



---

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

---

## **THE BUILDING FUND**

### *A Valuable Resource*

This Fund was established several years ago to provide a financial capability to meet unanticipated, major maintenance needs and to allow for facility improvements. As the building has aged (now 39 years old), the Fund has fulfilled its purpose many times. The most recent major expense met was the re-roofing of the main roof at a cost of \$194,000.

The Fund has been built entirely by individual contributions and the earnings received from its investments by the Trustees. We greatly appreciate all contributions regardless of the amount. We do give added recognition to those who contribute at least \$100 by placing their names on a wall plaque in the main lobby. The following brethren have made such contributions along with their recent dues payments. They are both first time and repeat contributors:

MICHAEL R. AULICINO,  
ROBERT J. CAMPBELL,  
JOHN D. JENKINS,  
DAVID A. LANE,  
MAC H. MORRIS,  
JOHN A. ROSS,  
WALTER L. RUMSEY,  
JAMES R. SCOTT,  
DAVID H. SMITH, SR.,  
GEORGE A. SOZIO.

## **“MASTER CRAFTSMAN” EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Since we last reported that Norman A. Kuehni and Raymond D. Steele had successfully completed this course, the “graduation” number has greatly increased. It includes:

GENEROSO D. CALONGE,  
KENT A. D. CLARK,  
THOMAS J. DAME,  
E. BRUCE HOLLEY,  
JOHN D. JENKINS,  
O. MCNEIL MARPLE,  
ROGER W. PEAK,  
JOEL D. RATLIFF, SR.,  
HARRY P. SHAFFER, JR.,  
TERRY SHAFFER,  
DAVID H. SMITH, SR.,  
MATTHEW S. URBANIC, AND  
GREGORY M. VALKER.

The course, which is administered by the Supreme Council, provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite during one’s leisure time. It is self-taught with the use of two text books obtainable from the Supreme Council.

We encourage all brethren to participate in this very informal and informative approach to expanding one’s Masonic knowledge. You’ll enjoy the experience! For more information, call (202) 232-3579 or view the AASR website at [www.scottishrite.org](http://www.scottishrite.org).

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

ILLUSTRIOUS EDMUND COHEN, 33°  
is Personal Representative  
of the S.G.I.G. in Alexandria

**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, 33°*  
Commander

**Alexandria Consistory**  
Second Friday,  
March, June, September, December  
*JOHN W. PEARSON, KCCH*  
Master of Kadosh

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE



*Venerable Master Watkins was overseas when this Bulletin was prepared.*

I am sure that all the members of the Alexandria Valley join me in welcoming the new Masters of the Royal Secret from the Fall Reunion! To the members of that class, I encourage you to become involved with the activities and opportunities that our Valley has to offer.

As with every reunion, we thank all those brethren who gave of their time and talents to confer and communicate the degrees during our Fall Reunion. To those who learned spoken parts, served in non-speaking parts, directed the action, oversaw the lighting, sound, wardrobe, stage settings and props, and in numerous other ways, on behalf of the entire Valley, I say "Thank you!"

Congratulations to our members who were honored by the Supreme Council with the 33° or with the KCCH designation! Thank you for your past work and we look forward to your future service.

Along with the congratulations to the recipients, kudos to the team led by Ill. Walter S. Downs, 33°, G.C. which conferred the 33° during the

recent Supreme Council session in Washington. Ill. Downs served as the Sovereign Grand Commander and presided in an exemplary manner. Also, another team from Alexandria, led by Ill. William L. Alexander, 33°, conducted a very impressive KCCH Investiture for Virginia's honorees in Richmond on October 31. My personal thanks to the members of both these outstanding teams for taking on and presenting these ceremonies with such distinction; it makes me proud to be a member of the Alexandria Bodies.

The Venerable Master would want me to encourage your attendance at the Feast of Tishri program on November 21. The program promises to be very special this year. Ill. Sean Graystone, 33°, G.C., Chief Building Engineer at the House of the Temple, will be the guest speaker. There will be a time of fellowship with a reception prior to dinner in the dining room. Please send in your reservation slip (September Bulletin) or call the Secretary by November 16.

Brethren, as we enter into the Holiday Season, let each of us remember our Masonic vows of helping those less fortunate. I wish you all Happy Holidays.

**STEVE HICKS, 33°**  
*Senior Warden*

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**  
**Schedule of Meetings**

*Friday, November 13 – 6:30 PM*  
Dinner  
(Reservations Required)

Council, Chapter & Lodge of  
Perfection – 7:30 PM

*Friday, December 11 – 7:30 PM*  
Consistory & Lodge of Perfection

Although the calendar year ends on December 31, our Scottish Rite year extends to the first meeting in January when new officers are elected and subsequently installed.

The year 2009 has had mixed results. We began the year with 2,017 members and added 30 in the Spring Reunion and planned to add 20 in the Fall Reunion. A few were reinstated or affiliated, but a few demitted. We project about 65 deaths by year's end, and some will be suspended on December 31. So, we should start the new year with about a little under 2,000.

The spirit and enthusiasm of our brethren continue to show great fraternalism, participation, and accomplishment – all to the betterment of the Alexandria Valley. As Secretary, I have been well aware of such character in our brethren, and I can predict more of the same in the year ahead.

**WALTER S. DOWNS, 33° GC**  
*Secretary of all Four Bodies*

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Since the 2010 dues notices were delivered in September, several brethren have decided not to pay the 2010 dues, but, instead, to purchase Life Membership and avoid paying **any** dues hereafter.

If a purchase is made before the end of December, the fee will be \$935 (\$625 if 75 or older). BUT, if you wait until after January 1, 2010, you will have to pay \$65 for 2010 dues and \$1,105 (\$737 for 75 and up) for the Life Membership.

**Now is the time to act!**

## ELECTIONS

### AND INSTALLATION

On December 11, the Consistory will elect officers for the year 2010. The other three Bodies will not have elections until the January 8, 2010 meetings. All newly elected/appointed officers will be installed at an open installation on Saturday, January 16, at 7:30 PM in the auditorium.

---

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

[www.acacia16.org/thevirginialight](http://www.acacia16.org/thevirginialight)

## SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTS HONOR MEN

When The Supreme Council held its 2009 Biennial Session in October, it elected brethren throughout the Southern Jurisdiction to receive the honors of Thirty-third Degree Inspector General Honorary (white cap) and Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (red cap).

Alexandria was honored to have five become 33° members, and eleven to receive the decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. All who were so honored are listed below.

33°	KCCH	KCCH
William L. Alexander	Paul R. Evancoe	Donald G. Phillips
John Shroeder, Jr.	* Jorge I. Franchi	Sheldon B. Richman
David C. Morris	* William E. Hershey, Jr.	David H. Smith, Jr.
Douglas L. Jordan	James A. Newcomer, Jr.	David W. Weaver
* Matthew T. Szramoski	Luis Pages	Robert B. Williams
	<i>* Supreme Council "At Large" Selectee</i>	Ralph T. Woodrow

The Thirty-thirds were coroneted in Washington on October 6 along with some 150 from other Orients. The degree was conferred by an expert degree team of Alexandria brethren headed by Ill. Walter S. Downs, 33°, G.C. The investiture of Virginia's KCCHs took place in Richmond on October 31. The ceremony was performed by an outstanding Alexandria cast led by Ill. William L. Alexander, 33°.

# MESSAGE FROM ED COHEN, 33°

*Personal Representative of the SGIG*

Ill. Walter Scott Downs has been the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) in the Valley of Alexandria for longer than most of us have been in the Scottish Rite. His hard work, ritual excellence, dedication, and skill are well known, and he has been responsible for the many successes of the Alexandria Scottish Rite. So, as I begin my tenure as Personal Representative I have a lot to learn and very big shoes to fill.

When our SGIG Jim Cole appointed me, in addition to the normal duties of a Personal Representative, he very specifically charged me to enhance the Valley's website; and to establish a strategic plan for the Valley by appointing a committee and seeking appropriate input from the membership.

In this my first message, I want to report to you on the initial steps that I have taken with respect to both of these matters.

With regard to the website, we have, with the assistance of Brother William Baumbach, obtained the domain names: AlexandriaScottishRite.org and Alexandria Scottish Rite.com. This ensures that no external party can use our name and put material that we would find objectionable on these sites.

Ill. Jack Canard has transferred the material he had hosted for us on his site to our new website. I asked him and Brother Baumbach to critically examine the design of the website and with the help of Brother Dave Horton we will be making improvements.

I also have appointed Sheldon Richman, KCCH to be the Content Manager for our website. He is reviewing the material currently available and will pro-

vide me with his recommendations both as to the suitability of what is currently posted and what additional material we should add. In addition, he will take responsibility for ensuring that what is on our website is up-to-date, informative, useful, and projects the proper image of the Rite.

With respect to the strategic plan, I have appointed Ill. Robert Watkins to chair a new strategic planning committee: Brothers Ben Browning and Richard Saunders, Paul Evancoe, KCCH, and Ill. Brothers Norm Hoff, David H. Smith; and Matt Szramoski.

We are looking at how to best achieve Seven Goals:

1. Increase membership and improve member retention;
2. Organize to provide the framework for effective leadership;
3. Improve programs and meetings;
4. Provide additional Masonic knowledge & training;
5. Build a positive image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite;
6. Support and expand our philanthropic activities; and,
7. Provide the framework for financial success.

*Continued on next page.*



*Ill. Bob Watkins (l) and Ill. Ed Cohen confer in this photo taken during the 2009 Scottish Rite Conference.*

Continued from previous page.

## MESSAGE FROM ED COHEN, 33°

We want your input as well and I am calling a few of you each week to introduce myself and avail myself of your ideas and suggestions. But you need not wait for me to call. I would love to hear from you. I can be reached at home on (703) 556-6536 or by email at [edmundcohen@verizon.net](mailto:edmundcohen@verizon.net). You also can call the members of the Committee.

Finally, I know you will want to join with me in congratulating our new 33 degree recipients and our new KCCHs. They are listed in the article on page 4.

## PRE-MEETING DINNERS

Particularly for the information of our new members, it is our practice every-other-month to hold a dinner prior to our regular monthly meeting. This provides not only delicious meals, but heightens good fellowship in a relaxed setting before going to lodge. On the *other* months, we enjoy tasty refreshments *after* the meeting.

The cost of the pre-meeting dinners is \$6 per person (the Valley pays the two ladies organizations an additional amount per person).

The next pre-meeting dinner will be on November 13. Reservations must be made by Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure that a meal will be available on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If a reservation is not kept and not previously paid, you will be expected to pay the \$6 because we will have paid for it even if it wasn't used. (Payment can also be made at the door.)

To make a reservation, call the Secretary or e-mail him at [wsgdowns@juno.com](mailto:wsgdowns@juno.com).

## FEAST OF TISHRI

A full description of this program, along with an attendance reservation slip, was published in the September Bulletin. Briefly, the Feast of Tishri celebrates the dedication of King Solomon's Temple while also observing a Masonic Feast of Thanksgiving.

It will be held on Saturday, November 21, at the Scottish Rite Temple, beginning at 6:30 PM. Ill. Sean D. Graystone, 33°, Grand Cross, from the Supreme Council will provide the explanation and description of the meaning of this program. All present will share in the "harvest of the season." The cost is \$9 per person.

Venerable Master Watkins is also planning to add music and hors d'oeuvres prior to the program.

Please call the Secretary (703-998-9044) before November 16 if you, your wife, and others would like to attend this special event.



Ill. Steve Hicks, 33° presents a contribution to the Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation on behalf of the Blue Ridge Scottish Rite Club. Ill. Jim Cole, 33° (r) received the check on behalf of the Foundation.

## SCOTISH RITE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2009 Conference was held in Virginia Beach on September 25-26. Alexandria was well represented by 19 brethren and 13 of their ladies.

The education sessions on Friday afternoon, covered “Strategic Planning in the Valleys” and an update on the “Scottish Rite Fellows Program,” and how it might be utilized in the future.

A high point of the conference was the Friday Banquet speaker, a former student at the Richmond Childhood Language Center. His presentation was a very personal example of the wonderful work done by the center and, by extension, the work we can expect from the students who receive our scholarships and grants.

The Saturday session included the Necrology Ceremony honoring those the Rite lost over the past year throughout the Orient. After comments by the SGIG and Grand Master, officers for 2010 were elected and installed. The new Conference President is Ill Steven Arthur Moss, 33°, of the Valley of Danville. Next year’s Conference will be held in Lynchburg on September 24-25, 2010.

Immediately following the business session of the Conference, the Scottish Rite Foundation met. The Foundation president reported on the financial state of the foundation. Elections were held, the officers for the coming year were installed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Special and personal thanks to Bruce and Dottie Holley for their efforts in orchestrating the Hospitality Suite.

Additional thanks to Ernestine Jenkins, my bride Junelea and Ill Dave Morris for their work on and in the Hospitality Suite. Their hard work and coordination to share both the suite and responsibilities with the Portsmouth Valley provided excellent food and drink and a relaxing place for relaxation and fellowship.

**WM. LARRY ALEXANDER, 33°**  
*Valley Vice President*



*Ill. Larry Alexander represented our Valley at the Scottish Rite Conference. Shown on the right is Bob Carpenter, 33°. Secretary of the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies.*



*Ill. Dave Morris and Bro. E. Bruce Holley, KCCH are shown in the Alexandria Valley Hospitality Room at the Scottish Rite Conference.*

Another good year

## SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

In 2009 the Shenandoah Valley Club completed its 30<sup>th</sup> year since it began. Its monthly dinner/meetings ended for the year in October; since the club meets on the third Wednesday, that time in November and December conflicts with the holidays. The club will resume in January at the lodge in Front Royal.

The Blue Ridge Club will hold its final meeting of 2009 at Culpeper on Monday, November 16, to observe its 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary. President Charlie Seaford invites as many of the Alexandria brethren and wives as can possibly do so, to attend this special event. Dinner will begin at 6:30, with the commemorative meeting to follow. Please let the Secretary know by Friday the 13th if you would like to attend in support of the club.



# Happy Holidays

*Happy Thanksgiving*

*Happy Hanukkah*

*Merry Christmas*

### ALL 2009 MEMBERS *PLEASE NOTE*

Rings, caps, cases, and patents for the Fall Class should be available for pick-up at the December 11 meeting. A few Spring Class members have yet to get their items. They are available at the office between 10 and 4 on weekdays.

## HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE CLOSED ON WEEKENDS

Our annual group visit to the Supreme Council on a Saturday in December WILL NOT TAKE PLACE in 2009.

In order to save on the use of energy, while also reducing costs, the Supreme Council earlier this year adopted a workweek of extended hours over only four days, and a complete close down on Friday and Saturday.

The building, which is located at 1733 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, is open to visitors Monday through Thursday. If you have an opportunity, make a visit there. You will find it very interesting and informative.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
PERMIT No. 6203

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

Return Service Requested