



---

SEPTEMBER 2009

---

## AN EVENTFUL SUMMER

Some of our most significant events took place during the past three months and gave further meaning to the Scottish Rite outreach:

**June 12** – Three teachers from Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County were honored as Teachers of the Year at our Temple. The open program, during dinner prior to our monthly meeting that night, included the presentation to each of a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$500 check. All three responded later with notes of appreciation for the Scottish Rite's interest in public education.

**June 23** – Under the theme of "A Family Night Out" for our members, we sponsored a play at the Little Theatre of Alexandria which was attended by 198. We also provided bus transportation to the theatre and return to the Temple for those who wanted to avoid the parking difficulties in downtown Alexandria. All who attended were highly pleased with the event and the hilarious comedy "It Runs in the Family".

**June 24** – A special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was observed at an afternoon reception and program at James Madison University. Ladies and brethren from Alexandria as well as from other Valleys were hosted and acclaimed by University officials for the Scottish Rite's summer clinic at JMU over the years.

**August 22** – Representatives of 42 Blue Lodges and eight Masonic Districts gathered at the Scottish Rite Temple for a program dedicated to Blue Lodge Masonry. Mt. Carmel 133 of Warrenton was Host Lodge as one of its candidates became a Master Mason at the hands of a full cast of Scottish Rite brethren. Dinner was also provided to the nearly 200 in attendance.

### SEPTEMBER 11 SPEAKER

**Ill. F. Reed Brown**

*Separation of  
Church & State*

THE BULLETIN

of the

SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

James D. Hawkins, KCCH, Bulletin Coordinator

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

The Secretary of the four coordinate Bodies is Walter S. Downs, 33°, G.C. Address: P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313 Office Phone: (703) 998-9044.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

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

**ALLEGIANCE**

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

of which

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

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

**STATED MEETINGS**

**Alexandria Lodge of Perfection**  
Second Friday of each month  
ROBERT G. WATKINS, JR., 33°  
Venerable Master

**Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix**  
Second Friday,  
January, March, May, November  
JAMES D. HAWKINS, KCCH  
Wise Master

**Alexandria Council of Kadosh**  
Second Friday,  
January, March, May, November  
WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER, KCCH  
Commander

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

*Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.*

VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE



At our August meeting, and as I surveyed the lodge room from the Venerable Master's chair and reflected on the evening's program, I suddenly realized how important traditions are to the craft. The ritual establishes the order of the program, and it is generally within those bounds that the work of the lodge is conducted.

I also understood that each Scottish Rite member has his personal contribution to make to the advancement of the Rite and to his own path to spiritual and intellectual progress. When I arrived at the point in the program to make introductions, it seemed to me that in doing so, we acknowledge not only a brother's accomplishments, but also his Masonic personality. This is traditional and fully appropriate.

In this message, I feel it important to note the approaching fall season. The air is full of anticipation of upcoming special events and traditional ceremonies that all invite our participation. All of these are described in detail in this Bulletin, but I would highlight these few:

- 2009 Supreme Council Biennial Session. In addition to this inspirational event, the Scottish Rite Research Society will meet, and the Alexandria Degree Team will confer the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree.
- 2009 Fall Reunion, when philosophical lessons of the Scottish Rite will be so dramatically presented along with the special challenge of bringing new members into the Valley.
- Feast of Tishri, which is open to wives and guests. Sean Graystone, 33<sup>o</sup>, G.C., from the Supreme Council, will be our speaker for the program.

I personally look forward to taking part in these activities, and I hope you do also. I encourage each of you to try to find the opportunity to participate as your personal schedules will permit. I urge you to be active, even if selectively, in these events, and to put forth your ideas and suggestions for creative improvement of the Valley.

**ROBERT G. WATKINS, JR., 33<sup>o</sup>**

**2009 SPRING CLASS MEMBERS**

If you missed the earlier notice, rings, caps, etc. are available for pick up Monday - Friday between 10 and 4, or at the September meeting.

**FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK**

**Schedule of Meetings**

*Friday, September 11 – 6:30 PM*

Dinner

(Reservations Required)

Consistory – 7:30 PM

Lodge of Perfection

*Friday, October 9 – 7:30 PM*

Lodge of Perfection

Our overall membership status at this time is very good. The Spring Reunion added 30 to our rolls. There have also been a few reinstatements and affiliations; these, however, have been offset by a few demits and suspensions. As reported at the August meeting, there have been 36 deaths thus far compared to 39 a year ago. An even more encouraging happening is that in June of 2008 there were 113 members who owed two years dues; of these, 64 were suspended. In June of 2009, there were only 73 who were two years in arrears, and several of these brethren have since paid up.

Two things will help sustain this positive posture. First, an intensive effort by all is needed to increase the number of petitions for the Fall Reunion. Secondly, those now in arrears in dues need to “catch up” and become current to avoid suspension at the end of the year.

**WALTER S. DOWNS, 33<sup>o</sup> GC**

*Secretary of all Four Bodies*

## MEMBERSHIP

I hope everyone had a nice summer, and is now busy getting those petitions for membership. We only have until October 1 to submit petitions for our Fall Reunion!

The success the Alexandria Valley has had the last few years in leading the Orient of Virginia in new members was a direct result of the interest and enthusiasm our members used to persuade brethren to become Scottish Rite Masons. To maintain this position should be our goal. We need to re-energize our efforts so that we can be proud of having a sizable class *next month*. As of this writing, in August, we have a few carry over petitions from the Spring Class, but no new petitions.

We need to be talking to the Blue Lodge, non-Scottish Rite Masons. Let them know how impressive and meaningful our degrees are; and assure them they will find many avenues for enlarging their Masonic friendships. Tell them how the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program has helped thousands of children with language communication deficiencies through the 165 clinics in the Southern Jurisdiction. They are probably not aware of our work and support for these children.

It is wise to always carry a petition in your pocket, particularly during the three months before a reunion. You'll never know when you might meet or talk to someone who would like to join the Scottish Rite. If you are in need of petitions, see your Lodge Representative or call our Secretary.

When the October 17 and 24 reunion takes place, I hope you will be proud of your role in getting some of those candidates in the Class.

**THOMAS A. REESE, KCCH**  
*Membership Chairman*

## NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Whether or not you have been considering purchasing Life Membership, the period between now and December 31 is an opportune and practical time to preserve your Scottish Rite membership for the rest of your life and at no further costs.

As an immediate benefit, you will not have to pay the 2010 dues. As each year approaches, you will automatically receive the next year's membership card. You will also eliminate the occasional confusion about where the dues statement is or whether you have paid it, or whatever.

If you defer buying Life Membership until after 2009, look at the price difference:

	2009	2010
Under		
Age 75	\$935	\$1,105
75 and up	\$625	\$ 737

Dues for 2009 must have been paid to take out Life Membership during the remainder of 2009. Call the Secretary if you want to buy Life Membership or need further information.

---

## BUILDING FUND

We receive, and appreciate, all contributions to this Fund. Many contributions are made by members when submitting dues payments; others make direct contributions at various times. We give special recognition to anyone contributing \$100 or more by placing his name on one of the plaques in the main lobby. Since the last issue of the Bulletin, we will be adding the name of **JAY E. PATTERSON** to this plaque of special recognition.

## COHEN TO REPRESENT THE SGIG IN ALEXANDRIA

In his letter of June 29, 2009, SGIG James D. Cole appointed Ill. Edmund Cohen to become his *Personal Representative* in the Valley of Alexandria effective on July 10. His letter, which was read in its entirety at the July 10 meeting, also explained the appointment of two Assistant Secretaries – Ill. David H. Smith, Sr. and David C. Morris, KCCH – for the remainder of the year

Brother Cohen, who is a Past Master of Henry Lodge No. 57, received his Scottish Rite degrees in the Spring Class of 1977. He was a long time participant and Degree Master of the 20<sup>th</sup> degree which is comprised solely of Henry Lodge members. In the mid-1990s, he assisted in the reunion Prompting function and eventually developed it into an effective Prompting Team.

He was a cast member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree when it was revised in the early 1990s, and performed that major part for many years. He is a member of Alexandria's 33<sup>rd</sup> degree team and performs a major part in that degree.

Most Worshipful Brother Cohen served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 2008.

Plan to attend – November 21, 2009•



FEAST OF TISHRI PROGRAM

## KCCH AND 33<sup>rd</sup> DEGREE HONORS

The Supreme Council will hold its Biennial Session for 2009 in Washington on October 5 and 6. All sessions, except the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree conferral, will be held at the Capital Hilton Hotel. The formal opening at 9 AM on the 5<sup>th</sup> will be open to all brethren and wives.

Among the Council's activities will be the election and announcement of brethren across the Southern Jurisdiction to be invested with the decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour or to be coroneted a Thirty-third Degree Inspector General Honorary. These honors will recognize the recipients' dedication to the Scottish Rite and their sustained contributions to its workings.

Alexandria will be granted a small number to become 33<sup>rd</sup> degree members and a larger number to become KCCHs. When their names are announced, we will want to congratulate each one on his highly regarded recognition. Their names will be published in the November-December Bulletin.

The 33<sup>o</sup> will be conferred in Washington on October 6 under Supreme Council auspices, with the Alexandria Valley team conferring the degree. Alexandria will also perform the KCCH Investiture at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple on October 31. Brethren, families, and friends are invited to this 2 o'clock program and tasty buffet that follows.

---

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

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

## OUR SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

Two months ago, at the Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club's meeting, the club celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Raymond D. Steele, 33°, (who served as Secretary during most of 1979) proudly recounted many of the club's developments, activities, and achievements over the years. Two months from now, the Blue Ridge Club will observe its 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The two groups have been very effectively carrying out the two purposes for which they were begun: to cultivate social relationships among the Scottish Rite families in their localities, and to promote the Scottish Rite. Those of us in the closer-in areas of Alexandria have

endeavored to show our support and encouragement to these brethren and their ladies by attending their monthly meetings. By doing so, we have greatly expanded our own circle of friendships. We encourage even greater participation by club members and the brethren in the Alexandria area.

On Monday, September 21, the Blue Ridge Club will meet in Culpeper with dinner at 6:30. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Shenandoah Valley Club will meet at Front Royal, also with dinner at 6:30. Both clubs' informal meetings will end by 7:45. Let the Secretary know by Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> if you would like to attend either or both of these. We'd like to have you along. You'll enjoy it!

---

## 2010 DUES NOTICES

The Supreme Council will start mailing dues notices in September. If your 2009 dues were paid prior to July 12, 2009, you will receive your 2010 membership card in the same envelope as the dues statement. You should pay those dues as soon as possible; otherwise, later on you might think that since you have the 2010 card you must have paid the dues.

If you paid after July 12, or if you owed for 2008 and 2009, you will receive the notice only; your 2010 card will be sent to the Alexandria Secretary. When you make payment, the current year's card will be forwarded to you

The yearly dues, beginning with the 2010 year, are \$65. This change was initially described in the February-March Bulletin, proposed at the May 8 meeting, and enacted at the June 12 meeting. With this change, the fee for LIFE MEMBERSHIP will also be adjusted as described on page four.

Members in the Life Membership Plan will receive a Notice showing no dues owed, but providing selections for making contributions if desired. The 2010 card will be included with the Notice.

### 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Seven more brethren will be added in 2009 to the rolls of this very special group. Four will be recognized and honored at our meeting on November 13. They are:

ROBERT T. S. COLBY  
GEORGE W. EHREDT  
ROBERT E. GOODWIN, AND  
ROBERT L. TRAVERS.

Our yearly addition of 50-year members proves that our life expectancy has, indeed, increased over the generations. For example, in 1975 with over 3,000 members, there were only 12 50-year members; today with only 2,000 members, there are 90 50-year members!

# FEAST OF TISHRI PROGRAM

*SPEAKER: ILL. SEAN D. GRAYSTONE, 33°, GC*

*of the House of the Temple*

The Feast of Tishri in Freemasonry derives from the Jewish Festival of Sukkoth which celebrates the harvest and commemorates the period after the exodus from Egypt during which the Jews wandered in the wilderness and lived in huts. Also called the Feast of Booths and Feast of Tabernacles, the biblical Festival of Sukkoth (also spelled Succoth) relates to the general celebration of Thanksgiving in America today and to Freemasonry, particularly the Scottish Rite's observance of the Feast of Tishri. Yet Freemasonry is an organization with no religious

agenda of its own, and this Masonic observance is done in such a manner as to be acceptable to men of all faiths.

This annual program will take place on Saturday, November 21. Those of you who are familiar with this special program know that it celebrates the dedication of King Solomon's Temple while also observing a Masonic Feast of Thanksgiving.

Because the October publication will be the Reunion book, we are including below a reservation slip to facilitate early reservations for the dinner and subsequent program.

---

## RESERVATION SLIP

FEAST OF TISHRI PROGRAM &  
LADIES NIGHT IN HONOR OF NEW MEMBERS

*November 21, 2009, 6:30 p.m.*

*Dinner & program -- \$9.00 per person  
(No Charge For Fall Class Members)*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for the November 21 Feast of Tishri Dinner.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.00 per person).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Alexandria Scottish Rite  
P.O. Box 175  
Alexandria, VA 22313-0175

**Reservation deadline is Monday, November 16.**

**SORRY, NO PHONE RESERVATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

*No tickets issued, but paid reservations will be checked in by name at Dining Room entrances.*

**SEPTEMBER IS PRE-MEETING  
DINNER MONTH**



Our every-other-month dinner will take place at 6:30 before the September 11 meeting. If you haven't already made reservations with the Secretary, call him by Monday, September 7. Without a reservation, a meal cannot be served. The cost is \$6 per person, while the Valley subsidizes the balance paid to the ladies organization serving the meal. The \$6 can be paid in advance or "at the door."

Please remember that if you make a reservation without paying ahead of time and don't show up for dinner, you'll still be expected to pay the \$6 (because we paid for it – based on the number of reservations made).

---

**SCOTTISH RITE  
CONFERENCE**

This year's annual Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26 in Virginia Beach. A number of Alexandria brethren and ladies will be attending this business and social weekend along with couples from the other seven Valleys in the state.

I will report in the November-December Bulletin on the activities that took place at this year's Conference.

**LARRY ALEXANDER, KCCH**  
*Vice President*

**FALL REUNION 2009**

October 17 and 24

*In Memory of*

**FRANCIS O. SOMERVILLE, KCCH**

**WILLIAM H. CONSLA, KCCH**

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

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

Return Service Requested