



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA



MARCH-APRIL 2015

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE SCOTTISH RITE?

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



Recently, a friend asked me just what it is about the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry that I find attractive and desirable. My response was rather quick and without a great deal of thought: *“Just about everything – it’s a great organization that does a lot of good, and I’m glad to be a part of it.”*

Later on, I thought about it a little more and realized that it might be good to consider the question in greater detail and expand on these thoughts a bit more. So, what are the things I like about our fraternity?

1. **I like the positive influence it has had on my life** and the lives of its members and on society in general. Let’s face it – we are imperfect creatures (no kidding!), and we need all the help we can get. When I was a young man, I was looking for something to give further meaning to my life, something that could help me become a better person. I’m very thankful that Masonry found me and I’m sure most of our members feel the same.
2. **I like the enrichment, the exhilaration, and the powerful sense of fulfillment** that I feel when witnessing one of our Degrees. Talk about sensory overload! From the Entered Apprentice Degree onward, every Masonic Degree that I have been a part of has brought not only valuable lessons in life, but also the knowledge that I was a part of a tremendous effort, an effort that brings true understanding to men of differing backgrounds and different thought processes, and makes the world around us a better place for everyone.
3. **I like the joy** that I feel when I shake a brother’s hand. The fellowship that is found at a Masonic meeting is unparalleled. Oh, I know, one can find fellowship at church, at the country club, or at a meeting of a civic club. But there’s something really special about Masonic fellowship: we know that each of us has been through the same experience of kneeling at a Masonic altar, being a part of the ceremonies, and making certain promises to ourselves, our brethren, and our Creator.

It creates a bond unlike that found anywhere else, a bond that we do not easily forget or forego.

4. **I like that our Masonic principles provide a pathway** to forgiveness of others. I have as many faults as any other person, and remembering our teachings allows me to be compassionate to those around me. I wish that I could remember those teachings every minute of every day.
5. **I like the fact that I’ve had the opportunity to meet** so many wonderful people, from around the state, the country, and the globe. Our beloved Order truly does bring together men of every country, sect, and opinion. Good men trying to become better.
6. **Should I mention Number One again?**



There are a lot of things I like about the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry. Perhaps in a future article we’ll discuss things we don’t like about Masonry.

It will be a short list.



LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

- Asheville**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:00PM, and Stated Meeting 7:00PM)
- Charlotte**, 1st Wednesday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Franklin**, 2nd Monday of each month
(Dinner 6:00PM & Stated Meeting 7:00PM)
- Greensboro**, 2nd Wednesday of each month
(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- New Bern**, 2nd Monday of each month
(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Raleigh**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Dinner 6:30PM, Advisory Council 7:00PM, and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Wilmington**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM, Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Winston-Salem**, 2nd 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).....	828-776-1050
D. C. Heilman (Charlotte).....	704-918-3797
Marty Fischer (Franklin).....	828-253-9911
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), <i>Editor In Chief</i>	919-481-0425

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
SIX MONTH TRIAL EXPERIENCE

by: Rick Patton, Secretary

The Asheville Scottish Rite will begin meeting at the Masonic Temple in Asheville starting with our February 12 Stated Communication. This is a six month trial experience to begin with so make your plans to come out and join with your Scottish Rite Brothers.

The Lodge of Perfection opens at 7PM sharp and we will be having several presentations that evening for Double Eagle Awards, Master Craftsman Program Completions and several 25 & 50 Year Service Awards to make.

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
THE 6TH DEGREE-CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY

by D. C. Heilman, 32°KCCH, Valley Secretary

Recent discussions with Director of the Work, Ill. Brother Jack Huskey, 33°, it was decided the exemplification of the 6th degree would be a good choice for the Masonic Education portion of a stated meeting. It had been a number of years since this degree was exemplified. Many of our brothers had not witnessed the degree on stage. For others it had been many, many years.

Ill. Brother Mack Sigmon, 33°, Ill. Brother Bob Braswell, 33° Brother Gene Griffith, 32°

KCCH, and Ill Brother Jack Huskey, 33° decided they would take the degree in hand to learn the parts, practice the floor work and exemplify this wonderful degree.

In full costume, usage of the appropriate stage set up, lighting and props, this team of Brothers "did the 6th" in a most spectacular fashion to the delight and amazement of the Brethren assembled that evening.

Many thanks to the team for their desire to learn, practice and exemplify such a meaningful degree.

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
THE 14TH RING CEREMONY

by D. C. Heilman, 32°KCCH, Valley Secretary

With the beginning of the new year, the Valley of Charlotte recognizes the new brothers from the last fall reunion with the 14th ring ceremony.

A formal invitation was sent to new brothers requesting his attendance along with his spouse or special guest of his choosing to be a part of the ceremony.

The 14th ring ceremony is conducted as a sense of celebration and accomplishment appropriate to this happy and significant step in the Scottish Rite Mason's career in Freemasonry (*Forms and Tradition*, C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°).

As the name of each brother was called, the brother, armed

with a long stem red rose, he and his guest were directed to the center of the auditorium where they met the Master of Ceremonies who presented the 14th ring to the guest asking them place the ring on the new brother. In turn the brother presented the rose to his spouse or guest.

Following the ring presentation, Brother John S. Harder, Jr, 32°KCCH recited to the room the poem "If your Scottish Rite Ring Could Speak" by Past Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Brother Henry C. Clauson.

Those brothers receiving their rings were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Robert Besesti, 32° | William L. Hubert, Sr, 32° |
| Mark Bomber, 32° | Edward D. Hyde, 32° |
| Robert D. Carter, 32° | Joseph R. Ingle, 32° |
| Aaron S. Collins, 32° | Brad W. Patman, 32° |
| Donald L. Collins, 32° | Ryan G. Prockup, 32° |
| Michael H. Dacus, 32° | Thomas A. Raye, 32° |
| Michael R. Gettys, 32° | Phillip L. Richardson, 32° |
| Vincent J. Haney, 32° | Gregory S. Sessoms, 32° |
| David A. Hines, 2nd, 32° | Curtis R. Sharpe, Jr. 32° |
| Logan R. Walker, 32° | |



GENESIS GROUP PHOTOGRAPHY

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
2015 OFFICERS INSTALLATION

by D. C. Heilman, 32°KCCH, Valley Secretary

The Valley of Charlotte installed the officers for each of the four bodies making up the Valley. Master of Ceremonies, Ill Brother Bob Braswell, 33° served as the installing officer for the evening.

Installed were the following officers:

CHARLOTTE LODGE OF PERFECTION

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Venerable Master: | Christopher L. Hall, 32°KCCH |
| Senior Warden: | James W. Howell, 32°KCCH |
| Junior Warden: | Michael D. Harding, 32°KCCH |

MECKLENBURG CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Wise Master: | Walter W. Grahling, Jr., 32°KCCH |
| Senior Warden: | John C. Trail, 32° |
| Junior Warden: | John S. Harder, Jr., 32°KCCH |

CHARLOTTE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Commander: | Justin A. Madore, 32° |
| 1st Lt. Commander: | Jerry L. Patterson, 32°KCCH |
| 2nd Lt. Commander: | P. Todd Harrington, 32° |

CAROLINA CONSISTORY

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Master of Kadosh: | Ron E. Sperlbaum, 32°KCCH |
| Prior: | Kevin J. Kubacki, 32°KCCH |
| Preceptor: | Dan B Beal, 32° |

Following the installation, Venerable Master Hall took the opportunity to thank the officers who served the Valley in 2014 and expressed his gratitude to the entire body for their vote of confidence in electing him to the office of Venerable Master for the ensuing year.

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
FLOURISH AND GROW

by Ben Wallace, 32°, KCCH

Winter is a season for rest and refreshment. It is a time to plan and a time to dream up new visions for the coming year. Weather cancelled our last meeting, and it seems like a very long time since we have been together. This time has been put to good use, as there are many new and exciting things that will be happening in the Greensboro Valley in 2015.

By time this is published, we will be well into the planning of the Spring Reunion, the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, and the continued implementation of the VMAP work.

As this Valley blossoms with new opportunities, we need new brothers to offer their assistance. Often men who are new to an organization are often reluctant to volunteer for fear of offend-

ing someone who has been doing a job for years. Rest assured, we need the assistance and welcome all offers of help with open arms.

I challenge all of the seasoned members to reach out to our newest Masters of the Royal Secret to offer them a place on your team. All elements can use fresh faces. The new programs we are implementing need new men.

As we rush towards spring and the annual renewal of this Valley we will ensure its growth by tapping the resources which are our new members. By their involvement, we will continue to flourish.

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
A GOOD SEED

by Gene Cobb, Jr. 33° - Personal Representative

If you listen closely to every Mason's story, then you will likely hear about some man whose influence led him to inquire and pursue the degrees of masonry. After a man has been a mason for a while, other men will influence him to become more or less involved. It's that way in just about every worthwhile endeavor. Twenty-three years ago, I wrote my first publication that appeared in the Scottish Rite Journal. It was a tribute to my grandfather, John Moody Cobb, Sr. who planted a good seed in me when I was just seven years old. On Halifax Day 1965, he took me into his lodge, Royal White Hart No. 2 and said, "follow me and don't be afraid." Today, I write these words as a Past Master of Blackmer No. 127 in Mount Gilead and Royal White Hart No.

2 in Halifax, as well as many other positions in our fraternity, at many levels.

Today, I hope what we are saying and doing is planting a good seed in men's minds. We are not perfect, but we must always try to say and do the right thing. When we do make a mistake, we must always be ready and willing to hear and respond to wise counsel. There may not be a better seed to plant than to "have no fear". Somehow I believe the difference between being wise and foolish hinges on our ability to hear and respond to such counsel without fear, for it too is a seed that over time will bear the fruit of wisdom, strength, and beauty.

**THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
KSA INSTALLATION**

by Aaron Morris, KSA

On December 18, 2014, the New Bern Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew held their installation of officers for the ensuing year. Brother William Dill, 33° Personal Representative for the Valley of New Bern served as the installing Marshall. Aaron Morris was installed as First Knight with Jimmie Walker and Charles Barrett as Senior and Junior Wardens, Sparkie Travis as Secretary and Mack Smith as Treasurer. The Chapter has a number of activities planned for the year that will include renovating the Charles H. Pugh meditation room in the New Bern Scottish Rite Temple. A treasure trove of Masonic and other esoteric literature will be indexed, organized and displayed in the parlor for everyone to enjoy! Additionally, the Chapter is planning to volunteer at Religious Community Services of New Bern to cook, feed and visit with those staying at their shelter. A number of other activities are in the works so stay tuned for more details as they arise. If you are interested in joining the New Bern Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew, please contact one of the Sir Knights and visit our website where a petition can be downloaded. <http://www.scottishritenewbern.org/ksa.php>

2015 NEW BERN CHAPTER OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| First Knight - Aaron Morris | Senior Deacon - Glen Carpenter |
| Senior Warden - Jimmie Walker | Junior Deacon - Mike Cruise |
| Junior Warden - Charles Barrett | Chaplain - John Stein |
| Secretary - Sparkie Travis | Quartermaster - Jeff Almany |
| Treasurer - Mack Smith | Sentinel - James White |



**THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
MENTOR DIRECTOR**

by Steve Burgess 33°

The Valley of New Bern is proud to announce that Brother Russell Jones, KCCH has been appointed as the Director of the Valley Mentor Program. Russ is a member of Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 680 in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He will be responsible for coordinating, directing and implementing activities required to maintain a functional mentoring program for new members that promotes knowledge of and opportunities for involvement in the Scottish Rite. Any members of the Valley who wish to become a part of the Valley Mentoring Program and in assisting Brother Russ in administering this program please contact the Valley Secretary (252) 638-4031



**THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
SPRING REUNION**

by Steve Burgess 33°

The Valley of New Bern will hold its Spring Reunion on March 27th and 28th. I wish life was like in the movies - "If you hold it, they will come." Unfortunately it doesn't happen that way in real life. If you do not invite, persuade, and encourage members, they will not come. Today the demands upon our time are many and it becomes a wrestling match to arrange our schedule. You can and do make a difference. No one wants to come alone. Invite a brother to come with you, share a ride, and have an experience to remember. I have really gotten to know some of my Brethren much better during the rides to different meetings. One on one in a car for thirty minutes offers the opportunity to get to know and become much better acquainted with someone on a personal basis.



**THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

by Luigi Ammons 33°

Happy "spring weather" greetings to the Valley of Raleigh! This has been a cold winter but it is nearly gone and time to enjoy the re-awakening of spring once more. I am pleased to introduce the new officers for the Scottish Rite Valley of Raleigh this year. They are: Venerable Master – Will Chriscoe, 32° KCCH, Wise Master – Jim Covington, Jr., 32° KCCH, Commander of Kados- Ill.°. Johnny Davis, 33°, and Master of Kadosh – Ill.°. James L. Dority, 33°. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to these new officers who will lead us throughout the 2015 year.

Our spring reunion for 2015 is scheduled to be held on April 10 and 11. It will be named for Ill.°. Norman T. Horton, 33°. Brother Horton was a familiar face during our reunions. He helped in our robe room for many years and made everyone around him smile. Let's try to make this a great class with many candidates to honor Brother Horton.

Our spring fundraiser letter will be mailed in the near future. Our Valley would like to thank you in advance for your generous contributions to our Foundation. I especially want to thank the members of our Valley who have supported these fundraisers in the past. Your donations really help in our assessment to the North Carolina Scottish Rite Foundation, and the three Children's Language Disorder clinics in our state – Appalachian University, East Carolina

University, and our newest clinic at Swan Quarter.

The ROTC and JROTC award presentations are in full swing again for our high schools colleges. If any member would like to participate in presenting these awards, please contact our office, or Col. Richard M. Ripley, USA (Ret). It is a rewarding experience to see the discipline and enthusiasm of the deserving cadets who receive these awards.

Dues have been coming in very well this year. As of this newsletter, there are only 175 members who have not paid their 2015 dues. Please check to make sure you have a 2015 sticker for your permanent dues card. If not, you are one of those 175 members who need to send your dues to our office. If you did not receive a dues notice from Supreme Council, please notify me and I will be happy to send a duplicate to you. There are always a few members who do not receive a dues statement, as they get lost in our mail system from time to time.

Our stated communications are on the second Thursday of each month. Our chef, Ill.°. Johnny Davis, 33°, prepares a five-star meal at each meeting. Plus we have an educational meeting each month from one of our members. Please plan to attend our next meeting and enjoy the food and fellowship.

**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5**



THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
CLINIC TESTIMONIAL

by Michael May 32° KCCH

I am responding to a letter I received asking for feedback on the services we previously received for our daughter through the Scottish Rite Program.

My daughter, Megan Beese, received services initially when she was 11 years old and is currently 17 years old (will be 18 in mid-March)

Without a doubt the evaluations we received through your program were the foundation of my daughters eventual diagnosis of PDD-NOS along with very specific language-based as well as math learning disabilities and what I initially had suspected a Central Auditory Processing disorder. Once I presented these findings as reported through the Scott Rite evaluations to her school - the same school that denied her services that were recommended but not offered because she did not qualify under their evaluation - they quickly reviewed and approached me with the suggestion of her having Autism.

Once the school reviewed your findings presented on the evaluations through the Scottish Rite program they were found to be significant and quickly pointed to the correct areas that needed to be focused on in order to receive services. I believe by the end of 5th grade she had her first IEP in place.

I only wish we knew about this program sooner as she struggled through every grade prior and each year was referred for services, but denied since she did not qualify through the school

system testing - it was beyond frustrating!

Whenever I get the opportunity I recommend your program for evaluation services.

With the parents I have encountered, myself included, I find that it is a matter of them relying on the schools to point them in the right direction and acceptance of the actual problem (and perhaps understanding what the problem is).

Currently my daughter is a Junior in Havelock High and going through the Occupational Prep curriculum which allows for remedial core classes and focuses on job and life skills. Graduation requirements include volunteer and paid working hours. She is at the top of her class and by the end of Sophomore year had completed all her volunteer hours and is currently working on her paid hours with an anticipated early graduation of January 2016.

She still struggles with some skills on a daily basis but her ability to cope is constantly improving.

Thank you!!

Katie Beese (Megan's Mother)



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
DR. BRUNK INSTALLS NEW LEADERSHIP-TEAM

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°-



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
ANNUAL FISH FRY

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°-

On Wednesday April 29, the annual Fish Fry will be held at the Temple from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Tent set-up will begin at 8:00 A.M. All members are encouraged to attend and help, or just reconnect with friends

At the January Stated Meeting of the Valley of Wilmington, Dr. Brunk installed a new General Secretary and Personal Representative along with the 2015 Valley Officers. Pictured from left to right: Billy J. Graves, 32°, KCCH, General Secretary; William B. Brunk, 33°, S.G.I.G. and E. Earl Wells, 33°, Personal Representative.

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
2015 SPRING REUNION

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°-

The 2015 Spring Reunion is scheduled for March 6th & 7th. Petitions are available at the Temple or on the "Reunion" page of our website <http://www.wilmingtonaasr.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, 800-708-8680.

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
EASTER OBSERVANCE

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°-

On Saturday April 4 at 5:00 P. M., a Combined Service, Presentation and Program of the Maundy Thursday & Easter Sunday Observances will be held at the Temple. Please make reservations for dinner by calling (910) 762-6452 or in North Carolina at 1-800-708-8680 by March 30th so that we know how many to prepare for.



THE 2014 FALL MEMORIAL CLASS OF
Memorial Class

Evander C. Godwin, 32°, KCCH - Jimmy Strickland, 32°, KCCH

Johnny Wiggins, 32°, KCCH - Benjamin Hutaff, 32°, KCCH - Ray Lander Smith, 32°, KCCH

*Back Row L to R: Mike James, Freddie L Latham, Marion Warren, Ronald C Brown, Joshua A Walker, Mark A Roam
Front Row L to R: Bobby Morris, Walter S Aiken, A.C. Everett, Jr., 33°, General Secretary; Edward A. Gaskins, Jr., 33°, Director of the Work; Michael C. Saviak, III, 32°, KCCH, Class Lecturer; Ralph E Kerley, Augustus E Floyd*

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM
NEW VALLEY WEBSITE AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

Our Valley has a new digital monthly newsletter called the Rite Review. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list, please send an email to wssrnews@gmail.com. Also, our Valley also has a new website, which is <http://www.scottishritews.org/>

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM THOUGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2015

by Joel Black 33° - Personal Representative

In thinking of approaches to the year of 2015, several thoughts come to mind as an exercise in personal improvement and interaction with our Masonic brethren, and our fellow man. Make a concerted effort to practice the following ten suggestions. You will be surprised and rewarded by the results. Upon reflection, you will find that these actions are at the heart of what we Masons are taught, and should be the standards that govern our actions.

BE HONEST – even when others aren't and it may cost more than you want to pay.

KEEP YOUR PROMISES – even when it's costly or inconvenient.

TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT – even if they don't deserve it.

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

Our Valley will hold its fifth annual Masonic Charity golf tournament on Friday, June 12th, 2015 at Meadowlands Golf Club in Winston-Salem, NC. We have many spots available for sponsors as well as golfers. The golf tournament brochure is also on our website, <http://www.scottishritews.org/>. Please join us and have a great time for a great cause!

FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES – even if you could dodge them.

DO WHAT'S RIGHT – even if you have a right to do something less.

BE ACCOUNTABLE – even if you have a good excuse or scapegoat.

BE FAIR – even when you can take more than your share.

BE KIND – even to strangers and people who can't help you.

PLAY BY THE RULES – even when others are not.

KEEP GETTING BETTER – even if you think you're good enough.



**Winston Salem Scottish Rite
Masonic Golf Tournament**

Ringers for RiteCare Clinics!
June 12, 2015

**Winston Salem Scottish Rite
Masonic Charity
Golf Tournament**
June 12, 2015
Meadowlands Golf Club

Schedule:
7:30 am Driving Range Open
8:15 am Tournament Final Instructions
8:30 am Morning Flight Shotgun Start
12:00-3:00pm Award-winning Lunch
2:00 pm Afternoon Flight Shotgun Start

Registration Includes:
Green Fees Range Balls
Cart Rental Lunch
Golfer's Goody Bag Drinks During Round

Tournament Contests:
Top Team Score Longest Drive
2nd Place Team Score Closest to the Pin
3rd Place Team Score Straightest Drive

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Fundraiser
The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. The results obtained from this program led to the establishment of clinics to provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities. With clinics at Appalachian State University, Eastern Carolina University and in Swan Quarter, children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead productive lives.

Attire & Fee
Meadowlands Golf Club requires proper golf attire (Collared shirts, long pants or Bermuda shorts. No tank tops, denim or jeans). Fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, drinks on the course, and great prizes.

Scoring
Each foursome will compete in a Captain's Choice format (each team selects the best shot from the tee through the last putt). Each person will be limited to two mulligans.

Foursomes
For convenience, we recommend that you bring a foursome to the tournament. If you are unable to do so, we will assign you to one. This is a shotgun tournament, space is limited to 36 teams. Golfers will be accepted on a first paid and received basis. Cost for a foursome will be \$400. Price includes two mulligans.

Questions: Contact Chris Pearman
336-601-5444
Email: wssrgolftourney@yahoo.com