity in your lifetimes to attend a virtual reunion. Make sure we have your email address and watch for the Valley's announcement and registration opportunity.

Fraternally,
Jim

Wise Master's Biography

Ill. Brother Loudermilk petitioned Kemper Lodge #64 and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in April 1986. He served Kemper as Master in 1991. He has served as Chaplain and also Treasurer several times and is today Senior Warden of Kemper-Macon Ware #64.

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Jim joined Alexandria Valley during the October 1989 reunion and has been active in degree work ever since; with parts in the 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 18th, 19th, and 31st degrees over the years. In 2005, he was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour. He served the Valley as Venerable Master in 2011, was appointed Director of Work in 2012, and was Coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in 2013. He also served as a trustee 2011-2016.

Brother Loudermilk is also active in the York Rite. He has served the District of Columbia as Grand High Priest (2012), Grand Master of Cryptic Masons (2007), Prior of George Washington Priory #77 KYCH (2009), Preceptor of INRI Tabernacle XXXVII HRAKTP (2015), Preceptor of Hines Chapter Knights Preceptor (2015) and Commander of Potomac #3 (2006). In Virginia he is a past Sovereign of Charles A. Sinclair Council #412 AMD (2012), past Sovereign of Shenandoah Conclave RCC (2012), and was Governor of Washington & Lee No. 93 York Rite College (2013). Jim was Celebrant of Maryland College SRICF in 2013.

Beyond Masonry, he was an active and reserve soldier 1971-1998, worked as an engineer and engineering manager in industry and federal government 1972-present; and retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2017. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Physics, a Masters in Mathematics, and a Professional Degree in Communications Engineering. Jim and Lady Rita have three grown children and two grandchildren.

20 March Scottish Rite Workshop Zoom

Allen D. Beckner, KCCH, Alexandria Valley Vice President, SR Conference of Virginia (2016-2023)

Dear Brethren,

I am writing to you regarding the 2020 Scottish Rite Workshop which was originally rescheduled as a Mini-Conference to be held and hosted by the Lynchburg Valley in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 26-28, 2021, under the leadership of William A. Robertson, Jr., KCCH as President.

As of January 16, 2021, Ill. Alan W. Adkins, PGM, 33°, GC and Deputy for the Supreme Council in Virginia announced that after several conversations with Brother Robertson, KCCH, as well as Grand Lodge Physician, Ill. and Right Worshipful Samuel Jones, the Mini-Conference will not be held in person.

However, the current plan of action that Brother Robertson and Ill. Adkins have put together is to have a 1-day virtual Scottish Rite Workshop meeting via Zoom. The new date for the virtual Workshop is Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Ill. Adkins' agenda is currently being drafted, and the Zoom invitation will be sent from the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia Secretary-Treasurer.

Ill. Adkins regrets, as do we all, that we cannot meet in person, but as always the safety of our members and their spouses is paramount.

In addition, Ill. Adkins informed us the 2021 Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia is on schedule for September 2021 in Roanoke, Virginia, with Ill. William A. Parks, Jr., as President. Also, this Roanoke Conference is a KCCH Investiture Ceremony.

The Virtual Workshop on March 20, 2021, is the first of its kind and I personally invite you to attend and support our Venerable Master Peter E. Terrill, KCCH, and the entire Alexandria Valley at this event. Alexandria always has the largest in-person attendance at the Workshop, and I am sure we can have the largest attendance for the virtual Zoom workshop.

Thank you and your families for your faithful support and attendance.

Sincerely, Allen D. Beckner

REMEMBERANCE AND RENEWAL



In Memory of those who passed.

James Garnett	Alls	8/7/2020	Wayland Franklin	Jones	6/2/2020
Harold Kenneth	Ault	12/15/2012	Charles Wayne	King	4/19/2019
Garnet Russell	Bailey, KCCH	9/11/2020	Edwin Lewis	Luck	4/15/2020
Robert Cecil	Barrett	8/21/2020	William Ernest	Mattison, KCCH	5/9/2020
Paul Francis	Beckett	2/20/2020	Morris Dexter	Mc Cowan	7/25/2020
Chris Lane	Bodkin	5/3/2017	Irby Neill	Mc Innis, Jr.	3/9/2020
Lionel	Boger, III	12/24/2019	Philip Thomas	Mc Intire	7/29/2020
Lloyd William	Brown, Jr	unknown	Roland David	Mc Kee	4/1/2017
Robert Edward	Campbell	12/7/2019	Hubert Louis	Mills	11/6/2019
Frederick Marshall	Campbell	4/9/2020	Moses Le Roy	Nafzinger	4/24/2020
Christopher Doyle	Carney	11/16/2020	James Albert	Newcomer, 33°	5/14/2020
Alan Chauncey	Case	2/22/2020	Ashby Franklin	Owen	3/8/2020
Joel Alexander	Chapman	6/8/2020	Larry Allen	Renner	unknown
James Nelson	Coates	1/10/2020	Henry Angelo	Rich	3/5/2020
Raymond	Cuervo	8/25/2018	Ralph Flores	Sahagun	7/20/2020
John Donald	De Martini	3/30/2020	Russell Elton	Sawyer	7/22/2019
Robert Alfred	Elliott	5/14/2020	Alfred William	Schumann	10/24/2019
Charles David	Fansler	6/13/2020	James Robert	Scott	9/1/2020
Beverly Odell	Fike	2/8/2020	John	Shroeder, Jr., 33°	12/13/2020
Charles Triplett	Hardesty, III	12/8/2020	Richard Kimberly	Shrout	12/28/2019
Ronald Eugene	Heald	4/22/2020	William Levi	Stover	12/21/2017
Arnold	Hecht	12/16/2019	Edwin William	Wade	9/9/2018
James Michael	Helms, Sr.	9/10/2020	John Binn	Walker	7/2/2020
Charles Cecil	Hinkle	11/14/2020	Covert Wesley	Williamson	5/4/2020
James Elmer	Jewell	12/10/2020	Edwin Leonard	Winter	3/19/2019
Harold Donald	Jones	4/1/2019	Stephen George	Yeonas	11/12/2020

The January 2021 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner & Installation

Although we would have preferred being able to be with each other in person, our January 2021 meeting with 100 people participating on Zoom was a great success. We started by presenting the awards, which so clearly showed that despite the pandemic so many Brethren did so much to make 2020 a productive year for the Alexandria Scottish Rite. After the awards, we segued into the installation of officers, and concluded with a short Valley meeting led by our new Venerable Master Peter Terrill.

Of particular note were the brief talks from representatives of the three organizations we had selected as recipients of our Community Service Award: Action in Community through Service (ACTS) in Prince William County, Alive in Alexandria, and Loudoun Hunger Relief. Over \$5,000 had been donated to add to the \$1,500 the Valley allocates for our annual Community Service Award. As a result of the generosity of the Brethren, we were able to present a check for \$2,350 to each of these organizations. We knew this was a good thing to do when, back in August, the Executive Council decided to select one or more food banks for our Community Service Award and solicit additional contributions from the Brethren to provide additional funding for the award. *(Continued on Page 10.)*

The January 2021 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner & Installation

(Continued from Page 9.)

But hearing first-hand what these organizations have done and are continuing to do to help so many of our neighbors who are without food, jobs, and money made it even more clear that we had made the right decision. It was very moving to learn how these organizations are assisting individuals and their families who go without meals and medicines and cannot pay their rent because they have no more money. Even more disheartening was hearing that the need for these services is still increasing. I think all of us were glad we are doing at least a little to help in this time of need, and it appeared that a number of the Brethren were inspired to see if they could volunteer to provide additional assistance to these organizations.



Tim Shrum, KCCH & Patricia McNeil



Vicente Garcia & Ill. Dave Morris, 33°



Rick Cady,
Jennifer Ayers & Mike Bible, KCCH

At the Valley meeting it was noted that, although we are still unable to meet in person, we will have interesting programs in the coming months. In addition to our annual Feast of Tishri celebration, we hope to be able to honor the teachers we selected last year to receive our Outstanding Teacher Award. In sum, we are not letting COVID stop us from continuing the business of the Valley or limit our philanthropic activities. Indeed, I am happy to say that during these difficult times, we are expanding our outreach to our Brethren through calls, email, social media, and Zoom.

God Bless and stay safe.

Ed Cohen

2021 Spring One-Day Zoom Reunion

Jim Loudermilk, 33°, Director of Work

The January-February Bulletin included a report on our December 2020, first ever, One-Day Zoom Reunion. Now, it's time to consider our upcoming April 24th Reunion!

You may recall that in late 2016 our Valley Executive Committee determined to hold a One-Day Class in the spring of odd numbered years. We did so in 2017 and 2019 to considerable success with larger than normal classes and strong subsequent participation in Valley activities from those classes. The coming Spring Reunion will be another One-Day class. Considering the continuing COVID-19 infection rates, and acting on the best available medical information, our Executive Council has concluded it is not prudent to plan for an in-person reunion in April. However, an in-person Fall 2021 Reunion seems a reasonable possibility; we will make our decision about this later in the year. For the upcoming Reunion, the Valley has requested and obtained permission from our Deputy in Virginia Ill. and MW Alan Adkins to hold a second Zoom Reunion.

You should know a great deal of deliberation and preparation occurred before the Supreme Council authorized a Zoom Reunion. And it came with constraints. We received a deck of 178 PowerPoint slides to be used for the Reunion. Those slides are mostly text for the degree communicators to use, but not for display. However, there are also beautiful slides of all the regalia and for many degrees graphics to illustrate key thoughts. These are excellent materials and collectively allow a complete communication of all 29 degrees in about 6 hours.

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Petition Signers — Read Notice on Page 12

2021 Spring One-Day Zoom Reunion

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It is a productive use of a Saturday to experience the virtual Reunion that the Supreme Council has developed. As there is no evidence the Supreme Council intends to permit such Reunions once this pandemic subsides, for those who missed the December event, this coming April reunion is likely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And, although I participated in the earlier virtual Reunion, I am confident I will get even more out of a second experience.

While the Valley made every effort to inform the membership in advance of the December event, later feedback indicated that many Brothers who would have liked to participate did not get the notice to join the event. If you regularly receive notice of Valley activities through your email, great, you are all set. When you receive the invitation to the Spring Reunion, just register and then sign in on Saturday morning April 24. But if not – please give your email address to our General Secretary and we will ensure you get the Reunion registration information and other notifications.

Over our Scottish Rite's nearly 220-year evolution, our values and principles have never varied. How we greet new Masters of the Royal Secret, the text of degree scripts and summary communications, the use of costumes, staging, music, and more has varied a bit over time. Today a normal Reunion is quite a production, takes a long time, and consumes many resources. I like the result. I suppose that as Director of Work I really should. But not everyone shares my enthusiasm for the elaborate conferral of our degrees. And it has not always been so. No less than Albert Pike received all 29 degrees, by communication, in a one-person class. At the end, a Mason is a new Master of the Royal Secret, either way, with much more to be learned. The opportunity for fellowship during a virtual Reunion while much reduced still remains. I hope your cable tow can extend to joining us on the 24th.

Oh, and as always, we need petitions!

Fraternally,
Jim Loudermilk

Philanthropy Update

Tim Shrum, KCCH, Chairman, Alexandria Scottish Rite Philanthropy Committee

You read earlier in this issue about the food pantry donations we made as part of our annual Community Service award, supplemented by your generous donations. In addition to being helpful in our community, which was our main purpose, the Valley has gotten some good publicity as well. Take a look at the following Facebook sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/370800898612/posts/10158040024468613/>

<https://www.facebook.com/actspwc>

<https://www.alive-inc.org/alexandria-scottish-rite-helps-local-charity/>

We are not resting on our laurels and I am excited to report that \$720.00 has been donated to the Valley to be sent to an Autism Charity. We also have sold seventy "Masons Help Kids" T Shirts and expect to sell twenty more by the time this article appears in the Bulletin. Please remember the goal is to sell five hundred in 2021 and were on track to do it.

The bottom line is that during these difficult times the need for our efforts has never been greater, and your Philanthropic Committee is up to the challenge. A number of events are being reviewed that will raise necessary funds, be fun for the Brethren, and take into account the safety precautions dictated by our current situation. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Fraternally,
Tim Shrum

Petition Signers — Read Notice on Page 12

THE 2021 SPRING REUNION NOTICE TO PETITION SIGNERS

The petitioners for the 2021 Spring Class will have an **IN-PERSON** Registration on Thursday, April 22, 2021. We plan to have two sessions - one during the day and the other in the evening. Members of the Class need to attend one of these sessions. If they do not attend, they may not be included in the Spring Class.

Petition Signers — Read Notice Above

Petitions are available on the website at:

https://www.alexandriascottishrite.org/sites/default/files/general/sr_petition_2020_bw_fillable_editable.pdf

Or

Contact Valley Office at: 703.998.9044

Scottish Rite Temple Location 1430 West Braddock Road Alexandria, VA 22302 is NOT a mailing address.		VALLEY OF ALEXANDRIA ORIENT OF VIRGINIA P.O. Box 175 Alexandria, VA 22313-0175
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TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH RITE BODIES _____ Date _____
Alexandria Lodge of Perfection, 4^o–14^o Alexandria Council, Knights Kadosh, 19^o–30^o
Alexandria Chapter, Knights Rose Croix, 15^o–18^o Alexandria Consistory, 31^o–32^o

I am a Master Mason in good standing, and respectfully petition to receive the Fourth through Thirty-second degrees, promising to bear true faith and allegiance to The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAME (In Full) _____
(If no middle name, or initial only, please indicate)

BIRTH: DATE _____ PLACE _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS/City/State/Zip _____
(No., Street, City, State, ZIP Code)

DESIRED MAILING ADDRESS _____
(if different from above)

EMPLOYED BY _____

JOB TITLE: _____

OCCUPATION _____
(State type of position, specialty, or profession. If retired state former occupation.)

BLUE LODGE MEMBERSHIP _____ (No.) _____

Located at (City, State) _____

TELEPHONE NO. Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

E-Mail Add: _____
(First) (Last)

WIFE'S NAME _____
(First) (Last)

The Supreme Council announces as fundamental principles:
 "The inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the forbearance of a state sponsored religion, principles embodied by the Founding Fathers of the United States of America."

Do you approve wholeheartedly of these principles? Yes No

Have you ever held or expressed opinions contrary to the foregoing or been affiliated with any organization which has?
 Yes No If you answer this question in the affirmative, give particulars on reverse side of petition.

I have never previously petitioned this or any other Scottish Rite Bodies. (If you have, check here and explain on the reverse side.)

FEES
 \$90.00 Lodge of Perfection
 45.00 Chapter of Rose Croix
 45.00 Council of Kadosh
 45.00 Consistory

\$225.00 Total Fee Includes: 14^o Ring,
 English Patent and Bridge to Light
 \$175.00 Total Fee for Petitioners Under Age 31
 A minimum of \$90 must accompany this petition.
 Make check payable to **Alexandria Scottish Rite**.
 Amount paid with petition \$ _____ Check Cash

(Revised August 2017, previous editions obsolete.)

(Petitioner's Usual Signature)

Recommended by two members of the Alexandria Bodies.

1. _____
(Signature)
(Please Print Name)

2. _____
(Signature)
(Please Print Name)

Test Your Knowledge of the Scottish Rite and Early American History

Norman Hoff, 33^o, Mike Taldo, KCCH, and Roger Peak, KCCH

In addition to the usual articles, this time we thought we might have "audience participation" and so here are some questions about the Scottish Rite, the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection (we are using Morals and Dogma for the answers), and American history. Some of the question are easier than others, but we will provide the answers to all of them in the next issue. We also will award one of our Alexandria Scottish Rite ties to the first Brother who sends in all the correct answers to Ill. Dave Smith, AssistantSecretary@alexandriascottishrite.org.

Q. What are the four Bodies of a Scottish Rite Valley?

Q. Which are the five mandatory degrees and **why** are they mandatory?

Q. Why is the Presiding Officer of the Council of Kadosh called "Commander" while, in the ritual, he is referred to as "Sir Preceptor"?

Q. What are the meanings of the Council of Kadosh officer titles: Turcopiler, Draper, Bearer of Beauseant, Bearer of White Standard, Bearer of Black Standard?

Q. Which Body was the administrative forerunner of our current Orient and SGIG system?

Q. What are the governing documents of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction? *(Continued on Page 13.)*

Test Your Knowledge of the Scottish Rite and Early American History

(Continued from Page 12.)

Q. In the Fourth Degree the true Mason is:

- A) Charitable
- B) Strong
- C) Active
- D) Wise

Q. What virtues are peculiarly inculcated in the Fifth Degree?

- A) Faith, Hope and Charity
- B) Honesty and Faith
- C) Industry and Charity
- D) Honesty and Industry

Q. The name of the Sixth Degree is:

- A) Principal Secretary
- B) Intimate Secretary
- C) Papal Secretary
- D) Industrious Secretary

Q. According to the teachings of the Seventh Degree when should we judge another man?

- A) Never
- B) Always
- C) When it matters
- D) Only when Duty mandates

Q. The ancient first sign of the Eighth Degree was?

- A) Sign of Sorrow
- B) Sign of Admiration
- C) Sign of Surprise
- D) There is no sign

Q. In the Ninth Degree the wise and well-informed Mason will not fail to be the votary of?

- A) liberty and justice
- B) his church
- C) his political party
- D) the good of mankind

Q. The biggest danger presented in the Tenth Degree is?

- A) Lack of Faith in God
- B) Lack of Charity to all Mankind
- C) Lack of Hope in Immortality
- D) Lack of Tolerance

Q. As presented in the Eleventh Degree, who is the great teacher?

- A) Hiram
- B) Worshipful Master
- C) Solomon
- D) Death

(Continued on Page 14.)

Test Your Knowledge of the Scottish Rite and Early American History
(Continued from Page 13.)

Q. The Twelfth Degree teaches:

- A) Masonry is a religion
- B) The working tools of the first three degrees
- C) Necessity of Society
- D) Both A & B

Q. In the Thirteenth Degree the Holy of Holies forming a cube and drawn on a plane surface has how many visible lines?

- A) 3
- B) 5
- C) 7
- D) 9
- E) 11

Q. In the Fourteenth Degree - 72 is equal to?

- A) The Great Name of God
- B) The Seal of Solomon
- C) A Perfect Sphere
- D) The Secret Teachings

Q. How many Freemasons signed the Olive Branch Petition?

Q. Which two founding documents did George Washington sign?

Q. Which three founding documents did Benjamin Franklin sign?

Q. Who assisted in drafting the Judiciary Act of 1789 that established the federal court system?

Q. Who was captured, accused of treason, and was the only American citizen to be imprisoned in the Tower of London?

Q. Who partnered with George Washington to build the canal known today as the Potomac Canal?

Q. Who was one of five surgeons captured by the British at Fort Washington, New York?

Q. Who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Delaware?

Q. Who was the first Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire?

Q. Who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia?

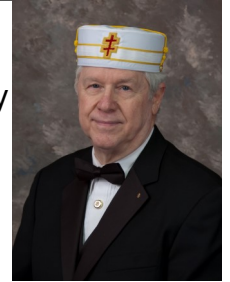
Q. For whom was General Cornwallis exchanged when he was released from parole after his capture by George Washington?

Secretary's Corner

Ill. David C. Morris, General Secretary

IS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS UP TO DATE?

Please check your records on-line to ensure we have your correct email address. Maintaining accurate information allows us to communicate with you. This is especially important now because of the COVID-19 virus and our use of Zoom for our monthly meetings. Your help is appreciated and we look forward to your participation on our Zoom meeting connections. If you prefer, call the office at 703.998.9044 and we will update your information.



2021 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

You should have received your Dues Notice for 2021, along with your 2021 card. We hope to be back to in-person meetings as soon as possible and you will need to show your current dues card to the tiler.

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.

Petition Signers — Read Notice on Page 12

Calendar of Upcoming Events

We will continue to have our meetings via Zoom as long as circumstances warrant and then will have these meetings in-person at our building with a Zoom component for those who live too far away to attend. As we get closer to the date of the meeting, we will advise you whether we are having a Zoom meeting or an in-person and Zoom meeting.

MARCH 2021

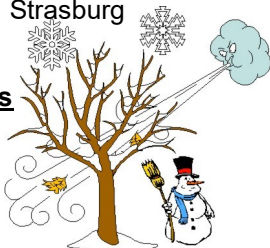
March 12 – 7:30 p.m.
Annual Observance of
Remembrance & Renewal
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

March 17 – 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

March 20 - 10:00 a.m.
SR Workshop - Zoom

March 24 – TBD
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg

March 27
Passover Begins



APRIL 2021

April 4
EASTER SUNDAY

April 9 – 6:30 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
(Consistory, Council of Kadosh, &
Lodge of Perfection)

April 21 – 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

April 28 – TBD
Shenandoah Club Meeting
Cassia Lodge - Woodstock

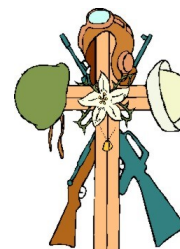
MAY 2021

May 14 – 7:30 p.m.
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Lodge of Perfection)

May 19 – 7:00 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
If ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.
If in person 7:30 p.m. @
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

May 26 - TBD
Shenandoah Club Meeting
Spurmont Lodge—Strasburg

May 31
MEMORIAL DAY



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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The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at 1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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 correspondence 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. L. C. C.
Deputy of the Supreme Council in
the Orient of Virginia

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

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
PETER E. TERRILL, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
JAMES A. LOUDERMILK, 33°
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
KEVIN M. HOMAN, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
RONALD G. ELLIOTT
Master of Kadosh

