



JUNE - JULY - AUGUST 2009

DUES INCREASE DEEMED NECESSARY

At the May meeting, the Budget Committee reported on its review of our financial status including income from all sources, known and projected disbursements, and budget projections. Our yearly deficits of about \$15,000 to \$24,000 have been funded by about 20% of the earnings from the Trustees' investments. In 2008 however, the deficit exceeded \$24,000 while the investment earnings were significantly reduced because of value losses in the volatile investment world. The outlook for 2009 is even more severe.

Since our last dues increase was in 2004, and because of the current conditions just cited, the Budget Committee proposed a \$10 dues increase beginning with the 2009 dues year. This increase would reduce the deficit to about \$11,000, and retain more of the Trustee's lowered earnings.

This will be acted on at the June 12 meeting.

DAVID C. MORRIS, KCCH
Chairman

VISIT TO SUMMER JMU CLINIC ON JUNE 24

Members and friends will want to consider participating in the annual visit to the Scottish Rite Summer Language Clinic held at James Madison University. This is a chance to see first hand the work done with children with language communication problems.

The program is held in the Health

LIFE MEMBERS EXEMPT FROM DUES INCREASES

There never has been a better time to consider Life Membership. Pay one fee now and you will not have to pay dues the rest of your life. And, consider this: you will be exempt from all future dues increases.

Life memberships are good for the Scottish Rite as well as for you. Life Memberships help reduce the loss of members by demits or suspensions.

For the rest of this year, until dues go up, members under age 75, can purchase Life Membership for \$935; those 75 and above, \$625. Too big a hit all at once? Speak with the Secretary about spreading the payments over several months.



Sciences Building on campus. It begins at 10 AM and includes a very nice lunch hosted by the University. For driving directions to the Clinic, see page 5 of this issue.

If you would like to go, **please let the Secretary know by the evening of our June 12 meeting.**

THE BULLETIN

of the

SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

James D. Hawkins, KCCH, Bulletin Coordinator

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 Walter S. Downs, 33°, G.C. Address: P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313 Office Phone: (703) 998-9044.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change of address. This is very important in order that you may receive The Scottish Rite Journal and other publications and correspondence without delay.

ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia, acknowledge and yield allegiance to The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon, of the thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is in Charleston, in the State of South Carolina.

of which

ILLUSTRIOUS RONALD A. SEALE, 33°
is Sovereign Grand Commander

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

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month

ROBERT G. WATKINS, JR., 33°
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday,

January, March, May, November

JAMES D. HAWKINS, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday,

January, March, May, November

WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday,

March, June, September, December

JOHN W. PEARSON, KCCH
Master of Kadosh

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.

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE



The activity of the 2009 Spring Reunion is now history. And before us we see the opportunity for some leisure time and the pleasure of contemplation and study of the AASR degrees and their philosophical teachings. But for new Scottish Rite Masons (and even for old, experienced ones) the question immediately arises about where to begin and how to proceed. Given the voluminous materials associated with degrees of the Scottish Rite (Albert Pike's *Magnum Opus* and *Morals and Dogma* alone among his writings comprise over 1,700 pages) how does one devise and begin a program of personal study that will be both enjoyable and easily manageable.

In this regard, I can only offer some thoughts based on personal experience. First of all, don't attempt to study the entire body of ASSR materials all at one time. Instead, pick one degree (or a small number) and concentrate on them first. With time you can proceed to others. I recommended the SQ3R study methodology. Many of you may remember, that last year (after four consecutive computer/projector failures) I made a presentation on how to study a Scottish Rite Degree. I used the 24th Degree as an example. It was about a 30-page PowerPoint presentation with pictures and graphics. Thus, we don't have space to get it in the Bulletin. However, if there is

sufficient interest, I will try to prevail upon Ill. Jack Canard to help me find a way to make a “cut down” version available over our Alexandria AASR Internet Page.

I also suggest that any study of the Scottish Rite Degrees should have a structure and frame of reference. Joining the Master Craftsman Correspondence Program (MCCP) is an excellent way to accomplish that objective. Participation in the MCCP will allow one to quickly increase his knowledge of the Scottish Rite and its philosophy. It is an ideal approach for individual study or group study at the Valley level. For more information connect to www.scottishrite.org/mastercraftsman.html

For those interested in Masonic scholarship and research, I recommend joining the Scottish Rite Research Society. Members receive copies of *Heredom*, the annual transaction, and *The Plumblin* which is the Society’s quarterly newsletter plus an annual bonus book. For information go to www.scottishrite.org for the Society’s website. I always enjoy attending the Society’s meetings at the Biennial Sessions of the Supreme Council and the excitement surrounding those events and am looking forward to this year’s Session. And as a final thought for this Bulletin, I strongly urge each of you in the Alexandria Valley to carefully read *The Scottish Rite Journal* which you receive as part of your membership. I invariably read it from start (*The Grand Commander’s Message*) to finish (*Book Reviews*) by Ill. Jim Tresner, 33°, G.C.

ROBERT G. WATKINS, JR., 33°

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

Schedule of Meetings

Friday, June 12 – 6:30 PM
Teacher of the Year Dinner/Program
Consistory & Lodge of Perfection
Meetings to follow

Friday, July 10 – 6:30 PM
Pre-Meeting Dinner
(Reservations Required)
7:30 PM – *Lodge of Perfection*

Friday, August 14 – 7:30 PM
Lodge of Perfection

Special Events

Tuesday, June 23 – 8PM
Little Theatre of Alexandria

Wednesday, June 24 – 10 AM
Visit to Scottish Rite Clinic at JMU

An important duty of a Secretary is to carefully monitor the dues status of all members. As of early May, we had 216 members who had not yet paid 2009 dues. In addition, another 85 had not only not paid 2009 dues, but also not paid 2008 dues! Now is a good time – before the next year’s dues statements are prepared – to bring your dues up to date. Although you might have a 2009 card, it may not mean that the dues have been paid – because the card was included with the dues notice. If you’re not sure, please check with me.

WALTER S. DOWNS, 33° GC

*Personal Representative
of the SGIG in Virginia and
Secretary of all Four Bodies*

MEMBERSHIP

We have just completed a successful Spring Reunion with 30 members receiving the degrees. Thirteen of them were at our May meeting. It is encouraging to see their eagerness to become involved. It was a pleasure to see so many of our brothers taking an interest in the degree work by being a part of the audience.

As recently reported, the Alexandria Valley led all others in Virginia in new membership during 2008. In doing so, we have set a high standard to maintain. We must put forth an extra effort to remain in this position. Of course, the way to accomplish this is to bring in petitions. I especially encourage the members of the Spring Class to join in this endeavor as they too are now part of

our membership team. Let's not forget as we vacation and enjoy the summer months to find ways to encourage others to become part of our Valley.

In the months ahead, we need to concentrate on new petitions for our Fall Class. Perhaps some of our new members will know of others desiring to become Scottish Rite Masons. Have petitions ready for new prospects.

Once again, working with each of you to increase our membership is my primary goal. Remember, every Scottish Rite Mason is a member of our membership team.

Have a nice summer, but please help us to have a large Class in October.

THOMAS A. REESE, KCCH
Chairman

SUPREME COUNCIL TO AWARD HONORS

At each Biennial Session of the Supreme Council (on odd numbered years) many brethren throughout the Southern Jurisdiction are elected to receive the KCCH and 33rd Degree honors. These are based on personal efforts and contributions by individuals that add to the effectiveness of the Scottish Rite. The number of 33rds is approximately 3 to every 10 KCCHs.

The Statutes of the Supreme Council prescribe the basis for allocating numbers to each Orient, and the SGIG distributes a number of each to the Valleys according to numerous factors.

In our Valley, the 33^o members meet to consider and collectively recommend to the SGIG those that he might consider most deserving to be **his nominations** to the Supreme Council. In both of these steps, there is *no commitment*; only the

Supreme Council chooses the selectees.

We should bear in mind that dedication to the Scottish Rite should be aimed at self-satisfying participation and enjoyment, and if an honor should be bestowed, then it would become a double personal reward. As provided for in the Statutes, any member directly or indirectly asking for an honor will be denied any future consideration.

This year's Biennial Session will be held (in Washington) on October 5 and 6. The Honors selections will be announced at mid-day on the 5th. We will eagerly look forward to learning of the Alexandria honorees, and to offer them our congratulations and best wishes for their further service to the Scottish Rite.

SPRING WORKSHOP

This annual event of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia was held on Saturday, March 28, at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple. William P. Burke, Jr., KCCH, President, opened the Workshop at 9:30 A.M. The Alexandria Valley had a good turnout of about 18 brethren, slightly fewer than last year

Most Worshipful Jeffery E. Hodges, KCCH, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, gave an inspiring presentation on “rising above the opposition.” A report on the status of the Scottish Rite Foundation was rendered by its President, Ill. Leonard A. Rowe.

Two other very informative presentations were made by: Ill. William B. Brunk, PGM and SGIG in North Carolina, on “Public Information Releases,” and by Sean D. Graystone, 33°, GC, Chief Building Engineer at the House of the Temple, on the history, features of the building, and future restoration plans.

To close the session prior to lunch, SGIG James D. Cole emphasized the importance of officer training and increased attendance at reunions.

LARRY ALEXANDER, KCCH
Vice President for Alexandria

View "The Virginia Light", the electronic Scottish Rite publication, at

www.acacia16.org/thevirginialight



DIRECTIONS TO JMU HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES BUILDING AND PARKING LOT

- √ South on I-81 to Harrisonburg
- √ take Rt 33 EAST turnoff.
- √ At 2nd traffic light – UNIVERSITY BLVD – turn right, and
- √ continue straight until you see signs for entrance to JMU;
- √ turn right onto CARRIER DRIVE. Follow CARRIER DRIVE around until you come to the last parking lot on your right, and
- √ turn right into lot **D-2**. An attendant at the lot entrance will issue a parking pass.
- √ Walk across the street to HHS Building.

2009 SPRING CLASS MEMBERS

Rings, caps, etc. should be available for pick-up at our July 10 meeting.



JUNE 23 – SCOTTISH RITE NIGHT AT THE ALEXANDRIA LITTLE THEATRE

We will “own the house” and its 213 seats that night for the presentation of *It Runs in the Family* – a comedy that will keep the audience amused throughout.

Tickets at \$15 each have been selling well during April and up to the middle of May (when this was written). If you have missed the previous notices about this night of entertainment and would like to attend, call the Secretary (703-998-

9044). Hopefully, there will be some tickets left.



Avoid parking in the old town area by coming to the Scottish Rite parking lot. Chartered buses, beginning at about 6:20, will take attendees to the theatre, and return them to the Scottish Rite after the play.

NEW OFFICERS TO SERVE ALL FOUR BODIES

Following the recent deaths of Ill. David A. Balcom, 33° and Brian W. Galusha, replacement appointments have been made by the Venerable Master as follows:

Ill. Norman A. Mayo, 33° to fill the remaining term of the elective office of ALMONER.

Richard E. Saunders, to assume the appointive office of PRELATE.

We wish these two brethren well as they begin these added services on behalf of the Valley



NEW 50-YEAR MEMBERS

The “ravages of time” have dwindled down the number of brethren who were in the large Spring Class of 1959. (Our late Brother David A. Balcom was a member of that Class.) At our July meeting, we will recognize and honor the following two members who have reached this milestone of 50 years of Scottish Rite Membership:

HERMAN F. RIGGINS

DONALD C. STRATTON



BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTORS

The purpose of this Fund is to provide a resource to defray building improvements and major maintenance needs. In recent years, as the building has aged, we have seen the great value of this Fund in caring for this facility.

Our members have generously contributed to it although contributions to it are not tax deductible. We accord special recognition to those who contribute \$100 or more by placing their names on a plaque in the main lobby.

Contributions received since our May Bulletin were made by:

AUBEY A. DELLINGER, JR., 33°
AND
ANONYMOUS

FALL REUNION 2009

October 17 and 24

In Memory of

FRANCIS O. SOMERVILLE, KCCH

WILLIAM H. CONSLA, KCCH

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE CLUBS

At the May meetings of our two Clubs, a nominating committee recommended a slate of officers for the year ahead. In June, these and any other nominees will be considered prior to the final election. Those elected will be installed that same night.

Since this will represent a renewed start for each Club, we would like many of our Alexandria area brethren to attend as an indication of our support for each Club. Meeting dates and locations for the next three months are:

BLUE RIDGE Monday, June 15 at The Plains, 6:30 Dinner;
Monday, July 20 at Culpeper, 6:30 Dinner;
Monday, August 17 at The Plains, 6:30 Dinner.

SHENANDOAH Wednesday, June 24 at Woodstock, 6:30 Dinner.
Wednesday, July 22 at Front Royal, 6:30 Dinner
Wednesday, August 26 at Woodstock, 6:30 Dinner

Please let the Secretary know by the Friday before each meeting you would like to attend. Car pools from the Temple at 4 PM, or if you want to go direct, directions are also available.

PRE-MEETING DINNER ON JULY 10



This every-other-month arrangement will take place before our meeting in July. Reservations are necessary and must be made by Monday, July 6. The \$6 charge may be paid in advance or at the dining room door before dinner.

We guarantee the ladies a number of meals to be prepared, and pay them accordingly. Our guarantee is based on the number of reservations made; so a reservation made but not used is still to be paid. If a reservation is NOT made, don't plan on coming to eat!

PROGRAM HONORING BLUE LODGES – AUGUST 22

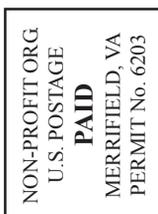


On that date, brethren from 43 lodges will come together at the Scottish Rite Temple as we dedicate this day to Blue Lodge Masonry. One of the lodges will serve as *Host Lodge*, and a candidate of that lodge will have the Master Mason's degree conferred on him by Scottish Rite brethren who are proficient in the work. The 2nd Section cast will wear appropriate costumes.

A no-cost dinner will be provided by our Valley, but a ticket for dinner will be required. All dinner tickets have been distributed to the Blue Lodges for their members.

The schedule for the day is: 5 PM – open lodge and confer 1st Section; 6PM – dinner; 7 PM – resume labor and confer 2nd Section; close at about 8:30.

III. George Allison is in the process of forming the degree cast. If you would like to participate, give him a call at 301-227-7041.



ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
Post Office Box 175
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-0175

Return Service Requested