

Scottish Rite Bulletin

Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

January — February 2013



Using Masonic Symbols

by C. Richard Walk, KCCH

We frequently say that Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. And we know from the Blue Lodge Degrees, and from our search for more light in Masonry in the Appendant bodies, that each organization uses symbols as a teaching tool to build the character of its members.

The centrality of symbols to our Fraternity is clear, but the use of these symbols to guide our daily life is not as prevalent as should be the case. The dissonance between the importance of Masonic symbolism and its lack of use is captured in the following passage from the 32nd degree: "Some join Freemasonry out of idle mere curiosity, some because it may profit them in their business affairs or secure them aid in distress. Others seek to learn our supposed mysteries or to acquire the titles, decorations, and distinctions Masonry confers. Many are satisfied with Masonic rites or Degrees that are shadows and teach nothing of value. Few care for the great truths of Masonic philosophy or become interested in the study of its ancient symbols."

Freemasonry does not impose on its members one required interpretation of its symbols, but leaves it to each of us to interpret these symbols for ourselves. This freedom has perhaps left some adrift, and as a result, many of us do not know how to use these symbols as a guide. I know it took me a while to figure it out for myself, but I would like to share that process with you.

First, it is important to internalize the fact that symbols can have different meanings to each individual. For example, consider a picture of a lake and some trees. This may remind one person of a vacation in the forest, another might think of a fishing trip, another may remember a hunting trip, and yet to another it may signify peace and solitude. So with that in mind I use the following four-step process:

- Step 1 Select a symbol
- Step 2 Study the symbol you select
- Step 3 Determine what the symbol means to you
- Step 4 Use the symbol in your daily life

First, select a symbol that interests you. It can be any symbol for any reason. I know a Brother who was in the Navy, so he selected for his first symbol the anchor.

Next, study the symbol. Read what others have written about it, and discuss it with other Masons.

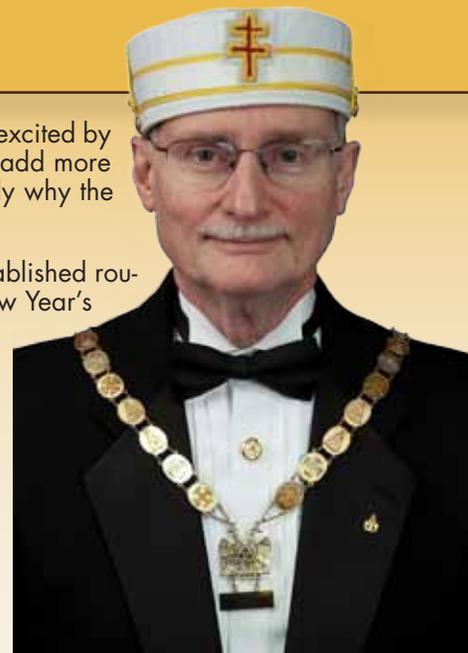
Third, think about what this symbol means to you. This could be congruent with some description in the ritual or something someone else said or wrote about it, but it also could be completely different. The important thing is that the meaning you select has significance to you. As you ponder and study the symbol, it will gradually take on a meaning that is of particular significance to you and, thus, be readily available in your mind should a situation occur where it can be applied.

Finally, seek to actually use the symbol to assist you. This may be the hardest of the four steps, but the first three are rather meaningless if you do not actually use the symbol to make a difference in your daily life. My Lodge Brother, who was in the Navy, told me that he has regularly used the anchor to keep his life grounded within the precepts of Freemasonry.

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Personal Representative's Message

Edmund Cohen, 33rd Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria



We often consider the start of each year as a new beginning and we sometimes get excited by the possibility of self improvement, getting more organized, and perhaps trying to add more meaning and accomplishment to our lives during the coming year. This is probably why the custom has evolved to make New Year's resolutions.

But so much of life is lived on auto-pilot, on the basis of habit, and by following established routines. As a result, despite good intentions, we rarely change, and our January New Year's resolutions tend to have a very short shelf life. We generally have so much to do, and there are so many distractions, that we just don't seem to find the time to pause and actually think and reflect, much less to make any significant changes in our life.

Of course, our Masonic experience can make a difference. We join the Scottish Rite for many different reasons. If we joined because we felt isolated with few friends, we often find that the Valley provides a place to meet men with similar interests and to build strong friendships with some of them. If we joined because we have very little family in the area, we may find that the Valley has become a type of family.

If we joined because we are seeking to make a difference, we may take advantage of the many opportunities the Valley provides to contribute our skills and talents and even develop new ones. We can help with the various projects, programs, and charities. We can join a committee, become an officer in one of the four Bodies, or work on the publications. We can help on various aspects dealing with the building. If we have musical talent, we can perform at the meetings and during the Reunions.

As the years go by, and we develop additional needs and expectations, we will find that the Scottish Rite can keep pace with those new expectations. Indeed, one of the significant benefits of membership is the opportunity for Masonic education and personal growth. If you have wondered what we mean when we say that Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better, you will see the answer in the Valley. Associating with men of integrity and quality helps us to set our course along the right path, and encourages our best impulses, rather than catering to our worst.

Freemasonry, in general, and the Scottish Rite, in particular, encourages us to take the time to pause, think, and reflect. This is why attending the Reunions and re-exposing ourselves to the lessons of our 29 degrees is so useful. But Masonic education is not limited to the twice-a-year Reunions, or to the short Masonic education programs presented at the monthly meetings. We recommend that you consider getting together with a few of your Scottish Rite Brethren and starting a Masonic book club. We recommend that you carve out an evening every couple of weeks to do some research on a Masonic subject and then perhaps present a program at one of our meetings, or submit a feature article for the Bulletin. And we recommend that you participate in the Master Craftsman program where you will go through a structured series of lessons that will provide a focused opportunity to learn about our history, philosophy, and traditions. You also will learn how you can apply the lessons of Scottish Rite Freemasonry to your daily life. The essays you write in the Master Craftsman program will not only help you to dig deeper into the meaning of Freemasonry, but, more importantly, will help you to explore yourself, and perhaps come up with some real New Year's resolutions about how you can make more of a difference at home, at work, and in the community.

So regardless of why you initially joined, if you look, you will find much more than you initially expected in the Rite. As we enter a new Masonic year, I encourage each of you to seek out ways to take a more active part in your Valley. The Grand Master of Virginia, MW Campbell's theme is "Masonry's Youth, Masonry's Future," and this year we will be stepping up our efforts to develop a more robust Scholarship program to help our youth. Perhaps you might want to contribute to our Scholarship Fund, or help in designing and running the program. We help youth in yet another way through our Rite Care program, and you might find great satisfaction in becoming more involved in that. And, we are joining with Scottish Rite Masons from all over the country to prepare that iconic Masonic building in Washington, DC, the House of the Temple, for its second century. You can help us to do our part in funding that building restoration effort. Our Philanthropic Committee is focused on all of these activities under our umbrella "Save the Past, Protect the Future" charity campaign and we would very much like you be a part of this effort.

All of this is a rather long-winded way to say to each of you "Happy New Year." May you and your family enjoy good health, happiness, and personal growth. But if misfortune strikes, all of your Brethren in our wonderful Scottish Rite Valley are there to help.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Edmund Cohen
PersonalRepresentative@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

Venerable Master's Message

Jason W. Lotz, KCCH, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

We have not only just started a new year on the calendar, but we've also started a new year in our Valley. The end of the old and the beginning of the new is a good time to pause and reflect. "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end". That quote, attributed to Seneca the Younger, is my reflection while I write this message. We have just ended a year and started a new year full of the promise of new beginnings. I wish to thank Bro. Neil Marple, KCCH, for his leadership of the Lodge of Perfection during 2012. During the last year we continued the changes made during our centennial year of 2010. We refined some goals, continued improving our activities, and provided informative and entertaining programs, all under the steady hand of Bro. Neil and the other officers of the Valley. During the installation on January 19th, we will have the opportunity to appropriately thank Bro. Neil for his service as the 2012 Venerable Master and install the officers for 2013.



Throughout my Masonic journey, whenever I assumed the chair as a presiding officer, I looked towards the Hippocratic dictum of "first, do no harm." That being accomplished, I attempted to build on my predecessors' accomplishments and leave the Lodge a little better. I have large shoes to fill in this regard following Bro. Neil as Venerable Master. But, I and the other officers of the Lodge of Perfection have our assigned responsibilities, and we will coordinate our efforts with the other Bodies of the Alexandria Valley to continue our cohesive program. We have lined up informative speakers and will learn more about Freemasonry in general, our Rite in particular and other topics of interest. We will continue our philanthropic endeavors and hope to have an exciting year.

I look forward to you joining with me to leave the Lodge of Perfection, and by extension the Valley of Alexandria, a little bit better this year. We all have our own unique experiences, perspectives, ideas and suggestions that can further our efforts, and I need and value the contributions of the newest Masters of the Royal Secret as I do the contributions of our 50-year Scottish Rite members. The Valley has many committees that can use additional help.

Leadership in the Valley is not by rank or position. The Valley wants your ideas and suggestions and your input on our activities. The officers in the four Bodies are available to help you nurture and present those ideas to the Valley and then help bring them to fruition. Take the initiative, share your enthusiasm, and you can make a difference and become a servant leader. You will gain a sense of satisfaction, and the Valley will become even more successful.

Biography of Jason W. Lotz, KCCH

Jason Lotz was born in Huntsville, Texas, but, given his father's employment with the U.S. Border Patrol, moved around extensively until settling down in Brunswick, Georgia. After graduating from Glynn Academy, the oldest public high school in the U.S. (founded in 1788), he enrolled at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, where he received a BA in International Relations in 2001 and a MA in International Trade and Policy in 2006. He has worked as a civilian employee of the U.S. Department of Defense since 2004.

Jason joined the Don R. Roberts Chapter Order of DeMolay in 1993, where he is a Past Master Councilor. He was very active at the State level including being Georgia DeMolay of the Year in 1996. He holds the Chevalier Degree, Cross of Honor, and Active Legion of Honor.

Brother Lotz joined Ocean Lodge No. 214 in Brunswick, Georgia, in February 2000 and later affiliated with Elmer Timberman No. 54 in Annandale, VA, where he served as 2007 Worshipful Master and currently is the Treasurer. He joined the York Rite bodies in 2002 and served as the head of his Royal Arch Chapter and Knights Templar Commandery. He is active at the Grand level and is currently serving Capitular District #1 as the 2013 District Deputy Grand High Priest.

Brother Lotz joined the Alexandria Scottish Rite as a member of the Spring 2000 Reunion class. He served as Commander of the Council of Kadosh in 2007, the same year he received the KCCH honor. He regularly participates in the cast of several degrees and enjoys supporting the Reunions from the prompter's booth.

From The Secretary's Desk

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

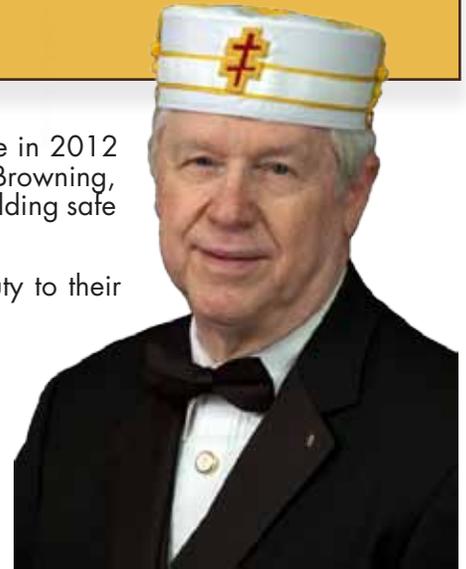
As we begin a New Year I would like to thank all of you who have assisted me in 2012 and I look forward to your continued support in 2013. A special thanks to Ben Browning, William "Bill" Jones, John Tillery, and John Askesson for helping to keep our building safe and available for use.

Let us never forget those Brothers we lost in 2012, and also remember our duty to their Widows and Family.

It's all about Dues

Most of our Members have paid their 2013 dues, and I wish to thank you.

To those who have yet to pay, please try to send your payment as soon as you can, or contact me so I know there is a problem. If you are paying by check, be sure to send the check to the Alexandria Scottish Rite, P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313 – not to the Supreme Council. However, if you want to pay on line, you can do that by going to the Supreme Council's web site.



Dinner Plan

Support your Valley and save a little money by signing up for our dinner plan - a onetime payment of \$45.00, available through January. This covers the 6 dinners before our monthly Valley meetings, and this included the Annual Awards Dinner in January.

Budget

Brethren we will discuss and vote on the 2013 Valley budget at the January meeting. We will post a draft of the budget on the members-only section of our website for your review.

Don't forget to put Ladies night, May 11, 2013, on your calendar.

Dave Morris

Secretary@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

After a short break during the holiday months, both clubs will resume their monthly dinner/meetings in January.

The Blue Ridge Club (which had an enjoyable and informative 22nd anniversary observance in November) will meet on Monday, January 21, and in February on the 18th – both at the lodge in Culpeper (reservations required by January 18 and February 15.)

The Shenandoah Valley Club's January meeting will take place at The Butcher Block Restaurant in Stephens City on Wednesday, January 23 (no reservations needed); the February 27 meeting will be held at the lodge in Woodstock (reservations needed by February 22).

The same format is used by both clubs: dinner at 6:30, informal meeting and program to follow, and close at about 7:45. We encourage Alexandria area brethren (and wives) to attend these meetings as a show of support for the Clubs' efforts and their role in promoting the Scottish Rite. Contacts are Ill. Walter Downs (703-768-7903) and Ill. David Smith (703-239-8659).

Third Annual Scottish Rite Awards Dinner

January 11, 2013

6:00 p.m.



Once again, with so many of our Scottish Rite Brethren doing so much for our Valley, it was difficult for the Executive Committee to select those who will receive an award. But I hope you will agree that those we selected well deserve our thanks for contributing to our success – they really made a difference. In addition, this year our Community Service awards focus on the firefighters and first responders our communities so much depend on and who do so much, often at great personal risk, to help us. Our guest speaker will be

Mr. Steve Souder, Director Fairfax County Public Safety Communications.

We hope you and your lady will join us and show your appreciation for our awardees at our annual Awards Dinner on Friday, January 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

We selected three Brethren to receive the **Certificate of Appreciation** for notable work in 2012. In alphabetical order they are:

Brother Matthew R. Grizzard for stepping in and doing a great job as editor of our Alexandria Scottish Rite Bulletin. He had to deal with a very steep learning curve as well as a very challenging work environment, but he spent the time necessary to deliver each issue.

SHELDON B. RICHMAN, KCCH, for leading the effort to review and restructure our investment portfolio. As a result, we have consolidated our investments under the guidance of professional investment advisers and managers, lowering costs, minimizing risk, while seeking to improve performance.

Brother Frank V. Sturgeon for his structural and engineering assessment of the Alexandria Scottish Rite building. This has identified a number of immediate issues we need to address as well as longer term projects that will improve building accessibility, improve energy efficiency, and keep our building in shape to meet our future needs. This study also allows us to develop a comprehensive capital budget to maintain the building.

We selected three Brethren to receive the **Certificate of Merit** for particularly meritorious longer term service. In alphabetical order they are:

Ill. F. Reed Brown for his many years of service as the Valley organist, including his service during each of our Reunions. His efforts, while occurring in plain sight, were almost invisible to the audience who were focused on the cast on stage, but his musical efforts added immeasurably to the Degrees.

Ill. Norman L. Hoff, Jr. for his years on and as Chair of the Education and Americanism Committee. Under his leadership it has become our most active and productive committee. Ill. Norm has developed and conducted the officer training program, has provided us with education programs at each meeting, has added significant content to our Alexandria Scottish Rite website, and has organized and superintended the Outstanding Teacher, ROTC, and Master Craftsman programs.

Ill. Ralph W. Smith, Jr. for his work over the past ten years in coordinating the Teacher of the Year Program. This significant outreach program not only demonstrates the Scottish Rite's recognition of the essential value of our public school system but also confirms our appreciation for the many outstanding teachers in our Northern Virginia communities. Ill. Smith has coordinated with the Washington Post Educational Foundation, the individual teachers to be recognized, as well as their School District Administrators and School Principals, scheduled program speakers for the Award Banquets, and ensured that all the many details were attended to in preparation for each year's event.

We selected a firefighter from Alexandria to receive the Community Service Award Certificate for his work.

Using Masonic Symbols

by C. Richard Walk, KCCH

Continued from page 1

Let me give you a couple of examples. I had a friend who was having a difficult time breaking his smoking habit. The symbol he chose was the apron he received as an Entered Apprentice. He reviewed what he had learned about the apron (step 2) and what the symbol meant to him (step 3). He noted that the apron was spotless when it was given to him, and he wanted to keep it that way and also to improve his conduct and character so that he might one day become as pure and spotless as the apron he had received. And, finally, he used the symbol of the apron in his daily life (step 4), particularly in the context of his smoking. Each time he wanted a cigarette, he would think about the apron he had received as an Entered Apprentice to remind himself that a cigarette would soil his body. He said using this symbol helped him to successfully stop smoking.

For my part, I was fascinated with the "all-seeing eye." I went through steps 1 and 2, but I had some difficulty with step 3 until I noticed that the picture of the "all-seeing eye" did not have an eyelid, which made me think that God never closes his eyes to our problems. But how could I use that in my daily life (step 4). It happened about a week later when an employee came into my office and said "Dick, I have a problem that I need to discuss with you." I was working against a deadline and had to complete a project for my boss by the end of the day, so I told her I was too busy right now, but that she should come back tomorrow. She left with her head down. Just then, the "all seeing eye" came to my mind's eye, and I thought I am closing my eyes to her problem. I quickly ran into the

hall and called her back into my office. We solved her problem very quickly. She left my office with a smile on her face, but I think I felt even better than she did.

Another time I selected and studied Jacob's ladder as a symbol that might be meaningful to me. The picture in the Manual on Work showed the ladder coming from a hole in the ground and extending to the Heavens. It reminded me that sometimes we get in a rut and lose our motivation, but that if we could get on Jacobs ladder we could climb out of this rut (step 3). With this idea planted in my mind, I have regularly used Jacob's ladder. I found that when I couldn't focus and didn't feel like working on some task that I needed to be doing, Jacobs ladder would appear in my mind's eye, and I would get up and symbolically climb out of my rut and be able to go back to the task I should have been working on. I will not say that has worked every time I felt lazy, but it did work and did make a difference many times.

As a Scottish Rite Mason, you were asked in one of the Degrees if you were seriously interested in studying the symbols, and you responded that you were. Of course, as useful as it is to study the symbols, it is more useful still to put them to work in your daily life. I hope these few examples will give you some ideas how to select, from the vast array of symbols in the Scottish Rite, some that will be meaningful to you. The possibilities are almost limitless, and it will be well worth your time to use your imagination to figure out how to use them to improve your life. I am confident you will be glad you made the effort.

Congratulations.

Scottish Rite Masons are active Masons. There are some recent examples:

Ill. Raymond Steele was elected to the line of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia as Grand Master of the First Veil.

Jason Lotz, KCCH, was appointed DDGHP for Capitular District 1.

Douglas M. Woodley is DDGM District 1A,
Donald Ford Ritenour is DDGM District 1B,
Joel D. Ratliff, Sr., is DDGM District 3,
Jon V. Shelton is DDGM District 4, and,
Robert White III is DDGM District 54.



Announcement: Appointment of Valley Treasurer

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment by Ill. James D. Cole, SGIG in Virginia, of Neil Marple as our Valley Treasurer. We deeply appreciate the wonderful job done by Ill. Marty Heaster and know that Brother Marple will follow in that same tradition.

Biography of Oral McNeil Marple II, KCCH

Oral McNeil Marple II was in Moundsville West Virginia about long enough to get born in 1951. Being raised as part of a military family, he found himself in Bad Tolz, Germany, for his first birthday and called home wherever the family was stationed. Named after his father, he grew up being called "Neil", which continues to be his preference. His father finished his military career at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland where Neil attended middle and high school, graduating from Aberdeen high school in 1969. He attended the University of Maryland receiving his BS in Engineering in 1974 before embarking on his career in Computer Science. He received an MBA in 1977, an M.S. in Computer Systems in 1987, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1997.

Dr. Marple's professional career has blended his love of engineering with his interest in travel. Dr. Marple has worked on challenging and significant programs both in the United States and in Europe, with short stays in the Near East notably Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. He has served as Engineering lead, Chief Engineer, Project and Program Manager and Chief Technology Officer. He has also served as an adjunct professor teaching graduate Engineering and Computer Science courses.

Brother Marple continued a three-generation tradition when he petitioned George Washington Lodge No. 820 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he was raised in November 1989. In addition to the George Washington Lodge, brother Marple regularly attended a German speaking Lodge "Zum Felsenstempel" No. 424 in Idar-Oberstein, Germany, where he was made an honorary member. He also joined Alt Heidelberg Lodge No. 821 where he was Senior Warden until his return to the United States.

Back in the United States, Brother Marple joined Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 in Annandale serving as its Master in 2003, and the A. Douglas Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949 where he was Worshipful Master in 2009. Brother Marple is also a life member of Kemper-Macon Ware No. 64 where he is temporarily serving as its Secretary. Since 2004 he has served as the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee for Information Technology.

Brother Marple is a Past High Priest of the Annandale Royal Arch Chapter No. 77, a member of Perfect Ashlar no. 349 of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and Virginia Council No. 12 of the Knight Masons. He will be Commander of Arlington Commandery No.29 for the 2012-2013 Chivalric year.

Brother Marple joined the Alexandria Valley of the Scottish Rite in 2003, is the degree master for the 9th/10th degrees, and on the cast of the 15th degree, and designed and implemented the 100th anniversary commemorative coin. Brother Marple was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour in 2011. He was elected Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 2012, appointed by SGIG Cole as Asst. Treasurer in November 2012, and as Treasurer in January 2013.



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

Matthew R Grizzard, 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:
Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°

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

The Treasurer:
Oral (Neil) McNeil Marple II, KCCH

The mailing address is:
P.O. Box 175, Alexandria, VA 22313
Office Phone: (703) 998-9044
Fax Number: (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 email 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°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES D. COLE, 33°
Grand Treasurer General and
SGIG in the Orient of Virginia

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

ILLUSTRIOUS WALTER SCOTT DOWNS, 33°, GC
Secretary Emeritus

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection
Second Friday of each month
O.M. "NEIL" MARPLE, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
JOHN A. LIGHT, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh
Second Friday
January, March, May, November
JAMES D. BAKER, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory
Second Friday
March, June, September, December
DONALD G. PHILLIPS, KCCH
Master of Kadosh

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Upcoming Events

January 2013

January 11th – 6:00 p.m.
Pre-meeting Dinner – Awards Banquet
(Reservations by January 8th)
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Council, Chapter, & LoP)

January 14th – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman I – Quiz 3

January 17th – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman II – Quiz 5

January 19th – 4:00 p.m.
Installation of Officers for all four
Bodies Reception – Dining Room

January 21st - 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club Meeting - Culpeper
(Reservations required by January 18th)

January 23rd – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Butcher Block Restaurant,
Stephens City
(Reservations not required)

February 2013

February 8th – 6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting
Valley Meeting (LoP) – 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments – 9:00 p.m.

February 13th – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman I – Quiz 4

February 18th - 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club Meeting - Culpeper
(Reservations required by February 15th)

February 27th – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Meeting in Woodstock
(Reservations required by February 22nd)

February 28th – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman II – Quiz 6

March 2013

March 8th – 6:30 p.m.
Pre-meeting Dinner
(Reservations by March 5th)

Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Consistory, Council, Chapter & LoP)

March 11th – 7:00 p.m.
Master Craftsman I – Quiz 5

March 18th - 6:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Club Meeting - Culpeper
(Reservations required by March 15th)

March 23rd – 8:00 a.m.
Scottish Rite Spring Workshop
at Richmond Scottish Rite Temple
Breakfast 8:00 a.m.,
Meeting 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

March 27th – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah Valley Club
Butcher Block Restaurant,
Stephens City
(Reservations not required)