



JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2019

# Happy New Year - 2019



## From the Secretary...

Well, brethren, this edition marks the mid-term of this Scottish Rite year. A number of things have happened since the new fiscal year started! One is the fiscal year itself. For the purposes of our auditor, the fiscal year starts on August 1st...who ever heard of a fiscal year starting in August! That is in the process of being changed to meet our dues year – July 1st to June 30th. Another change is the fact that we gained 5 new members in November. Congratulations and welcome to them! We also are in the process of seeing changes coming from Supreme Council. Membership and retention are the keywords this year. We must change our methods in order to continue to attract quality men to the fraternity. Surely you have noticed some changes already. Watch for more! “Leadership Duties and Responsibilities” is a new document that is destined to become a part of the Valley’s By-Laws. And that is a good thing! We are beginning to identify what needs to be done and who is responsible, if we are to survive. Also, we have a new Treasurer. **Bro. Wayne M. Baggett, 32°, MSA** has assumed the role held for the last ten years by **Bro. Charlie Yingling, 32°, MSA**. Finally, we have two new Active Members of Supreme Council representing Pennsylvania: **Ill. Thomas A. Labagh, 33°** and **Ill. PJ Rupp, 33°**. Bro. Labagh hails from Elizabethtown and is the Director of the PA Youth Foundation. Bro. Rupp is from the Pittsburgh area...not sure what he does, but there will be an answer forthcoming!

That was all good stuff that I mentioned. There are a few shortcomings that should be mentioned but not dwelled upon! We initiated five new members...but had only one first line signer in attendance. We had a dinner on Friday night along with a scheduled Ladies Program...we only had about 50-60 in attendance (and that included the ladies!) and the ladies program drew 7 ladies...only one of whom was a spouse of a new member. I sat in the auditorium along with 14 other 32° Scottish Rite Masons to witness the 32°. We have approximately 1,300 members and we could only muster 14 to sit on the sidelines on Saturday morning! The lack of a Stage Crew presence was noticed...only one person showed up to help set up on the Thursday night before the reunion. One final note, I never saw a bow tie in a character in the 32° (allegory) and I was not aware that blue jeans were popular in that time frame either! Let's work to improve on those areas where we need the work and be enthralled where we did good!

## Upcoming Happenings...

Just to give you a chance to mark your calendars in 2019, take a moment and circle the 2nd Thursday of January, February, March, and May...dates of stated meetings. Note that April was missed. There will be no meeting on April. The Chapter of Rose Croix, 18° has elected to cancel instead of dealing with the Shrine Circus! The next date to remember is April 14th. The “Feast of the Paschal Lamb” presentation will be held at the Masonic Hall in Altoona. Election of officers is slated for the May meeting along with suspensions for any member who is in arrears in his dues for two or more years.

## From the Commander-in-Chief...

Our fall reunion was a success. We took in five new members and our degree work is still improving, and that is good to see. Special thanks Director of Works **Bro. Jeremy Johnson** and reunion coordinator, **Bro. Earl Hockenberry**. Now it is our job to welcome these five members to our meetings and to our activities. I hope that the first line signers will take extra care in helping these new members become active. Our next adventure will be the laying of the wreaths at the National Cemetery on December the 15th of 2018. Our next meeting is December 13th and the Consistory body under my command has that meeting. Please make a point to attend this meeting and help in arranging some new ideas for the upcoming year. Because we do not have a formal reunion scheduled in the Spring, we will try to fill that void with some kind of recruiting activity. We are still open to ideas but I must say I have received several ideas and plan to put something into effect to take the place of what it would have been our reunion. I hope your holiday season was filled with joy and that our Brotherhood can move forward. I wish to thank all that played a part in this past Reunion. We still need more people to take interest in the degree work. Also I wish to thank **Bro. Randy Thompson** for bringing to the fraternity a new degree that was done very well.

## Valley of Altoona Website...

Have you taken the time to review our Valley's website yet? It is amazing...still a work in progress, but looking better each day. Take time to visit. If you are a line officer and you have not yet had your picture taken, see Bro. Jordan Settle, 32°.

If you have something you would like listed on the web page, contact either the Secretary or Bro. Settle. If it is appropriate, Bro. Jordan will see that it gets up. Remember: [valleyofaltoona.org](http://valleyofaltoona.org) is all you need to get on!

**“We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members”**

## A Thrice Potent Master Update...

At the LOP January meeting, Deputy Master Chris Pechtold will be showing a presentation on the Valley's day spent participating in the "Wreaths Across America" from Fort Indiantown Gap Memorial site. Plus, we will be showing the Valley's assistance at the "Sweat for Vets" Race held on November 4th at the Brush Mountain Sportsman's Club. This will give all a chance to see some of our members in action!

## Greetings From the Sovereign Prince...

**Bro. Stanley Snyder, 32°**, Sovereign Prince of the Council, Princes of Jerusalem wants to remind all AASR Masons that there is a need for additional non-perishable foodstuffs for the Altoona Food Pantry. This initiative, started with the last set of officers, is being continued through the term of Bro. Snyder. Non-perishable goods can be brought to any meeting. The collected foodstuffs will be delivered to the Altoona Pantry on a regular basis throughout the year. Do someone in need a favor...bring a contribution!

## Speece Awarded Medal...

The Scottish Rite medal for Masonic Service was awarded to Ill. **Jack H. Speece, 33°** at the Fall Reunion banquet on November 2, 2018. The medal is awarded to any Master Mason who embodies the tenets of the Masonic fraternity, based on the recommendation of three of his peers in his locality. The nomination had to have been submitted through the Deputy for Pennsylvania for his approval. Bro. Jack is the third brother in our valley to receive this award following Ill. **John Mallow, 33°**, MSA in 2011 and Ill. **J. David Kline, 33°**, in 2015.



## New 32° Scottish Rite Masons...

With the completion of the Fall reunion, the Valley grew by five members! Congratulations to all. Let's take a little time to share what little we know about these new brethren...four of the five are from the Lewistown/Granville area while the fifth one is from Cambria County (Northern Cambria). Our thanks to Ill. **Jim Yoder, 33°** and Bro. **Earl Hockenberry, 32°** for their efforts in recruiting! Our new members age in range from 49 to 37 with a father and son among the five. When their petitions were reviewed, it was noted that we have a Paramedic, a Corrections Officer, a Pipefitter, a Vice President, and a Retiree. The Secretary can easily relate to the retiree! If we were giving a prize to the Blue Lodge with the greatest number of petitions, we would have a tie! Two of the new members are from PA0376, two are from PA0203. Our Cambria County brother is from PA0312.

That is just a taste of our new members...come to a meeting and welcome them and find out a little more about them. Ask them how they are going to become involved in the Valley of Altoona. Or just welcome them and share some of what you know and like about being a 32° Scottish Rite Mason.

## Dinner Menu (Re-Printed For Your Convenience)

Remember, the dinner costs just \$5.00 but the brotherhood and fellowship is priceless! Since you know the menu, there is no reason not to attend! As always, all meals will feature a vegetable and a dessert...

**December 13**.....Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Roll  
**January 10**.....Pork and Sauerkraut  
**February 14**.....Swiss Steak, Parsley Potatoes  
**March 14**.....Corned Beef and Cabbage  
**May 9**.....Stuffed Shells, Salad, Roll  
**June 13**.....Pot Roast, Pepper Slaw



## Bylaws To Be Ammended...

At the stated meeting in November, it was announced that the document entitled "Leadership Duties and Responsibilities" was to go before the open lodge for approval or rejection. Since the document is all-inclusive and covers about 14 pages, it was not possible to send it out to each and every member. Copies, however, were made available either on the Secretary's desk or by requesting an emailed copy. This vote is to be placed before the open lodge at the January, 2019 meeting. If approved, it will be included in the By-Laws as Article XI—Leadership Duties and Responsibilities.

## Valley of Altoona, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Officers - 2018 - 2019 Altoona Lodge of Perfection, 14°

Thrice Potent Master.....Lawrence Joseph Bilotto, 32°  
Deputy Master.....Christopher Douglas Pechtold, 32°  
Senior Warden.....Jordan William Settle, 32°  
Junior Warden.....William Patrick Settle, 32°  
Orator.....Phillip John Mentzer, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Ashley K. Sorge, 32°  
Captain of the Guard.....Timothy J. Balconi, 32°

## Altoona Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

Sovereign Prince.....Stanley Eugene Snyder, 32°  
High Priest.....Kenneth Dwayne Kauffman, 32°, MSA  
Senior Warden.....Vernon Arthur Carey, 32°  
Junior Warden.....John Paul Richards, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....John Gilbert Myers, 33°  
Master of Entrances.....Andrew J. Rand, 32°

## Altoona Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°

Most Wise Master.....Jack Howard Speece, 33°  
Senior Warden.....Leon Collins, 32°, MSA  
Junior Warden.....Jason Russell Nye, 32°  
Orator.....Gary Wayne Smith, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Richard Francis DeLozier, 32°  
Captain of the Guard.....Arthur Stanton, 32°

## Altoona Consistory, S.P.R.S., 32° (2017-2019)

Commander in Chief.....Alan Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA  
1st Lt. Commander.....David Alan Blackner, 32°  
2nd Lt. Commander.....Alvin Edward Just, 33°  
Orator.....Earl Joseph Hockenberry, 32°  
Chancellor.....Evan Roscoe Waters, 33°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Randolph J. Thompson, 32°  
Engineer & Seneschal.....Joshua Matthew Kline, 32°  
Standard Bearer.....David Eugene Dodson, 32°  
Captain of the Guard.....Jeremy Ray Johnson, 32°, MSA

## Officers, All Bodies

Treasurer.....Wayne M. Baggett, 32°, MSA  
Secretary.....John David Kline, 33°  
Tyler.....Members of the Knights of St. Andrew  
Assistant Tyler.....Charles C. Campbell, 32°, MSA

Trustee - term ends 05/20.....James A. Yoder, 33°  
Trustee - term ends 05/21.....John R. Biddle, 33°  
Trustee - term ends 05/19.....Ronald R. Yoder, 33°

Member at Large - term ends 05/20...Randy E. Smith, 33°

Member at Large - term ends 05/21...Dean Alan Sipe, 32° MSA

## Knights of St. Andrew

Venerable Master...Kenneth Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA

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## Treasurer Yingling Retires...

Bro. Charles F. Yingling, 32°, MSA, has not been sitting in his normal chair in the Valley since May, 2018! And there is a reason for that. Bro. Charlie had served this Valley as Treasurer for the last ten years. He approached the Secretary and informed him that "...it was time... 10 years taking care of the books is enough for anyone!..." Bro. Charlie has been a faithful servant to the Valley in a number of capacities. He still serves as the chief steward in the Valley. If you like a meal – or not – then Charlie has been the guy to see. Reunion breakfasts would not be the same without coffee and donuts picked up and ready by Charlie.

There was a time when the Valley decided to switch from a snack after a stated meeting to having a dinner before the meeting... Charlie and his faithful bride agreed to handle this task... and they did for a few years until we accidentally found Tracy! But for those initial start-up years, we could always depend upon Charlie and his wife to have something tasty before the meeting! Thank you Charlie!

The Secretary has a lot of stories that could be relayed about Charlie and his tenure as Treasurer... nothing illegal, but sometimes lengthy! Two minute phone calls turned into 15 minute ones! But that was OK too. Then there were the times when Charlie would go on "vacation" to the Nason Hospital... it is rumored they are naming a wing after him since he spent so much time there! But he always made sure the Valley had a meal for our meetings. Again, thank you, Charlie.

I can't tell you all of Charlie's Masonic affiliations and offices, but I can tell you about his Scottish Rite history. He was raised a Master Mason in Lodge #539 in Roaring Spring. He was a member of the Fall class of the Valley of Altoona in 1970... 48 years ago. He was created an MSA in 2009 at the Council of Deliberation meeting held in Hershey along with his son, Barry. To my knowledge, this is the only father/son MSAs in Pennsylvania given in the same year! He admits readily that he is not the ritualist in the family. That belongs to son, Barry. However, he is good at numbers! And that is why he successfully served as our Treasurer for 10 years. Again, thank you Charlie!

Bro. Charlie was presented a plaque and a gift certificate at the December meeting. Take a moment and thank him for a job well-done!

## The Abraham Lincoln Degree.....

As many of you may know, the old 26°, is now called "The Last Full Measure" and is open to the public. Bro. A. Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA has taken on the role of organizer and lead actor. As the Commander-in-Chief, his goal is to make the community more aware of the Valley of Altoona in terms of who and what we are. His idea is to take this play to as many places as will have them! Generally, nearly every community has a week of celebration sometime during the year. The plan is to try to reserve a spot at those celebrations so that we will put the degree on free of charge for the public as a recruiting vehicle for the Masonic lodges. Representation of the Masonic Lodge in that area and the Valley of Altoona with a table and applications to belong will be noticeable. This drama shows that the brotherhood of Masons will not be broken even though the nation is in a war and the brothers are on opposite sides. It shows the compassion of fraternal brothers in a conflict that was nationwide. The cast has performed already at a number of local Blue Lodges (Mountain, Woodbury, and Everett).

Cast members include President Abraham Lincoln, James Smart, a secretary to President Lincoln, Warrie Blair, a late teenage boy, and Carter Blair, a wounded Confederate soldier. In addition to the Commander-in-Chief, the following brethren have taken part in this drama: **Randolph Thompson, Jeremy Johnson, Benjamin Watters, Christopher Pechtold, Evan Watters, Drew Rand, Barry Yuengling, Larry Bilotto, and Duncan McIntyre.** We have filled in for each other to do this, and it is the hope that it brings results in recruiting new members not only to our lodges but also to our valley. As of this printing, we are looking at the month of March to take the show on the road to the Ebensburg Lodge (Summit #312). Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Program...

Named after Leon M. Abbott, SGC from 1921-32, this scholarship program provides financial support for the continuing undergraduate and graduate education of Scottish Rite Masons, young men and women from Scottish Rite families, and Masonic-related youth groups.

Those meeting any of the following eligibility criteria may apply for consideration:

- A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction;
- A student directly related (bloodline or by legal means) to a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction or a member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic fraternity in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is:
- A high school senior, and currently accepted at an accredited trade school who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- A high school senior, or undergraduate, or graduate student currently enrolled at an accredited college or university.

Applicants should complete two copies of the complete application form and submit it to Mr. John R. Biddle, 809 Walnut Street, Roaring Spring, PA 16673 no later than end-of-the-day on MARCH 29, 2019. Do not send the application form to the Secretary! The application form is available at: [www.scottishrittenmj.org](http://www.scottishrittenmj.org) under the membership downloads section. Call the Secretary with problems. Remember, this means that grandfathers, step-fathers, brothers, and uncles now qualify as suitable sponsors for the applicant.

## Getting Into the Jaffa Shrine Center...

If you are a Jaffa Shriner, you may already know this, but if you are not, then pay attention! The Jaffa Shrine Center is instituting a new entry system into the building. This is called a Key FOB system. According to Bro. Jordan Settle, 32°, the system should be fully operational with the beginning of the new year. If you have one of the approximately 15,000 keys to the building, you will not get in! In order to gain entrance to one of the perimeter doors, you will need a new FOB. If you are a Shriner, a \$20.00 deposit will get you a FOB. If you are not a Shriner and would still like to have access, you will need to contact the Secretary of the Valley. He will be able to submit a list of AASR members who would like to have a FOB. It will still cost the \$20.00 and will be refundable when the FOB is returned. Bro. Settle has indicated that he will be available at the January stated meeting to issue FOBs. So bring your \$20 and have access to the building... your key will no longer work!

## ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Altoona, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdictions of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts, and whose officers are:

- III David A. Glatty, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander
- III. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33° Deputy for Pennsylvania

### ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR PENNSYLVANIA

- III. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33° .....Florida
- III. George Nakonetschny, 33° .....Perkasie
- III. Robert W. Bateman, 33° .....Clifton Heights
- III. Keith E. Parkinson, 33° .....Beaver
- III. Thomas Labagh, 33° .....Elizabethtown
- III. Paul J. Rupp, 33° .....Pittsburgh

### ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS

- Richard G. Hawk, 33° .....Elizabethtown
- III. C. DeForrest Trexler, 33° .....Elizabethtown
- III. Russell W. Baker, 33° .....Elizabethtown
- III. William L. McCarrier, 33° .....Butler

## Knights of St. Andrew...

We are moving toward an election cycle and are looking for KSA members who want to be placed in the line, along with members of the Valley who want to join the KSA. If interested, please contact **JW Larry Bilotto** with your interest in the KSA. Or even to ask him what we are about and why you would want to join! Finally, in May/June, the KSA will once again go in to the backroom of the Valley to continue cleaning it out and potentially painting the wall to finish the improving our storage facility in the basement to protect our regalia. Please plan to join us! Work dates will be announced well in advance!

## Valley of Altoona Scholarship...

For several years, there has been a place on your dues notice to include a donation to either the Hospitaler's Fund and/or the Valley Scholarship Fund. Many of you have given generously to either or both. There is not a need to say much about the Hospitaler's Fund. **Rev. Dr. Bro. Bob Ludrowsky, 32°, MSA** has been our Hospitaler for a number of years now and has done a great job in helping our brethren in distress. The "Valley Scholarship Fund", however, simply collects money! We have never offered a scholarship! The fund has grown to a somewhat sizeable amount. The Executive Board has discussed this issue and has authorized the presentation of an \$800 scholarship. Criteria is currently being created and an announcement and application form will be forthcoming. If the funds continue to come in, the Valley may change the amount and the number of scholarships offered. Stay tuned for more information!

## Feast of the Paschal Lamb...

Mark your calendars! The Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°, will be presenting the Easter program entitled "Feast of the Paschal Lamb" on April 14th, 2019 at the Altoona Masonic Lodge located at 600 Jackson Avenue, Altoona, PA. The program will begin at 3:00 PM. Refreshments will follow. For those new to the Valley, this program is one of two programs the Chapter of Rose Croix portrays each year as a way to honor those brethren who have passed away since the previous program. Both programs are impressive, and they are open to the public. Another announcement will be made as a reminder.

## AASR Valley of Altoona Suspension ...

One of the most unpleasant duties of the Secretary is to compile a list of those brethren who are two years in arrears in their dues. Remember, you got your original dues notice in June, then you got a second notice and even a third notice. The Executive Board amended the by-laws some years ago that stipulates that suspension for NPD (non-payment of dues) can occur. The excerpt of the by-laws states:

*"...Effective with the year 2012 and thereafter, when a member of a Subordinate Body still owes dues 5 months after issuance, said member shall be notified of possible suspension for non-payment of dues in January of the next calendar year. For example: Dues are issued in June; notification of the brother no later than December 1st of possible suspension at the January meeting. (Amended: July 25, 2012...)"*

Believe me, the Valley does NOT want to suspend any member for non-payment of dues. If you are having an issue with paying your dues due to financial hardship or due to medical issues, etc. please contact either the Secretary, the Commander-in-Chief, or the Hospitaler. If the need is real, the Valley can help! Please don't be on the list for suspension! FYI, there are approximately 95 brethren who are in arrears as of Thanksgiving!

## National Sojourners...

The National Sojourners are a Masonic organization made up exclusively of Master Masons who have served, or are currently serving, in the United States Armed Forces. Bro. Jordan Settle, 32° is in the processing of bringing a club of Sojourners organized under Harrisburg Chapter #76 to the central PA area with the intent of becoming its own chapter in the following year. If you are interested in learning more or joining this organization, get in touch with Jordan via (e) [Jordan.w.settle@gmail.com](mailto:Jordan.w.settle@gmail.com) or © 814-931-4558. You may find more information about National Sojourners at [www.nationalsojourners.org](http://www.nationalsojourners.org).

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After 5 days return to:  
**ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE**  
**VALLEY OF ALTOONA**  
*J. David Kline, Secretary*  
**P.O. Box 829 - Altoona, PA 16603**  
**"Return Service Requested"**

