

Scottish Rite Bulletin

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

January - February 2012

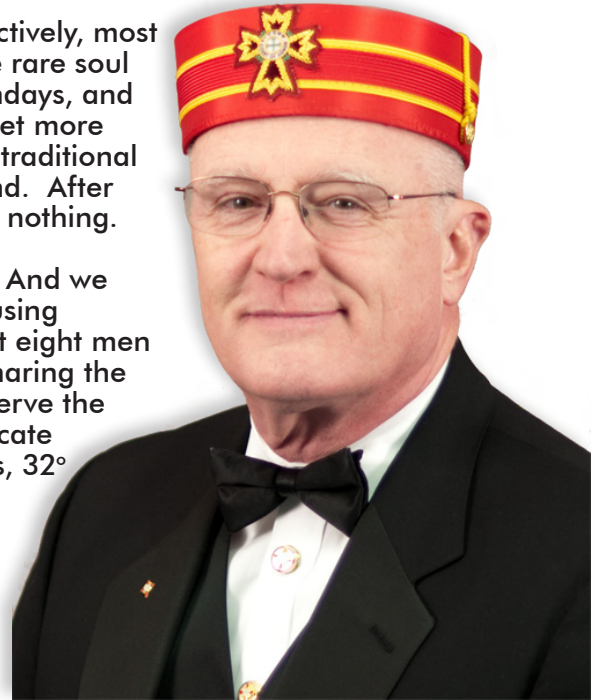


Reflections On Our Alexandria Valley Centennial

James Loudermilk, KCCH - 2011 Venerable Master

Something in each of us yearns toward the remarkable. Objectively, most days are no different from yesterday or tomorrow. But it is the rare soul that does not celebrate, or at least note, New Year's Day, birthdays, and anniversaries. Milestones divisible by five, or even ten, draw yet more attention. Twenty five is a silver event, fifty is golden, and the traditional gift to acknowledge a 75th wedding anniversary is the diamond. After that, recognizing just how rarified a territory we have entered, nothing.

So it is that we begin to reflect upon our Valley reaching 100. And we have not just lasted a century, we have prospered wildly! Perusing Illustrious Brother Walter's history of our Valley we see that but eight men attended the organizing meeting in March of 1910; learn of sharing the \$75 annual rent for the Blue Lodge Room in the City Hall; observe the slow progress as we gained the ability to confer and communicate all the degrees; marvel at pictures of a young Walter S. Downs, 32° at the temple Cornerstone Laying Ceremony in 1969; and see a steady climb to the strong and dynamic body we are today. If you don't yet have a copy of the history, you really should get one. While I have been a very active member the past eight years and a participating member for 22 years, there was much in the history I did not know and found fascinating, that I would not have learned in any other fashion.



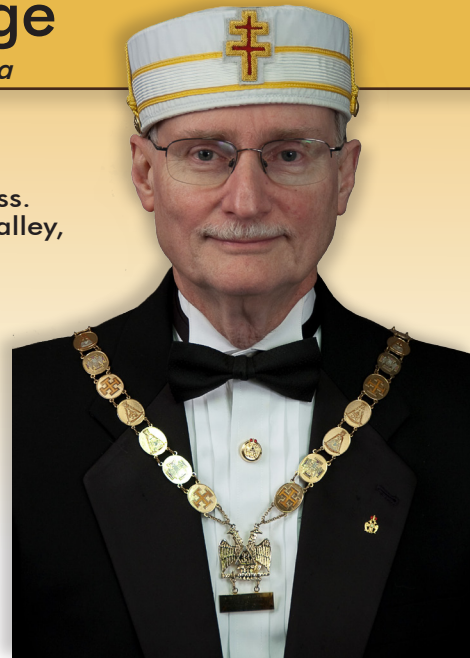
For me it was an accidental honor and privilege to be your centennial Venerable Master. This was an honor that would have gone to Mike Riley but for a last moment change. Yet, even so, our brother Mike played a major role in making our anniversary year the great success that it was. We had quite a number of special events this past year that he did yeoman work in realizing. We introduced the awards banquet, the Ladies and Widows banquet, and the picnic to our calendar this past year. All were well attended, well enjoyed, and I think there is a good chance that each will become permanent additions to our Valley calendar. We set the goal of 100 petitions for new Master's of the Royal Secret, one for each year of the Valley, and while it was a bit of a struggle, we managed to exceed that goal. In recognition of that success and a show of their confidence in us, our Personal Representative and your incoming officers have set, and we will achieve, the goal of 125 new members for this coming year.

I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Venerable Master in our Centennial year, and give further thanks for your support and attendance at our various assemblies. The Lodge of Perfection officers came through again and again this past year. They are a fine group of men, indeed. Our Valley is in good and capable hands for the future. Now, come to our meetings this year and give them the same support you have so generously given me.

Jim Loudermilk, KCCH
Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection 2011

Personal Representative's Message

Edmund Cohen, 33° Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria



Dear Brethren:

Our Centennial Year at the Alexandria Scottish Rite was a great success. Now we begin to write the history of a new century in the life of the Valley, and we want to begin by focusing on a number of important goals.

First, we want each meeting to be worth your time. As part of that effort, Ill. Bob Watkins and the officers of the four bodies are structuring the main program at our meetings to provide greater insight into Freemasonry in general and the Scottish Rite in particular. We also will continue to support and encourage participation in the Master Craftsman program which brings Masonic Education to a new level. You can sign up with our Secretary and can study on your own or become part of a newly formed Valley study group under the leadership of Roger Peak, KCCH.

Second, we want to have fun, and we will have a number of social events that you and your lady can enjoy. We encourage your attendance at the January Awards Banquet, the May Ladies and Widows Dinner, the picnic, an evening at the theatre, our Friends and Family Dinner and Silent Auction, and a number of other planned events.

Third, we want to do what Masons always do so well – be helpful and caring. We are focused on four main areas. These are: the Almoners Fund to help Brethren who need some assistance to work through temporary reverses, the RiteCare program to help children overcome language disorders which hold them back from a successful life, a new scholarship program to help parents provide their children with the educational opportunities they need to succeed, and our support for the House of the Temple Restoration Fund to maintain one of the most important Masonic buildings in the United States.

Fourth, we want to engage our Brethren – all of you! Given the inter-generational character of the Valley, we have the best of all worlds. We join together the enthusiasm of our new Brethren, the drive and determination of our more experienced Brethren, and the wisdom of those who have labored in the quarries for many years. We do not have a closed organization where only a select few can have a role to play. The Valley succeeds because we draw upon the suggestions and ideas of so many of the Brethren, and we hope you will add your skills and talent to make us better still.

Our Reunions require the participation of some 200 Brethren, our officer structure has 47 positions, we have seven standing committees covering all areas of the Valley's work, we have work to be done on our Website and the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin, and we have Valley representatives to each of the Lodges in eight Masonic Districts. There is a lot of opportunity to get engaged. Let me know what your interests are; we want you on the team, and we need your help.

And, of course, as part of this fourth goal, we want to build upon our success last year when we received 102 petitions. This was great, but given our current demographics, we are currently losing many Brethren to the Celestial Lodge, and we need to sustain our membership efforts. Our goal this year is to get 125 petitions, and given the large number of Raisings in Northern Virginia and the Grand Master's one-day class, this is quite achievable. Our Membership Committee under the leadership of Paul Evancoe, KCCH, will do all it can to coordinate the effort, but it is only with your help that we can reach this goal.

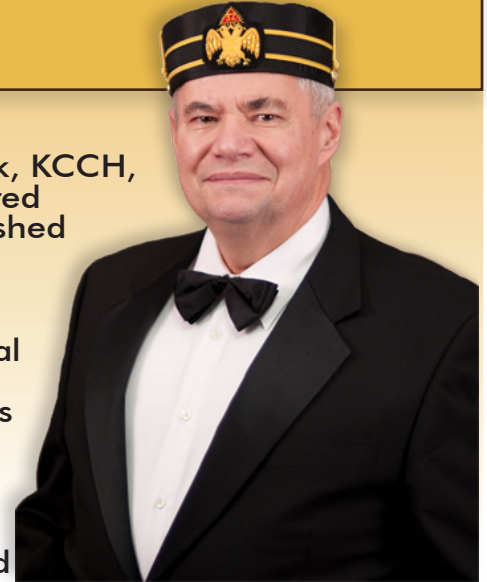
So as we begin a new century of our history, we are setting our sights high and striving to make a real difference in ourselves and in our communities by living up to the noble principles and values of the Rite. This, of course, does not mean thinking great thoughts, but daring to do great things. We don't want to go through the motions, we want to achieve. We don't want to just get by, we want to excel. We don't want to wait, we want to begin. And finally, might I suggest that "we" starts with you and me.

God Bless.

Ed Cohen
PersonalRepresentative@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Venerable Master's Message

O.M. "Neil" Marple, KCCH Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection



As I read the message from my predecessor, Jim Loudermilk, KCCH, who adroitly led the Lodge of Perfection in 2011, I am inspired by his leadership and take great pride in what we accomplished during our Centennial year. We worked together towards common goals, added to our list of activities, and provided the Valley with entertaining and educational programs. I also applaud Mike Riley, KCCH, who led the various centennial activities providing the leadership and enthusiasm that motivated several to accomplish so much. You recall he was Venerable Master in 2010. So you can see I have large shoes to fill.

We had a great year in 2011, but the goal of each Master must be to build upon the shoulders of his predecessors and leave the Lodge a little bit better – and this is my goal. As we begin a new century for the Valley we face new challenges and also more opportunities to grow and strengthen our Valley. I and all of the officers in the Lodge of Perfection, intend to lead by example. We have our assigned tasks and responsibilities and will be extending ourselves, in coordination with the other Scottish Rite Bodies, to ensure a cohesive program that is worthy of our great organization. We have lined up enjoyable and informative speakers, we will learn more about Freemasonry and the Rite, we will work hard on a number of charitable and community projects, and we have planned a number of fun events. We expect to have an interesting and rewarding year.

But the key point I would leave you with is that just as it is my goal to leave the Valley a little bit better at the end of the year, this should be your goal as well. Each member of the Alexandria Scottish Rite has the ability to help our Valley. We each have our own experience and perspective to bring to the table and each of us has valuable ideas and suggestions. We hope you will share your experience and ideas with us. But we urge you to go further and help us turn good ideas into reality.

You should know that you are part of a vibrant Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley that encourages communication and welcomes participation. We have committees in place to cover the major Valley responsibilities and an Executive Committee to set the direction and to coordinate the activities of the Valley. Now all we need is your help.

So spend some time in the next month or so and ask yourself "how can I make our Valley even better?" When you have an idea that could enhance the Valley, take the lead in developing it further, and then bring your ideas and plans to the Executive Council. You will not only have the opportunity to share your ideas, but also to join a Committee or a team and help to bring your ideas and those of others to fruition.

What should be clear by now is that leadership is by no means limited to the officers of our four Bodies. If you will take the initiative and share your enthusiasm, you too can be a leader and make a difference. You will have a real sense of satisfaction and the Valley will be even more successful.

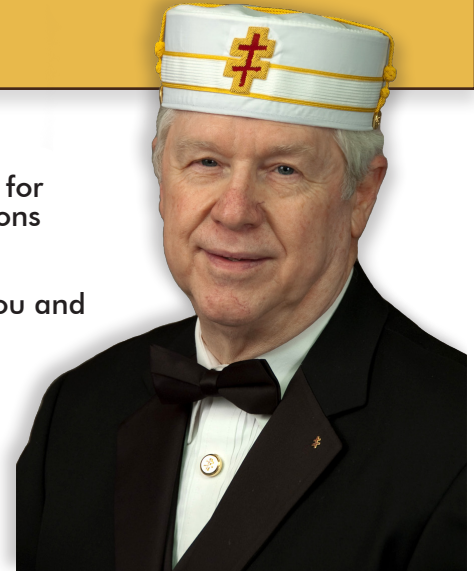
So let me conclude by welcoming each of you to what will be a great year for the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley.

S&F,

Neil Marple
Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection 2012
VenerableMasterLodgeofPerfection@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

From The Secretary's Desk

David C. Morris, 33° Secretary of all Four Bodies



Dinner Payment Plan

We have a pre-meeting dinner six times a year and offer a yearly plan for \$45.00, which is a bit of a savings. You do not need to make reservations with the Secretary each time or stand in line to check in at the dinner.

We hope to see you at the January Award Banquet and suggest that you and your lady make plans now to attend our Ladies and Widows Banquet on May 11, 2012.

Help Us Save Money!

Please Let Us Know When Your Address Changes.

It now costs 45¢ for just about every piece of mail returned, and we may not find out about the change for weeks.

NEW FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS

The Valley has added 6 more members to our list of 50 year Honorees:

Harvey F. Harris
Arthur C. Harrold
Charles J. Leatherman
Jerome L. Massey
Donald F. Ritenour
Charles S. Yates

When you talk with any of them, thank them for their service to The Scottish Rite, and to Masonry.

OUR DUES ARE DUE



All members of the Alexandria Valley should, by now, have received a "Dues Statement" and have a 2012 card.

Please contact the office if this not the case, so we can correct the problem.

Dave Morris
Secretary@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

III. C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, Feb 14, 1924 – Dec 1, 2011

It is with regret that we remember the passing of our immediate past Sovereign Grand Commander C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, who passed to the Celestial Lodge on December 1, 2011. Ill. Kleinknecht served as SGIG at-large from 1967 until his election as SGC in 1985, and served as the head of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction until 2003. Contributions in his name can be made to the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., 1733 16th Street, NW. Washington, D.C. 20009.



Second Annual Scottish Rite Awards Dinner

January 13, 2012

6:00 p.m.



With so many of our Scottish Rite Brethren doing so much for our Valley, it is always difficult to select those who will receive an award, and this year it was no easier. But I hope you will agree that those we selected well deserve our thanks for contributing to our success – they really made a difference. In addition, this year our Community Service awards focus on those who are working with our youth. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Les Baron, Scout Executive for the National Capital Area Council.

We hope you and your lady will join us and show your appreciation for their work at our annual Awards Dinner on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

We selected four Brethren to receive the Certificate of Appreciation for notable work in 2011. In alphabetical order they are:

Brother Jeffrey B. Galusha for his work on the Valley sound system. He procured and installed the new system. He also supports the stage crew before and after our Reunions.

Jay E. Patterson, KCCH, for setting up and running our email notification system. One of the goals in our Valley Strategic Plan was to improve communications with our members, for example, by using group email to remind Brethren of meetings and events. Brother Patterson has made this a reality.

Michael A. Riley, KCCH, for his work as Chair of the Centennial Committee. We needed someone to be in charge of our efforts to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alexandria Scottish Rite. Brother Riley ably oversaw the myriad of details from the memorabilia (the Centennial Medallion, hat, tie and Valley history) to the various events culminating with the Centennial Banquet attended by head of the Scottish Rite SJ, III. Ronald Seale, Sovereign Grand Commander, and III. James Cole, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Virginia.

Heber C. Willis, III, KCCH, for organizing the Picnic. This was not only the first Valley Picnic in memory, but also an important Centennial event. Brother Willis recruited a cadre of Brethren to help and further ensured its success by including activities for the kids, a Dixieland Jazz band for the adults, and a great meal for us all.

We selected three Brethren to receive the Certificate of Merit for particularly meritorious longer term service. In alphabetical order they are:

III. Roy M. Heaster for his many years as Treasurer and as Director of Work. Being Treasurer is mostly a “behind the scenes” position, but it is very important to the Valley, and, of course, the success of our Reunions depends on the Director of Work ensuring that the Degree Teams and Reunion Staff are in place and all working together. Each of these is a very important and demanding responsibility, but III. Heaster has done both of them for many years with great distinction.

III. Dave Morris for overcoming the steep learning curve of Secretary and doing a superb job in the face of business and personal challenges. It is no exaggeration to say that trying to fill the shoes of III. Walter Scott Downs, 33° G.C., Secretary for 27 years, is a daunting task. But III. Morris certainly rose to the occasion. The leadership and organizational skills honed during his years as a Lieutenant in the DC Fire Department and in his second career as CEO of his own company have been evident in his support to the Valley and to the officers in the four bodies.

III. John Shroeder for his many years of outstanding work on the JROTC/ROTC program. One important part of our community outreach and Americanism program has been to present awards to outstanding cadets who demonstrated scholastic excellence and embodied the ideals of Americanism. For over a decade, Illustrious Shroeder has communicated with some 26 high schools and military academies and the James Madison University to schedule the JROTC and ROTC award presentations and then to identify Alexandria Valley Brethren to serve as presenters at the schools’ award ceremonies – and not infrequently he was our presenter.

We selected six individuals to receive the Community Service Award Certificate for their work with our youth. They are: Mr. William T. Ballew – for his work with the Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts; Kent S. Webber, KCCH and Terry L. Gigure, KCCH – for their work with the Boy Scouts; Brother Ronald E. Heald – for his work with the DeMolay; Brother Grayson L. Koogle and Valorie A. Koogle – for their work with the Jobs’ Daughters, and Brother Arthur Wood – for his work with the Rainbow.

Reflections on the Bulletin

James D. Hawkins, KCCH

Effective with this issue of the Bulletin, Brother Matthew Grizzard has assumed the responsibilities of Editor. I commend him for stepping up to this task and know he will do an excellent job. Because of his expertise and experience in producing publications that are recognized in the publishing field for their quality and content, he will be able to take the Bulletin to new heights. I wish him well and trust that he will enjoy the Masonic wages he will earn for performing this work.

It has been my privilege to serve as Editor for the past two years. I thank our Personal Representative, Illustrious Ed Cohen, 33°, for the confidence he placed in me and for his unending expressions of appreciation for each issue we produced. I often remind the Brethren that producing a relevant Bulletin requires the participation of a cadre of Valley members. A quick review of the contents of this issue indicates that Bro. Matt will enjoy this same kind of support from the members.

Prior to being designated Editor by Ill. Cohen, it was my pleasure to assist our Secretary Emeritus, Ill. Walter Scott Downs, 33°, GC in the production of the Bulletin. Ill. Downs wanted to include my name on the "masthead" and we agreed on the title "Bulletin Coordinator." Reflecting on my service as Coordinator and later Editor, I have remarked on occasion that I was involved with the Bulletin for "almost a decade." This imprecise phrase is consistent with my recollection and avoids having to research the month I first worked on the Valley's publication.

With the January-February 2010 issue, Ill. Cohen approved my recommendation to change the page size from approximately 4.25 by 5.5 inches to 8.5 by 11. Also, the number of pages per issue was adjusted according to the amount of significant and timely material we had. Thus far we have had issues of six and eight pages plus inserts with the default size being six pages.

Another innovation as of January 2010 was to upload the Bulletin to the Valley website. This has the advantage of being able to make the publication available sooner than the printed and mailed version — and in full color. I imagine it won't be too long before we rely on the electronic version of the Bulletin for most of our members with just a few being printed on a laser or inkjet printer for mailing to those members still without a computer. With the advent of the internet and postscript office printers, the concept of publication production has shifted from "print and distribute" to "distribute and print."

Looking ahead, I expect to contribute items for publication from time to time. I have a preliminary draft of one article tentatively titled "The Bulletin has Style." This article will discuss the importance of following an agreed upon style to achieve consistency, especially since articles by several authors are included in the Bulletin. From my point of view, the nice thing about participating in this way is that I can send the submissions at my leisure and the Editor can include them or not in any issue he chooses.

As they used to say at the end of news releases,

-30-

S&F

Jim Hawkins

Meet The New Editor

Brother Matthew R. Grizzard

I received a voicemail from our Personal Representative, Illustrious Edmund Cohen sometime in early December. My initial thought was that he must have dialed a wrong number. I listened to the message and was surprised and flattered that he had considered me for the job of Editor for our Valley Bulletin. He considered me for the position due to my background in Web Design. Web and print design are different mediums but I am looking forward to the challenges and experience that I will gain as the editor of our Bulletin.

I have big shoes to fill as Jim Hawkins, KCCH, has had the job as Coordinator then Editor of the Bulletin for a decade. However, Bro. Jim didn't just throw me in the deep end to see if I could swim. He has made himself available and has been quick to answer any questions that I have had while putting together this issue of the Bulletin. So, I know with the input and suggestions of the Brethren and the guidance of Illustrious Ed we will publish a Bulletin that you look forward to reading. Please feel free to send me any suggestions at Matthew.Grizzard@gmail.com.

S&F

Matthew Grizzard

NOTICE: The Library Is Open

Dear Brethren:

The Library is open for your use. Many of the books have now been purged and all that are left are Masonic in nature. Many of these books would be very helpful in the Master Craftsman course. They are divided in to categories that are subjective in content. In the future, I want to expand the categories and organize them in a different way. Until then, please feel free to check out the books you would like to read. Please use the card box above the shelves. Write your name and book name on a 3 X 5 card you wish to check out.

If you have any suggestions for books you would like to see added to our library, please drop me a note in the email, and I will do my best to obtain them. A good source to look at is the Scottish Rite Magazine. Also, if you have any good Masonic books you would like to donate, please bring them in.

There are a lot of opportunities provided by our Valley. The Master Craftsman program is a great example. Please join the Master Craftsman study group and learn more about Masonry. When I first joined the Scottish Rite, I was told that you will only get out of the Scottish Rite what you put in. I found this to be very true. Since I was initiated many years ago, I have taken both courses of Master Craftsman and I am involved in two degrees as well in the Consistory.

John T. Tillery, Librarian
JTTillery@aol.com

Clubs Resume Activities This Month

After a two months hiatus (when meetings conflicted with the holidays), the two clubs resume their monthly dinner/meetings in January. The time elements are the same for both clubs: dinner at 6:30 p.m., informal meeting to follow, and program to end by 7:45 p.m.. Carpools, if desired, will leave the Scottish Rite Temple at 4 p.m.

The Blue Ridge Club's January meeting will be held on Monday the 16th, at The Plains. The February dinner/meeting will take place on Monday the 20th at Culpeper.

The Shenandoah Valley Club will meet on Wednesday, January 25th, at the Butcher Block Restaurant at Stephens City. The February meeting will be on Wednesday the 22nd at the lodge in Woodstock.

These clubs provide an extension of the Scottish Rite into the more distant areas of the Alexandria Valley, and increase friendship and understanding among all who attend these enjoyable events. Call Dave Smith 703-239-8659 or Walter Downs 703-768-7903 by the Friday before each meeting you would like to attend, and then look forward to an enjoyable evening (brethren and ladies).

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
of the
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

Matthew R Grizzard, Editor
Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

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

The Secretary of the Four Coordinate Bodies:
Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°

The Assistant Secretary:
Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°

The Treasurer:
Illustrious Roy M. (Marty) Heaster, 33°

The mailing address is:
P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313
Office Phone: (703) 998-9044
Fax Number: (703) 778-2804

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 RONALD A. SEALE, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES D. COLE, 33°
Grand Treasurer General and
SGIG in the Orient of Virginia

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

ILLUSTRIOUS WALTER SCOTT DOWNS, 33°, GC
Secretary Emeritus

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection
Second Friday of each month
O.M. "NEIL" MARPLE, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
JOHN A. LIGHT, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
JAMES D. BAKER, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory
Second Friday
March, June, September, December
DONALD G. PHILLIPS, KCCH
Master of Kadosh

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Upcoming Events

January 2012

January 13th – 6:00 p.m.
Awards Banquet
Council, Chapter & Lodge of
Perfection Meetings (Elections)

January 16th – 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club
Meeting in The Plains
(reservations required by January 13th)

January 25th – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Butcher Block Restaurant,
Stephens City
(reservations not required)

January 28th – 4:00 p.m.
Open Installation of Officers
(all four bodies)
Auditorium

February 2012

February 2nd – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman Part 1
Study Group

February 10th – 6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Lodge of Perfection – 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments – 9:00 p.m.

February 20th – 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club
Meeting in Culpeper
(reservations required by February 17th)

February 22nd – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Meeting in Woodstock
(reservations required by February 17th)

March 2012

March 1st – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman Part 1
Study Group

March 9th – 6:30 p.m.
Pre-Meeting Dinner
(reservations required by March 5th)
All Four Bodies – 7:30 p.m.
Celebration of Remembrance &
Light by The Chapter of Rose Croix

March 17th – 9:00 a.m.
Scottish Rite Workshop
Richmond Scottish Rite Temple

March 19th – 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club
Meeting in The Plains
(reservations required by March 16th)

March 29th – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Butcher Block Restaurant,
Stephens City
(reservations not required)

REMINDER:

Clubs Resume Activities This
Month. For more information
go to page 7.