



**Procedures Manual for the  
Valley of Alexandria of the  
Orient of Virginia of the  
Supreme Council for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree  
of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite  
of Freemasonry, S.J., USA**

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## **The Purpose of This Manual**

As a member of the Alexandria Valley of the Orient of Virginia of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. (AASR-SJ), you are part of a large and dynamic organization of actively engaged Brother Masons. You and your Brothers are participating in a great number of charitable, educational, and fraternal pursuits, each of us to a greater or lesser degree, usually depending on our individual awareness and understanding of these activities.

This Alexandria Valley Procedures Manual seeks to organize relevant information about these activities with the objective of providing a quick-reference document to which you might look for answers to your questions about them and about how you might involve yourself to a larger degree. Where possible, links are provided to online source material.

We anticipate that this Manual will be maintained as what is often referred to as a living document, in that it will be updated periodically as the current Valley organization and its activities evolve. Your feedback comments and recommendations are particularly useful in making this Manual more helpful.

Although the Manual covers a lot of material, it is not intended to be the ultimate resource on every aspect of the Scottish Rite. There are many excellent source documents prepared by the Supreme Council as well as by many noted Masonic scholars – which this Manual will attempt to identify and to which it does refer as appropriate. You also will find it especially helpful to pursue the Master Craftsman Program materials to further your Scottish Rite education in a well-organized and fully supported study program.



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# **SECTION I - INTRODUCTION**





## 1. THE MANUAL AND ITS PURPOSE

This manual is not intended to replace the many excellent sources of information about and instruction in the procedures of the Scottish Rite, but, rather, it is hoped that it will provide an initial guide and continuing helpful reference to where one might find additional information of use and support to the Soldier of the Light. This guide should be viewed as a quick reference document – used primarily by the new Master of the Royal Secret, but also by the rest of us who need, from time to time, either a quick reminder of some particular detail that might have faded from our memory, or some current update on one of the many changing facets of our organization or of the current status of some of our major programs and activities.

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley Procedures Manual will focus on three primary areas of interest to our members: (1) it will be kept current with regard to our present officer and committee structure, and membership and will reflect the current organizational goals, objectives and programs; (2) it will serve as a guide to both old and new members in search of information on Valley protocol, procedures, and practices; and, finally, (3) it will provide quick reference material to aid in understanding and assisting in the many Scottish Rite programs, philosophies and philanthropies that define our Fraternity.

## 2. ORGANIZATION OF MATERIALS

This Manual is partitioned into six major parts, including this introduction.

Section I is this Introduction and Overview.

Section II focuses on the Organizational Structure of our Valley, including its Bodies, officers, and committees; but, in order to provide the necessary context, it briefly describes the organization and structure of the governing body – the Supreme Council – and the Orient of Virginia.

Section III describes the various regulations that govern both our Supreme Council and it's Subordinate Valleys. It will also address the Bylaws of our own Alexandria Valley.

Section IV describes the specific programs and activities of our Valley and the opportunities for you to participate in them. This section hopes to provide appropriate and sufficient information on the various “jobs” that need your involvement and support, that you will not only be able to identify where your talents might best fit, but that you will know how to make known your willingness to get involved and how best to become a key contributor to the success of the Valley.

Section V provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Scottish Rite.

Section VI provides a final, catchall repository for a large amount of data arranged in alphabetical order for easy reference. This section will probably become, after becoming familiar with the less dynamic information in the earlier sections, the most often used part of the Manual, since this section will provide the day –to–day working details of each of the Valley programs and activities, and will be the section most often revised to ensure it remains current as the Valley calendar evolves.

## 3. MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE

The Manual will be revised as new areas of interest are engaged by the Valley and will be updated periodically as required to reflect current organizational structure, plans and programs.



## **SECTION II - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES**



## 1. ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, S.J., U.S.A.

Our Scottish Rite is governed by “The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commanders of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.” The Supreme Council is led by the Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC), Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°. The SGC also has the title of Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) at Large.

- Officially, the See of the Supreme Council is in Charleston SC, but its executive offices are located in the House of the Temple in Washington DC (Statutes, Art. XIX). The “See” is the seat or center of authority; most often used as an ecclesiastical term but we continue to refer to our original 1801 site in Charleston as the See of the Supreme Council in tribute to our origins. SGC Albert Pike relocated the Supreme Council offices to Washington, D.C., in 1870.
- There are 33 Active Members (SGC & SGIG’s) of the Supreme Council. The heads of those jurisdictions who are not Active Members are called Deputies of the Supreme Council.
- The Southern Jurisdiction includes 35 US States and the District of Columbia (all but the 15 States given over to the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction – those North of Mason Dixon line and East of Mississippi River).
- It also includes those countries where it has established Bodies of the Rite, and over which countries no regular Supreme Council has acquired jurisdiction (e.g., Japan & Korea, Okinawa and Guam, Panama Canal, Puerto Rico, and Taiwan and China).

## 2. ORIENT OF VIRGINIA

The Orient of Virginia is subordinate to the Supreme Council and is led by the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Virginia, Ill & MW James D. Cole 33°. Ill. Cole is an Active member of the Supreme Council and is also its Lieutenant Grand Commander.

- There are eight Valleys in Virginia (located at Alexandria, Danville, Lynchburg, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Roanoke).
- The SGIG has the power to disapprove the selection of, or to remove, any officer of a Subordinate Body in his Orient, or of a related corporation. (Statutes, Art. IV §17 [2].)
- The SGIG possesses, and exercises the prerogatives equivalent to a Grand Master of Masons, and may perform all such acts as he may deem in the interests of his Orient that are not prohibited by the Constitutions or the Statutes.
  - May grant dispensations waiving the provisions of the Statutes of the Supreme Council or the bylaws of Subordinate Bodies within his Orient governing the time of presenting petitions of candidates, and balloting on them, the time for conferring Degrees, the time and place of meetings and other transactions of routine business.
  - Can consent to the suspension of bylaws whenever he believes it to be in the best interest of the Rite, and there is no statute of the Supreme Council prohibiting it. (Statutes, Art. IV §§17 & 24.)

- Can confer/communicate Degrees with or without charge, and without election by a Body of the Rite, upon Brethren of great merit in his Orient. (Statutes, Art. IV §25, Art. X §3.)
- May issue Letters Temporary for the establishment of Subordinate Bodies within his Orient, and these Letters continue in force until the next regular session of the Supreme Council. (Statutes, Art. IV §23.)

### 3. VALLEY OF ALEXANDRIA

#### Personal Representative

The Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria is Ill. & MW Edmund Cohen, 33°.

- As the Personal Representative, he is the Principal Officer in the Valley. He is selected by and serves at the pleasure of the SGIG in Virginia and has four primary duties/responsibilities per Art. IV §18 of the Statutes:
  - To serve as the eyes and ears of the SGIG to the end that peace and harmony is promoted and brotherly love prevails;
  - To see that customs, usages, and laws of the Supreme Council are properly observed;
  - To carry out the instructions of the SGIG; and
  - To exercise such powers as may be delegated to him in writing by the SGIG.
- The Personal Representative chairs the Alexandria Valley Executive Council. (The Council is addressed in more detail in Module 4, Operational Procedures.)
- The Personal Representative appoints the membership of the standing committees of Alexandria Valley in accordance with the Valley By-laws.

#### Coordinate Bodies

Each Valley is comprised of four Coordinate Bodies: the Lodge of Perfection; the Chapter of Rose Croix, the Council of Kadosh, and the Consistory. Their roles and responsibilities are documented in the “Final Report of Officer Job Descriptions” of 10 October 2014 posted at [www.asrva.org/publications](http://www.asrva.org/publications) and are summarized in the following.

##### (1) Lodge of Perfection

The Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection are referred to as the Ineffable Degrees and include the 4°-14°. Ineffable means something [e.g., name of God] that should not be spoken. *A Bridge to Light* explains:

- That these degrees’ “...principal purpose is the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of Deity.”
- Also that “this concept forms a metaphor for the Scottish Rite teaching that all of the essential qualities of Deity are incapable of description in language.”
- Three major topics in the Ineffable Degrees are (1) the legend of Hiram, and the concepts of (2) Deity and (3) the Lost Word.

The major functions of the Lodge of Perfection are first described in the Charges to the Venerable Master during his installation ceremony. He is told that he should:

- Uphold the laws and rules of AASR-SJ including edicts of Supreme Council

- Uphold the Constitution and Landmarks of Masonry; to include:
  - “An avowed atheist cannot lawfully be made a Mason and any higher Body which receives him is necessarily not Masonic.”
  - “Every Mason should pursue some reputable occupation; live decorously and decently; and act with honor, fidelity and generosity towards all men.”
  - “Be cautious to admit none but good men into your Lodge, receive no one who does not do his duty as a Blue Lodge Mason or is not of good character, intelligent, and respectable.
  - “Be the advocate and supporter of good government, submit peaceably to the will of the majority, when constitutionally and legally expressed; pay proper respect to the constituted authorities of your country; and endeavor to be of service to it and the society in which you live.”
  - “Charge them (Lodge Brothers) to practice out of the Lodge those duties taught in it so that they will need no other avouchment with worthy and good men than that they are Masons of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.”

Additionally, the Venerable Master should (per the Statutes, and our By-laws and policies):

- Conduct monthly stated meetings (per Article XV of the Statutes).
- Conduct all Valley business, including:
  - Act as the Fiscal Agent for Valley Bodies (Statutes Art. XV, Sec 18 and Valley By-Laws, Art. IV.).
  - Conduct Balloting on petitions or affiliations.
  - Conduct voting on Trustee recommendations for:
    - Non-Masonic use of building (two thirds vote to affirm);
    - Purchase, sale or disposal of real estate (two thirds vote to affirm); and.
  - Pass the Box of Fraternal Assistance.
- Conduct the Feast of Tishri celebration.
- Provide opening welcome and remarks at Reunions.
- Ensure the election and appointment of Officers occurs annually at stated December meeting; majority ballot is necessary to elect (Valley By-laws, Art. II, Sec. 3).
  - 2017 Elected Officers: 4 plus Almoner who is common to all four Bodies.
    - Venerable Master – Allen D. Beckner, KCCH
    - Sr. Warden – Christopher R. Chrzanowski
    - Jr. Warden – Scott C. Springer
    - Orator – Peter E. Terrill, KCCH
    - Almoner – Norman A. Mayo, 33°
  - 2017 Appointed Officers: 3 plus Prelate, Organist and Tiler who are common to all four Bodies. In Alexandria, we traditionally add the Master of Ceremonies.
    - Master of Ceremonies – Donald L. McAndrews, KCCH
    - Expert – Frank T. Anthony
    - Asst. Expert – Michael D. Taldo
    - Captain of the Host – Mark E. Coldren
    - Prelate – Richard E. Saunders, KCCH
    - Organist – Thomas G. Little, KCCH
    - Tiler – David B. Browning, KCCH



- Treasurer (and Assistant) and Secretary (and Assistant) are appointed by SGIG.
  - Secretary – David C. Morris, 33°
  - Asst. Secretary - David H. Smith, Sr., 33°
  - Treasurer – O. McNeil Marple, 33°
  - Treasurer Emeritus – Roy M. Heaster, 33°

## (2) Chapter of Rose Croix

The Degrees of the Chapter of Rose Croix are the Historical and Religious Degrees, comprised of the 15°-18°. *A Bridge to Light* explains that the degrees:

- Are “at once religious, historical, moral and philosophical.”
- Look at the Pythagorean Tetractys and the Kabbalah as sources of many Masonic symbols; Hebrew history; Christian doctrine compared with other religions; and the Bible’s Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse.

The major functions of the Chapter of Rose Croix are to:

- Conduct an annual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal (charge: “You will see to it that a meeting is held at least annually in honor of the memory of all Knights Rose Croix who have died during the year.”)
- Provide for the educational needs of the Valley (charge: “You will propagate and extend the principles and truths of the Degree of Rose Croix and remember that whatsoever is excellent is not to be obtained without labor or sorrow; that the work of Masonry cannot be done negligently or idly; and that in this work one must put forth all his strength.
  - Teach the Knights to learn something more than the mere formulas and phrases of the Degrees, persuade them to read the history and study the philosophy of Masonry; induce them to seek to learn the meanings of the symbols; show them how, among the mass of Masonic writings, to separate the diamonds from the sands and endeavor to improve them by your conduct and conversation.”)
  - To implement this, in the months when the Chapter meets, the Valley educational program will be given during the Chapter meeting.
- Charity (charge: “You will never allow your Chapter to be called from labor without taking a contribution for charitable purposes”.) We always pass the Box of Fraternal Assistance in the Lodge of Perfection – and during the months the Chapter meets, the Lodge acts as the surrogate for the Chapter.
- Conduct Scottish Rite Memorial & Funeral Services (covered in Module 4).
- Meets in February, March, July and November.
- Election and appointment of Officers occur annually at stated November meeting; majority ballot is necessary to elect (Valley By-laws, Art. II, Sec. 3).
  - 2017 Elected Officers: 4 plus Almoner who is common to all four Bodies.
    - Wise Master – Gregory M. Valker, KCCH
    - Sr. Warden – Adam C. Duncan
    - Jr. Warden – Michael T. Huff
    - Orator – Thomas E. Goolsby
  - 2017 Appointed Officers: 5 plus Prelate, Organist & Tiler who are common to all
    - Master of Ceremonies – James A. Loudermilk, II, 33°
    - Expert – Samuel L. Turner

- Asst. Expert – Jason M. Himsey
- Standard Bearer – Robert J. Worthington
- Guardian of the Temple – Mark E. Cummings
- Treasurer (and Asst) and Secretary (and Asst) are appointed by SGIG and are common to all four Bodies.

### (3) Council of Kadosh

The Degrees: of the Council of Kadosh are the Philosophical or Chivalric Degrees, comprised of the 19°-30°. *A Bridge to Light* explains that the degrees:

- Present various concepts of Deity and man's search to discover his Creator.
- Teach certain Orders of Knighthood and the lessons drawn from their history and deeds.
- Philosophical focus: dedicated to the discovery of philosophic truths and the chivalric virtues of the moral political and religious lessons taught in the preceding degrees.
- Kadosh or sometimes K-H, means holy, consecrated or dedicated.
- JBM on the past officer's jewel are the initials of Jacobus Burgundicus Moliensis, which is the Latin name of Jacques de Molay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar.

The major functions of and requirements for the Council of Kadosh are:

- The Council meets in February, April, July and November.
- Observe (Statutory 13 Jan) feast day at January Awards dinner.
- Conduct election and appointment of Officers annually at stated November meeting; majority ballot is necessary to elect (Valley By-laws, Art. II, Sec. 3).
  - 2017 Elected Officers: 5 plus Almoner who is common to all four Bodies.
    - Commander – B. Richard Laaken, KCCH
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander – Keith G. Gawrys, KCCH
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander – Gerald D. van Antwerp
    - Chancellor – Ralph L. Shepard
    - Orator – John W. Pearson, KCCH
  - 2017 Appointed Officers: 9 plus Prelate, Organist & Tiler who are common to all.
    - Master of Ceremonies – Kevin M. Homan
    - Turcopiler – Ali Rahimian
    - Draper – Rick A. Cady
    - First Deacon – John W. Mitchell, Jr.
    - Second Deacon – Luis A. Vega
    - Bearer of Beauseant – John M. Suit
    - Bearer of White Standard – Joel A. Chapman
    - Bearer of Black Standard – Glenn J. Amodeo
    - Lt. of the Guard – Andrew T. Westrum
  - Treasurer (and Assistant) and Recorder (and Asst) are appointed by SGIG and are common to all four Bodies.

### (4) Consistory

The Degrees of the Consistory are the Ceremonial and Official Degrees, comprised of the 31° and 32°. The Consistory Degrees are very different from each other in form and content.

- The 31° reveals the dynamic relationship that has existed for centuries between human law as a means of achieving justice, and divine justice as an ideal.
- The 32° reviews the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, the Chapter of Rose Croix and the Council of Kadosh.

The major functions of and requirements for the Consistory are to:

- The Consistory meets in April, August, October and December.
- Observe (Statutory 31 May) feast day at May pre-Stated Ladies Appreciation and Widows Recognition dinner.
- Preside over Teacher of the Year Program.
- Preside over opening and closing at Reunions.
- Conduct elections and appointments of Officers at stated December meeting; majority ballot is necessary to elect (Valley By-laws, Art. II, Sec. 3).
  - 2017 Elected Officers: 5 plus Prelate, Organist and Tiler who are common to all.
    - Master of Kadosh – Hector N. Mujica, KCCH
    - Prior – Peter S. Jensen. KCCH
    - Preceptor – Thonh D. Mejias
    - Chancellor – John T. G. Aakesson, KCCH
    - Minister of State – Ronald J. Leibfried
  - 2017 Appointed Officers: 4 plus Prelate, Organist & Tiler who are common to all.
    - Master of Ceremonies – Martin C. Juul
    - Expert – Ronald G. Elliott
    - Asst. Expert – Michael J. Wills
    - Captain of the Guard – David R. Wilcox
  - Treasurer (and Asst) and Registrar (and Asst) are appointed by SGIG and are common to all four Bodies.

### **Standing Committees**

The Personal Representative appoints the Chairman, and in consultation with the Chairman, the members of the standing committees of the Valley, except as provided below. The Personal Representative is an ex-officio member of these committees, and may convene any committee when necessary.

#### **(1) Audit**

The Audit Committee consists of a Chairman and at least three members. It annually engages the services of an independent certified public accountant for the purpose of auditing all books and accounts of the Valley, Board of Trustees, and Almoner. All other accounts belonging to or originating in the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies are audited internally under the direction of the Audit Committee. The Committee presents the written audit report, and such other reports made by the accountants, to the Lodge at the February Stated Meeting. The fiscal year for all funds and accounts of the Bodies is from January 1st through December 31st. For further information, contact the Chairman: Michael R. Aulicino, 33°, [michael.aulicino@gmail.com](mailto:michael.aulicino@gmail.com).

#### **(2) Budget and Finance**

The Budget and Finance Committee: identifies mid-term (3 yr.) and long term (4-8 yr.) financial goals and strategies; prepares the Valley budget for the next year; and monitors implementation

of the current year budget. It also assesses the adequacy of the Trustees funds and other funds to assist with the operating and capital budget, sets fund-raising goals, and recommends changes to dues and fees.

The Budget and Finance Committee consists of a Chairman, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer, and three members. The heads and number two officers of the four Bodies are ex-officio members of the Committee. The Chairmen of the operating committees are invited to attend Budget and Finance Committee meetings, and the Committee meetings are open to all Alexandria Scottish Rite Brethren. For further information, contact the Chairman: Sheldon B. Richman, KCCH, [vanymason@gmail.com](mailto:vanymason@gmail.com)

### **(3) Education and Americanism**

The objective of the Education & Americanism Committee is to develop training programs, assist the four Bodies in developing and coordinating meeting programs, and support community outreach programs in furtherance of Valley education and Americanism objectives.

The Education and Americanism Committee consists of a Chairman and 6 members. Additional Brethren may be assigned tasks as required for the execution of specific programs. The Chairman may delegate authority to other Scottish Rite Brethren for the execution of specific programs under the purview of the Education and Americanism Committee. For further information, contact the Chairman: Ill. Loyd Davis, 33°, PGM, [loyd.e.davis@gmail.com](mailto:loyd.e.davis@gmail.com)

### **(4) Library**

The objective of the Library Committee is to provide the Alexandria Scottish Rite with a first-class library that will support the Masonic Education of our members, provide resources for Masonic research, and become a focal point for Masonic discussion.

The Library Committee consists of a Chairman and 3 members. For further information, contact the Chairman: John Tillery, KCCH, [jtillery@aol.com](mailto:jtillery@aol.com)

### **(5) Member Outreach**

The objective of the Member Outreach Committee is to develop programs and provide speakers who can present these programs at the various Lodges when invited to do so by the Worshipful Master with the objective of increasing understanding of the Scottish Rite and encouraging Brethren to join the Alexandria Valley.

The Membership Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 3 members who will develop programs and provide speakers for Lodge presentations on Scottish Rite and general Masonic education. For further information, contact the Chairman: Paul R. Evancoe, 33°, [isso4wmd@aol.com](mailto:isso4wmd@aol.com)

### **(6) Membership Retention**

The objective of the Membership Retention Committee is to maintain contact with inactive members to identify particular needs and issues, and seek to get them to re-engage with the Valley.

The Member Retention Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 3 members. For further information, contact the Chairman: Philip N. Rhodes, KCCH, [pnresq@aol.com](mailto:pnresq@aol.com)

### **(7) Membership Development**

The objective of the Membership Development Committee is to encourage membership growth while retaining existing members of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. It also is to ensure that members are matched to opportunities to have responsibilities in the Valley that are consonant with their interests, skills, and available time. The Committee will accomplish these objectives through the use of Scottish Rite Representatives to the Lodges, and a combination of increased communications with, and outreach to, our Scottish Rite Valley members and to non-member Master Masons.

The Membership Development Committee shall consist of a Chairman and one member and includes as ex-officio members the Heads of the four Bodies, the Director of Work, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Personal Representative. For further information, contact the Chairman: Norman L. Hoff, 33°, [norm.hoff@verizon.net](mailto:norm.hoff@verizon.net)

### **(8) Philanthropic**

The objective of the Philanthropic Committee is to increase the awareness of the Brethren about, and their involvement in, the various Scottish Rite philanthropic activities. It also is to promote, in coordination with the Public Relations Committee, public awareness of the philanthropic work of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

The Philanthropic Committee consists of a Chairman and 8 members including a representative from each of the four Bodies. For further information, contact the Chairman: Howard Sobel, KCCH, [potentate09@gmail.com](mailto:potentate09@gmail.com) .

### **(9) Public Relations**

The objective of the Public Relations Committee is to increase awareness among the public and the Brethren of the work and value of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

The Public Relations Committee consists of a Chairman and 6 members, including a representative from each of the four bodies. For further information, contact the Chairman: Jay Patterson, KCCH, [jaypatterson@scottishrite.org](mailto:jaypatterson@scottishrite.org) .

## **Committees of the Bodies**

### **(1) Blue Lodge Visitation Program**

The Alexandria Council of Kadosh plans, has coordinated and hosted the annual Blue Lodge Visitation Program since 1973.

Each year, usually on a Saturday evening in August, the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley invites the Worshipful Masters and members of all 44 Virginia Lodges served by the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley to attend a special program event of interest to all Masons.

The event has typically included one of our constituent Blue Lodges convening a Called Communication at the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple auditorium for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason degree on one of its FellowCrafts by a degree team of Scottish Rite Brothers. The program has also included, with the approval of the Grand Masters of the District of Columbia and Virginia, an exemplification of the Scottish style Master Mason Degree in 2012, and the Scottish style Entered Apprentice degree in 2013. The Degree Teams were composed of members of La France Lodge No. 93 of the Grand Lodge of DC. Whether in York or Scottish format, the day includes a banquet meal in the dining room provided by the Alexandria Valley. The Scottish Rite venue, combined with the supporting music, lights, sound and costumes, all contribute to making the degree conferral, or exemplification memorable to all present.

The objectives of the event are twofold: first, to demonstrate and reaffirm the Scottish Rites' dedication to our Masonic Fraternity; and secondly, to bring our 44 constituent Lodges together in our Valley's facilities for a special event of particular Masonic significance and fraternal good fellowship – this is an opportunity for our non-Scottish Rite Brethren to experience the pleasure of the expanded reach and fraternal intercourse afforded by the Scottish Rite.

## (2) Feast of Tishri

Chapter 7 of *Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite* provides a good description of the Feast of Tishri and the reader may find extensive instruction on the origin, purpose and form of this celebration through that book. Essentially, the Feast of Tishri (or Feast of the Tabernacle) was first described in the Old Testament (Leviticus 23:39, 42-43) as instructions from the Lord to Moses as follows: “ye [shall] have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days... [and] Ye shall dwell in booths seven days... That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.” The Statutes of the Supreme Council (Article XV, Sec 10) state that the Lodge of Perfection will celebrate as a feast day the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month Tishri. While the actual dates of the month of Tishri change on our contemporary calendar, we typically celebrate the Feast of Tishri in the month of November.

## (3) Scottish Rite Representatives to the Symbolic Lodges

Each of the constituent 44 Symbolic Lodges in our Alexandria Valley region has a member who is also a member of Alexandria Valley and who is designated as the Valley's Representative to that Lodge. The Representative's primary duty is to ensure that the Brothers in his Lodge remain aware of the Scottish Rite mission in general, and of Alexandria Valley's activities in particular. The Representative is the Valley's “field representative” who can answer or obtain answers to questions about the Scottish Rite and generally supports our Valley's membership development efforts in the Symbolic Lodges. Your Lodge probably already has an assigned Representative, so speak with him for more information on becoming more involved in Valley activities (see Section IV, Part 2, *Valley Operations and Support Opportunities* for a listing of Lodge Representatives). For further information, contact the Chairman of the Membership Development Committee: Norman L. Hoff, 33°, [norm.hoff@verizon.net](mailto:norm.hoff@verizon.net).

## Other Assigned Roles

A number of other opportunities to serve the Valley should be mentioned. Most of these positions are typically filled by Brothers who have “been around for a while”, but additional



volunteers for these duties are always welcomed, and no one should assume that additional help would not be greatly welcomed.

### **(1) Bulletins**

Ill. David Smith, 33°, is the Editor of our bi-monthly Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin. In his role as editor, he coordinates inputs, creates layout, and ensures overall production requirements are met in a timely manner. Each issue of the Bulletin reflects the contributions of a number of members who submit articles, meeting notices, photographs and related content. Additional Brethren could be involved in the design and production of the publication. If you have experience or interest along these lines and would like to participate in the production of our Valley Bulletin, contact Ill. Smith at [editor@alexandriascottishrite.org](mailto:editor@alexandriascottishrite.org).

### **(2) Credentials and Registration**

As you each may recall, prior to each Reunion, each Candidate for the Degrees receives a letter from our Valley Secretary announcing the Reunion schedule as well as a pre-Reunion (usually Wednesday evening before the Reunion starts) administrative registration session. At this session, the Candidate's petition information and payment status are verified, cap and 14° ring sizes and orders are determined, and any questions concerning the Scottish Rite or the Reunion are answered. Presently, a pool of eleven Masters of the Royal Secret support this process at the call of the Committee Chairman, Ill. David Morris, 33°, [secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org](mailto:secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org). Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

### **(3) Sick**

Ill. John Shroeder, 33°, chairs the Sick Committee that attempts to stay abreast of the health of our Brethren (and often their family members), and reports to the Valley each month on their status. Each of us should alert the Committee to news of a Brother's ailment and if you would like to be more active in the Committee's efforts to stay in touch with our sick Brethren, contact Ill. Shroeder, 33° at [CMDRShroeder@aol.com](mailto:CMDRShroeder@aol.com).

### **(4) Scottish Rite Clubs**

Many of our Valley members reside a considerable distance from Alexandria, but desire to remain active and involved in the Valley. To this end, three Scottish Rite Clubs have been established: the Shenandoah Valley Club began in 1979 and alternates its monthly dinner/meetings between the Blue Lodge facilities in Woodstock and Front Royal; the Blue Ridge Club began in 1990, and convenes its monthly dinner/meetings at the IHOP restaurant in Culpepper. In 2016, the Loudoun Scottish Rite Club was formed to support our members in the Western Fairfax and Loudoun County area and meets at Ashburn-Sterling Lodge or other venues as announced prior to the meeting. Many other Valley members other than those in the Club areas enjoy and support the Clubs by meeting at the Alexandria Temple and car-pooling to the meetings. Club meetings are announced at Valley meetings and attendance is encouraged.

### **(5) Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia**

Each Valley member is automatically a member of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia, but we also have an elected Valley Representative to the Conference who serves with the

Representatives of each of the other seven Valleys in our Orient as one of the Vice-Presidents for seven years before becoming the Conference President. Our current Representative is Allen D. Beckner, KCCH. Conference participation is one of the more enjoyable Scottish Rite experiences since it offers opportunities for education and social interaction with our Brothers from across the Orient. Additionally, when the Valley's Representative becomes the Conference President, that Valley hosts the annual Conference – another excellent opportunity to participate in and contribute to Valley operations. Alexandria Valley hosted the Conference in 2015 and our next host responsibilities will be in 2023.

## (6) Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia

As we all are members of the Scottish Rite Conference, so too we all are automatically members of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia, and we also have an elected Valley Representative, who is currently Philip N. Rhodes, KCCH. The annual meeting of the Foundation is held on Saturday afternoon immediately following the annual Conference meeting. When you attend the Conference of Virginia, you will have the opportunity to attend the Foundation meeting where you will learn more about current and planned activities in our RiteCare Childhood Language Disorders Program.

### Board of Trustees

#### a. Legal Role:

- Governed by Statutes (Art XV, Sec 23) and Valley By-Laws (Art III, Sec 5).
  - Remains under control of SC/SGIG/Pers Rep.
- Legal “owners” of record of all real and personal property of Valley.

#### b. Membership:

- Five who have attained at least the 32° are elected for a term of three years.
  - David W. Weaver, KCCH, to January 2018.
  - James A. Loudermilk, II, 33°, to January 2018.
  - E. Bruce Holley, KCCH, to January 2019.
  - Raymond L. Lambert, KCCH, to January 2019.
  - David H. Smith, Sr., 33°, to January 2020.
- January elections staggered on a triennial basis: two elected in one year; one, the following year; and two the year thereafter.
- Reelection to third consecutive term is not permitted.

#### c. Primary Functions

- Custodians of all real estate, securities, investments and property of the four Bodies.
  - Ensure that all property is adequately insured and settle/adjust claims. (Note that the Secretary is responsible for keeping insurance policies in effect and that the premiums are paid from the general fund of the Lodge of Perfection.)
  - Approve building use by other Masonic related organizations (non-Masonic use must be reviewed by Heads of four Bodies and recommended to the Lodge of Perfection for approval by two-thirds vote of members present).
  - Maintain Master Plan for installation of all equipment and property intended for the building and environs.
- Custodians of Valley funds available for investment.
  - Permanent/Building Fund.



- Life Membership Trust Fund.
- Reports:
  - Recommendations on insurance, building needs and its use
  - Interim report on funds at June meeting of Valley
  - Annual/final report of funds at January meeting of Valley

## **SECTION III – ORIGINS & REGULATIONS**

# Origins and Governing Regulations of the Scottish Rite

## 1. ORIGINS OF THE SCOTTISH RITE

To appreciate the questions and complexities surrounding the origin and growth of the Scottish Rite into our current organization, one must consider the early days of Freemasonry and appreciate how it is believed to have evolved from the Scottish labor guilds of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and spread to England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In an early chapter in the *Scottish Rite Ritual – Monitor and Guide*, Illustrious Arturo de Hoyos, 33<sup>o</sup>, G.C., gives us “A Brief Overview of the Scottish Rite’s Origins and Rituals” wherein he briefly traces the progression from the “Mason companies” to the “Masonic Associations” and on to the 1717 creation of the Grand Lodge.

While the early Masonic Lodges were based on the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees, there is evidence that the first “higher degree” of Master Mason was apparently also in existence, and that many other “high degrees” were soon invented in both England and France. Many of these high degrees were referred to as Scotch or Scottish degrees and were distinguished, according to Brother de Hoyos, “...as a type of Masonry practiced, rather than referring to native Scotsmen.”

Ill. de Hoyos writes that “...in 1732, the English Lodge named Loge L’Anglaise was founded in Bordeaux, France”, and from it came the Loge la Française and from it, in 1743, the Loge Parfait Harmonie which apparently tended to focus on the many “high degrees”. One of the founders of this last Lodge was Etienne (Stephen) Morin. It is significant to note that in 1744, an expose pamphlet, *Le Parfait Maçon*, addressed the four degrees of Apprentice, Companion, Master Ordinary, and Scottish. The anonymous author wrote that “... there are still other degrees above the Master’s of which I am about to speak. Some say six, others, seven. Those who are called Scottish Masons claim to constitute the Fourth Degree. As this Masonry, differing from the other in certain particulars, is beginning to gain favor in France, the public will only be informed that I have given it what I have read in the same manuscripts which permit the Scottish to be ranked above Apprentice Companion and Ordinary Master.”

## 2. THE SECRET CONSTITUTIONS OF 1761

In the 1750-1760 period, rival Masonic bodies known as the Knights of the East and the Emperors of East and West competed for dominance, and with the Emperors emerging victorious, its Rite of Perfection was documented in the *Secret Constitutions of 1761* (the date is of dubious veracity.) The Rite of Perfection added 22 “high degrees” to the three Symbolic Lodge degrees. The 25<sup>th</sup> degree was called Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. The Secret Constitutions of 1761 also designated officers as Inspectors General Thirty-third Degree.

### **3. THE CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS OF 1762**

In 1761, the French Grand Lodge gave Morin the title of Inspector General and empowered him with the necessary authority for him to travel and establish “perfect and sublime Masonry in all parts of the world.”

Stephen Morin’s travels led him to Kingstown, Jamaica where he promulgated a Masonic system called the “Order of the Royal Secret” with 25 degrees. Additionally, he described his system in a document called the *Constitutions and Regulations of 1762*.

### **4. THE GRAND CONSTITUTIONS OF 1786**

The Grand Constitutions of 1786, was purportedly signed by Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, but there remain a number of challenges to its actual origins. Notwithstanding questions of its authorship, it was accepted as the governing document of the Supreme Council and formed the basis of today’s Scottish Rite organization and degree structure. This was the document that defined 33 degrees “united under the titles of “The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite,” and announced two “Supreme Grand Councils” in North America, each comprised of nine Grand Inspectors General. (It also provided for a similar two Councils in South America, but one Council in each European country.) The Grand Constitutions of 1786 also provided for a system of Grand Consistories which governed its assigned jurisdictions only with “the previous sanction of the Supreme Council of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree.” The Grand Consistories eventually gave way to the Orient system of jurisdiction.

### **5. THE CIRCULAR THROUGHOUT THE TWO HEMISPHERES**

In December 1802, the first official document of the Supreme Council was published announcing itself to the world and declaring its pedigree of authenticity. A copy of the Circular (also called the *Manifesto of 1802*) is available in Appendix I of the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide*.

### **6. THE STATUTES OF SUPREME COUNCIL 33RD DEGREE, S.J.**

The Statutes provide our current “Law of the Rite” but they also cite the Constitutions and Regulations of 1762, the Grand Constitutions of 1786, together with the edicts and decisions of the Supreme Council, and the unwritten principles and Landmarks of Freemasonry, as inherent components of the Law. A copy of the Statutes is available in the Education/Publications section of the Supreme Council website at <https://scottishrite.org>.

### **7. THE ALEXANDRIA VALLEY BYLAWS**

Article XV, Sec. 11 of the Statutes requires each Body of the Rite to have separate by-laws. The Alexandria Valley By-laws for each of the Bodies have been consolidated into one document but they still address the key features of each Body (officers, schedule, fees/dues, etc). The most recent By-Laws were adopted by the Brethren present at the Valley stated meeting on May 14, 2010 and were amended on February 12, 2016. A copy of the By-Laws is available at the Members only section of the Valley website at [www.alexandriascottishrite.org](http://www.alexandriascottishrite.org).

## **SECTION IV - VALLEY PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES**

# Valley Programs and Procedures

## 1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Alexandria Valley published its Strategic Objectives and Implementation Plan in February 2010 following a lengthy development period by the Strategic Planning Committee, and an in-depth review with numerous discussions by the Valley Executive Council. Finally, it was posted for review by the Valley membership and openly discussed at a stated Valley meeting, where additional comments were taken and incorporated into the final document. This Plan represents the consolidated efforts of Alexandria Valley.

### Objectives:

1. **Establish an effective program to attract and retain members.**
2. **Establish an Effective Governance Structure.**
3. **Improve Valley Meetings and Programs.**
4. **Institute a Comprehensive Program of Masonic Education and Training.**
5. **Enhance the Image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.**
6. **Support and Expand the Philanthropic Activities of the Alexandria Valley.**
7. **Provide the Framework for Financial Success by identifying mid-term (3 year) and long-term (4-8 year) financial goals and strategies.**

**MISSION:** To provide a Masonic experience for members that makes them better educated and more knowledgeable Masons, gives them a venue for fellowship with Masons from Lodges throughout the Northern Virginia area, and offers them meaningful community and philanthropic opportunities.

**VISION:** To become a “University” of Freemasonry that motivates Masons to gain greater insight into Masonic history, philosophy, and symbolism, and inspires them to become leaders in promoting morality and civic virtue.

**OBJECTIVE #1: ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN MEMBERS.**

**Goal A. Persuade more Blue Lodge Masons to join the Alexandria Scottish Rite.**

Action A.1 Develop an active Valley Membership Committee (**Personal Representative and Chair of Membership Committee**).

Action A.2 Strengthen the present Lodge Representative program by: (**Membership Committee**).

- Ensuring there is a Lodge Representative in each of the Lodges from which we draw our membership, who is willing to serve, and who is active, committed, and effective.
- Developing and implementing a training program for each Lodge Representative.
- Preparing and providing to the Lodge Representatives one or more talks on the Scottish Rite.
- Encouraging each Lodge Representative to promote awareness and value of the Scottish Rite and seek to attract Reunion candidates within his Lodge by:
  - Speaking from the East or using the announcements portion of a Stated Communication at least four times a year, to talk about Scottish Rite, its work, and the advantages of membership.
  - Having with him at least two petitions when he attends Lodge meetings.
  - Being in contact with the Lodge secretary to get names of new members and contact each about membership in the Scottish Rite.
  - Approaching the Senior Warden to attempt to schedule a Scottish Rite evening as a Lodge program the following year when he is Worshipful Master.
  - Informing the Senior Warden and Worshipful Master about the availability of Scottish Rite speakers to put on a program of Masonic education at stated meetings.

Action A.3 Continue planning, coordination and conduct of the annual Blue Lodge night event at the Alexandria Scottish Rite.  
(**Council of Kadosh**)

Action A.4 Provide the membership with a greater stake in their Valley by: (**Member Retention Committee, Head of Four Bodies**)

- Developing a survey for new members to determine their goals and expectations in joining the Scottish Rite.

- Developing a survey for all members to determine what programs, projects, or other initiatives are desired.
- Motivating and empowering members to play an active role in the Valley, encouraging their suggestions, and offering them roles and responsibilities.
- Ensuring prompt consideration of member suggestions by Valley leadership.
- Providing feedback in Lodge and on our website.
- Encouraging each member to bring in a new member annually.

**Goal B. Increase the appeal of and general interest in Scottish Rite membership.**

**Action B.1 Improve the quality of the degree conferral. (Director of Work)**

- Experiment with making membership in selected degree presentations “Blue Lodge or District specific”.
- Consider conferring Degrees that are not usually performed.
- Stress to Degree Masters the importance of well-rehearsed acting and dramatic nature of presentations.
- Acquire new costumes and props to increase visual impact of the degrees that are conferred.
- Update the scripts and employ graphic-intensive PowerPoint presentations to make more meaningful the degrees that are communicated.
- Have the Director of Work report to the Personal Representative on the effectiveness of each degree team following each Reunion.

**Action B.2 Make the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple a more desirable destination for fun and fellowship by: (Executive Council)**

- Having the Temple open to members more than just once a month for meetings.
- Creating “club-like” venues in the Temple for fellowship, reading, discussion, and games.
- Improving the quality of meals.
- Changing the seating arrangements to facilitate more conversations.
- Planning social events that the whole family can attend, and encouraging members and their families to attend.
- Establish a formal – (jacket, slacks, tie, name badge) and informal (golf shirt with logo and slacks) uniform to build pride and esprit de corps in the Alexandria Valley.



**Goal C. Improve communications with all members, but especially with NPD and inactive members of the Valley.**

Action C.1 Institute a Member Retention Committee and implement a Brother-to-Brother contact program in the Valley: **(Member Retention Committee)**

- Consider using the Reunion Staff and Degree Teams as “action units” for making contact (Internet-based if possible).
- Ensure that currently active SR Brethren are called at least on an annual basis.
  - Ask the Brother about his Alexandria Scottish Rite experience and his comments/suggestions as to how his SR membership can be made more meaningful.
  - Ask his views about how meetings might be improved and his ideas for programs and projects.
  - Find out about the Brother’s background and interests so that we can identify roles and responsibilities within the Alexandria Scottish Rite that might be of interest to the Brother.
- Make certain that the Valley develops a consistent message to explain new initiatives and entice brethren to return and participate in AASR functions.
- Call Brethren who have become inactive to determine the reason(s) why they are not attending meetings and to see if they can be persuaded to become active members again.
- Call each Brother who has demitted or has been suspended NPD, or is behind in his dues, to determine the reason(s), and also determine if he needs assistance, and if he can be persuaded to become an active, dues paying member again.
- Develop a list of roles and responsibilities, in conjunction with the Valley’s Executive Council and the Director of Work so there is a list of open jobs that can be offered to qualified and interested Brethren.
- As a result of these calls, the Committee will recommend to the Personal Representative Brethren who might be interested and qualified to fill open jobs in the Valley.

Action C.2 Establish a mentor-mentee program for all members. **(Member Retention Committee)**

Action C.3 Pair active members who attend meetings with less active members who live close to them so they can ride together to meetings – thus, increasing both attendance and the bond of friendship. **(Member Retention Committee)**

Action C.4 Establish a “card contact” group under the Membership Retention Committee to send congratulatory, birthday or condolence cards with personal notes to the Brethren. **(Member Retention Committee)**

Action C.5 Increase member involvement in Valley programs by assigning the Head of each Body specific membership program responsibilities.

**(Executive Council)**

Action C.6 Improve the way we promote Valley meetings and events.

**(Public Relations Committee)**

- Stress access to the Valley website as the basic source of information on the Alexandria Scottish Rite.
- Use group email and other means to remind Brethren of meetings and events.
- Consider a marquee sign outside the main entrance listing events, meeting times etc.

**Goal D. Provide members and their ladies with additional opportunities to be active in the Alexandria Scottish Rite.**

Action D.1 Explore if the Brethren would support and benefit from establishment of a Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew – an organization of 32° Scottish Rite Masons, who pledge to be of service to and active in the Valley. **(Executive Council)**

- Functions include promoting membership, and supporting the work of Scottish Rite, as well as greeting and escorting visitors, relieving Tilers, assisting stage crews and stewards, etc.

Action D.2 Explore creation of a Scottish Rite Honor Guard. **(Executive Council)**

Action D.3 Explore creation of a Ladies Auxiliary to promote our charities and increase involvement of our ladies. **(Executive Council)**

Action D.4 Determine what other initiatives may be of interest to the membership. **(Member Retention Committee)**

**OBJECTIVE #2: ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.****Goal A. Review and as necessary improve the current organizational structure and operating rules for Alexandria Valley.**

Action A.1 Institute an Executive Council consisting of the top three elected officers of the four bodies, the Chairmen of the various Committees, and the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer, who would meet with the Personal Representative on a regular basis to share ideas, coordinate efforts and implement the Valley Strategic Plan. **(Personal Representative)**

Action A.2 Review and improve the Committee structure.  
**(Executive Council)**

Ensure that each Committee has a clear function and a written charter.

- Determine which Committees need to be eliminated, which need to be changed, and what new Committees need to be formed.

Action A.3 Review and update the By-laws. **(Personal Representative)**

Action A.4 Identify roles and responsibilities and operating procedures of the four bodies and other Valley officers and, to the extent not inconsistent with relevant Supreme Council requirements, recommend changes that would improve our governance structure. **(Executive Council)**

Action A.5 Explore how best to identify and qualify members as officers and committee chairs. **(Executive Council)**

Action A.6 Review the use of technology for office procedures and to fulfill Secretary and Treasurer responsibilities, and eliminate inefficient paper processes where appropriate.  
**(Secretary and Assistant Secretary)**

Action A.7 Promote transparency and accountability by developing an Alexandria Valley Handbook which sets forth essential information and procedures. **(Education Committee)**

- Publish the Handbook, so it is accessible to the membership in print and on the Internet.
- Establish a Handbook update procedure.

**OBJECTIVE #3: IMPROVE VALLEY MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS.****Goal A. Develop procedures to ensure there are interesting programs at each meeting.**

Action A.1 Make each Body responsible for 2-3 Lodge programs each year and have them presented, when possible, during the time that Body is presiding. **(Personal Representative)**

Action A.2 Develop a broader selection of programs including those that are primarily Masonic, those with non-Masonic topics of interest to the membership, and those which have entertainment value. **(Heads of four Bodies, Education Committee)**

Action A.3 Promote discussion after each program. **(Personal Representative, Heads of four Bodies)**

Action A.4 Increase publicity for programs well in advance of the meeting to stimulate interest and meeting attendance. Use e-mail, our Bulletin and the website for communication. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.5 Identify videos and other materials available from the Supreme Council for use as Lodge programs. **(Education Committee)**

**Goal B. Review the structure of our meetings and streamline wherever possible.**

Action B.1 Evaluate opening/closing options; perhaps do something like the Richmond Valley opens all four bodies at once. **(Personal Representative)**

Action B.2 Study how we can condense the administrative part of the meeting, perhaps even eliminating the reading of minutes – which can be available at the secretary’s desk. **(Personal Representative)**

Action B.3 Put significant items that occur at meetings on our website, perhaps in a “members only” section. **(Personal Representative)**

Action B.4 Work to end meetings by 9:00 PM. **(Heads of four Bodies)**

Action B.5 Conduct a survey of the membership as to whether a different meeting night is preferred, or even if the meeting nights might be rotated from time to time. **(Member Retention Committee)**

**Goal C. Increase member participation.**

Action C.1 Develop a topic for discussion at each meeting about something of use to the Valley or of interest to the members, as a more active way to promote member involvement and to solicit ideas and suggestions. **(Executive Council)**

Action C.2    Involve new members early in their Scottish Rite careers, by giving them meaningful tasks, roles, and responsibilities, and providing mentoring opportunities. **(Executive Council)**

Action C.2.1    Assign our newest members responsibility for projects, programs and presentations during their first year in the Alexandria Scottish Rite. **(Executive Council)**

Action C.3    Reinvigorate older members attendance through personal involvement in programs and mentoring of new members. Heads and officers of the 4 bodies should make personal appeals to these members seeking their assistance wherever possible. **(Heads of four Bodies)**

Action C.4    Have a least one major family event, like the Alexandria Little Theatre, each year. **(Lodge of Perfection)**

Action C.5    Identify at least one other Masonic event that the Alexandria Valley can participate in and/or sponsor. **(Executive Council)**

Action C.6    Identify at least one special community or philanthropic event the Alexandria Valley can participate in and/or sponsor. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

**OBJECTIVE #4: INSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF MASONIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING.****Goal A. Achieve increased participation in educational programs through the use of appropriate tools and resources for improved communications and training.**

Action A.1 Use Bulletin and set up an education section on our Valley website to promote and assist with Masonic educational programs and to provide updates on educational programs, courses, and other opportunities to attain greater light in Masonry. **(Education Committee)**

Action A.2 Use Bulletin and Valley website education section to recognize participation and achievement in Masonic educational programs.**(Education Committee)**

Action A.3 Use Valley website education section as a repository for, and to provide online access to, Masonic educational programs. **(Education Committee)**

**Goal B. Achieve an increased level of understanding of Scottish Rite precepts, principles and objectives through a wide range of Educational Programs.**

Action B.1 Include a brief educational program at each meeting to present information on Masonic/Scottish Rite Degrees, book reviews, research papers, etc. **(Education Committee)**

Action B.2 Establish Saturday morning Valley Study Group to address subjects such as Book Club reviews, special lectures, Master Craftsman Program assistance, etc. **(Education Committee)**

Action B.3 Develop and make available appropriate educational materials for family members, non-Scottish Rite Masons, and members of our local community. **(Education Committee)**

**Goal C. Establish and maintain comprehensive Training Plans to meet the educational needs of Valley Members as well as non-Scottish Rite Masons and non-Masons.**

Action C.1 Develop a training plan for Valley Members. **(Education Committee)**

- Review current training and educational programs in the Alexandria Valley, the Supreme Council, and other sources.
- Pulse members on their training priorities and modes of delivery e.g., courses (live and via correspondence), lectures, hands-on experiences, group learning, etc.

Action C.2 Implement and schedule a two-year education and training program, based upon member input, with specific courses, lectures, and educational activities/opportunities, etc. **(Education Committee)**

Action C.3 Evaluate and recalibrate the training program at the end of the first year. **(Education Committee)**

**Goal D. Enhance the Alexandria Valley Officer Training Program.**

Action D.1 Develop a training plan for Valley Officers. **(Education Committee)**

Action D.2 Do a test run in 2010. **(Education Committee)**

Action D.3 Adjust and implement an annual officer training program. **(Education Committee)**

**OBJECTIVE #5: ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF FREEMASONRY AND THE SCOTTISH RITE.**

**Goal A. Develop a Communication and Outreach Program to promote public awareness of the Scottish Rite, its principles, and its philanthropic activities.**

Action A.1 Develop press releases, radio and TV spots, and Internet messages to publicize the chartable and community service activities of the Alexandria Scottish Rite. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.2 Identify a number of Brethren who would be authorized to speak to the press and public organizations about the Alexandria Scottish Rite. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.3 Identify a number of Brethren who can serve as Valley photographers to provide visual content for the website, bulletin, and other public relations vehicles. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.4 Explore the utility of having a Valley presence on the Supreme Council Member Forum, Facebook, MySpace LinkedIn, and Twitter, as well as an email list-serve for the Valley. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.5 Regularly update the Alexandria Scottish Rite website with information that will raise public awareness and increase Masonic interest in the Rite. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action A.6 Contact Lodges to request that they add a link to the Alexandria SR Web Site on their Lodge Web Site. **(Public Relations Committee, Internet Committee)**

**Goal B. Establish a recognition program for Brethren and others who have made substantial accomplishments/contributions in their profession, in community organizations, in their house of worship or some other entity outside of the Masonic fraternity.**

Action B.1 Create a recognition award for Brethren and others (organizations and individuals) who have made substantial contributions to their local community. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action B.2 Create press releases to appropriate media outlets for those recognized. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action B.3 Develop a brief (5 minute or less) program to present the award at the outside entity. **(Public Relations Committee)**

**Goal C. Establish a Speakers Bureau for use within and without the Masonic fraternity.**

Action C.1 Develop a cadre of Scottish Rite Brethren who can provide talks about either Freemasonry in general or the Scottish Rite in particular to both Masonic and non-Masonic groups. **(Public Relations Committee)**



Action C.2 Develop a cadre of Scottish Rite Brethren who can provide talks on non-Masonic subjects that may be of interest, such as national security, estate planning, career planning, etc., for presentations to Masonic and non-Masonic groups. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action C.3 Utilize the Valley website to promote the availability of the speakers bureau. **(Public Relations Committee)**

**Goal D. Develop a series of Public Programs to make the Alexandria Temple and the AASR a visible base of community activity.**

Action D.1 Consider examples such as a Children's or Puppet Theatre to appeal to families or a lecture series to appeal to adults. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action D.2 Achieve increased attendance at open, public Scottish Rite functions by involving community leaders and volunteers. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action D.3 Invite local clergy to offer the blessing/benediction at major open dinners. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action D.4 Utilize non-Masonic speakers/presenters for these public events, and for our Teacher Recognition Program. **(Public Relations Committee, Consistory, Education Committee)**

Action D.5 Advertise our Teacher Recognition Program so that there is attendance and participation by members of the local community. **(Public Relations Committee)**

Action D.6 Explore if we could provide childcare at open Scottish Rite events to increase attendance by mothers/families. **(Public Relations Committee)**

**OBJECTIVE #6: SUPPORT AND EXPAND THE PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ALEXANDRIA VALLEY.**

**Goal A. Increase the awareness of the Brethren about, and their involvement in, the various Scottish Rite philanthropic activities (RiteCare, Scholarships, and Almoner's Fund, etc.).**

Action A.1 Form a Philanthropic Committee to give focus and direction to our philanthropic activities. **(Personal Representative)**

Action A.2 Include philanthropic information in the bimonthly and Reunion bulletins and on our website. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.3 Present short talks/announcements at meetings on a quarterly basis. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.4 Engage Valley leadership in our philanthropic activities by having the Philanthropic Committee reach out to the heads of the four bodies, the other Committee Chairs, and the Degree Masters to gain their support for our charitable activities. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.5 Encourage member and family attendance at our JMU visits to the summer clinic. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.6 Invite scholarship recipients to speak about at our meetings and other events to put a human face on our charitable activities. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.7 Determine if there are other charitable activities that the membership would like to support – i.e., community activities. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action A.8 Enhance donor recognition programs. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

**Goal B. Prioritize and focus on specific Philanthropic Programs.**

Action B.1 Consider focusing on one philanthropic program during specific times of the year. (Similar to how Commandery collects for the Eye Foundation for six months and the Holy Land Pilgrimage during the following six months). **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action B.2 Provide special opportunities for members to contribute specifically to the program being focused on at that time. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

**Goal C. Develop and enhance Fund-raising Activities.**

Action C.1 Design and sell a Masonic lapel pin as a fund-raiser. **(Philanthropic Committee, Executive Council)**

Action C.2 Develop a wish list of items that can be donated by the Brethren to support our philanthropic activities. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action C.3 Hold a charity ball or other fund-raising event such as the Friends Dinner on an annual or semi-annual basis. **(Philanthropic Committee, Chapter Rose Croix)**

Action C.4 Encourage bequests and provide information about how to correctly do this. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action C.5 Seek to qualify for the annual United Way – Consolidated Charities campaign. **(Philanthropic Committee)**

Action C.6 Allow contributions to our philanthropies by credit card via our website. **(Philanthropic Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Internet Committee)**

Action C.7 Promote SR Philanthropic opportunities to Blue Lodges and seek their support and contributions. **(Philanthropic Committee, Public Relations Committee)**

**OBJECTIVE #7: PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS BY IDENTIFYING MID-TERM AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES.**

**Goal A. Develop a five-year operating budget plan.**

Action A.1 Working with the Officers in the four bodies and the Committee Chairs, the Budget and Finance Committee (B&F) shall identify programs and projects necessary to make the Alexandria Scottish Rite a value proposition for its membership. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action A.2 The Budget and Finance Committee shall evaluate fiscal needs and develop the operating budget for the next Scottish Rite year, as well as estimated budgets for the next four Scottish Rite years, taking into account planned programs and available funding. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action A.3 Establish priorities and use the budget to implement our strategic goals. **(Executive Council, Budget and Finance Committee)**

**Goal B. Develop a 20-year capital budget.**

Action B.1 The Trustees shall conduct a survey of building systems and identify “life cycle” estimates for replacements and improvements.**(Trustees)**

Action B.2 The Trustees shall provide an estimate of the funds needed to pay for repair and replacement of these systems and the degree to which they are available from the Trustees funds. **(Trustees)**

**Goal C. Increase funds available for the operating and capital budgets.**

Action C.1 Evaluate adequacy of dues and fees to meet budget and fiscal estimates. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action C.2 Review dues and fees structure, and endowments of other Valleys in Virginia, as well as in D.C. and Maryland. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action C.3 Promote participation in the Life Membership program. **(Heads of Four Bodies)**

Action C.4 Evaluate the impact of a cost-of-living clause in the dues and fees structure. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action C.5 Explore what can be done to increase use of the building, for example, investigate if other fraternal organizations might wish to use our facilities. **(Executive Council, Trustees)**

Action C.6 Evaluate current building/grounds use fee structure. **(Budget and Finance Committee)**

Action C.7 Review use restrictions under current building use permit, explore what our neighbors do (the Funeral Home and Church) and, if needed, determine the legal impact and consequences of seeking a change in the use permit. **(Executive Council, Trustees)**

Action C.8 Develop a long-term strategy to grow our reserves to support the operating and capital budgets. **(Budget and Finance Committee, Trustees)**

Action C.9 Implement annual fund-raising activities to support the operating and capital budget. **(Executive Council)**

Action C.10 Promote member gifts and bequests to the Alexandria Scottish Rite. **(Budget and Finance Committee, Heads of Four Bodies)**

Action C.11 Establish a donor recognition program for brethren who have made substantial contributions to the Alexandria Scottish Rite. **(Budget and Finance Committee, Philanthropic Committee)**

## 2. VALLEY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

As with any affiliation, a member's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the group grows with involvement and shared experiences. The comfortable sense of belonging that we gain through study of the group's history and its goals, through participation in its activities, and through personal interaction with its other members is essential to the richness of our perceived value of the group. There are many roles to be filled, jobs to be done, and opportunities to grow our knowledge and appreciation of the Scottish Rite. Our Valley Membership Development Committee uses a variety of training approaches and Valley tools such as the Help Wanted listing on the Membership Development web page, to help increase member awareness of available opportunities. Here are a few.

### Reunion Productions

Typically, Alexandria Valley Reunions are held in late April and late October. About half of the 29 degrees will be conferred in a staged production with actors, stage props, lights, sound, music and theatrical effects, and the remaining degrees are communicated, or taught in a classroom setting. We estimate that some 300 jobs need to be done to conduct a single reunion. While there are usually many Brothers who perform multiple jobs and correspondingly reduce that number, there still remain many opportunities to participate. In addition to the Degree performances "when the curtain goes up" during Reunions, each degree team also rehearses before each Reunion with full support from all the non-cast production personnel.

Ill. James A. Loudermilk, 33°, is the Alexandria Valley Director of Work who coordinates and oversees all aspects of the Reunion operations. Ill. Loudermilk is anxious to put you to work in any of the following jobs; you can contact him at [DirectorofWork@AlexandriaScottishRite.org](mailto:DirectorofWork@AlexandriaScottishRite.org).

#### (1) Degree Communications

Each Degree that is not actually conferred "on stage" is communicated in the Lodge Room to the Class. One Brother provides instruction for each communicated degree to explain the primary lessons, signs and words of the degree and to administer the Obligation for each. While a Brother could conceivably just read the degree instruction to the class, properly done, the Brother communicating the Degree has studied and sufficiently understands the Degree to be able to answer questions from the Class. This is an excellent way to begin to study the Scottish Rite degrees. Bro. Shelly Richman, KCCH, at [vanymason@gmail.com](mailto:vanymason@gmail.com) schedules the Brothers who communicate the degrees.

#### (2) Lights and Electrical

From the room behind the blacked out windows on the left side of the auditorium stage, Douglas R. McQueen and the lights and electrical team handles all the stage and special lighting effects during the conferral of each degree - and it's not just a matter of flipping switches. The many electrical props used during the Degrees essentially "belong" to our lights and electrical team who ensure that each not only is turned on or off at the appropriate time and at the appropriate level, but also that they actually will work as desired when needed. Bro. McQueen may be contacted at [mcq80@aol.com](mailto:mcq80@aol.com).

### **(3) Projection Booth**

Bro. Jason Himsey leads the team in the projection booth at the back of the auditorium, tracks the script for each Degree role to either illuminate the speaker or to augment the script with the appropriate projected screen image. Contact Bro. Himsey at [jhimsey@gmail.com](mailto:jhimsey@gmail.com).

### **(4) Prompting**

Every Degree conferred uses a “prompter” to come to the assistance of any cast speaker who calls “Word”. Sitting behind the blacked out window on the right side of the stage, the prompter follows the degree script during each performance and keeps the degree “story” moving with the aptly placed missing word. Peter Jensen, KCCH, schedules the prompters. If you want to help, contact Bro. Jensen at [pjensen@hl57.com](mailto:pjensen@hl57.com).

### **(5) Sound**

Bro. Harold Chadsey, KCCH, and his Sound team equip the cast members with wireless microphones and place stand-mics strategically about the stage, and then control sound levels throughout the degrees from their control station in the back of the auditorium. Contact Bro. Chadsey at [henrymaster09@verizon.net](mailto:henrymaster09@verizon.net) to help.

### **(6) Stage and Properties**

Ill. Earl R. Jones, 33°, directs all the activities of the stage crew. Each Degree has a unique setting for furniture, columns, altar dressings and all the many properties peculiar to each degree that must be in-place when the curtain (also under the stage crew’s control) “goes up”. Ill. Jones’ email address is [erjones52@cox.net](mailto:erjones52@cox.net).

### **(7) Crew Members**

Working under the leadership of the Stage and Properties Director and his team, are the Brothers who must put everything in place, and there is always enough “heavy lifting” for another Brother to help out with the staging and props. Anyone who is not doing something else should probably volunteer to help with the stage crew – contact Ill. Jones at [erjones52@cox.net](mailto:erjones52@cox.net).

### **(8) Wardrobe and Makeup**

William A. Shortt, KCCH, is the Brother who makes sure the cast members are properly clothed, shod, equipped, and bearded before they take the stage. Like your Mother, his job doesn’t end when he has dressed you; he has to clean up after you as well. Contact him at [billshortt@joimail.com](mailto:billshortt@joimail.com) to give him a hand.

### **(9) Organists**

Alexandria Valley is fortunate to have two Brothers who each offer their musical talents as the Organist for the Reunion Degrees: Brothers Thomas G. Little, KCCH, and James Baker, KCCH. If you share their rare abilities, this is an excellent opportunity to put your talent to work for the Valley – contact Bro. Little at [thomas.little@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.little@gmail.com).

## (10) Photographers

Brothers Arthur Ferreira and Michael Aulicino, 33°, have volunteered to lend their skills as photographers for the Valley Class pictures and similar tasks as required. This is another opportunity to get involved for those who enjoy and have particular skills or experience in photography. Contact Ill. Aulicino at [michael.aulicino@gmail.com](mailto:michael.aulicino@gmail.com) to volunteer your help.

## (11) Degree Masters and Cast Members

The very best way to learn the lessons of our Degrees while accumulating common experiences with your Brothers is to become active on a Degree Team and perform a role at a Reunion. Most Degrees have both speaking and non-speaking parts and every Degree Master prefers to have more than one person he can call on to perform each part - new cast members are always welcome. Contact either Ill. Jim Loudermilk, 33°, or one of the Degree Masters for the Degrees typically conferred by Alexandria Valley as listed below.

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ill. Norman Hoff, 33° [norm.hoff@verizon.net](mailto:norm.hoff@verizon.net)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Hector N. Mujica, KCCH [hectormujica@msn.com](mailto:hectormujica@msn.com)
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Ill. James Anagnos, 33° [jimanagnos@hotmail.com](mailto:jimanagnos@hotmail.com)
- 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Ill. Neil Marple, 33° [drneil@cox.net](mailto:drneil@cox.net)
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Bro. Aaron N. Tweedie [tweedieenterprises@gmail.com](mailto:tweedieenterprises@gmail.com)
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Bro. John Suit [john.suit@gmail.com](mailto:john.suit@gmail.com)
- 14<sup>th</sup> – John Tillery, KCCH [jtillery@aol.com](mailto:jtillery@aol.com)
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Ill. Roger Firestone, 33° [rfire@jtan.com](mailto:rfire@jtan.com)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Thomas E Goolsby [gegool2@gmail.com](mailto:gegool2@gmail.com)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – David Weaver, KCCH [lodge279sec@aol.com](mailto:lodge279sec@aol.com)
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Bro. Chris Chrzanowski [crchrzanowski@yahoo.com](mailto:crchrzanowski@yahoo.com)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Ill. John Shroeder, 33° [cmdrshroeder@aol.com](mailto:cmdrshroeder@aol.com)
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Peter Terrill, KCCH [mohrscircle73@gmail.com](mailto:mohrscircle73@gmail.com)
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Scott C. Springer [scspringerf1@verizon.net](mailto:scspringerf1@verizon.net)
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Jim Newcomer, KCCH [jim5590@verizon.net](mailto:jim5590@verizon.net)
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Ill. Mike Riley, 33°, [mriley1997@aol.com](mailto:mriley1997@aol.com)
- 32<sup>nd</sup> – Ill. Dave Smith, Sr., 33° [dhsmith33@gmail.com](mailto:dhsmith33@gmail.com)

## Lodge Representatives

Each Lodge in our Northern Virginia area has been assigned a Valley member to ensure that the Brothers in that Lodge are aware of the purpose, goals and activities of the Scottish Rite and to be the primary source of information on how to become a Scottish Rite Mason. Following are the currently assigned Lodge Representatives.

### (1) Masonic District 1-A

Alexandria-Washington No. 22

Heber C. Willis, III, KCCH



Andrew Jackson No. 120  
 John Blair No 187  
 Henry Knox Field No. 349

Sheldon B. Richman, KCCH  
 Patrick J. Weyant, KCCH  
 Michael R. Aulicino, 33°

**(2) Masonic District 1-B**

Elmer Timmerman No. 54  
 Springfield No. 217  
 Mt. Vernon No 219  
 Occoquan No. 310  
 Dale City No. 319  
 John A Lejuene No. 350  
 Fort Hunt-Skidmore Daytime No 353

John Shroeder, Jr. 33°  
 John W. Pearson KCCH  
 David H. Smith, Sr., 33°  
 William L. Alexander, 33°  
 John D. Jenkins, 33°  
 Jim Newcomer, Jr., KCCH  
 William A. Shortt, KCCH

**(3) Masonic District 2**

Hamilton-Thompson No. 37  
 Olive Branch No. 114  
 Freedom No 118  
 Ashburn-Sterling No. 288

Jeffrey R. Gould  
 Kevin M. Homan  
 Loyd E. Davis, 33°  
 Raymon W. Bacchus

**(4) Masonic District 3**

Winchester Hiram No. 21  
 Washington No. 78  
 Spurmont No 98  
 Unity No. 146  
 Treadwell No. 213  
 Cochran No. 271

Raymond D. Steele, 33°  
 Charles R. Seaford  
 Raymond D. Steele, 33°  
 Joel D. Ratliff, Sr., KCCH  
 John P. Westervelt  
 tbd

**(5) Masonic District 4**

Acacia No. 16  
 Henry No. 57  
 Mt. Carmel No 133  
 Manasseh No. 182  
 Herndon No. 264  
 Hay Market No. 313  
 The Patriot 1957

David C. Morris, 33°  
 Edmund Cohen, 33°  
 Anthony J. La Cava  
 Donald McAndrews, KCCH  
 Farley W. Warner  
 E. Allen Wade  
 Christopher R. Chrzanowski

**(6) Masonic District 6**

Rockingham Union No. 27	Robert P. Hume
Mt. Jackson No. 103	Charles D. Fansler
Hunter No 135	tbd
Cassia No. 142	William J. Comeau
Eureka No. 195	Christopher N. Sheap

**(7) Masonic District 7**

Fairfax No. 43	Darryl H. Evans, KCCH
Barboursville No. 112	John R. Miller, Jr.
Linn Banks No 126	Zane D. Bryam
Independent Orange No. 138	Larry J. Lloyd

**(8) Masonic District 8**

Frank P. Moncure No. 279	David W. Weaver, KCCH
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**(9) Masonic District 54**

Cherrydale No. 42	John W. Frank
Kemper-Macon Ware No. 64	Philip N. Rhodes, KCCH
Arlington Centennial-Glebe No 81	Howard M. Sobel, KCCH
Columbia No. 285	Douglas B. McQueen
Concord No. 307	Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Sharon No. 327	Phillip E. Graves

**Credentials and Registration Committee**

These Brothers meet with the Candidates on the Wednesday evening before each Reunion to make sure each is ready to receive the Scottish Rite Degrees and to answer any questions the Candidates might have concerning the Scottish Rite, the Valley operations, or the Reunion schedule. Additionally, they measure the Candidate for his cap and 14° ring. The chairman of the Committee is Ill. David C. Morris, 33° at [secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org](mailto:secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org).



# **SECTION V - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## When and where did the Scottish Rite begin?

The Supreme Council of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree for the United States of America was first opened, according to the Grand Constitutions, in Charleston, SC in May, 1801. Thus began the Scottish Rite organization as we know it today. This event was the evolutionary result of efforts beginning with the French Grand Lodge's 1761 grant of a patent to Etienne (Stephen) Morin "to establish perfect and sublime Masonry in all parts of the world." In 1763, Morin introduced in Kingston, Jamaica, his "Order of the Royal Secret," which was based on his Constitutions and Regulations of 1762. In the following years, Morin appointed others to travel to the United States, and there to establish additional Masonic Bodies. In 1764, a Body was established in New Orleans, LA, and in 1767, the next was begun in Albany, NY. A Body in Philadelphia, PA was next chartered in 1781, and in Charleston, SC in 1783. The Grand Constitutions of 1786, updated the original 1762 Constitutions increasing the number of degrees from 25 to 33 and establishing the Supreme Council organization, with provisions for both the Southern Jurisdiction ("The Mother Supreme Council of the World") and a second Council that would, in 1813, be established as the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The common name "Scottish Rite" came into general use in the Southern Jurisdiction in 1859, under Grand Commander Albert Pike's administration.

## Why is the organization called "Scottish" even though it didn't come from Scotland?

Discussions on this point are largely vague and generally (and usually admittedly) uninformed since there appears to be no literature confirming a direct link with Scotland, beyond legendary Masonic heritage stories involving Robert the Bruce and Knights Templar in Scotland.

Ill. Arturo de Hoyos cites in *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* (pg. 73), early (1733) manuscript references to a "Scotch Mason's Lodge" implying a "high-degree" Masonic system and states "The early designations "Scots," "Scotch," and "Scottish" refer to a *type* of Masonry practiced, rather than referring to native Scotsmen." De Hoyos goes on to discuss a French "penchant for the so-called "hauts grades" (high degrees) then coming into vogue" and notes that in 1744, the book *Le Parfait Macon* was published, purporting to unveil the "secret of the Scottish Masons". This, according to de Hoyos, led Morin to develop his twenty-five degree system known as the "Order of the Royal Secret".

Of interest, but still based on Masonic legend, is the comment in the Supreme Council's document announcing itself to the world and called the *Circular throughout the two Hemispheres* (also known as the *Manifesto of 1802*): "From such of our records as are authentic, we are informed of the establishment of the Sublime and Ineffable Degrees of Masonry in Scotland, France and Prussia, immediately after the Crusades. But from some circumstance, which to us are unknown, after the year 4658 [658 A.D.], they fell into neglect until the year 5744 [1744 A.D.], when a Nobleman from Scotland visited France, and re-established the Lodge of Perfection in Bourdeaux."

### What is the Scottish Rite's relationship to the rest of the Masonic Fraternity?

*The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* states “The Scottish Rite is an appendant Masonic organization... It is active in every American state and enjoys a cooperative relationship with the American Grand Lodges from whom it solicits members.”

The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization that provides its members an opportunity to expand upon their knowledge of Freemasonry, to widen their circle of friends, and to serve humanity in unique ways. The Scottish Rite degrees are sometimes considered a "graduate course" in Masonic teachings because they amplify the philosophic teaching of the first three degrees and answer some of the questions raised in these blue lodge degrees.

Although there is no higher degree than that of a Master Mason, the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite (the 4th through 32nd Degree) and an honorary 33rd, which is awarded by the Supreme Council for exceptional service, continues Masonic education, enriches the lessons of the Symbolic Lodge, and encourages exploration of Masonic philosophy, history, ethics and the ultimate truths that guide the way a Mason lives.

The Statutes, Art. II, Sec. 4 states “The Supreme Council... shall only recognize other Supreme Councils whose members belong to regular Grand Lodges. Should any Active Member of a recognized Supreme Council be suspended, expelled, or if he should withdraw from or allow his regular Blue Lodge membership to lapse and yet retain his Active Membership in his Supreme Council, the Supreme Council of the 33° for the Southern Jurisdiction shall withdraw recognition from said Supreme Council.”

XVII, Sec. 19 states that “Every member of the rite... must be and remain an affiliated Master Mason in good standing in a regular Symbolic Lodge ...” Sec. 25 goes on to state “Suspension of a member by his Blue Lodge for non-payment of dues carries with it suspension in every Body of this Rite.”

Finally, it is worth noting that the Rite's original 1823 Act of Incorporation states “... nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with any powers, rights or privileges heretofore granted to the “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in this State,” or any other Grand Lodge of Masons heretofore incorporated.”

### What does the phrase/expression “Mother Council of the World” mean?

As the 1801 beginning of the Supreme Council in Charleston, SC, represented the first Scottish Rite Supreme Council body, it has long referred to itself as the Mother Council of the World, although it is not clear when this description was first used. The third Act of Incorporation, approved in 1896, identified the Rite's legal name as “The Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General Knights Commanders of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America”.

William Fox, in *The Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle* (pg 279), writes “... the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, as “the Mother Council of the World,” has been

criticized, at times, for referring to itself in exalted nomenclature and “had been accused of using this title to magnify its importance and power.” “[Thomas J.] Harkins [Sovereign Grand Commander, 1952-1955] understood the delicacy of these feelings, making it emphatically clear in his *Allocution* of 1955 that the Supreme Council did not feel superior to any other Supreme Council in the world, but, he added, “[W]e take pride in the fact that this Supreme Council was the first to be organized in the world.” He carefully outlined his position, “[W]e disdain any thought that this fact entitles us to special consideration or clothes us with any special powers.”

### Why are there four separate Bodies in the Scottish Rite Valley?

The early organizational structure of the Scottish Rite was marked by the federated control of its degrees. Ill. de Hoyos writes in his *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* that “...the Supreme Council originally only exercised direct authority over the Seventeenth through Thirty-third Degrees. At that time masons could receive the 4° - 14° in an independent ‘Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection,’ while a ‘Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem’ conferred the 15° - 16°. Some of these Bodies were constituted under authority of the Order of the Royal Secret prior to the creation of the Supreme Council; however, according to the *Constitutions of 1786*, these lower Bodies were required to acknowledge its authority. The Supreme Council also created Sublime Grand Lodges of Perfection and Grand Councils of Princes of Jerusalem which also operated autonomously. Administration of the entire system, 4° - 32°, was only exercised following the revival of American Freemasonry about 1842 (following the anti-Masonic ‘Morgan affair’), when the Supreme Council rebuilt the infrastructure of high degree Masonry.” Additionally, the 31° and 32° were conferred solely by the “Grand Consistories of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret” which predated today’s Orients. On pages 64-65 of *The Lodge of the Double-headed Eagle*, William Fox quotes from a 1944 letter written by Grand Commander Cowles the following: “the original form of organization of the Scottish Rite was to have one Grand Consistory in each state or Orient or sub-jurisdiction, whatever you want to call it. Then these Grand Consistories would issue the charters of the Lodges of Perfection, 4° - 14°; for the Councils of Princes of Jerusalem, 15° - 16°; for the Chapters of Rose Croix, 17° - 18°; for the Councils of Kadosh, 19° - 30°, but the Grand Consistories retained the 31° and the 32°. The subordinated bodies would be scattered over the state, but the members would have to come to the Grand Consistories to get the 31° and the 32°.”

### What are the mandatory (or “obligatory”) degrees of the Scottish Rite?

Alexandria Valley usually confers roughly half of the twenty-nine, 4<sup>th</sup> through 32<sup>nd</sup>, degrees and communicates those which are not conferred; however, only five degrees are mandatory in that they must always be conferred, and never communicated. These degrees are the initial or introductory degree to be received in the Scottish Rite, followed by the ultimate degree conferred by each of the four Bodies. Therefore, in addition to the *Secret Master* 4<sup>th</sup> Degree, the *Perfect Elu* 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, *Knight Rose Croix* 18<sup>th</sup> Degree, *Knight Kadosh* 30<sup>th</sup> Degree, and *Master of the Royal Secret* 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree are all mandatory degrees which will be conferred at every Reunion. The occasional “one-day Reunion” must include at least these 5 degrees. (Statutes, Art. III §2)

### **Why is the presiding officer of the Council of Kadosh called “Commander” while, in the ritual, he is referred to as “Sir Preceptor”?**

First, the dictionary definitions of “preceptor” are “teacher” and “one who is in charge of a preceptory”; the “preceptory” is defined as a “subordinate house or community of Knights Templar”.

The *Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide* addresses the subject of Officers and Titles in the section on the 30<sup>th</sup> degree: “The elective Officers of a Preceptory are 1. The Preceptor, 2. The First Sub-Preceptor, 3. The Second Sub-Preceptor. These Officers are spoken of outside the Body as: 1. The Commander, 2. The First Lieutenant Commander, 3. The Second Lieutenant Commander. They are also so-called in the Register and wherever else the Body is called a Council.”

The *Monitor & Guide* further explains that: “The word ‘Sir’ is prefixed to the title of each Officer when addressing him.” Thus on a listing of Council officers, we would include “Commander”, while addressing him in the meeting as “Sir Preceptor”. This explains the use of two words for the presiding officer, but doesn’t address the use of only one title for the next two subordinate officers. (But “sub-teacher” wouldn’t be very impressive.)

*Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite* uses the title “Commander” in the installation ceremony – this would be consistent with the protocol of identifying the position by its title rather than using the honorific “Sir Preceptor” as would be done in the Council. Further, in the opening and closing rituals, *Forms and Traditions* identifies the presiding officer consistently as “Commander” and the two subordinate officers refer to him as “the Commander” but when they address him directly, they do so using “Sir Preceptor”. A parallel, for illustrative purposes, might be that you would refer to the position of “the Personal Representative” but when you addressed him, you would use “Illustrious Brother”.





## **SECTION VI - ALPHABETIZED REFERENCE MATERIAL**



# Alphabetized Reference Material

This section of your Manual is intended to provide an easy source of background and reference materials on the many terms, charities, programs and procedures with which you will want to become familiar.

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## A

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### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Alexandria Valley By-Laws state that the Audit Committee consists of a Chairman and at least three members. It annually engages the services of an independent certified public accountant for the purpose of auditing all books and accounts of the Valley, Board of Trustees, and Almoner. All other accounts belonging to or originating in the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies are audited internally under the direction of the Audit Committee. The Committee presents the written audit report, and such other reports made by the accountants, to the Lodge at the February Stated Meeting. The fiscal year for all funds and accounts of the Bodies shall be from January 1st through December 31st.

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## B

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### BOX OF FRATERNAL ASSISTANCE

As the last item before the closing of the highest degree, after the Wardens have tendered the floor to the Brethren and have concluded that “silence reigns,” the Master orders them to inform the Brethren that the Box of Fraternal Assistance is about to be presented with the charge that “each contribute at least so much for the relief of the poor, as he is in the habit of each day expending unnecessarily”. The Ritual Monitor and Guide notes that no Lodge or other Body of the Scottish Rite can ever be closed until the Box of Fraternal Assistance has first been passed around and every Brother must contribute *something*. The moneys collected in the Box of Fraternal Assistance are turned over to the Almoner to be dispensed to deserving distressed persons, Masons or non-Masons without permitting them to know from what source the relief comes.

### BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Alexandria Valley By-Laws state that the Budget and Finance Committee consists of a Chairman, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer, and three members. The heads and number two officers of each Body are ex-officio members of the Committee.

It identifies mid-term (3 yr.) and long term (4-8 yr.) financial goals and strategies; monitors implementation of the current year budget; and prepares the Valley budget for the next year – consulting with the Trustees, senior officers of the four Bodies, the Director of Work, and such Committee Chairmen and others who may require funds for their assigned activities for the

ensuing year. The committee presents the Budget for the ensuing year for information at the November meeting, and for approval at the December meeting. A majority vote is necessary for approval.

It makes recommendations to the Lodge of Perfection as to the officers entitled to a salary and the amount of salary and benefits, and similar recommendations concerning employees required for the operation of the Valley. Such salaries and benefits shall be approved by a majority vote of the Lodge of Perfection.

It is responsible for assessing the adequacy of the Trustees funds, including the Permanent/Building Fund, and other funds to assist with the operating and capital budget; for recommending an investment strategy and spending plan to conserve and grow the funds needed for the operating and capital budget; for setting fund-raising goals; and for recommending changes to dues and fees.

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## C

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### CAPS

*Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite* state: “If the apron is the “badge of a Mason” in Blue Lodge, the cap can be said to be the public badge of a Scottish Rite Mason. In our Order, the cap is both a prayer cap in the Jewish tradition and a symbol of the Scottish Rite Mason as a soldier in the “Empire of Intellect, Reason, Philosophy, and Wise Morality” (32°). Similarly, a cap was worn by English knights, including the Templars, and was later given a military significance by British regimental soldiers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The present caps were adopted by the Supreme Council in 1927.

Illustrious and Dr. S. Brent Morris, 33<sup>rd</sup>, G.C., writes the following in his excellent *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Freemasonry*: “Scottish Rite Masons wear small caps at their meetings, patterned after the dress regalia of British military orders. The caps are worn more widely in the Southern Jurisdiction than in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, with colors and emblems varying somewhat between the jurisdictions. The descriptions that follow are for the Southern Jurisdiction

- Thirty-Second Degree Masons wear a black hat with a double-headed eagle embroidered on the front.
- The Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) is a rank only in the Southern Jurisdiction, between the 32° and 33°. About 2.5 percent of S.J. Scottish Rite Masons have been awarded the KCCH, and they wear red caps with their cross emblem embroidered on the front.
- A white cap embroidered with a patriarchal cross is worn by 33° Inspectors General Honorary. About 1.5 percent of Scottish Rite Masons have received the 33°. (Active members of the Supreme Council, S.J. wear a purple cap.)”

Though he doesn’t mention it, Ill. Morris wears a still different cap. The Grand Cross cap is described in the *Ritual Monitor and Guide* as follows: The cap of a Grand Cross of the Court of Honour is of circular white silk. It is surrounded with a blue band which is trimmed in gold. It has a gold cord, which extends across its top, and is affixed at both sides by a gold button, which is embossed with a double-headed eagle. The front of the cap is adorned by an embroidered copy of the jewel, which is trimmed with gold bullion wire.”

Additionally, the Ritual and Guide describes the cap worn by 50-year members. “The cap of a Fifty Year Member is of circular light blue silk. It is surrounded with a similar blue band which is trimmed in gold. It has a gold cord, which extends across its top, and is affixed at both sides by a gold button, which is embossed with a double-headed eagle. The front of the cap is adorned, about the band, by the numeral 50 surrounded by a green silk embroidered laurel wreath.”

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Alexandria Valley conducts a number of community outreach programs designed to demonstrate to our local community, the Scottish Rite’s interest in and support of certain areas of public concern. These programs typically are closely tied to patriotism and support of our public schools, as these areas are favored in the implementation of the Scottish Rite Creed (see “Creed, Scottish Rite” below). Our major outreach programs include the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC Outstanding Candidates Recognition programs and the Outstanding Teacher Recognition program. Our support of philanthropic programs including the RiteCare Childhood Language Disorders program as well as our several scholarship programs may also be viewed as public/community outreach programs. More information may be found on each of these programs in this section under their respective alphabetical sections.

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## CONFERENCE, SCOTTISH RITE

The Scottish Rite Council was officially established in 1924 with the principal objective of “the furthering of the interests of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Virginia, the promotion of closer and more cordial relations between the Bodies and Members thereof in the Jurisdiction, the exchange of ideas and cooperation in the work and purposes of the Scottish Rite.” The name was changed to the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia in 1983.

The Conference holds an annual morning Workshop in late March at the Richmond Valley Temple, and an annual two-day Conference in late September that is hosted by each of the eight Valleys in a rotational order. The Conference addresses current Orient interests, provides leadership training (also of interest to the general membership in attendance), and includes activities for the wives as well as evening banquets and ample time for social interaction among the Valleys.

Alexandria last hosted the Conference in 2015 and should again be the host in 2023. Bro Allen Beckner, KCCH, is the current Alexandria Valley Conference Vice President.

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## CREED, SCOTTISH RITE

“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.”

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## D

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## DOUBLE HEADED EAGLE

The *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* states: “The double-headed eagle is the unique symbol of the Scottish Rite... The symbol was inherited from the Order of the Royal Secret, the

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immediate predecessor of the Scottish Rite, whose penultimate degree was the Knight Kadosh, or Knight of the White and Black Eagle, also called the *Ne plus ultra* of Masonry.... According to Masonic tradition, the double-headed eagle was used by the Council of the Emperors of the East and West, being the French Masonic authority, which, in 1761, issued a patent to Etienne (Stephen) Morin, founder of Order of the Royal Secret in the New World. As a heraldic device its precise origin is unknown, but it is believed to be a modification of the Roman eagle, which was later used to suggest the Eastern and Western parts of the Roman Empire.

Ill. Jim Tresner, 33°, GC, notes in the Dictionary of Symbols at Appendix III to his *Vested in Glory*, that the Double Eagle represents “the two empires, East and West; the dual nature of man; the combination or meeting of contraries – hence equilibrium; the spiritual and material world; the establishment of a man’s empire over himself.”

Ill. Brent Morris, 33°, GC, writes in *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Freemasonry*: “The double-headed eagle is the most widely used emblem of the Scottish Rite. If it is crowned, it is the emblem of the 33°. The triangle with “33” in it is optional as is the banner with the motto *Deus meumque jus* (“God and my right”). Without the crown, it is the emblem of the 32°, with the motto *Spes mea in deo est* (“My hope is in God”). In the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the eagle with wings up is reserved for active (voting) members of the Supreme Council. The Southern Jurisdiction attaches no significance to the position of the wings.

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### EDUCATION AND AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

The Alexandria Valley By-Laws state that the Education and Americanism Committee consisting of a Chairman and 6 members. It develops training programs; assists the four Bodies in developing and coordinating meeting programs, and supports community outreach programs in furtherance of Valley education and Americanism objectives.

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### FOURTEENTH DEGREE RING

The *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* states: “Scottish Rite Masons are entitled to wear the Fourteenth Degree ring, which is a plain flat gold band with a triangle enclosing the Hebrew letter *yod*, the initial of the Hebrew name of Deity... Inside the ring should be your name, the date you received the fourteenth Degree and the motto *Virtus junxit mors non separabit* (Virtue has united and death shall not separate). The ring may be worn upon any finger of either hand. The promise connected with this that you will wear it during your lifetime, and that you will provide that, after your death, it shall go into the hands of no other person than your widow, your eldest son, or the friend whom of all others you love most. However, it is not to be worn by such a recipient.”

### FOUNDATION, SCOTTISH RITE

The Virginia Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia is the governing body in Virginia for the management of holdings used to support the Scottish Rite’s RiteCare Childhood Language

Disorders Program in the Orient of Virginia. The annual meeting of the Foundation occurs on the Saturday afternoon following the annual Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia. Alexandria Valley's current representative on the Foundation Board of Directors is Bro. Philip Rhodes, KCCH.

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### GRAND CROSS

See Honor Men

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## H

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### HEREDOM

Extracted from [www.scottishrite.org/what/educ/heredom.html](http://www.scottishrite.org/what/educ/heredom.html)

*Heredom* is the flagship publication of the Scottish Rite Research Society and has been sent annually to members since 1992. It is a collection of the finest essays on contemporary and historical Freemasonry emphasizing the Scottish Rite. Volumes 1-15, plus a cumulative index for volumes 1-16 are available on line, in PDF format, at the above website link.

Each year the Scottish Rite Research Society publishes a volume of insightful, scholarly, and thought-provoking articles on all aspects of Freemasonry, but with a general emphasis on the Scottish Rite. Past volumes include studies on biography, bibliography, the evolution and meaning of Masonic rituals, history, kabbalah, hermeticism, Masonic poetry, Prince Hall Affiliation, symbolism, and much more. Each volume is usually between 150-250 pages, and may be color illustrated. (One volume is sent free each year to dues-current Scottish Rite Research Society members.)

The following definition, written by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, and S. Brent Morris, 33°, G.C., was first published in *Heredom* volume 9 for 2001.

- **Heredom** n. [orig. unknown] 1. a significant word in "high degree" Freemasonry, from French Rose Croix rituals where it refers to a mythical mountain in Scotland, the legendary site of the first such Chapter. Possible explanations include: *Hieros-domos*, Greek for *Holy House*, *Harodim*, Hebrew for *overseers*; *Heredum*, Latin for *of the heirs*. 2. the annual transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

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### HONOR MEN

33° Inspector General Honorary - At the biennial session of the Supreme Council, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Deputies nominate a small number of members who have rendered outstanding service to the Rite or, in public life, to the principles taught in the Degrees to receive the Thirty-third Degree. Members so elected to receive this Degree become Honorary



Members of the Supreme Council. The Degree may never be asked for, directly or indirectly, and if asked for shall be refused. These brethren wear white caps.

32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) – Also at the biennial session of the Supreme Council nominees of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General or Deputy are elected to receive the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. This is not a degree, but an Investiture, and is bestowed upon members in recognition of faithful service to the Rite. It is ordinarily a prerequisite to receiving the 33° Inspector General Honorary at some later time, though relatively few receive this distinction. These brethren wear red caps.

33° Grand Cross of Honour – The highest honor bestowed by the Supreme Council. It is reserved for those who have performed extraordinary services to the fraternity or humanity. All Active Members of the Supreme Council are deemed *ipso facto* recipients of the Grand Cross of Honour, although they do not receive the Grand Cross jewel, nor wear the cap. The cap is white with a blue band trimmed in gold and has an embroidered copy of the Grand Cross jewel on the front.

An excellent display with the history of Alexandria’s Honor Men is located in the East Corridor of the Temple.

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## HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

Located at 1733 Sixteenth Street, NW in the District of Columbia, this monumental building in the nation’s capital has been the national headquarters of the Supreme Council since 1915. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia laid the cornerstone in 1911, and the building was completed in 1915. Its architecture is an adaptation of the famous Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.”

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### INSPECTOR GENERAL HONORARY

See Honor Men

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## J

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## K

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### KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR

See Honor Men

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## L

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### **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

The Alexandria Valley By-Laws state that the Library Committee consists of a Chairman and 3 members. It provides the Alexandria Scottish Rite with a first-class library that will support the Masonic Education of its members, provide resources for Masonic research, and become a focal point for Masonic discussion.

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### **MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM**

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman (SRMC) program is a correspondence course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A. & A. Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. Three courses are available **Program I, *The Symbolic Lodge***, addresses the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and its symbolism, using A. Pikes book, *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*, and A. de Hoyos' *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide*, to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in craft Masonry. **Program II, *Scottish Rite Ritual and History***, provides a comprehensive review of the Scottish Rite using the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* and *A Bridge to Light*, by R. Hutchens, 33°, G.C., as reference materials. **Program III, *Scottish Rite Philosophy***, uses *Albert Pike's Morals and Dogma, Annotated Edition*, by A. de Hoyos, 33°, G.C., to investigate the moral lesson imparted in each of the Scottish Rite degrees and how those lessons may be applied to everyday life. Enrollment and materials may be ordered online at [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org) or through our Secretary's Office.

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### **MEMBERSHIP PATENT**

The *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* states: "After you have received the Thirty-second Degree a beautiful Patent, or membership certificate, with your name and date, will be prepared by the Supreme Council and sent to the Consistory for delivery to you." When visiting another Valley, the Patent may be asked for in addition to the dues card – The Statutes, Art. XVII, Sec. 27, state "No member of this jurisdiction shall be permitted to visit or attend the Body in which he holds membership of any other Body of the Rite in this jurisdiction unless he be in possession of a [dues] card such as described in Section 28 of this Article. He shall also, upon demand, exhibit a regular Patent or Diploma of the highest Degree conferred in that Body, or of a higher Degree..." (Many members keep their Patent in their cap case for this eventuality.)

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### **MEMBER OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The Member Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 3 members. It develops programs and provide speakers who can present these programs at the various Lodges when invited to do so by the Worshipful Master with the objective of increasing understanding of the Scottish Rite and encouraging Brethren to join the Alexandria Valley.

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### **MEMBER RETENTION COMMITTEE**

The Member Retention Committee consists of a Chairman and at least 3 members. It maintains contact with inactive members and seeks to get them to re-engage with the Valley.

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### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Member Retention Committee consists of a Chairman and one member and includes as ex-officio members the Heads of the four Bodies, the Director of Work, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Personal Representative. Its objective to encourage membership growth while retaining existing members of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. It also is to ensure that members are given opportunities to have responsibilities in the Valley that are consonant with their interests, skills, and available time. The Committee will accomplish these objectives through a combination of increased communications with, and outreach to, our Scottish Rite Valley members and to non-member Master Masons.

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### **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

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### **MORALS AND DOGMA**

Written by Albert Pike and first printed in 1871, this book augmented Pike's revised Scottish Rite degrees with his 32 essays on philosophy, religion and mythology as he considered them to be relevant to the presentations and lessons of the degrees. The book has often been misunderstood both by its readers and detractors, but Pike writes in his Preface: "The teachings of these Readings are not sacramental, so far as they go beyond the realm of Morality into those of other domains of Thought and Truth. The [AASR] uses the word "Dogma" in its true sense, of *doctrine*, or *teaching*; and is not *dogmatic* in the odious sense of that term. Every one is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatsoever herein may seem to him to be untrue or unsound." The new "Annotated Edition" by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, G. C. was recently published by the Supreme Council and makes the original text more accessible with the addition of notes, source citations, commentary and illustrations.

## NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

*The Constitutions of 1786* provided for two U.S. Supreme Councils and in 1813 the first Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) was chosen. In 1860, a second, rival Supreme Council was established in the NMJ, but the two were united in 1867. The fifteen states North of the Mason-Dixon line and East of the Mississippi River (Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine) comprise the NMJ. The Supreme Council, NMJ headquarters are in Lexington, MA and its Sovereign Grand Commander is Illustrious John William McNaughton. The NMJ web site is at [www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org) and its newsletter, *The Northern Light*, can be found in the Member's Center at that site.

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### ORIENTS, SCOTTISH RITE

The Statutes of the Supreme Council of the 33° (Art. II, Sec 1 and 2) define the jurisdiction of the S.J., as all the territory over which the USA exercises domain of powers of government, except for those 15 states apportioned to the NMJ. It also includes those countries where it has established Bodies over which no other regular Supreme Council has acquired jurisdiction. The Statutes declare each S.J. state and territory to be a separate Orient within itself. There are 42 Orients or territories in the Southern Jurisdiction. In addition to the 35 States, the 7 territories are D.C., Japan & Korea, NATO bases, Okinawa and Guam, Panama Canal, Puerto Rico, and Taiwan and China. Originally, Scottish Rite Orients were named after cities, e.g., Orient of Louisville (KY) [W.L. Fox, *Lodge of the Double Headed Eagle*, pg 94].

### OUTSTANDING TEACHER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Each year, usually prior to its June stated meeting, the Alexandria Consistory hosts the Outstanding Teacher Recognition Program to celebrate and honor the achievements of our public school teachers and to demonstrate the Scottish Rite's gratitude for their contributions to our children, our communities and our society. Three Northern Virginia public school teachers are recognized from among the ten who have been nominated by their respective school districts and then selected by the Washington Post Educational Foundation as recipients of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. The Alexandria Public School System's award recipient is recognized each year and the other two are selected on a rotational basis from among the other nine local school districts. Each honored teacher receives a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$500 check. The program is typically conducted as a pre-meeting Banquet and usually includes a noted speaker from the field of education. The ceremony is open to all members, families and friends who wish to attend - details and reservation slips are provided in the Bulletin prior to the event.

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### PIKE, ALBERT

The *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide* states: "Albert Pike was the Master Builder of the Scottish Rite and was chiefly responsible for its current development and ceremonial... Born in 1809, Pike became a Mason in 1850, became active in the York Rite, and received the 32° in

1853 and immediately became interested in all aspects of the Scottish Rite. Between 1854 and 1855 he transcribed and began studying its degrees and, in the latter year, was appointed to a committee to revise the rituals... He received the 33° in 1857, became an Active Member [of the Supreme Council] in 1858, and was elected Grand Commander of the Supreme Council in 1859 – a position which he held until his death in 1891... Pike was originally buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D.C., and later, by a special act of Congress, his body was placed on December 29, 1944, (his birthday) in a special crypt in the House of the Temple.”

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## Q

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### Q

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## R

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### **RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

In support of our Scottish Rite twin objectives of supporting public education and Americanism, Alexandria Valley members participate in annual awards programs recognizing outstanding Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC cadets with the award of a Scottish Rite medal and service ribbon to be worn on the cadet uniform, an attractive certificate of award, and a booklet of American heritage documents. We support the ROTC program at James Madison University and JROTC programs at twenty-six high schools and military academies with geographic coverage from Harrisonburg to the west, Arlington Career Center to the north, and King George to the south with some 18 of our members attending the various ceremonies and presenting the awards.

In support of our goal to encourage Americanism, the booklet, *Dynamic Freedoms, Our Freedom Documents*, published by the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, has been added to our awards package for each cadet. This pamphlet contains the foundational documents of democracy and our republic, *The Magna Charta*, *Mayflower Compact*, *The Call to Arms*, *The Declaration of Independence*, *The Constitution of the United States*, *Excerpts from Federalist Number 10*, *Excerpts from Washington’s Farewell Address*, *The Gettysburg Address*, and *The American Creed*.

Schools in our area that have JROTC/ROTC programs include:

- Arlington Career Center, Arlington
- Battlefield HS, Haymarket
- C.D. Hylton HS, Woodbridge
- Chantilly HS, Chantilly
- Eastern View HS, Culpepper
- Freedom HS, South Riding
- Gar-Field HS, Woodbridge

Harrisonburg HS, Harrisonburg  
 Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria  
 Herndon HS, Herndon  
 King George HS, King George  
 Liberty HS, Bealton  
 Massanutten Mil Academy, Woodstock  
 Mt. Vernon HS, Alexandria  
 North Stafford HS, Stafford  
 Orange County HS, Orange  
 Osbourn Park HS, Manassas  
 Potomac Sr. High School, Dumfries

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## **RITECARE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

The following is extracted from the Supreme Council's web site at [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org).

“In the early 1950s in Colorado, the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. The results obtained from this program led to the establishment of RiteCare clinics to provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities.

Today, there are 178 RiteCare® clinics, centers, and special programs operating or planned for children and therapists located throughout the United States. Each facility is staffed by speech-language pathologists or other trained personnel. Through the support of Scottish Rite members, these clinics, centers, and programs continue to increase. The value of this philanthropy has long been apparent. Tens of thousands of youngsters across the United States have been helped significantly. With the good work of dedicated clinicians and parents, the Scottish Rite has achieved successes that could only be imagined a few years back. Children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead productive lives.

As a rule, the RiteCare® Clinics accept preschool children who have difficulty speaking or understanding the spoken word or school-age children who have difficulty learning to read. Some centers also offer literacy training for adults.

Inquiries on age groups and program offerings in specific areas should be addressed to the director of the local Scottish Rite facility. Equally important, all services are available regardless of race, creed, or the family's inability to pay.

While all children in need are eligible for available RiteCare® Program treatment, please consult with your local facility for specific financial information.”

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### **SCOTTISH RITE CONFERENCE**

See “Conference, Scottish Rite”.

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## SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION

See “Foundation, Scottish Rite”

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## SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL

The Scottish Rite Journal is published bimonthly by the Supreme Council, SJ, and each member’s subscription costs are included in his dues. The managing editor is Ill. S. Brent Morris, 33°, G.C. Current and past issues are available electronically at [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org).

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## SCOTTISH RITE RESEARCH SOCIETY (SRRS)

Extracted from <http://scottishriteresearch.com/>

### About the Society

*Indocti discant, ament meminisse periti.* Let the unlearned learn, let the experts love to remember.

Since 1991, the Scottish Rite Research Society (SRRS) has become one of the most dynamic forces in Masonic research today, pursuing a publication program emphasizing quality—both in content and physical form. While it has its administrative offices at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., it is open to all. We encourage anyone interested in deepening his or her understanding of Freemasonry to become a member and make the SRRS your research society.

### SRRS Dues Information

**2016:** One Year - \$55; Life - \$1,375

### Membership Benefits

As a new, dues-current, or life member, you will receive a 10% discount on Research Society books and selected Research Society items as well as:

- *Heredom*, annual collection of scholarly essays about Masonry;
- *The Plumblin*, the Society's quarterly newsletter;
- And periodically, bonus items and special discounted offers on advanced sales.

### How to Join the SRRS

- Online at: [www.scottishritestore.org](http://www.scottishritestore.org). Click on “Scottish Rite Research Society.”
  - By telephone 1.) Have credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover) information ready. 2.) call the online store at 866-445-9196.
  - By mail: 1.) Download an application form (PDF reader required) at <http://scottishriteresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/2012-SRRS-Application.pdf>. (2) Send completed form and payment to: **Scottish Rite Research Society** 1733 Sixteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20009-3103
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## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, SCOTTISH RITE

Extracted from [www.scottishrite.org/what/phil/scholarships.html](http://www.scottishrite.org/what/phil/scholarships.html)

The following links outline scholarship programs sponsored by the Supreme Council, and through these programs, provide scholarships each year to worthy students who meet the academic and community service requirements.

**\*\*Please note these programs are available to United States citizens only for study at schools within the United States.\*\***

### » Scholarship Programs Handled by the Supreme Council

- Sovereign Grand Commander's Scholarship
- Sam and Millie Hillburn Scholarship
- Public School Administration Scholarship
- Shepherd Scholarship

### » Scholarship Programs Handled by the George Washington University (GWU) for study exclusively at GWU

- Scottish Rite Endowment Graduate Fellowship and Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Study Exclusively at GWU
- Scottish Rite/Bichan Scholarship
- Scottish Rite Graduate Fellowships in Language Disorders

## SIGN OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*Forms and Traditions of the Scottish Rite* provide the following: “During prayer, the cap remains in place but the head is slightly bowed and the hands are placed in the “Sign of the Good Shepherd”: the left arm folded over the right with fingers outstretched and touching the shoulders comfortably. This dignified position reflects the compassionate spirit of the Scottish Rite in recalling the Good Shepherd as He carried a lamb over His neck holding its feet with His crossed hands”

## STATUTES OF THE SCOTTISH RITE

The “Statutes of the Supreme Council of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree” define the jurisdiction, organizational structure, and roles and responsibilities of the officers and members of the Supreme Council, Orients, Valleys and Subordinate Bodies. Article XXI of the Statutes state that “These statutes, with the Regulations of 1762, the Grand Constitutions of 1786, together with the edicts and decisions of the Supreme Council, and the unwritten principles and Landmarks of Freemasonry constitute the law of the Rite in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council” [SJ]. A PDF copy of



the Statutes is available at the [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org) web site under the Masonic Education/Publications link.

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**TRIALS, SCOTTISH RITE**

The “Statutes of the Supreme Council of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree”, Art. XVIII, describe the Scottish Rite Trial and Penal Statutes including matters of jurisdiction, charge procedures, selection of tribunals, hearings and balloting procedures, penalties, appeals and final judgment. A PDF copy of the Statutes is available at the [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org) web site under the Masonic Education/Publications link.

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## **APPENDIX A –COMMITTEE CHARTERS**

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### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

August 2010

**Chair: Allen D. Beckner, KCCH**

The objective of the Audit Committee is to audit or ensure the audit of the financial accounts of the Alexandria Scottish Rite.

The Audit Committee shall consist of a Chairman and at least three members.

Tasks:

1. It shall annually engage the services of an independent certified public accountant for the purpose of auditing all books and accounts of the Valley, Board of Trustees, and Almoner.
2. It shall ensure that internal audit, under its direction of all other accounts belonging to or originating in the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies.
3. It shall present the written audit report, and such other reports made by the accountants, to the Lodge of Perfection at the February Stated Meeting.

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### **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**August 2010**

**Chair: Sheldon B. Richman, KCCH**

The Budget and Finance Committee shall identify mid-term (3 yr.) and long term (4-8 yr.) financial goals and strategies; prepare the Valley budget for the next year; and monitor implementation of the current year budget. It also shall be responsible for assessing the adequacy of the Trustees funds and other funds to assist with the operating and capital budget; for setting fund-raising goals; and for recommending changes to dues and fees.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of a Chairman, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer, and three members. The heads and number two officers of the four Bodies shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. The Chairmen of the operating committees will be specifically invited to attend Budget and Finance Committee meetings, but the Committee meetings will be open to all Alexandria Scottish Rite Brethren.

Tasks:

1. The Committee shall work with the number two officers of the four bodies and with the Committee Chairs to develop the budget for the next Scottish Rite year, taking into account planned programs and available funding.
2. The Committee shall monitor implementation of the current year budget. Adjustments will be made to transfer funds from accounts where they are not needed or being used to where they are needed.
3. The Committee shall work with the Strategic Planning Committee to review funding needs for near-term action plans approved by the Personal Representative.
4. The Committee shall present to the Personal Representative anticipated budget shortfalls between anticipated revenue from all sources and Valley operating expenses, capital budget requirements, and desired program funding, along with recommendations as to how additional funds might be obtained.
5. The Committee, working with the Trustees, shall develop a 20-year building capital improvement budget.
  - a. The Trustees shall provide to the Committee an analysis of the expected life of each of the building systems (air conditioning, heating, electrical, plumbing, etc.).
  - b. The Trustees shall provide the Committee with an estimate of the funds needed to pay for repair and replacement of these systems and the degree to which they are available from the Trustees funds.
6. The Committee shall recommend an investment strategy and spending plan to conserve and grow the funds needed for the operating and capital budget.
7. The Committee with the assistance of the Trustees shall develop a long-term fund raising strategy for a capital building fund. It also shall establish fund-raising goals, and recommend changes to dues and fees.
8. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Lodge of Perfection as to the officers entitled to a salary and the amount of salary and benefits, and similar recommendations concerning employees required for the operation of the Valley.

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**EDUCATION & AMERICANISM COMMITTEE****May 2010****Chair: Loyd E. Davis., 33°, PGM**

The objective of the Education & Americanism Committee is to develop training programs, assist the four Bodies in developing and coordinating meeting programs, and support community outreach programs in furtherance of Valley education and Americanism objectives.

The Education and Americanism Committee shall consist of a Chairman and 6 members. Additional Brethren may be assigned tasks as required for the execution of specific programs. The Chairman may delegate authority to other Scottish Rite Brethren for the execution of specific programs under the purview of the Education and Americanism Committee.

Tasks:

1. The Committee shall develop training programs to further Valley members' understanding of the Scottish Rite, its history and symbols; its organizational structure, rules and procedures; its philosophy and creed; and its (non-degree) rituals and ceremonies. It shall accomplish this by:
  - a. Developing a Valley Officer training curriculum and maintaining and presenting a Valley Officer training program;
  - b. Promoting membership participation in the Master Craftsman Program, and tracking and reporting on Valley participation in the Program;
  - c. Developing additional educational opportunities for the membership, including, in coordination with the Library Committee, organizing book discussion groups;
  - d. Producing educational materials, including Scottish Rite Degree summaries and book reviews.
2. To support the four bodies in developing and coordinating meeting programs, the Committee shall:
  - a. Coordinate with the incoming Presiding Officers of the four Bodies to plan the meeting programs and speakers for each ensuing Masonic year and provide a program planning and tracking tool for the four Bodies to ensure all are aware of planned program subject matter to avoid duplication or conflict;

- b. Coordinate presentation of monthly Education and Americanism programs at Valley stated meetings or, when requested, at other Valley events or gatherings such as the Scottish Rite Club meetings;
  - c. Provide periodic presentations on the Scottish Rite Creed and the implementing programs favored by the Supreme Council.
3. In coordination with the Public Relations Committee to support the Alexandria Valley's efforts to inform non-Scottish Rite Masons and the general public of its principles, purposes and programs through a combination of Lodge presentations and community outreach programs, the Committee shall:
  - a. Coordinate with Northern Virginia ROTC/JROTC Units to schedule presentations of Outstanding Cadet Recognition Awards, and coordinate with Valley membership to align presenters for the award ceremonies - it shall also compile statistical data on presentations for end-of-year reporting;
  - b. Coordinate with the Washington Post newspaper to identify recipients of the annual Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards, then select and coordinate with three of the Northern Virginia awardees and their school administration for participation in the Alexandria Consistory's annual Outstanding Teacher Recognition Banquet and Program; it shall coordinate with and respond to the direction of the Consistory Master of Kadosh, all Valley preparations for the Banquet/Program;
  - c. Select and coordinate community teachers for participation in the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation seminars (when sponsored and authorized by the Supreme Council);
  - d. When requested, participate in Valley presentations at Masonic Lodges, about Scottish Rite Freemasonry, on Americanism, or as part of a Valley speakers program service to present programs of Masonic education;
  - e. Provide other such Masonic education service and support to the Valley and its members as may be requested by the SGIG's Personal Representative.

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**LIBRARY COMMITTEE****January 2010****Chair: John T. Tillery, KCCH**

The objective of the Library Committee is to provide the Alexandria Scottish Rite with a first-class library that will support the Masonic Education of our members, provide resources for Masonic research, and become a focal point for Masonic discussion.

The Library Committee shall consist of a Chairman and 3 members recommended by the Chair and appointed by the Personal Representative.

Tasks:

1. The Committee shall catalog the holdings and recommend eliminating items not worth retaining.
2. The Committee will initially and periodically compile a list of books to expand and improve the Masonic book collection. It will consult with other Masonic librarians and scholars, for example, the House of the Temple and the GW Masonic Memorial, and with the Brethren.
3. The Committee will enlist the support of our membership in obtaining desired books.
4. The Committee will explore ways to make the library and its collection more available and accessible to our membership.
5. The Committee will establish a presence on the Alexandria Scottish Rite website and also maintain and update the Books on Freemasonry section of the website.
6. The Committee will assist the Education Committee in organizing and running book discussion groups and identifying and having Brethren develop book reviews that might be presented as programs at the meetings.

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**MEMBER OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**July 27 2013**

**Chair: Paul R. Evancoe, KCCH**

The objective of the Member Outreach Committee is to develop programs and provide speakers who can present these programs at the various Lodges when invited to do so by the Worshipful Master with the objective of increasing understanding of the Scottish Rite and encouraging Brethren to join the Alexandria Valley.

The Membership Outreach Committee shall consist of a Chairman and at least three members.

Tasks: \_The Committee shall:

1. As a service to our Blue Lodges, develop a set of Masonic Education talks that can be given by Committee members or other Alexandria Brethren at stated meetings where the Worshipful Master may need an interesting program for the evening.



2. As a membership recruitment tool, develop a set of talks that can be given by Committee members or other Alexandria Brethren at Scottish Rite nights at the various Lodges that will inform the Brethren about the Rite and the Valley and explain the value and advantages of membership.
3. Develop a “speakers bureau” consisting of knowledgeable and articulate Valley Brethren who can make effective presentations and then speak with individual Lodge Brethren to encourage them to petition.
4. Work closely with the Membership Development Committee to encourage the Alexandria Scottish Rite representatives assigned to each Lodge to talk to the Senior Warden about the availability of Scottish Rite speakers to put on a program of Masonic education at stated meetings, and to attempt to schedule a Scottish Rite evening as a Lodge program the following year when he is Worshipful Master.
5. Schedule speakers to put on programs at the various Lodges.

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**MEMBER RETENTION COMMITTEE**
**July 27 2013**
**Chair: Philip N. Rhodes, KCCH**

The objective of the Member Retention Committee is to maintain contact with inactive members and seek to get them to re-engage with the Valley.

The Member Retention Committee shall consist of a Chairman and at least three members.

Tasks:

1. The Committee, working with the Secretary, shall call each Brother who is behind in his dues and at risk of being suspended for non-payment of dues (NPD), who has already been suspended NPD, or has demitted to determine the reason(s), to determine if he needs assistance, and to see if he can be persuaded to remain or become an active, dues paying member.
2. In the context of these calls, to the extent feasible, solicit from each Brother comments about his Alexandria Scottish Rite experience and suggestions as to how his Scottish Rite membership can be made more meaningful.
3. In the context of these calls, to the extent feasible, ascertain details about the Brother’s background and interests to identify roles and responsibilities within the Alexandria Scottish Rite that might be of interest to him.
4. Provide feedback and relevant information obtained through these calls to the Chairman of the Membership Development Committee to assist him in his efforts to promote member interest and foster increased participation in Valley activities.

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**MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****July 27 2013****Chair: Norman L. Hoff, 33°**

The objective of the Membership Development Committee is to encourage membership growth while retaining existing members of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. It also is to ensure that members are given opportunities to have responsibilities in the Valley that are consonant with their interests, skills, and available time. The Committee will accomplish these objectives through a combination of increased communications with, and outreach to, our Scottish Rite Valley members and to non-member Master Masons

The Membership Development Committee shall consist of a Chairman and one member and include as ex-officio members the Heads of the four Bodies, the Director of Work, the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Personal Representative.

**Tasks:**

1. Contribute to the growth of Valley membership by attracting new members through the employment of an effective Scottish Rite Representative program consisting of one Alexandria Valley Representative assigned to each Masonic Lodge within the jurisdictional territory of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley.
  - Reaffirm current, or appoint new Scottish Rite Representatives and provide each with the appropriate resources, information, training, and assistance to ensure that an effective outreach program can be established and maintained in each Masonic Lodge in the area served by the Alexandria Valley.
  - Monitor, evaluate and improve the Scottish Rite Representative's performance in each Lodge through a combination of observation, reports, and results-based metrics.
2. Contribute to the strength of the Valley membership by increasing member participation in its activities.
  - Promote member interest and foster increased participation in Valley activities using a combination of mentoring, direct communications, specific job participation requests, and increased training in roles and responsibilities of the Valley's many functional opportunities.
5. Facilitate Members' participation in Valley activities by providing central coordination functions for the satisfaction of standing and ad-hoc Committee personnel needs.

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**PHILANTHROPIC COMMITTEE****May 2010****Chair: Howard Sobel, KCCH**

The objective of the Philanthropic Committee is to increase the awareness of the Brethren about, and their involvement in, the various Scottish Rite philanthropic activities. It also is to promote, in coordination with the Public Relations Committee, public awareness of the philanthropic work of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

The Philanthropic Committee shall consist of a Chairman and 6 members including a representative from each of the four Bodies.

Tasks:

1. The Committee shall develop a communication and outreach program to raise the profile of Scottish Rite philanthropic activities (RiteCare, Scholarships, Almoner's Fund) by:
  - a. Maintaining an updated explanation on our website.
  - b. Drafting articles for publication in the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin.
  - c. Presenting short talks/announcements at meetings on a quarterly basis.
  - d. Including a short summary of our Philanthropic activities in the Reunion Booklets.
  - e. Enhancing donor recognition programs.
2. The Committee shall engage the membership in our philanthropic activities by:
  - a. Working with the heads of the four bodies, the other Committee Chairs, and the Degree Masters to gain their support for our charitable activities.
  - b. Encouraging member attendance at our JMU visits to the summer clinic.
  - c. Attempting to see if it is possible to schedule JMU visits to be briefed on the program on a Saturday so that is possible for working Brethren, their spouses and families to become more engaged with our Rite Care activities.

- d. Developing fund-raising activities to support our philanthropic activities.  
For example, by:
  - i. Designing and selling a Masonic lapel pin as a fund-raiser.
  - ii. Developing a wish list of items that can be donated to support our philanthropic activities.
  - iii. Holding a charity ball.
  - iv. Encouraging bequests.
  - v. Seeking to qualify for the annual United Way – Consolidated Charities campaign.

Determining if there are other charitable activities that the membership would like to support – i.e., community activities

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**PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE****May 2010****Chair: Jay E. Patterson, KCCH**

The objective of the Public Relations Committee is to increase awareness among the public and the Brethren of the work and value of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

The Public Relations Committee shall consist of a Chairman and 6 members, including a representative from each of the four bodies.

**Tasks:**

1. The Committee shall develop a communication and outreach program to bring Scottish Rite Freemasonry to the positive attention of the media, the public, and the Brethren by:
  - a. Developing a consistent message about the Scottish Rite brand.
  - b. Developing press releases, radio and TV spots, and Internet messages publicizing the charitable and community service activities of the Alexandria Scottish Rite.

- c. Regularly updating the Alexandria Scottish Rite Website with information that will raise public awareness and increase Masonic interest in the Rite.
  - d. Identify videos and other materials available from the Supreme Council for use as Lodge programs.
2. The Committee will suggest to the Personal Representative a number of Brethren who should be authorized to speak to the Press and Public organizations about the Alexandria Scottish Rite.
3. The Committee will identify a number of Brethren who can serve as Valley photographers to provide visual content for the website, bulletin, and other public relations vehicles.
4. The Committee, will assist the Membership Committee with the training program for Lodge Representatives to ensure they have the skills and tools to publicize Scottish Rite events in the local media and within their Lodges.
5. The Committee will explore the utility of having a Valley presence on Facebook, MySpace LinkedIn, Twitter, etc., as well as an email list-serve for the Valley.