



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF  
THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

# THE RITENEWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA



JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2016

## **MAYBE WE NEED MORE (OR FEWER?) REGULATIONS...**

by William B. Brunk, 33° SGIG in North Carolina



As we look to the New Year, most of us have some thoughts about how to improve. We think of resolutions – to exercise more, to lose a few pounds, to travel more, or maybe to be a better husband, friend, employee, or whatever. You get the idea. But, there are a couple of other things upon which we can all improve - not just as individuals, but as an entire society.

Much has been written in recent years about the lack of civility in our contemporary world, but little has been done about it. To some extent, we have become oblivious to the rudeness and downright mean behavior of so many around us. And this type of behavior becomes not only condoned, but literally admired way too much of the time. Donald Trump is still one of the leading candidates in the polls for next November’s presidential election, and so much of his rhetoric can be characterized as anything but tender and cordial. Many professional athletes are constantly berating their opponents, the officials, and anyone else who they see as contributing to their less-than-perfect performance. They seem to be a bit too obsessed with being respected rather than ensuring that they perform their jobs to the best of their ability. And, when they make a good play, they’re consumed with gloating and with taunting their opponents.

The cost of this issue is high. Businesses lose customers as a result of rude employees, organizations lose members, interpersonal relations become strained, and stress levels become elevated beyond reason. Jack Leslie, chairman of Weber Shandwick, one of the leading global public relations firms, has suggested that, “A national public education campaign endorsed by political leaders, schools, PTAs and corporate America and distributed through the media might be an important first step towards bringing civility back to our shores.”

Writing for Psychology Today, author Ray Williams points out that the more incivility infiltrates our society, the greater the like-

lihood that we will see continued civil unrest, societal discord, violence, and anarchy. He notes, correctly, that civil communication and behavior begins early, and that a national public education program starting in schools and cities across the country might be helpful.

More importantly, it should be recognized that the manner in which we treat our fellow man is something that we learn at a very early age. Children that are raised in families that have expectations of kind and gentle behavior from the day of birth do not engage in bullying, in treating others rudely, or in behavior that is clearly, “me first.” They become individuals who are interested in the welfare of others, in working for the common good, and in exerting their energies towards the betterment of society as a whole.

It has been suggested that legislation may be needed to prohibit behavior that is clearly beyond the bounds of civility, or that can be characterized as bullying. What is really needed is more people who will ascribe to the principles of Masonry and the Scottish Rite. We can certainly hope that the New Year will offer a trend in that direction.



### **LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS**

- Asheville**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
(Advisory Council 5:00PM, and Stated Meeting 7:00PM)
- Charlotte**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Franklin**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
(Dinner 6:00PM & Stated Meeting 7:00PM)
- Greensboro**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- New Bern**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Raleigh**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
(Dinner 6:30PM, Advisory Council 7:00PM, and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Wilmington**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM, Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Winston-Salem**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
(Dinner 6:00PM, Advisory Conference 6:30 PM, Master Craftsman&KSA 7PM, Stated 7:30PM)

For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley

- Rick Patton (Asheville) . . . . . 828-253-9911
- D. C. Heilman (Charlotte) . . . . . 704-918-3797
- Jack Williams (Franklin) . . . . . 828 226 1976
- Donald Kehler (Greensboro) . . . . . 336-275-3579
- William Dill (New Bern) . . . . . 252-638-4031
- Luigi Ammons (Raleigh) . . . . . 919-834-8873
- Billy J. Graves (Wilmington) . . . . . 910-762-6452
- S. Ray Ashby (Winston-Salem) . . . . . 336-723-1217
- Michael May (Raleigh), Editor In Chief . . . . . 919-481-0425

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE  
**VIET NAM VETERANS TRIP**

by Marty Fischer, President of ASREF

The Asheville Scottish Rite Educational Foundation was proud to sponsor a Viet Nam Veterans trip to Washington DC. This year marks the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Viet Nam War. Ill. Bro. Jim Medlin organized and supervised the trip and is the secretary-treasurer of the Foundation. The vets went by bus and on the first day, October 27, toured Arlington National Cemetery. The next day the group went to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and spent considerable time there and at the Lincoln Memorial. Then they viewed the White House and the MLK and Jefferson Memorials before heading home. In the photo, Ill. Medlin is farthest left in the back row.



THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE  
**LODGE OF PERFECTION SCHEDULE (JANUARY-JUNE)**

by D.C. Heilman 32°KCCH – Valley General Secretary

This is the schedule for the Valley of Charlotte Scottish Rite for the first half of 2016. Dinners require a reservation which can be made by emailing the office at office@charlottescottishrite.com or phone at 704-365-3579. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Wednesday, January 6</b><br/>                 5:30pm – Advisory Conference<br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner<br/>                 7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open - Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 Chapter Rose Croix<br/>                 Council of Kadosh<br/>                 14th Ring Ceremony<br/>                 2016 Officer Installation</p> <p><b>Wednesday, February 3</b><br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner<br/>                 7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open – Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 Consistory</p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 2</b><br/>                 5:30pm – Advisory Conference<br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner</p> | <p>7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open – Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 Chapter Rose Croix<br/>                 Council of Kadosh</p> <p><b>Friday, March 25</b><br/>                 7:00PM – Maundy Celebration<br/>                 Wednesday, April 6<br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner<br/>                 7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open – Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 50 Year Honors to<br/>                 Spring 1966 class</p> <p><b>Friday, April 22</b><br/>                 Spring Reunion</p> <p><b>Saturday, April 23</b><br/>                 Spring Reunion</p> | <p><b>Wednesday, May 4</b><br/>                 5:30pm – Advisory Conference<br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner<br/>                 7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open – Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 Chapter of Rose Croix<br/>                 Council of Kadosh<br/>                 Consistory</p> <p><b>Wednesday, June 1</b><br/>                 6:30pm – Stated Dinner<br/>                 7:30pm – Stated Meeting<br/>                 Open – Lodge of Perfection<br/>                 2016 Spring Class 14<sup>th</sup><br/>                 Ring Ceremony</p> <p><b>July and August 2015</b><br/>                 Lodge of Perfection – Dark</p> |
|---|--|---|

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO  
**NORTH CAROLINA HONORMEN'S CEREMONIES & BANQUET**



THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO  
**A GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

by Ill. A Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative

Albert Pike in *Morals and Dogma* wrote these words about the Thirty-Second Degree: *“It is the great, fertile, beautiful Mother Earth, that produces, with limitless profusion of beneficence, everything that ministers to the needs, to the comfort, and to the luxury of man”*. (Richmond: L. H. Jenkins, Inc. 1947) 850.

Limitless profusion of beneficence means that the needs, comforts, and luxuries that we enjoy in this life all come to us from something other than ourselves. What do we really have that was ours the moment we were born?

Were it not for God breathing into us the very breath of life, we would have never known anything—be it a need or a luxury in this life. What will we have in 100 years that will be ours? Were it not for the promise of life beyond what we now call our existence, there would be nothing but a coffin, a grave, and perhaps some mourners to even remember that we had lived.

Cecil F. Alexander wrote these words that are familiar to many of us. *“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small*

FROM PAGE 3

*All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."*

God, by whatever name we call Him, through infinite benevolence toward us, provides for our needs, comforts, and luxuries. So the next time the Almoner's box of fraternal assistance is present, or the next piece of mail is opened asking for support, or the next time you see a beggar, or even as you read these words, pause, reflect, be grateful,

### THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH AND THE RAINS CAME.....

by Glenn Todd KCCH, Chairman of Golf Operations NC Rite Voice Tournament



Boy did they ever! October 5<sup>th</sup> was the scheduled Annual Rite Voice Golf Tournament at Washington Duke Hotel and Golf course. Two days prior to the event the forecast looked like we needed to order some Gofer Wood and would not get better until AFTER the 5<sup>th</sup>. After speaking with the Pro and some serious deep thought, the Committee made a decision to reschedule. The next date that was viable turned out to be November 5<sup>th</sup>. We watched and waited, sometimes with bated breath and others with a firm optimism that all would be well. For the entire week before November 5<sup>th</sup>, we watched and hoped. The weather was promising but The Great Architect had other plans.

### THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH VOICE OF A NEW INITIATE

by Alex Ellis 32°

Thank you for the opportunity to continue my Masonic journey by welcoming me into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. As always, enjoyed the fellowship and atmosphere of the Raleigh Bodies.

As I conclude my year in the East of my Blue Lodge, Jo-

and respond. When a Scottish Rite Mason supports the relief of the poor, the limitless profusion of beneficence once more helps balance the needs, comforts, and even luxuries of life with a grateful heart. All creatures share the beneficent gift we call LIFE upon the great, fertile, and beautiful Mother Earth. A grateful response is not only best, it is also balanced. 

Monday morning November 5<sup>th</sup> it rained. Not just an ordinary wetting. This one was of EPIC proportions! We had participants from a few miles to a few hundred miles away. To understand the situation, water was standing approximately 5 inches deep on the greens and fairways. Did I mention it was raining? What were we to do? Then I saw it! I saw people who did not personally know each other, come together and actually begin to enjoy the predicament. The committee was meeting in a very informal manner to determine what course of action to take. We wanted to be fair to our donor's commitment and especially those who had "shown up". We discussed the situation and with the help of the staff of Washington Duke, we opened the beverage carts and had lunch delivered to our sheltered area at the Nineteenth Hole. The Pro decided to give player passes for future games to everyone in attendance. In my concern and skewed vision, I had not realized how much our fraternal ties mean. Before the players knew about the passes, NO ONE complained, no one was upset, and no one said a word about a refund! This was amazing. The comradely demonstrated that day will forever live and grow with me. These persons may not have known it, but together they left an impression of what our fraternal efforts continually remind us of: "Charity is the Greatest Gift Man can bestow". 

seph Warren No. 92, Stantonsburg, N.C., it only seemed natural to broaden my outlook and continue my search for light. I have enjoyed the York Rite of Freemasonry and been quite active for a number of years. My daughter and I have travelled through the labyrinth of the Eastern Star

together and now, I have completed the Scottish Rite Degrees. Many of the lessons encountered across the bodies are similar and, yet, they have an individually interesting twist that is unique to itself. Of course, the lessons are only valuable when internalized and applied to our lives. May the GAOTU help me in making the lessons my own. Of the Scottish Rite Degrees, I cannot identify a single degree that was more important than another. They all contain great moral lessons. I can however, single out some lessons that impacted me, personally, in a greater sense than others.

The Chapter degree, Knight of Rose Croix, invite all of us, regardless religion or creed, to enlist to war against evil, ignorance and wrong in the times that we live, the importance of this degree is undeniable. Ignorance breeds hatred and we see this at every turn. May I always strive to understand my brother and not allow preferences to impact my tolerance of his own beliefs.

The Consistory degrees, 31<sup>st</sup> specifically, teaching me to meditate on my thoughts and acts of each day was

### THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH THOUGHTS

by Glenn Todd 32 KCCH

The older I get, the more I realize that I am just a novice at this thing called Masonry. Oh, yes, I can do the Rituals and understand all manner of signs and symbols just like any well versed Brother. Like those who came before, I relish the work and really enjoy participation in the Degrees. Just like those who have been to the Altar, I take my obligations seriously and strive to fulfill my duties accordingly. Recently, I was selected to receive the Knight Commander Court of Honor recognition. I was ASTOUNDED to say the least. To be selected by your peers for any honor is humbling at best and requires deep and serious reflection into the Sanctum Sanctorum that each of us possess. This action also causes wise and serious truths to arise in any thinking man and as they come to the surface of one's mind, you suddenly understand some of those teaching we hear so frequently in our Masonic workings. It should cause us all to reflect upon our past and develop a steadfastness of course for the future. In my readings of various Masonic literature I find a reoccurring theme which I believe gives us all the compass to remain on that stead-

quite sobering. The wrongs of today cannot be repeated tomorrow. Each day should add some light and truth for our guidance for the next., and then as time goes by, our character should be so far above reproach, so filled with the love of our fellow man that the world would say, "There is a good man!" Help me always admonish with love and forbearance, but never to judge, which is the divine prerogative alone.

The culmination of the degrees in the Master of the Royal Secret showing us that life is a balance that we are attempting to achieve. Life is filled with good and evil, right and wrong, justice and mercy, attraction and repulsion ... When my journey concludes and I stand in the presence of the Almighty, I pray that even through all of the wrong that I have committed that I might still be admitted into that House not made with hands through His mercy.

I look forward to being a part of the Valley of Raleigh and hope that I may be an asset to the Fraternity. Thank you for your excellent presentation of the Scottish Rite degrees and your dedication to our Fraternity. 

fast purpose. I take no credit for this thought as the words were penned in 1928. This simple small Ode says volumes about what all Masons and especially Scottish Rite Masons should be doing for our humble craft and literally for the future of mankind. Please read and remember...

*Is it not strange that Princes and Kings  
A clowns that frolic in sawdust rings  
And common folks like you and me,  
Are left to build Eternity  
Each is given a Book of Rules  
A Shapeless Mass and a kit full of tools,  
And each must make  
Ere Your Life is flown;  
A Stumbling Block or a Stepping Stone!*

Let us ALL become Stepping Stones! May we all be of one mind, live in Peace My Brothers and May the God of Loving peace dwell within you. 



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**2015 FALL REUNION**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°



The Ill.: George Stanley Rehder, 33° Memorial Class – November 7, 2015  
 Back Row L to R: James Britt, 32°, KCCH, Assistant Class Lecturer, Glenn Nantz, Jimmy Hunt, Joseph Keller, Jimmy Moore, Aaron Jackson, Steve Bland, 32°, KCCH, Assistant Class Lecturer  
 Front Row L to R: Avery Rackley, Billy J. Graves, 33° Elect, General Secretary; Ill.: E. Earl Wells, 33°, Personal Representative; Ill.: Edward A. Gaskins, Jr., 33°, Director of the Work; Camden Nye

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**KSA 2016 OFFICERS**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

On November 18, 2016; The Valley of Wilmington Chapter of the KSA held a meeting to elect and install the 2016 officers. The new officers are First Knight : Rick Paxton, 32°, KSA; Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Brandt, 32°, KSA, PFK; Senior Warden: Wayne Swicegood, 32°, KSA;

Junior Warden: Scott Nims, 32°, KSA; Senior Deacon: Grant Lewis, 32°, KSA; Junior Deacon: Chris Germaine, 32°, KSA; Chaplain: Gene Ridley, 32°, KSA; Sentinel: Phil Rhodes, 32°, KSA and Marshal: Ben Nuesmeyer, 32°, KSA.



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**SWEETHEART BANQUET**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

The Valley of Wilmington will hold its "Sweetheart Banquet Dinner" on February 13. Postcards will be mailed to the membership and up-to-date information can be found on our website [www.wilmingtonnaasr.org](http://www.wilmingtonnaasr.org) or by calling the Temple at (910) 762-6452.

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**2016 SPRING REUNION**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°



The 2016 Spring Reunion is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Petitions are available at the Temple or on the "Reunion" page of our website <http://www.wilmingtonnaasr.org>. Remember that the initiation fee is \$300.00 per candidate. Petitions will be accepted as late as 7:00 A.M. the morning of the first day of the reunion. Up-to-date information can be found on our website or by calling the Temple at (910) 762-6452.

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM  
**50 YEAR MEMBERS HONORED**

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley recently honored several members for fifty years of service. These brothers were honored in a ceremony to present them their blue Scottish Rite caps. Congratulations to these brethren and thank-you for all that you have done for our Valley.



Top row (L to R): Fred Plummer, John Misenheimer, John Spillman  
 Bottom row (L to R): Marvin Hanks, Robert Deaton, William Biles Jr.

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM  
**KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW 2016 OFFICERS**

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH



The Winston-Salem Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew recently installed its Officers for 2016. They also initiated a new member, Brother Todd Hurm. Congratulations to all of the Officers and thank-you for your service to our Valley.

Front row (L to R): Bob Blair, Bobby Golding, George Powers, James McGrew, Andy Thomas, Michael McGuire.  
 Back row (L to R): Bill Wallin, Todd Hurm, Bill Carter, Chad Delp.

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM  
**SAVE THE DATE – 2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

On June 10, the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite will hold its sixth annual charity golf tournament at Meadowlands Golf Club. This will again be an all day tournament, with morning and afternoon flights available. Please join us for a fun filled day of golf and support a great cause.





## THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM **BLESSING OR CURSE?**

by Joel Black, Personal Representative

A man and his companion lost their way in a forest. The companion despaired, but the man said maybe some good would come of it. They came upon a stranger who needed the man's help. The stranger turned out to be a prince who gave the man a beautiful horse.

His neighbors praised his good luck and said, "*How blessed you are to have such a magnificent animal.*"

The man said, "*Who's to say whether this is a blessing or a curse?*"

The next day the horse ran away, and the neighbors said, "*How horrible that you were cursed with the loss of your horse.*"

The man replied, "*Who's to say whether this is a curse or a blessing? Perhaps some good will come of this.*"

The next day the horse returned leading five wild horses. "*You were right!*" his neighbors exclaimed. "*The curse was a blessing in disguise. Now you're blessed with six horses.*"

The man replied, "*Perhaps, but who's to say whether this is a blessing or a curse?*"

The next day his only son tried to ride one of the wild horses. He was thrown to the ground and broke his leg. The neighbors said, "*How wise you were. Your blessing really was a curse.*"

The man replied, "*There may be good yet. Who's to say whether this is a curse or a blessing?*"

The next day soldiers came through the village and took every able-bodied boy to fight in a war where it was almost certain all would be killed. Because the man's son was injured, the boy was the only one not taken. "*How blessed are you to keep your son!*" the neighbors said.

The man replied, "*Who's to say? I don't know whether there's a curse in every blessing, but I am sure there's a blessing in every curse.*"

