



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA



July-August 2013

HOW LONG WILL THE SCOTTISH RITE BE WITH US?

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

Not long ago, one of our astute and honored members sent me a letter expressing deep concern for the future of our beloved Order. He was particularly troubled by the implications of the decline in membership that has been affecting Masonry in general, and the Scottish Rite specifically, for the last several decades. The following is my response to him.

"I've been thinking about your letter of April 11th quite a bit. You make some very good points. As I've commented many times, if the Masonic fraternity and its many sub-organizations are to succeed in the mission of simply helping to make the world a little bit of a better place for all human beings, then it behooves us to reach out and touch as many people as possible. In juxtaposition to this is the fact that nothing stays the same forever—change is the only constant there is. Very few organizations have lasted as long as Freemasonry, and there is no guarantee that it will last to any certain point in the future.



There was a time when I took the approach that Masonry really would not ever die, that as long as men believed in the principles of the Order, then there would be a place for them to meet – a Masonic lodge. It was when I realized that we MUST reach more people if we are to succeed in our mission that I also realized that membership and numbers do matter. Unfortunately, we also know that the vast majority of Masonic organizations have implemented untold numbers of programs and initiatives to deal with the decline in membership, and not a single one has enjoyed any success.

However, if our fraternity is something as good as you and I both believe it to be, then we must, somehow, do something that works. I have reached the point at which I feel that our biggest problem is that we don't look after our existing membership adequately. By this I mean that we don't communicate with them sufficiently—we're not fraternal enough. The Broth-

er-to-Brother program is designed to provide a mechanism that will help to ensure that we maintain better communications with our existing members, and I support it enthusiastically. My guess is that it will actually improve



our membership, but even if it doesn't, it will help ours to be a better fraternity that looks after its members the way it should.

We have a lot of problems in front of us, but the good news is that we have some good people to help solve those problems. I'm glad you're one of them."

The Scottish Rite does, indeed, face a myriad of problems—the most significant of which involves what kind of an affect it will have on the world around us. There is no doubt that our organization will someday no longer exist. The key for those of us that believe in the good that it can do is for us to ensure that it has a positive influence on society for as long as possible. I'm glad that each of you is willing to help ensure that our Order endures for generations to come.

LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

- Asheville, 2nd Thursday** of each month
(Advisory Council 5:00PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- Charlotte, 1ST Wednesday** of each month
(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)
- 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
(Advisory Council 6:00PM, Master Craftsman 6:00PM, Stated Meeting at Clemmons Lodge 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
- Donald Kehler (Greensboro) 336-275-3579
- William Dill (New Bern) 252-638-4031
- Luigi Ammons (Raleigh)..... 919-834-8873
- Ace Everett (Wilmington)..... 910-762-6452
- Truett Chadwick (Winston-Salem) 336-723-1217
- Michael May (Raleigh), *Editor In Chief* 919-481-0425

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 3 Friends Dinner & Auction @ 5:00 PM (A)
- August 9 – 10..... Summer Leadership Conference (W)
- October 7 Orient Golf Tournament
at Washington Duke Inn & Golf Course (R)
- October 10 Feast of Tishri (R)
- October 26 Fall Reunion (R)

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS A MAN OF MANY HATS – COLONEL HENRY C. “HANK” HILLIARD 32°

by Ill. John M. Burchfield 33° Public Relations



Brethren, there are many men who walk through the doors of our lodges and temples that have served this great country of ours for who most of us may not know the real services that they have contributed, the paths that they have walked, or the lives that they have touched. In this month's issue we recognize a man who has worn many hats, traveled numerous paths, and has touched many lives. Brother Henry “Hank” Hilliard, 32° is currently the Master of Black Mountain Lodge 663 and Prelate of the Valley of Asheville's Lodge of Perfection. Before donning the Master's derby in 2013, Brother Hilliard wore another type of hat. It was the hat of a U.S. Army Chaplain. Two combat tours in Vietnam gave Hank a firsthand look at the real tangibles of his ministry to the soldiers. Brother Hank didn't wait for the young homesick soldiers to come in off the frontline; he met with them in the combat zones and on the battlefields. During his service Brother Hank received the 2nd highest Army award for meritorious service, the *Legion of Merit*. He also received the *Purple Heart* for wounds received in combat, the *Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster* for Valor, and the *Soldier's Medal* for heroism.



What does Hank consider his greatest accomplishments? Which hat or chapeau does he like the best? It will not come as a surprise to anyone that knows him that the answer is quite simple. The hat that fits him the best is his daddy hat, now, along with his granddaddy, and as of July 2012, his great-granddaddy hat.

So, we take just a moment to salute Colonel Henry C. “Hank” Hilliard Jr., and recognize him for the many hats he has worn throughout his life, and his many contributions to this land of the free and home of the brave. We take another moment to honor

him for the many sacrifices he has made, and to thank him for what he does every single day as he continues to serve his fellow man. Just like the fictional George Bailey did in *It's a Wonderful Life*, the real life Hank touches the lives of everyone that he comes in contact with, and we are all better because of it. Yes, it's just that simple. *“We thank you Brother Hank. Thank you very much. We are so glad that you made it back home, and for the many hats that you have worn and those you continue to wear today.”* Salute and Welcome Home!

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

By Ill. Martin J. Fischer, 33° S.G.I.G. Personal Representative

Brethren and friends, I am happy to report that the Asheville Scottish Rite Educational Foundation has presented its first two college scholarships. Over 40 applications were received from students in the 16 western counties of NC. The Scholarship Committee of the Foundation then interviewed the finalists and made their selection. On May 21st at East Rutherford High School, Ill. Bro. Jim Medlin 33° presented a \$5000 scholarship to *Kelsey Fletcher* and on June 4th, Ill. Bro. Marty Fischer 33° presented a similar scholarship to *Hayden Titte* at East Hendersonville High School. The Foundation is now engaged in a fundraising campaign for next and ensuing years' scholarships.



THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
CELEBRATING THAT CRAFT

by Ill. John M. Burchfield 33° Public Relations

On Saturday, May 18th, the Valley of Asheville Scottish Rite members, family and friends gathered together to watch the ScottishRite Web-a-thon and enjoy each other's fellowship, eat some great food, and just have some fun. On hand to share in the excitement were our SGIG Personal Representative, Ill. Martin Fischer 33°, our General Secretary, Ill. Rick Patton 33°, and our Venerable Master, Bro. Art Fritog, 32° KCCH. As you can see from the photo the Valley made it a family affair. In the process we also raised close to six-hundred dollars in the process. Brother Jack Williams, 32° K.S.A. and President of the Franklin Scottish Rite Club also had a small entourage of dedicated folks who gathered together in Franklin, NC to celebrate the craft and was able to raise another one-hundred dollars to benefit the Scottish Rite so that we can continue to provide invaluable services to our charities.



THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
CAROLINAS' TOP BLUEGRASS ARTISTS TEAM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MASONIC CHARITIES

by Harvey Burgess, 32°

Six of the Carolinas' top bluegrass groups will take the stage at the Scottish Rite auditorium on Randolph Road to help raise money for three Masonic charities.

The groups will headline the first “*Masonic Bluegrass Festival*” to be held September 21st at the auditorium many have called “one of the most acoustically perfect facilities anywhere.”

Sponsored by *Masons Helping Children, Inc.*, a North Carolina non-profit group, the *Masonic Bluegrass Festival* will feature Chapel Road from Chester, S.C., the Hinson Girls from Lancaster, Pinetucket from Wesley Chapel, Country Grass from Chester, Gipton Hill Boys from Weaverville and Slope Valley from Hartsville.

“*This is going to be an exciting day of the best down-home music you'll ever hear,*” said Max Walker, who chairs *Masons Helping Children* and is one of the organizers of the day-long bluegrass festival. “*If you're a fan of any kind of music you're going to love this, and you'll be helping the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, the Scottish Rite's Rite Care Program and the Shriners Hospitals for children.*”

Walker said 100 percent of the net profits from the event will be given to the charities.

The event kicks off at 11:00AM at the Scottish Rite building, located at 4740 Randolph Road in southeast Charlotte.

Entertainment will continue until 10:00PM, food and refreshments will be available and there will be several music-related vendors on hand.

Tickets are only \$20 in advance for the entire festival, \$25 at the door, though Walker said organizers expect the show to sell out completely before the September date.

Tickets go on sale June 1st. For ticket information, call (704) 365-0735 between 10AM and 4PM weekdays.



THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

by Ill Gene Cobb 33°

“Freemasonry, not withstanding, still survives.”
 When we hear such words, we need to “feel” something. Freemasons learn early in our Masonic journey that “feeling” is special to us. Such words should cause us to feel pride in and for our fraternity—that we have endured the test of time and are the oldest fraternal organization in existence to the knowledge of the known world OR we need to feel bothered that we just survive. At times, I confess I “feel” both ways.

As we united with Winston-Salem recently in a joint

Reunion at the Temple in Greensboro I felt a lot of pride because the relationships we have as brothers in the Craft only got better by working together. It did not feel like we were trying to survive. It felt like we were trying to thrive.

What would it look like if our fraternity were more focused on thriving than surviving? As we look to the future, we do so with a proud past. The consequences of a well spent present will have much to do about how we “feel” about our fraternity.

Are we surviving or are we thriving? 

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

by Ill Don Kehler 33°

Thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated people, lasting memories were created in the Valley of Greensboro during the month of April. I appreciate the opportunity to have seen it transpire. As we head into the fall, remember that the Knights of St. Andrew will be cooking pancakes for fun and fundraising on September 13th in the dining hall of the Temple in Greensboro, and KCCH and Honorary 33° ceremonies are scheduled for North Carolina to be held in Charlotte, NC on November 23rd. Congratulations to the Darcey Thomas Wiggins Memorial Class of 2013. 



THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH

by Gary Handy, 32 Degree, KCCH

Andy Warhol once said “They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.” So have you noticed changes in the Valley of Greensboro? One big change that you will notice this Autumn will be the format of our Reunion. The Valley will be conferring the five mandatory degrees, over a period on three stated meeting.

The first will be Wednesday, September 11 at which time the 4° and 14° degrees will be conferred. Then on

Wednesday, October 9 the 18° and 30° degrees. And finally, on Wednesday, November 13 the 32° “Master of the Royal Secret” will be conferred. There will also be a very special guest on hand that night, so please make plans to attend our Fall Reunion and always look for ways to make changes yourself. You can start by changing a Brother’s Masonic journey in your Lodge, by introducing them to the wonders on Scottish Rite Masonry. 

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
“RITE CARE” FUNDRAISER

by Ill Steve Burgess 33°

The Valley of New Bern held its Annual “Rite Care” fundraiser. Cookers and cooks started arriving at 5:30AM. By 6:30AM cookers were loaded for the first run. After loading the grills, there were a few minutes of rest and relaxation before the prep started for the second run. The first run no sooner finished when the members of Craven Chapter No.129 of the Order of the Eastern Star arrived to help assemble and prepare the plates. As soon as a grill was unloaded, it was cleaned and another load of chickens went on. We served plates from 11:00AM until 2:00pm. There were a total of 672 chicken halves prepared and 670 plates sold. Everyone had a great time and we were able to demonstrate to the public our commitment to our charity and the camaraderie and dedication of our members. 



Are they ready yet?? Its 10:30AM. Plates are required at 11:00AM. Brothers Richard and Bobby are making the final checks. Everything must be right before the chicken is introduced to the potatoes and green beans.

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
VALLEY FAMILY DAY

by Ill Steve Burgess 33°

The Valley of New Bern will have its annual family day on Saturday, August 24, at the Jones Masonic Campus located in Cedar Point, NC. The fun and games are scheduled to run from 10:00AM until 2:00PM. The Valley will provide a picnic style lunch and each member is encouraged to bring their favorite dessert to share. Each member is strongly encouraged to invite family and friends to attend this annual event. Brother Aaron Morris has scheduled several fun activities and there has been much “talk” about a “Corn Hole” challenge and tournament of champions. Come out and enjoy this family fun event. This is a perfect time to introduce prospective members to the fun and fellowship of the craft. 



What exactly is the plan again? At 6:30AM with eight cookers lined up, fired up, ready to go, several Brothers discuss the final details before the guests of honor are loaded for their lunchtime debut.



Brothers Mack and Ricky are shown dipping the chickens in our special sauce and then gently placing them on the grill. Notice the poise and technique. This task definitely requires highly refined skills and in-depth training.



THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW NEWS

by Glenn Todd 32° KSA

Spring has jump-started the KSA into action helping the Valley with its Reunion. This year we held a one day affair with only four the required degrees conferred at that time. The Thirty-second degree was done at our regular meeting in April. As usual, the cast did a superb job. We were asked to provide a “dress-up” Honorus Dinner for Brother Andy Adams 33°, who was the immediate outgoing Grand High Priest of the York Rite of North Carolina. There was great participation by the KSA membership and we are truly thankful for the opportunity to serve our Brothers “across the aisle”. It seems our fame and no-

tority is spreading because we were requested to provide lunch for the Spring York Rite Festival and lunch at the Museum of History Veteran’s Observance, all on the same day. We came TOGETHER and accomplished these events which added to our Treasury to better assist the Valley. Teamwork is the key to helping the Scottish Rite, KSA, and Masonry grow. The old adage about “Sweating together makes for better understanding” is true. As we continue to grow in numbers may we also grow in strength, resolve, and fortitude. 

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH COUNCIL OF KADOSH

by Ill Jim Dority 33°

I joined the Masons in 1991 and very soon afterward I joined the York Rite Bodies, the Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Shrine. I am a Past Master of my Blue Lodge, have gone through the chairs in the York Rite, am currently in my second chair in the East for the Scottish Rite, and served as President of the Garner Shrine Club. As I have been involved in putting on the Degrees in each body, I have learned more and more about Masonry. Not only from the rituals but a great deal from other members (older and younger) that have learned different views and knowledge from their experiences.

In going through my files on the different forms of Masonry, I pulled this paper that is titled *Reasons For Joining The Scottish Rite*

The Scottish Rite offers an unsurpassed field for the Study of Masonry. It enlarges upon, explains and applies the symbolism of Masonry. It presents an unequalled opportunity for the practical demonstration of the teachings of Freemasonry. Its literature provides fellowship with the greatest minds and purest characters of Freemasonry. It allows participation in the glorious work of spreading the doctrine



of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It gives greater incentive to higher thoughts and nobler deeds, because of a deeper appreciation of individual responsibility and through increased knowledge of the history of the institution of the Scottish Rite and its principles. It creates within each a greater love for chivalry, a greater respect for philosophy, and a never ending love for the Mother Lodge. It enjoins the support of the American public school, non-partisan, non-secretarian, efficient, democratic, for all the children of all the people; equal education opportunities for all. It inculcates patriotism, love of the flag, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to constitutional government. It carries out the sublime principles of Masonry by cooperating in every way with the Mother Lodge and by maintaining an everlasting interest in Masonry. It brings together the Brethren from various lodges at frequent intervals, thus promoting the Spirit of Brotherhood and Fraternity in everyday living.

“A Bridge to Light” tells us; “To understand and accept the arguments presented in both the ceremonies and the lectures in the Council of Kadosh is to begin developing a rational, coherent and consistent philosophy - the first step in making a good man, a better man.”

I feel like my goal as Commander of the Council is to guide and teach candidates and new members the education and additional interpretations I have learned through my growth as a Mason and as a Scottish Rite. Since I have met, known, worked with, and associated with Masons that know a lot more than I do, then I can use their knowledge as well as mine to help others to become “a better man”. 

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH RITE CARE GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Glen Todd 32° KSA - State Sponsorships C0-Chairman

We are having our the FOURTH Annual Rite Care Tournament at the Washington-Duke Hotel and Golf Course October 6th and 7th. But it’s only SUMMER you say! I still have time to think about it, Why NOW? There are a number of reasons for NOW. Let me list a few:

1. The Committee is sending a letter to all Lodges in North Carolina to become a hole sponsor. These letters will be published in the North Carolina Mason and letters sent to each Lodge in our State. For those who live near our bordering States, please contact them about our offerings.
2. We will be sending raffle tickets to all the Valleys in the Orient. This raffle is for a TWO Week Vacation at Wrightsville Beach in the Scottish Rite’s Condo and includes dinner for two for 3 nights each week at different upscale Restaurants in and around Wilmington. This is a minimum value of \$2400.00 plus meals! These tickets are NOT just for Masonic Members, they are intended for the General Public to purchase. Price is to be determined. Let us remember that our Charity can and will extend into the boundless realm of Eternity if we just TRY. If we contact our fellow beings in our respective areas about what we are about, we demonstrate a positive public image of what Masonry stands for. Personal contact for some is no easy task, however, remember on your first admission into a Lodge, when someone you may or may not have known took you by the hand to protect you. This is the same analogy. TOGETHER WE CAN!
3. Set up your teams now and avoid the last minute rush, (it makes it so much easier on Bother Ray Hall) plus, it gives us time to ensure all the amenities are in place for the event. Remember a player won a BRAND NEW CAR last year AND we were only SIX INCHES away from giving TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS away on another hole! Just for the record, neither one of these players are Pro’s. Therefore, you could be a winner! You only have to enter and play! I hope to see and hear from you soon. 



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON SPRING REUNION

by Richard W. Knauss, 32°, KCCH

Pictured to the right, from left to right: Ronald D. Tyler; Jamie G. Smith, II; A.C. Everett, 33°, General Secretary; William G. Mathis, 33°, Personal Representative; Edward A. Gaskins, Jr., 33°, General Director of the Work; Mike Saviak, 32°, KCCH - Class Orator; Robert A. Ennis; Timothy E. Martin. 

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON FALL REUNION

by Richard W. Knauss, 32°, KCCH

The Fall Reunion will be held on Friday Nov. 1 and Saturday Nov. 2, 2013. Petitions are available at the Temple or on the “Reunion” page of our website www.wilmingtonnaasr.org Remember that the initiation fee is \$300.00 per candidate. Petitions will be accepted as late as 7:00AM 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 WILMINGTON ANNUAL FISH FRY

by Richard W. Knauss, 32°, KCCH

Our annual Fish Fry was held at the Wilmington Temple on April 24, 2013 and was very successful. The funds raised will be used to support our Rite Care children’s clinics.

Pictured below from left to right: Jack Carnegie, 32°; Terry Kuhn, 32°, First Knight KSA; Eddie Gaskins, 33°; Jim Brandt, 32°, KSA; Woody Henderson, 33°; Joe Knox, 33°; Joe Gupton, 32°, KCCH; Gene Shorter, 32°; Bill Moore, 32°; Bob Connelly, 32°; Jay Taylor, 32°; William Mathis, 33°, Personal Representative. 



THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **SALVE FRATER**

by Ill Joel Black 33° - Personal Representative

When Brother George Washington was 16, he discovered a booklet of 110 maxims describing how a well-mannered person should behave. He was so convinced that these maxims would help him become a better person that he set out to incorporate them into his daily living. Among Washington's many virtues, his commitment to civility marked him as a gentleman and helped him become a universally respected and enormously effective leader.

By today's standards, Washington's notions of civility seem quaint and old-fashioned, but the purpose of manners and etiquette is to soften relationships with respect and to treat others graciously.

THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW**

by Christopher Pearman 32° - Knight Master

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew have had a busy couple of months. The Chapter has been diligent in making Brother to Brother calls to the brethren in our Valley, and the assistance is most appreciated. We also recently had our third annual Masonic Charity golf tournament at Meadowlands Golf Club. Thank-you to all who helped us make this event such a tremendous success for our learning disorder clinics at Appalachian State and East Carolina Universities. The hard work has definitely paid off when we think of the children who have benefitted from our assistance. Please mark your calendars for Friday, June 14, 2014 for our fourth annual golf tournament.

We are now in a state of change, as we have moved out of our current building. We offer much thanks to the Valley of

Instead of updating our concept of manners to accord with modern lifestyles, our country seems to be abandoning the notion of civility entirely. We're exposed to heavy doses of tactless, nasty, and cruel remarks on daytime talk shows and courtroom and reality programs.

In a tense world full of conflicts, frustrations, and competition, civility is an important social lubricant that helps us live together constructively. We need to display our Masonic fundamentals of tolerance, civility, kindness and Brotherly Love to all... as we are encouraged to do in our Closing Charge.



Thanks to all of the brothers, sponsors, and players who made our third annual Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Masonic Golf Tournament such an overwhelming success. The ASU and ECU learning Disorders Clinics will benefit from the hard work and assistance.



Front row (Left to right): Chris Pearman - KM, Bobby Golding - JW, Drew Neill - Sec/Tres., Todd Hildebran. Back row (Left to right): Bill Carter - Sent., Michael Fischer - PKM, Andy Thomas - SW

Greensboro for their hospitality in allowing us to join them for a joint spring reunion. We also offer sincere appreciation to Clemmons Masonic Lodge No. 755 for allowing us to have our stated meetings there while our new building is being constructed.

In this state of change, it is easy to let our attendance and participation slip. I urge each of you to please continue to support our great Valley and wonderful fraternity. During this stage of moving, please don't consider it a break, but rather as a chance to move into our new building stronger than before. Our Valley needs your support. As always, our chapter of the KSA continues to work diligently for the Valley, and help is needed. If you would like to join us please call me at 336-601-5444. or email me at cpearman@triad.rr.com.

