

THE VALLEY



March 2017

Mentoring Program...

Brethren, there is still time for you to get involved and lend a hand! In what, you ask? The Valley has instituted a new “mentoring program” for our new members. What does being a mentor in the Valley mean? It means that you will take a new member under your wing and help make him feel more comfortable in coming to lodge. Remember when you were new? Didn’t someone help you along? Didn’t someone introduce you to a few new fellows? Didn’t someone call and remind you of the meeting and their willingness to pick you up and take you along with them? Well, you can do the same for someone else. We had 106 new members enter our ranks in October, 2106. We have only about 7-8 fellows who have agreed to help out with a new member. Believe me, it isn’t hard! Just take a little time and willingness to help out YOUR Valley. Think about it. See the Secretary, and he can point you in the right direction. Try it! It’ll make you feel good!

Brother-to-Brother Calling Program...

This is one of those initiatives initiated by the Sovereign Grand Commander that is not going away! He is pretty serious about this. Every Valley in the NMJ has been tasked with making an effort to contact every Scottish Rite Mason twice a year. In our Valley, Bro. Joshua M. Kline, 32° has taken up the challenge to get and keep this program going. He has a list of all the members and telephone numbers of all but about 100 members. If you have a birthday coming up, listen for your phone to ring! Either Bro. Joshua or one of his 5-6 helpers will be calling you. Not for money or not to ask you to do something, but rather just a call-out to you to wish you a happy birthday and to see how you are doing and if there is anything the Valley can do for you. So far, the program seems to be working. As the Secretary and the father of Bro. Joshua, I get regular feedback on those he has called. Most of the brothers are delighted to get the call and thank him for taking the time to do this. Naturally, I am one of his helpers and I have found the same to be true. I talk to brethren, many who I may know and have not seen for awhile. It is not a difficult task. I have 50-75 names...that doesn’t even amount to one a day! Some months I may have 4-5 calls to make; others maybe 8-10 in a month’s time. And to be honest, it’s nice to reach out and talk Scottish Rite masonry with a brother. Bro. Joshua is always looking for more people to help. If you are interested in making some calls, contact either Joshua or myself. I’ll be sure to pass your name on to Bro. Kline who will send you a list of names. You can contact him directly by email at jkline113@gmail.com or by telephone at 814-288-7231. Jump on board! It’s fun!

Abbott Scholarship Program...

Named for Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921-1932, this scholarship program offers financial assistance for continuing undergraduate education for the recipients. The eligibility criteria has changed in the last few years.

1. Currently enrolled high school senior or undergraduate of an accredited college or university;
2. Minimum grade-point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale;
3. A child of a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction;
4. A member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic fraternity in the NMJ.

An application must be completed. On the web, go to scottishritenmj.org and you will get the home page of the AASR. On the right side of the page, there will be a link to the application. Click on it, download, the application, complete it, and see that it is sent to Mr. John R. Biddle, 809 Walnut Street, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. It must be in the hands of Ill. Bro. Biddle no later than April 1st. If you are interested, don’t delay!

Election of Officers in May...

Interested in becoming an officer in one of the 4 bodies in the Valley? We may have some openings. Find Ill. Jack H. Speece, 33°, and inquire about the requirements. He will be happy to explain what it takes to become an officer. And, believe me, it is more than just “Oh, you don’t have to learn anything.” It takes that and more to be a leader in the Valley of Altoona. But we offer a lot of help to those who take on the challenge.

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50-Year Members to be Recognized

The Secretary recently mailed lapel pins and certificates signed by the Sovereign Grand Commander to the following brethren for their service to the fraternity. They will celebrate their milestones either in April or May of this year:

Bro. Richard Carothers, Altoona - 70 years
Bro. John E. Young - 65 years
Bro. Arthur W. Sickener - 65 years
Bro. Calvin C. Showers - 65 years

Bro. Wilson D. Catherman - 60 years
Bro. J. Richard Lucas - 60 years
Bro. Orn H. Lucas - 60 years
Bro. John A. Tetwiler - 60 years

Bro. Roy E. Cook - 50 years
Bro. Donald W. Fowkes - 50 years
Bro. Robert M. Neatly - 50 years
Bro. Mark E. Shuey - 50 years
Bro. George C. Thomas - 50 years
Bro. George C. Wagner - 50 years
Bro. Robert M. Wallace - 50 years
Bro. Henry W. Wittman, Jr. - 50 years

Be Careful What You Ask For...

As the Secretary and as a result of some recent requests, I felt it was time to “re-educate” members of the Valley. There are times throughout the year, (generally after dues statements come out!) I receive a member’s dues statement with message scrawled across it like “...I want to quit...” or “...cancel my membership...” or “...I resign...” and “...I do not want to renew my membership.” Let me try to explain. When a member no longer wants to be an active member, the proper protocol is to be sure his dues are paid to date and then he sends a letter to the Secretary requesting a “demit.” If the above-mentioned criteria is met, the Secretary initiates a demit certificate and sends it to the member. That way, if the member decides to become active again, all he needs to do is to notify the Secretary and pay his dues and the Secretary will take his name before the open body of the lodge and voice vote on his re-entrance. End of story. However, “quitting” or “cancelling” or “resigning” is not the same. When a member does one of these things, he is resigning from the fraternity. He cannot simply notify the Secretary he wants to become active again. He must re-petition the AASR and goes through the initiation process and pay the initiation fee, etc. Big difference! So, if that time comes that you no longer wish to be active, be sure your dues are current, and then send a letter requesting a “demit”, not a resignation!

Spring Reunion Schedule...

2017 Spring Reunion April 28 and 29, 2017

Class Namesake: Ill. Earl N. Rager, 33°

Friday, April 28, 2017

- 6:00 PM Dinner – Jaffa Shrine Center Dining Room – Open to all candidates and members
- 6:45 PM Candidate Registration – AASR Lodge Room Candidate Instruction – Transition Talk – “From Symbolic Lodge to Scottish Rite” – Ill. J.D Kline, II, 33°, presiding
- 7:00 PM Opening – Altoona Lodge of Perfection, 14°, Bro. B. Wayne Weaver, 32°, Thrice Potent Master, presiding
- 7:20 PM 4° - DVD Presentation – AASR Lodge Room
- 8:00 PM Opening – Altoona Council Princes of Jerusalem, 16°, Bro. Barry C. Yingling, 32°, MSA, Sovereign Prince, presiding
- 8:15 PM 15° – Auditorium – Full Ceremonial Form – Bro. A. Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA, Degree Master

Saturday, April 29, 2017

- 9:00 AM Coffee/Donuts – Jaffa Shrine Center Dining Room
- Candidate Registration – AASR Lodge Room – Member & Guest Registration – Broad Avenue Entrance (downstairs)
- Candidate Instruction – “The Hats Worm in the Valley of Altoona”, Bro. Wayne M. Baggett, 32°, MSA, presenter
- 9:15 AM Opening – Altoona Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°, Bro. Joshua M. Kline, 32°, Most Wise Master, presiding
- 9:15 AM 18° – Full Ceremonial Form – Auditorium – Ill. JD Kline, 33°, Degree Master
- 10:15 AM **Break**
- 10:30 AM Opening – Altoona Consistory S.P.R.S., 32°, Bro. William W. Hellier 32°, MSA, Commander-in-Chief, presiding
- 10:45 AM 19° – Full Ceremonial Form – AASR Lodge Room
- 12:00 PM Lunch – Jaffa Shrine Center Dining Room
- 1:00 PM Class Picture – Preceded by Class Officer Elections – AASR Lodge Room
- 1:30 PM 29° – Full Ceremonial Form – Auditorium – Bro. Jeremy R. Johnson, 32°, Degree Master
- 2:30 PM **Break**
- 2:45 PM 31° – DVD Presentation – AASR Lodge Room
- 3:30 PM 32° – Full Ceremonial Form – Auditorium – Ill. Ronald R. Yoder, 33°, Degree Master – Note: Between scenes, the Valley of Altoona’s newest MSAs will be received by the Valley
- 5:00 PM Closing of Reunion Activities

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The Jaffa Temple Band • 1920

From the Secretary's Desk...

Well, brethren, it might be a real challenge to top last Fall's new class of members, but what if we worked for ½ that number? That would mean 50 new members in April. That would be considered successful! If we all go out and beat the bushes, I believe we can achieve that goal. Look around, those new members are there! The dates are April 28 and 29. The initiation fee is \$100.00. Dues will not be added. They can pay their dues when the rest of us pay them in late-May or early-June. Look for a complete reunion schedule elsewhere in this edition...and get me some petitions!

Look for an article elsewhere in this edition regarding the Abbott Scholarship program. The main item is that the candidate must be a child of a mason or a mason himself. No longer is a grandchild eligible. Read the article for the particulars and the deadline date.

Your secretary has been working away the hours of this somewhat dreary winter trying to upgrade the way we communicate. Based on my records, about 25% of our members have an e-mail address. That means if I want to "get the word out" in a hurry, I can reach out to only 400 members. Don't get me wrong, that's good. But 100% would be better! By the time you are reading this, I will have completed entering all those email addresses that I have and will have sent a test email. If you did not get the message and have an email address, send it to me and you can become part of the bigger picture! The way we all communicate today is a lot different that what it was just a few short years ago! Let's catch up!

Finally, a subject that I hate to discuss, must be mentioned. There are some members who have not paid their dues for this year or last. They have been due since June. If your dues are not paid by May, you will face suspension. Look for a more detailed article elsewhere in this edition.

Attention Brothers, Sir Knight Larry Bilotto of KSA is organizing a fundraising lottery during the month of November. The effort is to raise funds to help cover the costs of regalia. He is looking for help in selling the \$5 tickets which will have 2 numbers selected for payouts on the weekends.

Officers: Valley of Altoona 2017-2018 Lodge of Perfection, 14°

Thrice Potent Master..... B. Wayne Weaver, 32°
Deputy Master..... Wayne Martin Baggett 32°
Senior Warden..... Christopher D. Pehtold, 32°, KSA
Junior Warden..... Larry Joseph Bilotto, 32°, KSA
Orator..... Timothy R. Brinkmeyer, 32°, KSA
Master of Ceremonies..... Jordan A. Settle, 32°, KSA
Captain of the Guard.... Jeremy R. Johson, 32°, KSA

Altoona Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

Sovereign Prince..... Barry Yingling, 32°, MSA
High Priest..... David Whysong, 32°, KSA
Senior Warden..... K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, KSA
Junior Warden..... Stanley Snyder, 32°, KSA
Master of Ceremonies..... Vernon Carey, 32°
Master of Entrances..... John P. Richard, 32°

Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°

Most Wise Master..... Joshua Kline, 32°, KSA
Senior Warden..... James Walkingshaw, 32°, MSA
Junior Warden..... Jack H. Speece, 33°
Orator..... David Dodson, 32°
Master of Ceremonies..... Leon Collins, 32°
Captain of the Guard..... Jason R. Nye, 32°

Altoona Consistory, S.P.R.S., 32°

Commander in Chief..... William W. Hellier, 32°o, MSA
1st Lt. Commander..... Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA
2nd Lt. Commander..... David A. Blackner, 32°
Orator..... Alvin E. Just, 33°
Chancellor..... Earl J. Hockenberry, 32°
Master of Ceremonies..... Evan Watters, 33°
Engineer & Seneschal.. James A. Hockyco, 32°, MSA
Standard Bearer..... William Huston, 33°
Captain of the Guard..... Randy Thompson, 32°

Knights of St. Andrew (KSA), 29°

Venerable Master..... Jeremy Johnson, 32°
Senior Warden..... K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°
Junior Warden..... Joshua Kline, 32°
Treasurer/Secretary..... Timothy Brinkmeyer, 32°
Marshal..... Lawrence J. Bilotto, 32°
Captain of the Guard..... Jordan Settle, 32°
Prior..... George Greiner, III, 32°
Tyler..... Robert Verbonitz, 32°

Officers, All Bodies

Treasurer..... Charles Yingling, 32°, MSA
Secretary..... J. David Kline, 33°
Hospitaler..... Robert S. Ludrowsky, 32°, MSA
Tyler..... Clarence L. Rutherford, 32°, MSA
Assistant Tylers..... Knights of St. Andrew
Trustee - term ends 05/17..... James A. Yoder, 33°
Trustee - term ends 05/18..... John R. Biddle, 33°
Trustee - term ends 05/16..... Ronald R. Yoder, 33°
Member at Large - term ends 05/17..... Randy Smith, 33°
Member at Large - term ends 05/16.... Dean A. Snipe, 32°

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Palm Sunday...

Each year the Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°, conducts a memorial program to honor our brethren who have gone to meet the Grand Architect of the Universe during the past year. This year will be no different. Most Wise Master, Joshua M. Kline, 32°, and his officers (plus a few additional volunteers) will present "The Last Supper" on Palm Sunday, April 9th beginning at 3:00 PM at the Providence Presbyterian Church 2410 Broad Avenue. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation. Plan to attend. It is open to the public. Families of the deceased have been issued invitation.

Thursday Meeting Dates:

March 9th

Consistor Program will be on climate change

April 13th

Lodge of Perfection

May 11th All Bodies

Election of Officers

Dues... Dues... Dues...

Each year I send the same message: Please pay your dues. The Valley has not raised dues in probably 7-8 years. They are still only \$65.00/year. Yet we have some members who are in arrears. Some are two years behind. Others have maybe just have forgotten to pay. There were mailed out in late-May or early-June. Those who are two years in arrears will face being suspended at the May meeting unless there is a pressing reason why they have not paid. We don't know if there is a problem or not, if no one tells me. If you are having a financial hardship, contact either the Secretary or the Hospitaler. We are here to help if we can. Please don't make me suspend you! Imagine, being suspended and not receiving this *Trumpeteer!*

Miracle League Baseball...

Some time ago, it was brought to the attention of the Executive Board as to whether the Valley would be interested in helping to sponsor a little league baseball team made up of handicapped children. Some felt it was a "local" effort so it died. However, a suggestion was made to look locally if there was some way to help. The Miracle League of Blair County was suggested. The Valley make a contribution of \$500 to help support the league. If you go to a game this year, you will see the Valley being recognized at the bottom of the scoreboard. This brings to mind the idea of sponsoring other endeavors to help improve our community image. Not that it is bad, but it seems to be the consensus that we do not do enough to get and keep our name in the area. If you have an idea as to how we could further support our community, let someone on the Executive Board know. It will be brought up for investigation!

After 5 days return to:

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF ALTOONA

P.O. Box 829 - Altoona, PA 16603
"Return Service Requested"

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #102
Altoona, PA 16603

CLIP & SAVE

How To...

Contact The Secretary

Email:

davekline5@comcast.net

Cell phone

814-244-7193.

**Home Elizabethtown
at 717-689-5687.**

Office

814-942-2061

(Least effective not checked everyday)



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