

# Scottish Rite Bulletin

November - December 2010

Alexandria, Virginia Bodies

*“Again we leave you from within the shadows of the everlasting hills. May peace be with you this day and always.”*

photo: Lake Tahoe at sunset by Gwen Cohen



Although this photo is of sunset at Lake Tahoe rather than the Great Salt Lake, it nevertheless evokes the familiar words in the headline. These words, first written and first spoken in 1929 by Richard L. Evans, have closed the weekly radio program, “Music and the Spoken Word” for 81 years. But, the announcer doesn’t leave it there. The listener is reassured that “In another seven days, we will again bring you ‘Music and the Spoken Word’ from the Crossroads of the West – originating from radio station KSL in Salt Lake City.”

So it is with the Scottish Rite. This issue of the Scottish Rite Bulletin concludes this year, but as made clear

from the several messages contained on the following pages, in just a few weeks, we will again bring you programs and opportunities which will enrich your experience as a Scottish Rite Mason. Read and take to heart the messages of our Personal Representative, the Venerable Master, the Membership Committee and others in this issue. They set forth the challenges we face as Scottish Rite Masons and as the Valley of Alexandria. Your participation will transform these challenges into opportunities.

**Jim Hawkins, Editor**



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## Library News

The Alexandria Valley is in the process of upgrading its library. Over the years a number of books -- outdated textbooks, Reader’s Digest condensed book volumes and assorted fiction have accumulated -- while the collection of Masonic literature has languished. We are in the process of reversing this trend and have pruned the books we do not believe are right for our library. Now we are in the process of upgrading our Masonic holdings and, in this regard, we ask you to send us your recommendations as to the Masonic books we should have in our collection.

We also would ask if you have extra copies of Masonic books or are reducing your Masonic Library to send these books to a good home at the Alexandria Valley. Finally, as you visit second-hand book stores, search the Internet, or see Masonic books on

sale, we hope you would consider purchasing and donating Masonic books to the Alexandria Scottish Rite Library. Be sure to put your name on the books you donate so we can recognize your generosity, now and in the future.

For more information send an e-mail to [jtillery@aol.com](mailto:jtillery@aol.com) or books may be sent to the Alexandria Scottish Rite, P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 222313, Att: John T. Tillery, Chairman, Library Committee.



# Personal Representative's Message

Three of the major benefits of being a Scottish Rite Mason are the increased opportunities for fellowship, the ability to participate in some very worthwhile charitable activities, and the availability of new avenues for Masonic education. In this message I want to focus briefly on the first two.



**Ed Cohen, 33<sup>o</sup>**

*Personal Representative  
of the SGIG in  
Alexandria*

PersonalRepresentative  
@alexandriascottishrite.org

We may not think much about the advantages of Masonic fellowship, but few things contribute to depression more than social isolation and few things make life more satisfying than positive interaction with others. The Scottish Rite, through its Valley, committee, and degree team meetings, and its Scottish Rite Clubs, Reunions and social events, provides numerous opportunities to meet and interact with other Masons.

The Scottish Rite attracts people from many different backgrounds, occupations, and experiences. If we take the time to talk with them and get to know them, even just a little, we can learn something from every person we meet. This is a two-way street because the experiences that we have had, and lessons we have learned – which we often take for granted – can be interesting and valuable to others. Moreover, as a result of these various opportunities for social interaction, we will find people with whom we share a special bond and, in these cases, the relationship will grow from fellowship to friendship.

Masonic fellowship is, of course, different from non-Masonic interactions because of the obligations we have taken to help and support each other. This means that when we encounter difficult periods in our life and need encouragement, we should be able to count on our Brethren to provide a measure of help and support. By the same token, each of us needs to be sensitive to the problems that our Brethren are having, and reach out to them. This is so important because those who most need help often are unwilling or uncomfortable about asking for it.

If we take our obligations seriously, we should notice when our Brethren are not attending meetings, and try to find out the cause. We should be asking our Brethren how they and their family are doing, and we should be observant about their mood and demeanor. A phone call, a card, an e-mail, or a tweet can help show the Brother that he is not alone. Often, however, what is really important is the personal face to face interaction. Something as small as a smile, a hand on the shoulder or an expression of sympathy is all the

help a Brother may need. At other times your being there to talk with him and to empathize can go a long way. And sometimes the Fraternity may need to provide more substantial help.

Scottish Rite Masons not only deeply care about their Brethren; they are willing to extend themselves for others outside the Fraternity. Many of us have been affected by the economic problems of the last couple of years, but we know there are those who have suffered even more. To the extent we can, we might want to consider if we could spare a few dollars to help those in need. As we prepare for the coming holidays, we should think about those who will not be surrounded by family and friends and will have very little to be cheerful about. A small check to the Almoner's fund, to Rite Care, or to a local food bank could make a real difference in someone's life.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Brethren who have contributed so much this year to the Valley by their attendance, participation in the Reunions and on various projects, and in so many other ways. I know that some of those who have worked especially hard have been, or may in the future be, recognized by the Supreme Council. But our Valley ought to celebrate the contributions of its members.

To do so the Executive Council has adopted three new awards: The first is a Certificate of Appreciation for Scottish Rite Masons who have done something exceptional during the year. The second is a Certificate of Merit to recognize Scottish Rite Masons for outstanding service to the Valley over an extended period of time. The third is a Community Service Award Certificate for Scottish Rite Masons, non-Scottish Rite Masons, or non-Masons who have done notable community service.

I am sure that many of you may wish to nominate someone for these awards and I urge you to send your nominations to me. We will discuss and decide upon the 2010 awardees at the December Executive Council meeting.

As many of you know the Statutes of the Supreme Council call for an annual feast day in January. The Executive Council has decided that we will institute a January Feast banquet, under the purview of the Council of Kadosh, as the venue for our annual award banquet honoring the recipients of the Certificates of Appreciation, Merit, and Community Service for the previous year. This dinner will be prior to our Valley meeting on Friday January 14, 2011. Please be sure to mark your calendar soon, so you and your lady – and your friends – can plan to attend this event.

**Edmund Cohen**

## Venerable Master's Message

Hello again, Brethren.

Congratulations on a highly successful Fall Reunion last month. I know you will each make an effort to greet and welcome our newest members into the programs and activities of the Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite. Additionally, I want to extend my thanks to all who attended the Missile Defense Agency Ballistic Missile Defense presentation by Mr. Michael E. Washull at our October meeting. I'm sure he very much appreciated your gracious welcome and participation in the question and answer session.

Likewise, the programs and fellowship shared by the Alexandria Valley delegation of 26 members and wives at the Scottish Rite Conference in Lynchburg from October 23-25 were wonderfully productive and enjoyable. You will want to read the Conference Report by Ill. Brother William Larry Alexander 33° that appears in this issue.

This year has flown by in the Lodge of Perfection, and our Feast of Tishri and the Thanksgiving holiday are upon us. I wish each of you warmest fraternal greetings for the upcoming Holiday Season and encourage your participation in our remaining programs for the year. This year our Feast of Tishri celebration will be held in the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple on Saturday, November 20, beginning with a reception at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM, and our Program at 7:00 PM. Our program for the celebration will be a scholarly presentation on the historical background and significance of the Feast of Tishri. We have also added a few new touches to the Dinner and I believe you'll find it to be a fun and interesting evening.

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve as your Venerable Master this year, and one I will long cherish. Your participation and support of our Lodge of Perfection programs and other Valley activities this

year is behind all of the successes we have achieved and the brotherhood we have shared.

The dedication and support of the Lodge of Perfection officers have been invaluable, and I am grateful for all of their hard work, especially that of our Senior Warden, Bro. James Loudermilk, KCCH. He has not only provided invaluable assistance and support to me, but he also has been hard at work preparing for his responsibilities next year. He is a wonderful Brother and a strong and very capable leader who I heartily recommend for selection as your next Venerable Master.

I'm also especially grateful for the dedication, loyal support, friendship, and guidance of our Personal Representative, Ill. Ed Cohen, 33°; the Valley Secretary, Ill. Dave Morris, 33°; and our Secretary Emeritus, Ill. Walter Scott Downs, 33° Grand Cross. Thanks too, to the Valley Treasurer, Ill. Marty Heaster, 33°; the Prelate, Rev. Bro. Richard E. Saunders; the Tiler, Bro. Dave Browning; and the Almoner, Ill. Norm Mayo, 33° for all of their assistance and support this year.

All who are participating in the Supreme Council's Master Craftsman Program, and all who obtained petitions and participated in our Reunions have my sincere gratitude and respect. Your participation in those programs reflects your steadfast commitment to the current and future vitality and success of our Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite.

And for our members whose cable tows don't quite reach all the way back to northern Virginia, please know that support with your dues, and by living and promoting the tenets of Scottish Rite in your own communities, is recognized and appreciated. Thank you one and all and I look forward to continued service as Chairman of the 2011 Alexandria Valley Scottish Rite Centennial Celebration.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

**Mike Riley, KCCH**

## Report on the Scottish Rite Conference

September 24-25, 2010

by

Wm. Larry Alexander, 33°

The Eighty-Sixth Session of the Scottish Rite Conference was held on September 24 & 25, in Lynchburg, VA, hosted by the Valley of Danville. It was a delight to see 16 members from the Alexandria Valley and 10 of their ladies present at this year's conference.

The Friday afternoon education sessions were conducted by Ill. Hoyt Samples, 33°, SGIG from the Orient of Tennessee. He presented two superb programs developed by the Supreme Council as part of a series of educational programs. The topics were *Mentoring – Turning Bystanders into Members*, and *The Masonic Cooperative Education Program*. The Education Committee will have the presentations available to post on the Valley web site. Every brother should read them as they provide a wealth of very timely and useful information which we all can use, not only in supporting our Valley, but in building Masonry in our Blue Lodges.

The business meeting of the Conference was held on Saturday and included a Necrology Service in remembrance of the brethren who laid down their working tools over the past year; reports on the Valley activities by the Valley VPs; remarks by the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, MW William Earl Rorer, Jr., KCCH; remarks by the SGIG, Ill. James Dean Cole, 33°; and the election and installation of officers.

The next biennial Session of the Supreme Council will be held August, 20-22, 2011, at the Washington Hilton. The Valley VP from Richmond, Brother David Amstutz, KCCH, challenged the Alexandria Valley to see which Valley would have the greater number of Brethren completing the Master Craftsman Courses.

Following the Conference Session, the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Rite Foundation was held. The President gave a report on the work of the Foundation and its financial status.

Following the reports, Board Members were elected and then sworn in by Ill. Cole. Ill. Dave Morris, 33°, was reelected for another term as the Board Member for the Valley of Alexandria.

*Continued on page 5*

## From the Secretary's Desk

### DUES TIME INFORMATION

You should have received your dues notice by now. If you are current with your dues, your 2011 card is included. If you still owe dues from previous years, please send in your past years along with your 2011 payment, and your new card will be sent to you.

Some members will receive a dues notice with a "Zero Balance". These are sent to you for several reasons. First, that you know no payment is due. Secondly you can add or change any of your information on file with the Valley, and lastly, it gives you an easy way to support your favorite charity or cause, within the Scottish Rite. If your information is correct and you don't care to contribute to our charities at this time, there is no need to return the notice.

### SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND ACT ON

Remember our charities, when you are paying your dues; as that is one of our duties as Scottish Rite Masons. "Charity My Brother, Which Is Faith And Hope In Action".

We want to improve our bi-monthly dinners. Please give us your thoughts, on how to improve them, types of dinners, food, is the cost fair?

Remember we are trying to update our dining room and need your help in buying the large round tables, which will cost about \$250.00 each.

**David C. Morris, 33°**

## Master Craftsman Program

### Is it just Masonic Education?

Why did you join Masonry? Did you see a movie or read a book that peaked your interest? Did you notice men wearing Masonic rings and admired the relationships they had with the people they were interacting with? Do you have a family member who is a Mason? Whatever the reason, we all joined to make ourselves better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better friends.

The Master Craftsman Program was created by the Supreme Council because a majority of Masons just like you wanted more; they wanted more Masonic education. This program is a great opportunity for all of us to take advantage of the research and dedication to the Craft and the Rite that led to its creation. It is a way to study at your own pace, read about the degrees and symbolism of the Scottish Rite, and to answer questions about things you didn't even know you had questions about. It's very rewarding because it makes you think, explore, and wonder – and maybe even come to your own conclusions about just what each degree really meant to YOU. We have many Brethren working on or have completed the six installments of Course 1. And some are already enrolled in Course 2.

It's easy to get started - just go to the Scottish Rite website, [www.ScottishRite.org](http://www.ScottishRite.org); go to the drop down for Scottish Rite Masons; and then select the Master Craftsman Program.

Order your program and get started today. If you have any questions, feel free to call our Valley MCP Coordinator, **Dave Smith, Jr., KCCH**, at 703-798-2320 or contact him via email at [dsmith67@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmith67@yahoo.com).



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

Secretary  
[@AlexandriaScottishRite.org](mailto:@AlexandriaScottishRite.org)



## Master Craftsman

Congratulations to the most recent members to complete the program:

**MASTER CRAFTSMAN**  
EARL R. JONES,  
KCCH

**MASTER CRAFTSMAN, II**  
ROBERT P. HUME

## Membership Committee *CALL TO ACTION*

John Pearson, KCCH, the Valley Membership Committee Chairman, is unavoidably inundated with both work and family health issues and for the foreseeable future I am going to be assisting him by serving as the acting Committee Chairman. But, in turn, each of you also need to assist him by seriously considering yourself to be an important part of the Membership Committee with the goal of replacing yourself each year.

Each of us should share the important and exciting work of the Scottish Rite and our Valley with our non-Scottish Rite Brethren. And each of us should be working in our Lodges to bring into the Valley at least one new member.

2011 is our 100th anniversary year. Our goal is to bring at least 100 new members into the Scottish Rite in our centennial year. I will tell you more about our strategy to accomplish that goal over the course of our meetings and in future Bulletins. But the core of that strategy has to be an active and aggressive recruitment effort by each and every Scottish Rite member. We really need your participation to meet and, indeed, to exceed this goal.”

**PAUL R. EVANCOE, KCCH**

*SR Conference Report Continued from page 3*

The Friday and Saturday evening Banquet programs were eliminated to allow for more fellowship in the various Hospitality Suites. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship of visiting with and seeing friends and acquaintances from other Valleys. The Alexandria Valley Hospitality Suite was a great success. Ill. Dave Morris, 33° started a new tradition of serving ice cream sundaes on Saturday night. It was a great hit and all our visitors said they were looking forward to next year and more ice cream.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all who contributed to and helped with the Hospitality Suite, especially: Ill. Ed Cohen & Gwen, Ill. Dave Morris & Linda, Brother Allen Beckner & Linda, Mike Riley, KCCH, and my bride Junelea. Brethren, please plan to attend the 2011 Conference Workshop at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple on Saturday, March 26. Alexandria always has a great turnout and it would be wonderful to have a larger turnout than the Richmond Valley on their home court..

**W. Larry Alexander, 33°**  
*Valley Vice President*

Robert G. Watkins, Jr., 33°  
to speak at  
November Meeting



Jay Patterson, KCCH, Commander of the Alexandria Council of Kadosh, has announced the speaker for the November meeting of the Council. Our own Ill. Robert G. Watkins, Jr., 33°, who served as Venerable Master of the Alexandria Lodge of Perfection last year, will favor us with a presentation titled “AASR Education: Past, Present, and a View Toward the Future” His talk is sure to illuminate our minds.

Commander Patterson will open the Council of Kadosh in the Lodge Room of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple promptly at 7:30 P.M. A pre-meeting dinner will be held in our dining room at 6:30 P.M. (Reservations need to be made at least by Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>).

Other Bodies of the Alexandria Scottish Rite meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Chapter of Rose Croix and the Lodge of Perfection.



**Robert George Watkins, Jr., 33°** was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1993 in Alexandria-Washington Lodge #22. He was appointed Sr. Steward in 2000 and then elected Jr. Deacon. Afterward he proceeded through the officer line and served as the lodge’s 148<sup>th</sup> Worshipful Master in 2007.

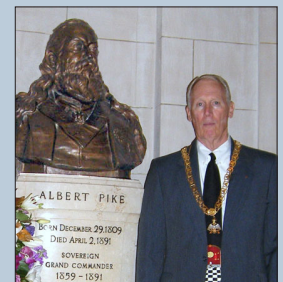
In 2001, he was a Supreme Council “At Large” Selectee to be coroneted to 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree. Based on his experience in Russia, he was appointed in 2003 as the Official Liaison Representative to the Supreme Council of Russia from the Supreme Council, 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Illustrious Watkins served as Venerable Master of the Alexandria Lodge of Perfection in 2009. Currently he is head of the Alexandria Valley Strategic Planning Committee and is Grand Tyler for the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.



Jay E. Patterson, KCCH  
*Chairman*  
*Public Relations Committee*

ChairPublicRelations  
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ScottishRite.org



Ill. Robert G.  
Watkins, Jr., 33°

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

James Deloss Hawkins, KCCH, *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 is Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°.

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

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

The mailing address is: P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313. The Office Phone is: (703) 998-9044. The Fax Number is: (703) 278-7804.

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change of address, phone number or e-mail 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°  
is Sovereign Grand Commander

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

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

ILLUSTRIOUS WALTER SCOTT DOWNS, 33°, GC  
is Secretary Emeritus

#### STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection  
Second Friday of each month  
MICHAEL A. RILEY, KCCH  
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix  
Second Friday  
January, March, May, November  
SHELDON B. RICHMAN, KCCH  
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh  
Second Friday  
January, March, May, November  
JAY E. PATTERSON, KCCH  
Commander

Alexandria Consistory  
Second Friday  
March, June, September, December  
HEBER C. WILLIS, III  
Master of Kadosh

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## SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

### *Important Anniversary in November*

The Blue Ridge Scottish Rite Club will celebrate its **20th** anniversary on Monday, November 15, at the lodge in Culpeper, beginning at 6:30. This Club has a smaller membership than its sister Club in the Shenandoah Valley, but the significance of the anniversary event stands out as one of great interest, happiness, and support.

We would especially like all members of the Club to plan to attend this anniversary dinner and program, and bring your wives or special friends. The same invitation is extended to **all** brethren and their ladies. Attendance by a sizeable group from the Alexandria area would certainly display our support of the Club and appreciation for its efforts to promote Scottish Rite in the more distant areas from our Temple.

We do need to know in advance the number of people who will attend. Club members please call President Charlie Seaford at 540-636-2271; Alexandria area brethren, call Walter Downs, 703-768-7903, or e-mail to [walterdowns@verizon.net](mailto:walterdowns@verizon.net). Deadline date is Friday, November 12.

The Shenandoah Valley Club will not meet in November and December to avoid conflicts with the holidays in those months.

## Dates to Remember

### NOVEMBER 2010

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M.  
Pre-Meeting Dinner  
(reservations required by Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>)  
Lodge of Perfection & Consistory  
Meetings – 7:30 P.M.



Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M.  
Blue Ridge Club  
Meeting in Culpeper  
(reservations required by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>)



Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>  
Feast of Tishri  
Reception – 5:30 P.M.  
Banquet in Dining Hall – 6:00 P.M.  
(reservations required by Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>)

### DECEMBER 2010

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M.  
Pre-Meeting Dinner  
(reservations required by Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>)  
Lodge of Perfection & Consistory  
(election of officers) – 7:30 P.M.



Sunday, December 12 – 6:00 P.M.  
Family Christmas Party  
(Gift exchange with Santa.  
Refreshments to follow.)

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in full color at  
[www.AlexandriaScottishRite.org](http://www.AlexandriaScottishRite.org)

Also on the web:  
Orient of Virginia newsletter at  
<http://yibm.com/TheVirginiaLight/>