



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

# THE RITENEWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA



MAY-JUNE 2014

## TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY....

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

What a great time of year we sports fans have just been through. March Madness! What could be better? College basketball until it comes out of your ears! It's really exciting isn't it? But here's an interesting thought—only one team comes out on top. Only one team wins its last game. The rest of the teams that make it into the NCAA tournament lose their last game. And they go home feeling the bitter disappointment of what might have been.



The smart ones feel the sting of defeat just long enough to learn from it and then start building on what they have already done. The smart ones take the viewpoint of, *"This is the beginning of the future, of what is to come. And it will be good – because we will make it so."*

That old saying about today being the first day of the rest of your life is a good one. Now is the time to learn from the past and build on it for the future. And what a future the Scottish Rite in North Carolina has! One of the first steps occurred on Friday, March 28, 2014, when representatives from several of our Valleys gathered in Swan Quarter for the Grand Opening of the newest RiteCare Clinic.

Swan Quarter is an out-of-the-way little town in the eastern reaches of our state. If you travel just a bit further east, you'll need a boat. The population is sparse. But the Hyde County Health Department is one of the few Telemedicine Clinics available and with the aid of a computer, a camera, and a microphone, patients can be evaluated and treated for a wide variety of medical problems by a practitioner



Left to right: DrBrunk, Michael May, Kelly Newman, Victoria Mallison

located in another area – in this case, at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. And now, children experiencing communication problems can be examined and treated in this far-flung locality, just as well as if they were living in Greenville or any other urban center.



The new RiteCare Clinic in Swan Quarter will work in partnership with the local health department and the county school system to ensure that any child needing help with language and communication disorders may receive the needed care that will assist them to have a happy and productive life. We are extremely excited about the possibility that this new technology will open up many other RiteCare Clinics around North Carolina.

Only a couple of years ago, we were forced to discontinue operations at the RiteCare Clinic in Charlotte, simply due to a lack of adequate funding. We are hopeful that telemedicine, with its vastly reduced costs compared to traditional care, will allow us not only to resume operations in Charlotte, but perhaps also to open clinics in several other areas of the state. Who knows – you may find a RiteCare Clinic in your back yard in the near future.

## LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

**Asheville**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

(Advisory Council 5:00PM, Dinner 6:30PM 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)

**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

(Advisory Conference 6:30 PM, Master Craftsman/Refreshments 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
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

## THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE VALLEY OF FRANKLIN?

by Ill. John M. Burchfield, 33° – Venerable Master

A couple of years ago a request was made and an idea formulated to create a Scottish Rite Club in Franklin. This was achieved and the Franklin Scottish Rite Club for the Valley of Asheville was established. Since that time there has been interest generated within the Club to make application for and create a new Valley. The paperwork for this is in the works and it appears that we will soon have a new Valley here in Western North Carolina. This of course will have to be voted on by the Scottish Rite Supreme Council when it reconvenes next year. There are still many issues to be worked out, however, once established the new Valley will be known as The Valley of Franklin and will continue to meet at Junaluske Lodge No. 145 in Franklin just as the Club continues to do now.

How does all of this add up? For those Valley of Asheville members living in, around or near Franklin, this can be viewed as a welcome opportunity. Especially when pertaining to the driving point of view. This should also allow more members to be able to attend, become more active, and hopefully provide a greater opportunity for growth from within the six county (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, Macon, and Jackson) region that makes up the western tip of North Carolina. Those individuals living close to this area, along with Haywood County members will still have to decide if they want to transfer their membership from the Valley of Asheville to the new Valley, or continue to remain with Asheville. Regardless of which Valley we are speaking about across this great State of ours, we still need our hats

of many colors to be our leaders, to assist with our reunions, to help with our fundraisers, and to serve as our officers.

Many of you have heard the poem about Everybody, Somebody and Nobody. We share it again here as it so eloquently and simply expresses a message of need.

*Once upon a time, there were four people...*

*Their names were **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Nobody** and **Anybody**.*

*Whenever there was an important job to be done, **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.*

***Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.*

*When **Nobody** did it, **Everybody** got angry because... it was **Everybody's** job!*

***Everybody** thought that **Somebody** would do it, but **Nobody** quickly realized that **Nobody** would do it.*

*So, consequently, **Everybody** blamed **Somebody**...*

*when **Nobody** did what could have done in the first place!*

- Anonymous (of course!)

The Valley of Asheville needs **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Everybody** to join with us and make sure that this Valley continues to live up to its' potential. **Nobody** will be turned away.



## THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE PAST GRAND MASTER DEGREE

by Jack Huskey, 33°

Cliffside Lodge No. 460 will be holding a very special Past Grand Masters 3<sup>rd</sup> degree on June 21, 2014 at the Scottish Rite Temple on Randolph Road in Charlotte. The members of Cliffside will confer the 1<sup>st</sup> section of the degree work. The 2<sup>nd</sup> section will be conferred by Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina

The day will start off with an "All You Can Eat Country Breakfast" prepared by Brother Clyde W. Earley and his team. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

## THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE JROTC AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

by D. C. Heilman, 32°KCCCH

How time flies! With the unique weather experienced this year it is difficult to believe the 2013-2014 school year is coming to a close and with it the recognition of many well-deserving young men and women of the area ROTC and JROTC programs for their years of hard work and dedication to the disciplines of their respective branch of the armed services.

Each recipient receives a certificate along with a ribbon and medal to wear on their uniform. The medal depicts the heraldic logo of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and by the words "JROTC Education and Americanism" calls attention to two of the major focal points of the Scottish Rite.

This award recognizes one outstanding cadet in the second year or second to last year of their commitment to the unit. It cannot be bestowed on a cadet in his or her first year or last year of the program.

For a cadet to be considered for this award they must:

- Have contributed the most among cadets on campus to encourage and demonstrate Americanism by deeds or conduct during participations in extracurricular activities or community projects.
- Have demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of their academic class
- Have demonstrated outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship and patriotism.

Last year the Valley of Charlotte was honored to have presented the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry award to 41 cadets. Many of our brethren volunteered their time to travel to the ceremony and make these presentations to the cadets.

The requests for 2014 have begun to filter into the office for

The degree work will begin promptly at 8:00AM

Plan to be a part of this historic event as the Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina bring another brother to further light in Masonry!

Reservations for breakfast can be made by calling the Scottish Rite office in Charlotte at 704-365-3579.

the coming year. Having participated in a number of presentations it is honor and pleasure to have a small part in making these presentations.

The requests for the current school year are beginning to come to the office and we are providing the medals to each requesting school along with the name of volunteer presenter. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding program, contact the office and I will make sure you are notified when a school in your area has scheduled their ceremony.

What a great way to continue to promote the tenants of the Scottish Rite in our local communities.



JROTC Medal



Our S.G.I.G. Ill. Bill Brunk 33°, Personal Representative Ill. Martin Fischer 33°, and our General Secretary, Ill. Rick Patton 33° along with many of the individuals in attendance at a informational gathering and fellowship meeting in Franklin on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO  
**THE GIFT OF RENEWAL**

by Ben Wallace 32° KCCH , Wise Master, Guilford Chapter Rose Croix Number 6

We are taught in our Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal that *“As nature offers gifts of renewal following the dead of winter, she reminds us that she is immortal and that from apparent death springs life eternal”*. With preparations underway for our reunion you can sense a change in the weather, both inside and outside of the Temple. This Valley is experiencing a rebirth of sorts. We are reintroducing practices that were abandoned in favor of expediency. Quality and depth are becoming the watchwords of the brethren and Knights. The young men are buzzing with excitement and the old men are proud to see the Scottish Rite Masonry that they remember from their past returning to our Temple. This reunion is dedicated to MWB Bill

Simpson, a true Knight that has completed his earthly labors. Yet in his passing is life. It's as if from the winter of his existence springs new life into the Greensboro Valley. The funeral service reminds us that *“...though the cold blasts of winter may lay them in the dust and for a time destroy thy loveliness, their fading is not final. For in the spring, they shall surely bloom again.”* And so it is. This vernal equinox represents an end, but also a beautiful beginning. The ascension of this Valley has begun, and with God's help it will continue. This endeavor will require much in the quarries. If you are willing to help in the renewal of this work, contact the Secretary or myself and we will find a place for you among the workmen. 



THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO  
**WHAT IS A REUNION AND A REMEMBRANCE?**

by A. Gene Cobb, Jr. 33° – Personal Representative Valley of Greenboro

- When people have not been together for a while and make a conscious effort to gather...*
- When people get together for a purpose on a not so very often basis...*
- When people share a common passion and reunite after being away from one another...*
- When people gather to make something wonderful happen for others...*
- When people include new people into their midst...*
- When people look back at such past gatherings and celebrate the present and future...*

Scottish Rite Reunions are all of these things and so much more. All around the Orient right now, Scottish Rite Masons are holding Spring Reunions. It is among the best times of the year to be a Master of the Royal Secret! Reunions remind us of those upon whose shoulders we all climbed to behold more light in Masonry—those who are no longer physically able to attend and those who have begun their journey to the celestial lodge

above. As we hold our reunions this Spring, my sincere prayer is that all of us will do some remembering. Remember your vows. Remember those who got us where we are today. Remember that our duty is not to be better than the brethren, but to be better than ourselves. In so doing, be ye blessed and have a great reunion! 



THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN  
**KSA IN ACTION**

by Steve Burgess 33°

Sometimes the “system” really works better than expected. At a Masonic gathering several weeks ago, one of the Knights of the New Bern Chapter of the Knights of Saint Andrew noticed the condition of a wheel chair that one of our brothers was using. The wheel chair was in bad shape and really needed repairs. Several of the Knights decided to see what could be done. It was mentioned to them that the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, WhiteStone, had an outreach program and had items available for use. Brother Mark Kolada, Executive Director at WhiteStone, was contacted. He was able to provide a wheel chair in excellent condition. However, the wheel chair was located in Greensboro. Mark was able to

get the wheel chair to the Grand Lodge office in Raleigh. A plea went out and a post on Facebook was immediately answered by Brother Tom Pope in Fayetteville, who volunteered to drive to Raleigh, pick up the wheel chair, and deliver it to the KSA in New Bern. From the time the need was identified to WhiteStone, until the wheel chair was delivered to the KSA in New Bern, was less than 36 hours. The wheel chair was re-upholstered by Knights of the KSA and delivered to the deserving brother. All this was made possible by the fact that one member saw a need and decided to take action. This is a fine example of the “Craft” in action and what is possible when one Mason decides to act. 

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN  
**MASTER CRAFTSMAN STUDY GROUP**

by Steve Burgess 33°



The Scottish Rite Club of New Bern will be starting a Master Craftsman Program Study Group. The initial meeting will be April 22, 7 PM at the New Bern Scottish Rite Temple. The purpose of this group will be to discuss the reading assignments and answer any questions you may have concerning the study materials. Each participant

must be enrolled in the Master Craftsman I Course. Depending on the number and location of members regularly attending; the meetings can rotate between the different Lodges of the participants. This is an excellent opportunity to engage in more in-depth discussions of the lessons portrayed in the degrees. For more information contact Brother Aaron Morris, President of the New Bern Scottish Rite Club 252-772-5578. 

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH  
**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY SPEECH CLINIC TESTIMONIAL**

by Kimberly Andrews

I am extremely grateful to the Scottish Rite for many reasons. As a young girl and the daughter of a Mason, I learned early on about the Masonic ties that bind. I was very involved in Job's Daughters and was the recipient of a Scottish Rite Scholarship to fund some of my graduate level schooling. Interestingly, I chose a profession near and dear to the heart of Scottish Rite, one of a Speech Language Pathologist.

Fast forward many years later and I find myself as a first time mom, anxious about my child's development. Fortunately, I knew exactly where to turn: The ECU Speech and Hearing Clinic, as it is known among parents and professionals as THE place to go for an in-depth evaluation. And having gone through the process of three evaluations in the last several years, I now know why!

My son's first two evaluations were performed under the supervision of Donna Wolfe, doctoral candidate at the time and Dr. Marianna Walker, director of the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Program at that time. Each evaluation gave me the information I needed to develop a plan to help him succeed at home and at school. While no direct intervention was needed, I was able to take on my role as Speech-Language Pathologist at home to facilitate his development, particularly in reading.

The fall of 2012 was a huge transition for my family as we moved out of state. As my son entered public school for the first

time, his 2nd grade teacher indicated that he might need some additional guidance in reading. I felt totally empowered because I knew immediately what our first step needed to be: a trip to Greenville! This time, under the guidance of Laura Frye, doctoral candidate, he was evaluated and we were later provided with an in-depth report that included suggestions for home and school. These recommendations were critical in establishing a plan for him at school and gave me the information I needed to confidently advocate for my child.

I am happy to report that with the interventions suggested and the school's efforts, his reading has improved greatly. He has moved from learning to read to reading to learn. While recently enjoying a book about the Titanic, his ability to recall facts and details showed significant improvement and on occasion stumped me! (Can you recall the exact date it sank, how many passengers were on board and the changes that were made as a result of this voyage?) Now he is a confident reader, reading on his 3rd grade level and helping his younger sister learn to read!

So, the Scottish Rite has a special place in my heart and forever will. The tie that binds has expanded to another generation, to my son, who has been helped by such an amazing group of giving people. We are truly grateful! On behalf of three generations, thank you for your support of the ECU Speech and Hearing Clinic and your commitment to helping those in need!

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH  
**WHAT SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY MEANS TO ME**

by William D. Spearman Sr. 32° KSA

My diligent desire and search for more light in Masonry directed me to the Scottish Rite and God directed me to the Valley of Raleigh.

I completed the three initial degrees of Masonry with some level of proficiency and found the idea of learning additional lessons intriguing.

Masonry was exposed to me early on in life but I continued to wander in darkness for many years. I have found the fellowship in the Valley to be one that I will always treasure. The lectures and degree presentations have stirred my very soul.

To have been Knighted KSA is an honor and privilege. I cannot express the light, joy, color, and harmony that the valley has extended to me in simple words.



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**2014 SPRING REUNION**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

The 2014 Spring Reunion was named "The Ill.: James Earl Vann, 33°-Memorial Class" and was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Pictured at right, from left to right:*  
 Back Row: Richard Carbone, Phillip Swicegood, Seth Coleman, Christopher Germaine  
 Front Row: Jerry Blount, Brandon Smith, A. C. Everett, Jr., 33°, General Secretary; William G. Mathis, 33°, Personal Representative to S.:G.:I.:G.:; Edward A. Gaskins, Jr., 33°, Director of the Work; Kenneth Kelly, Norman Roberts



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**THE KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW INITIATE TWO NEW MEMBERS**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

On March 7th, the Valley of Wilmington Chapter of the Knights of St Andrew initiated two new members.

*Pictured from Left to right: Terry Kuhn, 32°, KSA, PFK; Steve Bland, 32°, KCCH; Woody Henderson, Jr., 33°; James Britt, 32°, KCCH; Jason Thompson, 32°, KSA; (New Knight) Ron Peters, 32°, KSA; Sean Hughes, 32°, KSA; Jim Brandt, 32°, KSA, First Knight; (New Knight) Scott Nims, 32°, KSA; Ken Hooks, 32°, KSA; Edwin Russ, 32°, KCCH; Danny Buck, 32°, KSA; Parker Stevens, 32°, KSA, PFK*



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON  
**MASTER CRAFTSMAN III (THE SYMBOLIC LODGE)**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

The new Master Craftsman III course goes into detail explaining the symbolism used in the Blue Lodge. This course was completed on February 18, 2014 by Ill.: Richard W. Knauss, 33° who is pictured right (R to L) receiving his certificate and pin from Ill.: A.C. Everett, Jr. 33°, General Secretary for the Valley of Wilmington.



## THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **WANTED: RETIREES AND OTHERS**

By A. Vernon Darr, 32°, KCCH, Venerable Master

The Fourth Winston-Salem Masonic Golf Tournament will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Meadowlands Golf Course. This is the only fund raiser we have, and it will be an all-day event!

We will need a lot of help! It's all fun, even if you don't know the first thing about golf. You will get to see a lot of Brothers from other Valleys, a lot from your Valley, and lots

of folks who came out to play in the tournament.

This will be a great place to come and help out, if you are retired, even if it's only for a few hours. We could sure use any help you might offer, and lunch time is a great time to enjoy the food and fellowship. So come on out and have fun for a good cause.



## THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **ABSOLUTE TRUTHS**

By Joel Black 33° - Personal Representative

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

It means that even if you wanted to give away those *"unalienable rights,"* you couldn't. No hot-air-filled politician can take them away; these rights are not bestowed upon us by a government.

Government can only respect or usurp these rights, end of story.

These rights belong to every human by virtue of birth.

A lack of self-respect and a failure to understand these truths are fatal.

A patriot in colonial America was a keeper of freedom, not a keeper of a flag.

These men believed in the idea of freedom, and that's what is lost in translation... Freedom is an ideal, not a place.

Our Founding Fathers understood classical Roman and Greek philosophy, the early teachings that depicted man himself as the holder of unassailable freedoms and rights that are inherent.

With a firm grasp of these concepts, these ideals, one is equipped to see very quickly what is... and what should be.

Knowing the difference can save one from living that life of quiet desperation.

Think about it.



## THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

By Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

On Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the Valley of Winston-Salem will have its fourth annual charity golf tournament at Meadowlands Golf Club in Winston-Salem. This will be an all-day tournament, and we have slots available for players in the morning as well as in the afternoon. We also have many sponsorship opportunities still available. Help is also needed on the day of the tournament.

Last year we donated \$10,000 each to the ASU and ECU Clinics. We hope to donate even more this year to the clinics, but we cannot do this without your help. Please join us for a fun-filled day of golf and help the children who

need us. This is our Valley's only fundraiser, so let's make it count!



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

By Christopher Pearman 32° KCCH

On March 13<sup>th</sup> the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Knights Saint Andrew initiated three new members. Welcome aboard Brother Knights!

