

Scottish Rite Bulletin

January – February 2010

Alexandria, Virginia Bodies

Alexandria Scottish Rite Honors

Walter Scott Downs, 33°, G.C.

by
David H. Smith, Sr., 33°
Assistant Secretary



Illustrious Walter Scott
Downs, 33°, Grand
Cross

Illustrious Walter has touched the lives of many individuals in the community, in Freemasonry, and in the Scottish Rite. His unselfish service to humanity and Masonry distinguishes him from the rest of the Craft.

As you know, Illustrious Walter is stepping down as Secretary of the Alexandria Valley in January 2010 and a dinner honoring him will be held on March 6, 2010 at the Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple. Illustrious Walter has served as Secretary for 27 years

and as the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Virginia for 26 years. His long and faithful service to the Scottish Rite and

***“Please plan to attend the dinner
honoring
Illustrious Walter on
March 6, 2010.”***

Freemasonry truly deserves every recognition that can be afforded such a distinguished brother.

We are in the process of developing an article about Illustrious Walter that will include his biography and anecdotes about his relationship and connection with the Brethren of the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry. We would like to include your thoughts about how Illustrious Walter has affected your journey in Masonry. If you would like to contribute something, please forward your comments to me at dhsmith3@cox.net or via mail at 5819 Pin Oak Commons Court, Burke, Virginia 22015. You can reach me at (703) 239-8659.

Please plan to attend the dinner honoring Illustrious Walter on March 6, 2010. More information will be forthcoming on how to sign up.

Grand Cross Court of Honour

The highest honor awarded by the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., is the Grand Cross of the Court of Honour. It is voted, very rarely, to Thirty-third Degree Masons only for the most exceptional and extraordinary services. There are fewer than 60 living recipients of this decoration out of nearly 400,000 members in the Southern Jurisdiction.

The Grand Cross cap is white with a blue band. On the front is a replica of the Grand Cross jewel, which is composed of a Teutonic Cross with an embroidered crimson rose with green leaves at its center. The



Grand Cross jewel has as its foundation the Teutonic Cross of the 32° and 33° resting on a wreath of gold oak leaves, emblematic of strength of purpose in the service of humanity and the Rite. In the center is a gold circular plate with a blue enameled border containing the gold letters, “Gr. Cross Court of Honour.” In the center of the plate is an enameled crimson rose with green leaves on a white background. The red rose recalls the imagery of the 18°, Knight Rose Croix, where the flower represents renewal, as a recipient of the Grand Cross is forever renewing his efforts to serve.



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Alexandria, VA 22313-0175

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www.alexandriascottishrite.org

October 31, 2009 at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple



Alexandria Valley Degree Team Conducts Biennial KCCH Investiture

*This opportunity for
the Alexandria Valley
only comes around
every 12-14 years.*

by
William Larry Alexander, 33°
Director, KCCH Investiture Team

On October 31, 2009, the Scottish Rite family of Virginia assembled in the Valley of Richmond to help honor our Orient's new Knights Commander of the Court of Honour. There were approximately 60 new Honor Men invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. Brother

Sheldon Barnett Richman, of the Alexandria Valley, was chosen to represent the class for the investiture. This year it was the great honor of the the Alexandria Valley to perform the KCCH Investiture Ceremonial. It has been 14 years since Alexandria had an opportunity to perform the KCCH Ceremonial. The Investiture Team from the Valley of Alexandria is listed below in the Tableau. As the Direc-

tor of the Investiture Team, I am very proud of the effort put in by every member of the team to uphold the Alexandria Valley's reputation for excellence in ritual. Everyone who spoke to me following the ceremony offered their congratulations for a job very well done. One of the Alexandria Valley's new Honor Men said his mother was impressed with the ceremonial and she had never before been to a Masonic ceremony. I take that as one of the highest compliments we could receive.

Following the investiture, the new Knights Commander of the Court of Honour were congratulated by Ill. James D. Cole, 33°, SGIG in Virginia, who presented each with a KCCH lapel pin and their KCCH patents. The new 33° Inspectors General Honorary from across the Orient were introduced and presented their patents. The list of our Valley's new honor men appeared in the November - December Bulletin and can be referenced on the Alexandria Valley web site: www.alexandriascottishrite.org. The ceremony was followed by a very nice reception in the Valley of Richmond's Fellowship Hall.



*The Alexandria Valley
KCCH Investiture
Team*

tor of the Investiture Team, I am very proud of the effort put in by every member of the team to uphold the Alexandria Valley's reputation for excellence in ritual. Everyone who spoke to me following the ceremony offered their congratulations for a job very well done. One of the Alexandria Valley's new Honor Men said his mother was impressed with the ceremonial and she had never before been to a Masonic ceremony. I take that as one of the highest compliments we could receive.

TABLEAU Ceremony of Investiture of the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court Of Honour

Conducted by

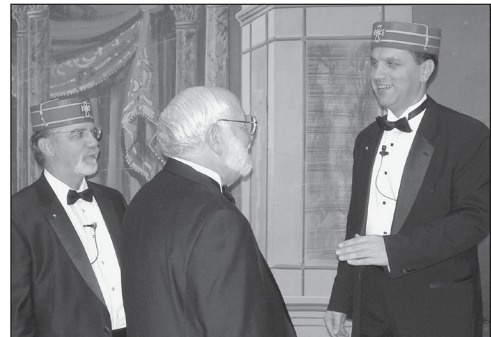
Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies

Director: William Larry Alexander, 33°

Prompter: Douglas L. Jordan, 33°

Prompter: William A. Shortt, KCCH

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sovereign Grand Commander | William Larry Alexander, 33° |
| Lieutenant Grand Commander | James D. Baker, KCCH |
| Grand Prior | James A. Loudermilk, KCCH |
| Grand Chancellor | E. Bruce Holley, KCCH |
| Grand Minister of State | John W. Pearson, KCCH |
| Grand Secretary General | David C. Morris, 33° |
| Grand Treasurer General | James D. Hawkins, KCCH |
| Grand Almoner | Generoso Cologne, KCCH |
| Grand Chaplain | Matthew T. Szramoski, 33° |
| Grand Orator | Michael A. Riley, KCCH |
| Grand Master of Ceremonies | Earl R. Jones, KCCH |
| Grand Chamberlain | Robert S. Somers, KCCH |
| Grand Equerry | John Shroeder, Jr., 33° |
| Grand Standard Bearer | Terry L. Gigure, KCCH |
| Grand Herald | F. J. Pepper, KCCH |
| Grand Tyler | Ralph W. Smith, Jr., KCCH |
| Grand Organist | F. Reed Brown, 33° |



(l-r) Grand Master of Ceremonies, Earl R. Jones, KCCH; Class Representative, Sheldon B. Richman, KCCH; and Lieutenant Grand Commander, James D. Baker, KCCH.



Shown just before the curtain went up are (l-r) Grand Secretary General, David C. Morris, 33°; Grand Orator, Michael A. Riley, KCCH; and Grand Chamberlain, Robert S. Somers, KCCH.

Personal Representative's Message

I wish each of you and your families a very joyous holiday season and a new year filled with good health, love, and happiness. As we give thanks for all of our blessings, let's share some of our good fortune with others. A call, a card, or a visit to a sick or grieving friend would be so welcomed. And, as we apportion some of our bounty to assist those less fortunate, we can certainly make a difference in the life of a child who is struggling with speech and hearing difficulties by sending a tax deductible donation to the Alexandria Scottish Rite. In the note section of your check, indicate that it is for the Childhood Language Disorders Program.

I want to update you on a few things that are happening in your Valley as we start a new Scottish Rite year:

- First, you will have noted a few changes in our Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin, which we publish six times a year. Our editor, Jim Hawkins, KCCH, is working hard to make the Bulletin as user friendly as possible. We hope you like the changes, but we want to hear your comments and suggestions for making it even better.

- Second, you should be seeing changes in our website (www.alexandriascottishrite.org). We are trying to make it more useful by adding material that may be of interest to current and prospective members. The initial phase of this process will take several months, and, again, your input is essential.

- Third, we have constituted an Executive Council consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer, and the top two officers of each body to assist me in running the Valley. We will meet periodically to formulate and coordinate plans, which will be particularly important as the work of the Strategic Planning Committee proceeds.

- Fourth, we are looking to improve our library. We have a beautiful room, but the collection is uneven and the library does not get much use. So I have appointed Brother John Tillery, as the Chairman of the Library Committee and asked that he recommend to me additional Brethren to serve with him on the Committee. If you are interested in this project, contact me or Brother Tillery.

The Committee will catalog the holdings and decide what is worth keeping and what books should

be given a new home. We particularly want to expand and improve our Masonic book collection and would appreciate any book contributions you might be willing to make. We also will be seeking ways to make the library and its collection more available and accessible to our membership.

- Fifth, I have appointed Jay E. Patterson, KCCH as the public relations coordinator for the Valley, and he will be recommending to me additional Brethren to serve with him on our Public Relations Committee. If you have a background in public relations, please give him a call.

- Sixth, I have appointed John W. Pearson, KCCH as chair of our Valley Membership Committee. He will be working with our Lodge Representatives to invigorate this very important program.

- Finally, I want all of you to mark Saturday evening, March 6, 2010, on your calendars. We will be having a dinner honoring Ill. Walter Scott Downs for all he has done for so many years for our Alexandria Valley. I have appointed Carl Raymond Gagliardi, KCCH, to be in charge of this event. We hope you, your wife and friends can join us at the Alexandria Scottish Rite for this very special event. More details will follow.

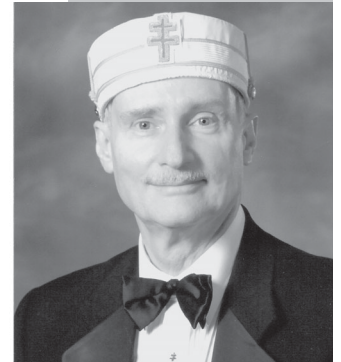
Ed Cohen
PersonalRepresentative@alexandriascottishrite.org

New Design Launched for Bulletin

With this issue of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin, a new format is being implemented. The new size allows for more variety in layout, greater use of photographs and occasional increase of the number of pages.

In keeping with the goal articulated by Ill. James Cole, 33°, SGIG in Virginia, the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin will continue to be available for reading on the Valley's internet web page at www.alexandriascottishrite.org. Readers are encouraged to offer their comments to the editor either by e-mail at or by mail at P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Jim Hawkins
Editor
editor@alexandriascottishrite.org



Ed Cohen, 33°
*Personal Representative
of the SGIG in
Alexandria*

**James Deloss
Hawkins, KCCH**
*Editor
Alexandria Scottish Rite
Bulletin*

Venerable Master's Message

Happy New Year Brethren!

The year 2010 will be one of change; one of a new beginning. We begin the year with new officers heading the four coordinate bodies as usual, but in 2010 Ill. Edmund Cohen begins his first full year as Personal Representative of the SGIG and we will have a new Secretary. Winston Churchill said, "There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction." That being said, each of us—the officers, Personal Rep, and every member of the Alexandria Bodies—has a personal responsibility to assess whether the changes that are being made are in the right direction. A direction that will lead our Valley to greater distinction, larger membership, and create opportunities for our members to become more active in the affairs of the Valley, while at the same time being mindful of the hard work and extraordinary efforts of all those who came before us in creating one of the best and most active Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction.

One of the first events for 2010 that you will want to put on your calendar is the dinner on Saturday, March 6 to honor Ill. Walter Scott Downs, 33°, GC, for his many years of outstanding and unequalled service to the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley. For many of us, Ill. Walter IS the Alexandria Scottish Rite. How many of you remember the question that Walter asked during the 14° conferral? Remember him pointing his long index finger as he asked that question? We all have "Walter stories." Please join us as we celebrate and say thank you at the dinner on March 6. Of course you don't have to wait until then — thank him now!

Ill. Ed met with the incoming officers in November and presented a plan for the year and years to come. He is creating an Executive Council which will be composed of himself, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the two highest ranking officers of each body. This council will meet monthly to discuss issues and opportunities as well as begin carrying out the strategic plan. Other proposals are: reducing the time spent on administration and introductions at meetings; establishing website and library committees; beginning a mentor

program; assessing needed building upgrades; revising the bylaws; and a revision to the format of the Scottish Rite Bulletin.

The strategic plan and the Plan of the Year will be presented in greater detail at the meeting on Friday, February 12. This will be one meeting you won't want to miss!

Remember that at the January 8 meeting the Lodge, Chapter, and Council will elect officers and we will adopt the Valley budget for 2010. AND don't forget the open Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. with refreshments following.

Finally, the officers of the four bodies are looking forward to 2010. It provides an opportunity for new beginnings. We ask for your support, your comments—both good and bad, and your continued service to our Fraternity and to our Valley.

Steve Hicks
Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection
@alexandriascottishrite.org

Membership Committee

Happy New Year! This is the time of the year we all review our lives to identify areas where we want to invest more of our time and energy. I am lobbying for some of that time and some of your energy to focus on sharing our Scottish Rite message with your local lodges. You don't have to be a ritualistic expert to talk to a Brother about Scottish Rite; you don't have to be a history expert to carry a green petition - you just have to believe in Scottish Rite and want to increase our ranks with good men. I'll be reaching out to each of the Blue Lodge Ambassadors in December/January to get a feel for how things are going. I'm also developing a short talk and accompanying PowerPoint presentation appropriate for a brief Scottish Rite education program. Finally, I'm asking each member of our valley to join me in a 2010 goal - bring in at least one new Scottish Rite member this year. Can you even imagine the impact if 1/2 of the Valley were successful? Let's dream big to achieve great things this year in our Valley.

John Pearson
Cell: (703) 505-7140
Chair Membership Committee
@alexandriascottishrite.org



Steven M. Hicks, 33°
Venerable Master
Alexandria Lodge of
Perfection

2010

John S.
Pearson, KCCH
Chairman
Membership Committee



3rd Monday and 4th Wednesday

Scottish Rite Clubs Meet Every Month

Having closed out its 19th year, the Blue Ridge Club will begin its 20th year on Monday, January 18 at the lodge in The Plains. President Charlie Seaford is planning an interesting evening as well as an enjoyable meal. He welcomes the Club members and ladies to be present to start off the new year, and especially invites brethren and ladies from the Alexandria area to join in.

On Wednesday the 27th, President Bob Hume and the Shenandoah Valley Club will hold forth at the lodge in Front Royal. In addition to a fine meal, a special musical group of brethren who belong to the Club will provide the harmony.

Both Clubs follow the same format: dinner at 6:30, a short informal meeting, the program, and end at about 7:45. We form car pools from our Temple or attendees may drive separately – 4:30 on the 18th; 4 PM on the 27th. Please call the Secretary's office by the Friday before each meeting to make sure there'll be enough food for everyone.

Vote on By-Laws Change

As a result of the increase in the costs associated with the degrees, your Budget Committee is recommending an increase in the fees paid to receive the Scottish Rite Degrees. This change in our By-laws will result in the fees being \$225.00, with Brothers under 31 years of age paying \$175.00. This is due to increases in the costs associated with these degrees.

By-law changes were proposed at our December meeting and will be voted on in January.

Dave Morris
davem@morrisindustries.com

Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies Proposed Budget for 2010

Read on December 11, 2009 for action on January 8, 2010

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u> | <u>\$139,400</u> |
| DUES | 93,590 |
| FEES | 10,950 |
| RENT | 25,510 |
| LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND INTEREST | 6,600 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 2,750 |
| <u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u> | <u>\$55,496</u> |
| SALARIES | 29,000 |
| PAYROLL TAXES | 2,300 |
| TELEPHONE | 1,296 |
| POSTAGE & MAILING | 5,000 |
| PRINTING | 11,500 |
| AUDIT | 4,500 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 3,000 |
| <u>BUILDING & OPERATING EXPENSES</u> | <u>\$56,900</u> |
| INSURANCE | 10,400 |
| UTILITIES | 28,500 |
| SECURITY | 3,000 |
| MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 15,000 |
| <u>PHILANTHROPIC</u> | <u>\$3,050</u> |
| YOUTH | 200 |
| CHURCH & STATE | 250 |
| GEORGE MASON UNIV. (WEBBER FUND) | 1,000 |
| EDUCATION & OTHER | 100 |
| TEACHER OF THE YEAR | 1,500 |
| <u>CONTRIBUTIONS & FEES</u> | <u>\$26,016</u> |
| SUPREME COUNCIL CAPITATION FEE | 22,734 |
| SUPREME COUNCIL CANDIDATE FEE | 1,496 |
| SR CONFERENCE OF VIRGINIA | 1,488 |
| GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL | 298 |
| <u>DINNERS, REFRESHMENTS / INSTALLATION</u> | <u>\$15,650</u> |
| REGULAR MEETINGS / INSTALLATION | 3,300 |
| SCOTTISH RITE CONFERENCE & WORKSHOPS | 5,500 |
| FEAST OF TISHRI | 100 |
| BLUE LODGE RELATIONS | 1,500 |
| REUNIONS | 4,000 |
| LADIES NIGHTS | 1,250 |
| <u>GENERAL ITEMS</u> | <u>\$5,480</u> |
| DEGREE WORK, ROBES, ETC. | 300 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 1,200 |
| 33rd & KCCH INVESTITURE | 500 |
| SCOTTISH RITE CONFERENCE HOST | 700 |
| 14th DEGREE RINGS | 2,780 |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u> | <u>\$162,592</u> |
| <u>EXPENSES OVER INCOME</u> | <u>\$23,192</u> |



...make a difference in the life of a child who is struggling with speech and hearing difficulties by sending a tax deductible donation for the ...Childhood Language Disorders Program.

David C. Morris, 33rd
Chairman
Budget Committee

THE BULLETIN
of the
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
James Deloss Hawkins, KCCH, Editor

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 E-mail: Secretary@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

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.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

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

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

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

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

STATED MEETINGS

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

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

Alexandria Council of Kadosh
Second Friday,
January, March, May, November
WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER, 33°
Commander

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



January - February 2010

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Dates to Remember

Bulletin Deadline The deadline for submitting items for the bimonthly Bulletin is the first of the month prior to the month of publication. For example, the copy deadline for the March issue is February 1.

Petitions for Spring Reunion The deadline for submitting membership petitions for the Spring Reunion is April 9, 2010.

Officers of all four Bodies to be Installed January 16

As reported in last month's Bulletin, the Consistory elected its slate of 2010 officers at its December 11, 2009 meeting. The other three bodies will elect their 2010 officers at their January 8, 2010 meetings. All newly elected and appointed officers will be installed at an open installation held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Scottish Rite Temple. The one hour program will get underway at 7:30 PM with music which will reward the early arrivers. A finger tip buffet will follow the program.

All members, families and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

www.acacia16.org/thevirginialight

2010 Calendar Highlights

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |

JANUARY 2010

8th – Pre-meeting Dinner – 6 :30 PM
(reservations required)

Council, Chapter and Lodge of
Perfection Meetings (Elections)

16th – Open Installation of Officers
(all four bodies) – 7:30 PM
Auditorium

FEBRUARY 2010

12th – Lodge of Perfection – 7:30 PM

MARCH 2010

6th – Special Dinner – 6:30 PM
Honoring Ill. Walter Scott Downs, 33°, G.C.
(reservations required)

12th – Pre-meeting Dinner – 6 :30 PM
(reservations required)

All Four Bodies – 7:30 PM
Celebration of Remembrance & Light
by the Chapter of Rose Croix

27th – Saturday – 8:30 AM
Spring Workshop – Richmond

APRIL 2010

17th & 24th – Spring Reunion