

Scottish Rite Bulletin

September - October 2011

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia



Ronald A. Seale, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander to Address Centennial Banquet

It was 100 years ago (October 16, 1911) that the charter of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Valley was issued. In celebration of this historic occasion, we have enjoyed several centennial events throughout this year. In March, we gathered for a Friends and Family Dinner and Silent Auction. Our second centennial celebration event was a family picnic held on the grounds of our Scottish Rite temple. A good time was had by all. The end of summer was marked by another Centennial Family Event: A dinner and show featuring a performance by the renowned comedy ensemble, The Hexagoners.

**Illustrious Ronald A. Seale, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council, 33°
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction of the
United States of America**

Ill. Ronald Armbrust Seale, 33° was installed as Sovereign Grand Commander on October 7, 2003. Ill. Seale's service on the Supreme Council began with his appointment as Deputy in Louisiana effective January 1, 1995. Then on October 8, 1995, Ill. Seale was elected S.G.I.G. in Louisiana and crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council, 33°.

Sovereign Grand Commander Seale was born on June 24, 1948, and attended the public schools in Baton Rouge before graduating with a B.A. from Louisiana State University in 1970 and with a Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, in 1973. He entered law practice (general and civil litigation) in Baton Rouge in 1974.

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Our year-long One Hundred Year Anniversary Celebration will culminate with a Formal Centennial Gala on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Among the dignitaries joining us for this occasion will be Ill. James D. Cole, 33°, S.G.I.G. in Virginia; Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., U.S.A; and M.W. John Mason Chambliss, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

GRAND COMMANDERS

The Sovereign Grand Commander is the chief executive officer of the Scottish Rite. Since 1801 there have been eighteen Grand Commanders and two Acting Grand Commanders.

1. John Mitchell: 1801-1816
2. Frederick Dalcho: 1816-1822
3. Isaac Auld: 1822-1826
4. Moses Holbrook: 1826-1844
- Jacob De La Motta: 1844-1845
(Acting Grand Commander)
5. Alexander McDonald: 1845- 1846
6. John H. Honour: 1846-1858
- Charles M. Furman: 1858-1859
(Acting Grand Commander)
7. Albert Pike: 1859-1891
8. James C. Batchelor: 1892-1893
9. Philip C. Tucker: 1893- 1895
10. Thomas H. Caswell: 1895-1900
11. James D. Richardson: 1901-1914
12. George F. Moore: 1914- 1921
13. John H. Cowles: 1921-1952
14. Thomas J. Harkins: 1952-1955
15. Luther A. Smith: 1955-1969
16. Henry C. Clausen: 1969-1985
17. C. Fred Kleinknecht 1985-2003
18. Ronald A. Seale: 2003-



**Alexandria Scottish
Rite Temple**

1430 West Braddock
Road
Alexandria, VA
22302

**Tel: 703-998-9044
Fax: 703-778-2804**

www.AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Personal Representative's Message

Dear Brethren:

Every two years our Supreme Council meets to assess the health of the Scottish Rite and to make plans for the future. It also recognizes a number of the Brethren for their contributions to Freemasonry and to the Rite. In August, three members of our Valley — Carl Gagliardi, Earl Jones, and Ralph Smith — along with Brethren from many Orients within the Southern Jurisdiction were coroneted as 33° Inspectors General Honorary at a degree ceremony conducted by Brethren from the Alexandria Scottish Rite, led by Ill. Walter Scott Downs, 33°, G.C. And, on September 24, nine members of our Valley will receive the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour (KCCH) during the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia. They are: Steven Banowit, Keith Butler, Mark Harford, Don McAndrews, Neil Marple, Rhey Solomon, Joseph Weyant, Kent Weber, and



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

PersonalRepresentative
@alexandriascottishrite.org

Heber Willis. I know you will want to join me in congratulating each of these Brethren on the well deserved recognition they received.

Of course, while such recognition is always appreciated, the value we place on our membership in the Rite is based not on the honors it confers but on the service it requires of us. Our purpose is to improve ourselves and our communities, and to be of assistance to our Brethren and to our fellow man. And, as we help others, we often are surprised to discover that one of the best ways to bring joy to ourselves is to bring joy to others.

In this regard, there are two projects we are considering that I want to share with you. In these difficult times many parents are less able to afford for their children the college or vocational education that is essential to their success in life. So our first project would be to build an Alexandria Scottish Rite Scholarship fund that will allow us to select two deserving students each year and provide them a sum of money for up to four years. When the program is fully implemented we will be able to help up to eight students each year.

The second project is to help the House of the Temple restoration project. As you know this magnificent building is an adaption of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.” It was designed by the famous architect John Russell Pope, whose accomplishments include the National Archives, the Jefferson Memorial, and the West building of the National Gallery of Art. Not only does this building serve as

the headquarters of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, it also houses an extensive Masonic Library and Museum which is open to the public and should be a source of pride to every Scottish Rite Mason. The building, which opened in 1914, is long overdue for the repair and renovation needed for it to function through the 21st century.

To accomplish these two goals we are considering implementing a five year fund raising project to build our Scholarship fund and to help the House of the Temple. We would seek a commitment from each Brother to provide a tax deductible contribution of between \$50 and \$100 each year for five years – or more if you can – to help us to reach our goal of \$300,000 which would be divided between these two projects. We would hope to raise as much as double this amount from planned gifts, for example, from wills and bequests, trusts, and Charitable Gift Annuities. Additional information will be forthcoming on these projects after we have completed our planning and if we obtain the approval of the Executive Council.

There are three important events during this period that I hope you will attend and support.:

- The first is the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia, Friday September 23 – Saturday September 24, 2011, in Newport News. In addition to the various informative presentations, this is an opportunity for you and your lady to meet and socialize with your Scottish Rite Brethren from the eight Valleys in Virginia. As noted above, the Scottish Rite Conference also will be the venue for the KCCH investiture. I hope you can be part of our Alexandria delegation at the Conference
- The second is our final Centennial event — the formal banquet on Saturday 1 October. The reception begins at 6 p.m, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The keynote speaker at that event will be our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°.
- The third is our Fall Reunion on Saturday, October 22. I really need your help in talking to your Lodge Brethren about the opportunity to be a part of our Centennial Class by joining the Scottish Rite during this special one-day Reunion. It is only with your active support that we will be able to reach our 2011 membership goal.

Ed Cohen

From the Secretary's Desk



David C. Morris, 33°
Secretary of all
Four Bodies

Secretary
@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

DUES PAYING MEMBERS

The 2012 dues notices will soon be in the mail. If you have paid your 2011 dues, you also will receive a 2012 dues card. Life members will receive these same items with a zero balance.

Please note the optional items:

- Childhood Learning Disabilities (CLD)

- Almoners fund
- Building fund.

Each of these could use your help.

When it comes to paying our dues, it's not just the money, but also our time that counts. As you look thru the Bulletin this month you will see and read just some of those who are "paying their dues". The difference is that when we pay our dues we can feel good about it once a year; but when we "Pay our dues" by being active members of the Valley you get the benefit of real satisfaction all year long.

OUR VALLEY • OUR FAMILY

One the goals this year was to include family as much as we could. To this end we will have one more event on October 1st to honor all the families who have made The Alexandria Valley all that it is after 100 years.

Please come join us in Our Birthday Celebration.



BUILDING FUND

The Building Fund, as most of you know, is the main source of funds for major maintenance needs. Our membership has generously supported this Fund, and all contributions to it are gratefully received.

The dues statements have been designed to make it easy for you to support the Building Fund along with your dues payments. Of course donations also can be made at any time of year simply by sending a separate check to the Secretary marked as a contribution (non-tax deductible) to the Building Fund.

Special recognition is made for those who contribute \$100 or more by placing their names on a plaque in the main lobby.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

If you have been thinking about getting your Life Membership in the Alexandria Valley, this may be a good time. Why you say?

The Supreme Council is increasing their "fees" for the next three years. If your dues are current (2011) the cost for Life Membership is \$1,173, and, you will be exempt from dues increases.

But even more importantly, by purchasing a life membership you leave a continuing legacy that will continue to help your Valley in the years again.

For those who pay dues yearly, the invoice you will soon receive, will be \$73.

Dave Morris

** If you are age 75 or older, Life Membership will cost you \$782.*



Master
Craftsman

Congratulations to
the most recent
members to complete
the program:

MASTER CRAFTSMAN, I

ED COHEN, 33°

WILLIAM B.
STODDARD

PETER E. TERRELL

CARL E. WEAVER

MASTER CRAFTSMAN, II

ALAN D. BECKNER

ROBERT P. HUME

ROGER W. PEAK,
KCCH

JOEL D. RATLIFF, SR.

Venerable Master's Message

My Dear Brethren,

We are a bit past the midway point in our Alexandria Valley Centennial Year. I hope that a bit of taking stock will not be taken amiss. Our Rite is over 200 years old and over time there have been adjustments in the regalia and the ritual; yet while some of the externals have changed to keep pace with the times, our underlying lessons and values remain timeless and unchanged. In like vein, this year you have seen minor adjustments in the opening and closing ritual, less emphasis upon recognitions, a few recurring events added (the January Awards Dinner, the May Ladies Dinner, the Friends and Family Charity Banquet and Auction) and some adjustment in the agenda for our monthly meetings. This has been done to spend more time on Scottish Rite education and main programs and less on administration of the meetings. For the Centennial Year we added special quarterly events with a gala final event featuring our Sovereign Grand Commander coming in October. The family picnic in June seemed to me a huge success and may well become a recurring event.

I hope you regard the changes this year as just modest adjustments to keep pace with the times and find the new and special Centennial events as welcome additions. Your expected 2012 presiding officers are even now taking stock, firming up their intended officer lines, filling the appointed positions, and planning their programs with the understanding that all this planning is contingent upon their election. Now would be a very good time to share with

them anything you feel needs further adjustment and for that matter anything you especially have liked. And, of course, suggestions for interesting programs, particularly when accompanied by offers to provide or arrange for those programs, are always appreciated. But I have said enough about planning for next year. Plenty of this year remains. I would value your feedback, and am sure the other heads of bodies would too, about how to make the rest of this year more engaging.

We will have dinners before the September, November, and January meetings. The Valley partially subsidizes these dinners so that the cost is quite modest. It has all “come together” this year and the meals have been quite good. If you have not attended one of the pre-meeting dinners in a while I encourage you to give it a try. Some brethren bring their dinners but join us for the fellowship, which is always good. The alternate months we have light refreshments after the meetings. What do you think about these arrangements?

I have found my journey through the Lodge of Perfection officer line, and especially this year as presiding officer to be very rewarding. It really is true that “you get out of it what you put into it.” If there is any stretch in your cable tow you might consider putting a little more into your Alexandria Valley. You will get more in return than you give.



*James A.
Loudermilk, II,
KCCH
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection*

james.loudermilk@ieee.org

Help Wanted



Brother John Steinberger, KCCH, did the lighting for the reunions since the fall reunion of 2001. He did an admirable job during his tenure in this position.

Doug McQueen, who has been helping John the last few years, has agreed to assume the duties of Director of Lights and Electricity. However, because of his work requirements he has requested that he have an assistant.

Brethren, I need someone to step up and work with Doug doing the lighting for the reunions. If you are interested, please contact the Director of Work, Marty Heaster, 33° at (703) 580-0634 or email me at marty451@verizon.net.

Marty Heaster



continued from page one

A member of the First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge, Ill. Seale has been active for over 30 years as a Sunday School teacher of adults and youth. Previously he served as Youth Coordinator in his church and as a delegate to the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

His past civic involvements include service on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society in Baton Rouge and the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Sheltered Workshops. Active in amateur radio, Ill. Seale holds an FCC Extra Class License (KE5YX). He also holds a private pilot's license.

Ill. Seale began his Masonic career in 1962 as a member and then Master Councilor of Pelican Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in Baton Rouge. He is a Past Chapter Dad of Pelican Chapter, and an Active Member of International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay. Raised a Master Mason in 1969 in East Gate Lodge No. 452, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Ill. Seale served his Lodge as Master in 1988 and serves the Grand Lodge of Louisiana as a member of the Law & Jurisprudence Committee.

In the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Bodies, Ill. Seale remains active in several of the Degrees, including the 5th, 27th, and 31st Degrees. For his many services to our Order, he was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour in 1977 and coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in 1993.

Grand Commander Seale and his wife, Sandra, take great pride in their children, Michael and Stephanie. Sandra, whose nickname is "Sunny," taught elementary physical education in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for 30 years. Much of her energy during that time was devoted to the organization and coaching of a competition and performing rope-skipping team that fosters heart-healthy activities and skills. Under her direction, the team has performed throughout the United States and in many foreign venues. For her many efforts, she was named Louisiana Physical Education Teacher of the Year in Louisiana.

What's in a Name?

The details of the formation of the four bodies of the Alexandria Scottish Rite are included in the 100th ANNIVERSARY, Alexandria Scottish Rite. Here we learn that the names for the bodies adopted by the founding members were:

- Washington Memorial Lodge of Perfection
- Randolph Chapter, Knights Rose Croix No. 3
- Lafayette Council, Knights Kadosh No. 2
- Virginia Consistory No. 2

It is reported in our history that an April 10, 1960 letter from [SGIG] Illustrious Brother Webber suggested that the special names of Alexandria's four Bodies be deleted, and that each Body's name be preceded with the word "Alexandria." He indicated that he was asking each Valley in the Orient to do the same.

At the next meeting, the brethren discussed this, and voted to retain the original names. The rationale was the sentimental value represented by the names of outstanding men who had walked the streets of Alexandria – Washington, Randolph, and Lafayette. The SGIG was informed of this lodge action, but later correspondence would be forthcoming.

On June 8, 1961, a second letter from the SGIG, requesting the change to ALEXANDRIA for each Body, was voted on favorably by the members present.

*There is a link to "The Virginia Light," the electronic publication of the Orient of Virginia, at the new Orient website:
www.OrientOfVirginia.org*

HISTORICAL NOTES

1911 – On October 16, the Supreme Council granted charters to the four Bodies which comprised the Alexandria Scottish Rite.

1941 – Candidates for the year totaled 22. This broke the previous decade's experience of four or five candidates each year. 1941 was the start of a period of substantial growth in Valley membership.

1959 – SGIG Robert South Barrett, 33°, an Alexandria member, died on February 24. He was succeeded by Illustrious Charles E. "Ted" Webber, 33°, of Roanoke.

1969 – On September 27 the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the Scottish Rite Temple, already under construction, was conducted under the auspices of Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349, with SGIG Webber, 33°, serving as Worshipful Master.

1987 – At the request of Sovereign Grand Commander, C. Fred Kleinknecht 33°, Alexandria Valley brethren conferred the Thirty-third Degree at the October Supreme Council Biennial Session. The Valley continued to do this every two years (except in 2001 when the Session was held in Charleston, South Carolina), and again conferred the degree in 2011.

These Historical Notes were taken from the 100th Anniversary history prepared by Ill. Walter S. Downs, 33°, G.C. Printed copies of the 45 page booklet are available at \$11.50 including postage. contact our Secretary.

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
of the
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

James Deloss Hawkins, KCCH, *Editor*
Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

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 Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°.

The Assistant Secretary is Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°

The Treasurer is Illustrious Roy M. (Marty) Heaster, 33°

The mailing address is: P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313. The Office Phone is: (703) 998-9044. The Fax Number is: (703) 778-2804.

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at 1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change of address, phone number or e-mail address. This is very important so 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
SGIG in the Orient of Virginia

ILLUSTRIOUS EDMUND COHEN, 33°
is Personal Representative
of the SGIG in Alexandria

ILLUSTRIOUS WALTER SCOTT DOWNS, 33°, GC
is Secretary Emeritus

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection
Second Friday of each month
JAMES A. LOUDERMILK, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
CARL R. GAGLIARDI, 33°
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
ROGER W. PEAK, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory
Second Friday
March, June, September, December
RALPH W. SMITH JR., 33°
Master of Kadosh

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SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

The Shenandoah Valley Club, which has been in existence since 1979, continues to show growth and interest in its activities. Its monthly dinner/meetings alternate between the lodge in Woodstock and a Stephens City restaurant called THE BUTCHER BLOCK (great eating!).

At the August meeting, Ill. Douglas L. Jordan spoke about the 100 years of Scottish Rite in Alexandria. In September, Brother Donald L. McAndrews will present his background portrayal of Ben Franklin.

Charles R. Seaford, President of the Blue Ridge Club, is undertaking a revitalization of that club's operations. Plagued by deaths of some of its officers and other active members, club records have been in disarray and communications with its members almost non-existent. The future is very hopeful.

Both clubs appreciate the attendance and support of brethren and ladies from the Alexandria area. If you (and your lady) would like to attend any of the following meetings, let Ill. Dave Smith know by the Friday before – 703-239-8659 or dhsmith3@verizon.net. All dinners begin at 6:30.

Monday, Sep 19, Culpeper-Blue Ridge

Wednesday, Sep 28, Stephens City-Shenandoah Valley

Monday, Oct 17, The Plains -Blue Ridge

Wednesday, Oct 26, Woodstock - Shenandoah Valley
(Last meeting in 2011)

SEPTEMBER 2011

Friday, 9th – 6:30 p.m.
Pre-Meeting Dinner
(reservations required by Tuesday, September 6th)
Lodge of Perfection & Consistory

❖
Monday, 19th – 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club Meeting

❖
Wednesday, 21st – 6:30 p.m..
Shenandoah Valley Club Meeting

❖
Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia
&

KCCH Investiture
OMNI Newport News Hotel
Friday, September 23rd – 1 p.m.
Saturday, September 24th
Contact the Valley Secretary. Some space may be available.

OCTOBER 2011

Saturday, 1st – 6 p.m.
Centennial Reception & Banquet
Dining Room

❖
Friday, 14th – 6 p.m.
Executive Council – Library
Lodge of Perfection – 7:30 p.m.

❖
Monday, 17th – 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club Meeting

❖
Wednesday, 19th – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club Meeting

❖
Saturday, 22nd – all day
One-day Fall Reunion