



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA



JULY-AUGUST 2015

LIFE IS HARD...

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



"Life's hard. It's even harder when you're stupid."

- John Wayne

Brother John Wayne had a way with words and didn't have to say very much to get his point across. He passed away in 1979, but very few people today would not be familiar with many of his film roles. I'm not sure if he would be pleased with what he might see if he were still alive today.

A 22-year-old college student named Kim recently appeared as a guest on an Atlanta radio program, "The Burt Show." Without giving her last name and with her voice disguised, she related how she had blown completely through the ninety thousand dollar educational fund provided by her grandparents and still has one year of college left. She has no means of paying the twenty thousand dollars tuition for her senior year.

In a stunning tale of obliviousness and insensitivity, she described how she used her funds "...for school clothes and college break money." "I took a trip to Europe...I thought it was part of my education and that's how I tried to justify that." Displaying no remorse, she blamed her parents by stating that they should have taught her better how to budget her money.

Well, that may be true, but it's still difficult to understand how someone can reach an age at which they can vote, purchase alcohol, drive a car, enter into a legal contract, or be a parent without having some idea that planning for tomorrow is a good thing.

We live in an age of entitlement, and this sad story is only one example. Greece is another one, but let's not get into a political debate. Suffice it to say that the concept of hard work and self-responsibility is lacking in too many quarters in today's society. It's hard to understand why this is, since the world is full of examples of people who made successes of themselves – particularly in this country, which has proven to be the land of opportunity for so many individuals over the course of its history. Freedom carries with it many responsibilities, one of which is

the opportunity as well as the ability to look after one's self.

Our fraternity teaches vividly the value of hard work and devotion to duty, as well as service to others and so many other praise-worthy principles. Perhaps if Kim had been exposed to just some of the many life lessons to be found in Masonic teachings, through family, friends, or one of our Masonic youth groups, maybe she wouldn't be facing such a difficult situation today. Better yet, maybe she would understand how important it is to make her own way in life rather than to count on someone else to look after her. Indeed, her story is a good one for other young adults to follow. It's much less painful to learn from someone else's mistakes rather than one's own.

We'll wrap this up with another of Brother Wayne's quotes, one that many of our leaders of today would do well to heed closely:

"I'd like to know why well-educated idiots keep apologizing for lazy and complaining people who think the world owes them a living."



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

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Donald Kehler (Greensboro) 336-275-3579

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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

ARISTOTLE, NICOMACHEAN ETHICS, AND MASONRY

by Jack Williams, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master



Aristotle, son of Athens, wrote in his collection of works, Nicomachean Ethics, that in order to have a flourishing life a social contract needed to exist between the “polis” and the people. A polis is a community. Granted it could be the government of Athens or it could be a collection of villages outside the Athenian walls. Regardless, the men in the polis felt a sense of duty to provide a good and flourishing life for the citizens in their polis. This was accomplished by serving in a leadership role in the governance of the polis. Unlike today, ordinary citizens served, there were no professional politicians then. Therefore, it was in

the best interest of the citizens to govern unbiasedly. The citizens that governed were all men, no slaves or women were allowed to participate. The main point is that all the men involved in the governance of the polis had a sense of duty in the governance. This was one aspect of their providing a good life for their people.

Now, let us shrink this concept down from the macro to a micro level. The Valley is a polis. Therefore, we as its citizens have a duty to serve in its leadership. This can be as simple as participating in a degree during a reunion, serving on a committee, reporting to the advisory conference, or serving in a chair in the Lodge of Perfection. The bottom line is that there are many different leadership positions available, and as duty bound brothers, we have an obligation to fill these positions and to serve. If we do this then we can provide a good and flourishing life in our Valley/polis.

Thank you brothers, it is an honor to serve as your Venerable Master this year. As always if there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through our Face Book page. 🍷

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE

SALUTE!

by Jack Williams, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

The Valley of Asheville salutes and recognizes the selected honorees for 2015.

R.W. Bro. Bryant D. Webster - 33° Inspector General Honorary

Bro. Henry C. Hilliard Jr. - 32° Knights Commander of the Court of Honour

Bro. John David Cashion - 32° Knights Commander of the Court of Honour

Bro. Jack R. Barnett - 32° Knights Commander of the Court of Honour

Bro. Boyd Eugene Canter - 32° Knights Commander of the Court of Honour

The men whose names were selected from each of the Valleys’ all across this great state of ours is deserving of the honors they have received. They each can be proud and hold their heads high. These honors recognize their many contributions, their dedication and their outstanding service each has made. They

have sacrificed time away from their families, they have dug deep into their pockets, and they have demonstrated unwavering devotion to their families, their communities, and their Creator. Many of them make their contributions without any notoriety at all. Many do those little things within their communities, their church and their fraternity without anyone else every knowing. Many of them do without, so that other families, and those less fortunate, can have those things needed just to get by.

While we take time to recognize and honor these men, we also realize that it might not be for what they have done, but for what they will continue to do for the rest of their lives to make our fraternity, their communities, and this world a better place. The Valley of Asheville salutes all of the honorees and wishes each one a prosperous, long and healthy life. Salute! 🍷

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH PGM TOM GREGORY

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



The valley was honored to have Past Grand Master Tom Gregory come and share his wisdom with the brethren during our masonic education portion of our meeting.

Many brothers who attended Wilkerson College may remember such a fireside chat format with Brother Tom, who would

share his common sense approach to the fraternity.

Brother Tom started by telling a very interesting story of a young lady who approached a hotel in Princeton and was looking for someone to carry her luggage. There was a man standing there disheveled, his shoes were dirty and his hair was a mess. It appeared as though he had been sleeping in his clothes. She pressed \$5.00 into his hand and said

“Get my luggage and take it to the front desk.” He did as she asked without exchanging words. If she had known, she could have conversed with one of the brilliant minds of our times – Albert Einstein. She looked on Albert as a derelict, homeless person without taking the opportunity to put aside her judgement of his appearance, pigeonholed

him as someone she would rather not associate with, other than to carry her luggage.

Tom’s point that we do several things in freemasonry, despite the fact we are told to do otherwise. He went on to say that we are taught in our rituals it is the internal not the external qualifications of a man that would cause him to be recommended to be made a mason. We are told that masonry unites men from every country, sect and opinion and promotes true friendship between individuals that might otherwise remained distant.

He talked about individual character of those coming to the fraternity and how we need to be cautious to recognize programs regarding membership that may focus on position or popularity rather than individual character of a man. Remembering masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honor.

As freemasons, one of the best things we can do is to pay attention to the rituals and try to live our lives accordingly. The rituals are more than just words.

Tom continued to point out that masonry is about the man in the mirror. The man in the mirror is the person needing your focus, the person you can do something about. He identified the many rings worn by the men in the room and said that the ring is not a symbol to indicate to someone that you are better than they, but a constant reminder to you to be better than yourself. 🍷

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE

TABLE LODGE TO HONOR GRAND MASTER DOUGLAS L. CAUDLE

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

On June 12th of this year the valley of Charlotte held a festive board or table lodge in honor of Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle at the temple.

Forty brothers from North and South Carolina came together for an evening of fun and frivolity. A multi-course meal was enjoyed coupled with numerous obligatory toasts prior to each course.

The room was set to emulate a lodge setting with the head table in the East. Tables were covered with table cloths and set with full complement of china and appropriate silverware and napkins all in their proper order and position. At each seat, a souvenir “firing cannon” was properly displayed and used during the many toasts of the evening.

The meal was prepared by Chef Roberto Mendoza, who has prepared many meals for our venues over the past months. Each course was served by his competent wait staff.

Early in the proceedings, Venerable Master of the Charlotte

Lodge of Perfection welcomed Grand Master Caudle and all brethren in attendance adding his thanks to Brothers Tim Berly and James Howell for their hard work in preparation for the events of the evening.

A toast was conducted by Grand Deacon and Ill. Brother Dwight M. Sigmon to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and our Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas L. Caudle.

Grand Master Caudle took the floor offering his sincere gratitude to the Venerable Master and all assembled thanking them for the evening held in his honor. He went on to briefly talk about the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, its direction and continued support of the charitable works of the members.

As the last course of the evening, the dessert was served and thus consumed. All gathered and joining hand in hand, parted in peace and harmony. 🍷



THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
FALL REUNION-2015

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

The Valley of Charlotte will be holding their 2015 Fall Reunion on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th at the temple located at 4740 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC.

While we all know a reunion is that time of bringing Master Masons to further light under the degrees of the Scottish Rite, but more than the work, degree presentations and lectures, it is a time to reconnect with our Scottish Rite brothers we have not seen in some time.

According to Webster's Dictionary, reunion means 1) the act of uniting again; 2) the state of being united again, 3) a gathering of relatives, friends, or associates at regular intervals or after separations.

Albert Pike said, "A Scottish Rite Reunion is where good affections of life gush and mingle. When friends meet and hands are

warmly pressed, the eye kindles and the countenance is suffused with gladness, there is religion between their hearts; and each loves and worships the True and Good that is in the other. It is not policy of self-interests, or selfishness that spreads such charm around these reunions; it is the halo of a bright and beautiful affection. Here then, we meet each other as Brethren, to learn to know and love each other. And this is the true religion, revealed to the ancient Patriarchs- and it is now, and ever, the fundamental doctrine of Masonry."

So if you have not made the effort to attend a reunion, now is the time to mark your calendar to come and rekindle friendships, participate as you may have in the past, or just be a part of the enjoyment of bringing new members to the knowledge of the Scottish Rite.

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
EDUCATIONAL EVENT

by Gene Cobb 33° - Personal Representative

The Greensboro Valley hosted an educational event on June 27, 2015 in the Scottish Rite Room at the Temple. We gathered around the Altar and projected the scripts of many degrees onto a screen while volunteer readers took on the various roles of the characters in those degrees. A few of the degrees had been witnessed by the attendees. There were several degrees that some of us had never witnessed.

The gathering consisted of several "long time" Scottish Rite Masons as well as several recently made Masters of the Royal Secret. The Director of our Work, Mike Daniels 32°, KCCH, led us through the day with brief explanations of the floor, staging, and other matters of interest to each degree. Mike did an outstanding job for us. The level of interest and enthusiasm for these non-obligatory degrees grew as the day progressed and the fellowship we enjoyed was simply amazing.

One of the reasons we held this event was to begin developing a plan to do all of the degrees in Greensboro over the course of a year as part of our response to the VMAP effort we are making. What we discovered was that by doing it, we not only learned and we improved ourselves in Masonry, but we also enjoyed the peace and good fellowship of our friends and brothers—even making some new connections in other Valleys in the Orient of North Carolina.

While the educational benefit was a large part of it, being together as friends and brothers was the best benefit of all. We encourage getting together and trying something different every now and then. We do it not to create any innovation in Masonry, but to learn, to subdue our passions, and of course to improve ourselves in fraternal knowledge. Best of all we do it to strengthen and support relationships with the Great Architect of the Universe and one another.



THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
SPRING REUNION CLASS

by David Brosnam 32°

As we continue getting to know one another, this issue includes a Spring Reunion class picture. How many of them do you know? How about giving the ones you can identify a call, welcome them, and perhaps travel with them to an upcoming LOP meeting. There are many things coming up: performance of degrees at the LOP meetings at our new location – watch for a schedule of the ones coming up soon. Special congrats to those Brothers who put on the 6th Degree for July. With Fall on its way, lots of things are swinging into a higher gear. Make sure you contact the office to be sure you are on the contact lists and get all the information that is sent out. I did not include names with the picture as I am sure you will want to identify your New Brothers on your own!



THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
TIDINGS FROM THE EAST

by Will Criscoe 32° KCCH – Venerable Master

Years ago when I was appointed to the Carle A Woodruff Lodge of Perfection line, I did not give much thought to what my year as Venerable Master would be. I was honored and surprised to be appointed to the line and did not give much thought past that point. The years flew quickly by and before I had time to realize what the position meant, I was standing before the body being installed. The magnitude of the office at first overwhelmed me but I soon realized that much like the Blue Lodge a Valley was as strong as it's members and I should not be concerned.

Through half the year I have been blessed to have the support of a fantastic Valley Secretary and a very active Scottish Rite body. We had a very successful Spring Reunion and are happy to have had an excited and enthusiastic class. Our body strives to confer as many if not more degrees than we communicate, but that is not to take away from our wonderful classroom staff, but to take advantage of our large stage, efficient stage crew and backdrops which allow for the conferrals to be done quickly.

The Valley or Raleigh has an active research group. Not only do they meet once a month to discuss ideas and different topics, they also present an educational program at each meeting. After the program discussion is encouraged. I feel this education at each meeting is important, not only does it advance the knowledge of the degrees and the purpose of the body, it is also an avenue to keep newer members engaged by being presenters.

This year our Valley, for the first time, included the Easter Observance as part of the stated meeting. This allowed for some to attend that are not ordinarily able to and served as the night's education. Instead of having the meal prior to the meeting, we had the extinguishing of the lights first. We then adjourned for the meal, had our business meeting and returned for the relighting ceremony. The flow of the evening was great and the entire evening was well received.

As the second half of the year begins we turn our focus to the Fall Reunion, our joint Ladies Night with the Raleigh York Rite Bodies and the Scottish Rite Golf Tournament. I am sure that the second half of the year will be just as successful as the first.

The closing thought is this, if you are in a line plan ahead and look forward. Your time to stand in front will arrive much quicker than you assume so be prepared. If you are in the East looking out, remember to rely on those who have been there before you and have set the stage for your year, their input is very valuable. If you are one of those who have "been there, done that" remember that your leadership and assistance is vital to the continued support of any body. Lastly if you are the "new guy" keep in mind that you are just as important as the most seasoned member, for without your attendance and support any body will grow stale, only you can keep things moving forward and thriving.

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
MUSING FROM THE RALEIGH KSA

by Keith Morgan 32° - KSA

Four Knights of Saint Andrew of the Valley of Raleigh Chapter (Larry Hudson, Will Highsmith, Howard Moore and Glenn Todd) have been nominated to receive the KCCH! It is excellent news for these deserving brothers but it also presents a challenge for the KSA – Our movers & shakers keep on moving up, forcing us to shake some new leaders out of the KSA ranks. KSA knights become emeritus members and cannot vote or hold office in KSA once they become Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor. This forces KSA to be self-renewing and while it is a challenge for our chapter it is also a great opportunity for new knights to step forward and assume new responsibilities.

KSA is an organization of workers. While the First Knight and Wardens have the primary responsibility for setting an agenda we shouldn't be sitting back passively waiting for them to tell us what to do, we need to be actively looking for work that needs to be done and roles that need to be filled. Knight Andy Hicklin's work with VMAP is an excellent example of this. We need to use the challenge of new roles for knights to focus on doing more to help the Valley of Raleigh to grow and improve.

I would like to challenge each KSA knight and squire to propose one new project, activity or role and volunteer to organize or lead it. Here are some ideas that most KSA chapters could use – we've talked about many of these before, we just need someone to step forward and take leadership of them.

- A. Props repair workdays. Our props take a beating during the reunions; there are always things in need of a little TLC.
- B. Organize, stock and run a Valley store selling apparel, pins, etc. during reunions. The Valley of Wilmington has such a store.
- C. Run raffles – These have been our most consistent type of fundraiser but we need continuity with one person responsible for organizing and running them rather than the ad hoc approach

we've used in the past.

- D. Building repair and maintenance projects. We need someone to work with the Valley Secretary to identify some projects that don't require skilled labor or special equipment to spruce the place up a bit – like the seat repair project we did a couple years ago. Even if we leave the building in a couple years we need to take pride in it for the remainder of our time occupying it.
- E. Organize some fun KSA celebrations and events – movie nights, bowling, family cookouts, etc.
- F. More fundraisers – KSA and the Valley always have projects that could use a little more cash. Propose an idea to the First Knight (and volunteer to organize it).
- G. Contact brothers in danger of being excluded for NPD. We've done this a few times in the past with mixed results but we need someone to organize a team to do it for this year and get an early start on it.
- H. Organize the post-meal cleanup. We have knights who are willing to work but need someone to assign tasks and make sure that all needed tasks get done.
- I. Organize a meeting of all the KSA chapters in the Orient of NC. Use this as a forum for exchanging ideas and to approach the secretaries of Valleys not having KSA chapters about starting new chapters.
- J. Lead a team to present KSA to new Reunion classes and answer their questions – we need to continually refresh our ranks as our most active members move on to KCCH.

These are just a few ideas, I'm sure each of you can come up with others, but please discuss your ideas with the First Knight before implementing them. KSA can become a more productive and fun activity if YOU will be more active.

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
OUR BROTHERS PARTICIPATE IN JROTC AWARD PROGRAM

by Danny Buck, 32°, KSA

Several Brothers in the Valley acted as Award Presenters during the 2015 high school commencement season. There are currently 34 High Schools in our Valley which have JROTC programs. Each year in January we notify the schools by letter of the existence of the Scottish Rite JROTC Award Program, and how to go about nominating one of their cadets to be a recipient. This year we had responses from 26 schools in our Valley. We were able to provide brothers to attend 20 of the school's award ceremonies in order to present the Medal and Certificate in person. The ones we missed were only due to scheduling conflicts. However, we were able to mail those awards in timely fashion so that the cadets received them on schedule. The Awards (one per school) recognize Scholastic Excellence and Demonstrated Americanism through Participation in the JROTC Program.

The following brethren acted as presenters this year: Charles Lewis, 33°, PGM; Woody Henderson, 33°; Ray Casey, 33°; Joe Gupton, 33°; James Britt, 32°, KCCH; James Brandt, 32°, KSA, FK; Terry Kuhn, 32°, KSA, PFK; Scott Nims, 32°, KSA; Grant Lewis, 32°, KSA; Chirs Germaine, 32°; and Danny Buck, 32°, KSA.



Pictured left is Charles A. Lewis, Jr., 33°, Past Grand Master and Woody Henderson, Jr., 33° presenting a medal and certificate to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Evan Long at Ashley High School.

Pictured right is Ray Casey, 33° presenting a medal and certificate to Cadet Captain Juan C. Escalante-Lopez at Southern Wayne High School.

Pictured below is James Britt, 32° and Grant Lewis, 32°, KSA presenting a medal and certificate to Cadet Cpl. River Walkers at East Bladen High School.



When you see these brothers, be sure to thank them for their patriotic gesture of taking the time to present these awards on behalf of our Valley and the Scottish Rite.



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN TO ENDOW THE TEMPLE

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

At our June stated meeting, a vote was held to determine whether or not to proceed with the sale of our Temple building. There were 49 members present and the vote was 11 (No), 38 (Yes) with 1 vote held back to break a tie. As a result of the vote, a Capital Fund Campaign has now begun. A special account has been established to hold all Capital Campaign contributions. The monies collected

will be available for return to the donors if the \$1,000,000 goal is not reached by December 31, 2015. We will then proceed with the listing and sale of Temple building on January 1, 2016. If you are interested in making a donation or have any questions, please contact the General Secretary or Personal Representative. 910-762-6452 or In NC 1-800-708-8680



THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM **FINDING A HEALTHY BALANCE**

by Joel Black 33 - Personal Representative

This month let's consider one of the primary tenets of the 32nd degree, equilibrium, or balance.

It's both a strength and weakness of human nature that we're never satisfied for long. Whatever we have, wherever we are, most of us want more and better. When focused on money or power, our insatiability can turn into happiness-crushing greed, avarice, and obsessive ambition.

But in many other areas of our life, our desire for more and better can be a very good thing send this is where the "balance" comes in.. For example, in business we should continually strive for improvement and innovation. Similarly, when we assess the quality of our educational or healthcare systems, government integrity or efficiency, or the general state of social justice, we should never be satisfied.

Even in our personal lives, we should strive for better relationships by improving communications and organiz-

ing our lives better. And there's nothing wrong with wanting a better job, one that's more intellectually challenging, emotionally rewarding, financially remunerative, and socially significant.

To live and enjoy a good life, we need to find a healthy balance between wanting more and appreciating enough. You see, it's possible to realize that what we have is worthy of gratitude and appreciation, even as we strive for more.

Not being satisfied doesn't have to be the same as being dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction is a negative state of mind. It's a form of unhappiness. Thus it's important to find a comfortable place between satisfaction and dissatisfaction. That place can be the state of contentment marked by true appreciation of what one has and the ability to enjoy it.

In the progression of good, better, and best, better and best are superior to good.

But good is still good. Enough can be good. 

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON SALEM **GRAND MASTER DINNER**

by Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

On Saturday, June 20, 2015, the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley held a dinner in honor of Most Worshipful Grand Master Douglas Caudle 32° KCCH. This event was held at the New Philadelphia Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. This dinner was well-attended, with brothers from around the state coming to show their support for our Grand Master. Big Boy Barbeque supplied the delicious dinner much to the enjoyment of everyone in attendance 

