



MARCH - APRIL, 2019

## *More Than Just Cosmetic Changes in the Valley...*

The Jaffa Shriners are making substantial changes in the look of the building. Some work has been done outside, but mostly changes are being made on the inside of our home. The meeting room for the Ladies of the Nile is nearing completion and is looking great. Changes to the entrance way to the downstairs in the front of the building resulted in new step coverings, painted walls, and new ceiling tiles and LED lighting. All is looking great as well. Additionally, and important to our Valley in particular, the dampness problem seems to have been located and measures were taken to eliminate that dampness in the storage area behind the East and North. Walls were cleaned and painted and the mold was removed. We believe we can now rehang our charters and other framed materials without fear of damage. In our anteroom, the walls have been cleaned, repaired, and painted, and the ceiling has been lowered. New tiles and new LED lighting has been installed. It was also decided to remove the carpeting and replace it with the same laminate flooring that was used elsewhere in the renovation process. Finally, at the recent meeting of the Executive Board, it was approved to replace the couches with some newer and more suitable furniture in an effort to make the room more user-friendly. Eventually, our lodge room will have a make-over done there as well...just not in the immediate future, but...



## *Passion Play Scheduled...*

The "Feast of the Paschal Lamb" program is scheduled for April 14th at 3:00 PM in the Altoona Masonic Center located at 600 Jackson Avenue, Altoona. Each year, the Chapter of Rose Croix, 18° pays tribute to those brethren who have gone to meet the Grand Architect of the Universe during the past year. This year will again honor those brethren. Special invitations have been sent to the immediate family members of those who have passed. All members of the Valley and their guests as well as the general public are invited to witness this beautiful program. Light refreshments will follow the program. The program is under the direction of **Ill. Jack H. Speece, 33°**, the Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°.



## *Veteran Recognition....*

If you are a veteran, you can now add your military record into the Supreme Council's MDS system (our fraternity's database). Simply log on to the NMJ's webpage, find the dropdown for military service, click on it and add your military background. Supreme Council has indicated that there will be some special recognition forthcoming for those who served.

## *Blue Lodge of the Year*

Summit Lodge 312 of Ebensburg was the first recipient of the Lodge of the Year Award for 2018 for District 41. This is a new award created by Alvin E Just, DDGM for a multitude of achievements and goals set by the lodge during the Masonic Year. The award is presented to the lodge that achieves its goals at the end of each year. Lodge members accepting the award include: (front row, from left) Earl J. Hockenberry, secretary. Mark Burke, Phillip D. Rice, senior warden. Derryl S. Hauck, worshipful master. Eugene Hoffman Jr., junior warden. J. Edward Vonhauer Jr., tyler. Lee Basset, chaplain. (back row) Justin M. Deltona, ???, Robert H. Buterbaugh Jr., senior deacon. Richard C. Capraun R. PM general instructor Dave C. Wood, junior master of ceremonies. Mike Flynn, treasurer, and Steven W. Matthews, junior deacon. Absent from photo is William R. Miller Sr., senior master of ceremonies.

## *Scottish Rite Shirts Ad...*

Fashion Time, looking for that way to show your Scottish Rite pride or do you simply not have anything to wear for that SR casual event, well you do now. The Valley has lined up a local vendor to have polo shirts custom ordered with an embroidered 32° logo. But for you Honorary Gents, I've been tasked to get your logo set up, so, ALL can have a shirt!

The shirts are going to be a small fundraiser for the Valley so that we can build up the reserves, yet keep the costs down for the membership. For those wanting a shirt, a size Small thru XL will cost \$25, 2XL is \$26.50, 3XL is \$28, and \$4XL is 30. ...Continued on page 3

## *Fall Reunion – November 2, 2019...*

Brethren... The Fall Reunion will be upon us sooner than we think! It cannot be emphasized enough that this could be a great year for Scottish Rite Freemasonry. **Bro. Jordan Settle, 32°**, has received permission from the RWGM to hold a one-day masonic journey on November 2, 2019. He hopes to have a significant number of men becoming Master Masons. His plans are to start the one-day journey around 7:00 AM. These men will be Master Masons by noon! The Valley of Altoona has agreed to host a somewhat abbreviated reunion that afternoon. Following our reunion, the Jaffa Shriners will host a Ceremonial followed by a dinner. We, as a valley, need to take advantage of this opportunity! In 2016, a similar event was done and the Valley of Altoona created 105 new Scottish Rite Masons. And today, about 2 ½ years later, we still have 90% of those brethren on the rolls. And here is an even greater opportunity: The **Deputy, Ill. Thomas Sturgeon, 33°**, has given all valleys the opportunity to waive all initiation fees through the Fall reunions. This means that we can initiate a Master Mason into the Valley of Altoona for the cost of ½ year dues...about \$33.00! So... now is the time to get those petitions distributed to good men that we can make better! Those who are already Master Masons can come for lunch, become 32° Scottish Rite Freemasons and then become a Jaffa Shriner (if they are not already). We will not have this chance again for a long time. I know it sounds like a long way off, but it will be here before we can blink an eye! The Secretary already has one petition on his desk. If you need a petition or two or three, let the Secretary know and he will get you as many as you want! If you have a potential candidate and no petition, send the potential candidate to the NMJ website and he can complete a petition ONLINE! That is something new in the past year. Take advantage of this! Let's really work on membership!

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

## Dyslexia...A Continuing Struggle...

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite had regarded Dyslexia as a problem that can be corrected with proper one-on-one counseling. However, this takes some time from dedicated teachers and sufficient funds to pay for it all. At one time, the Valley of Altoona operated a Dyslexia Center in Altoona. A number of young students were helped with this opportunity. Due to a decline in contributors, we had to close the doors. However, other centers are still operating as well as individual teachers who are working on their own. To maintain the goals and aims of the Scottish Rite, we should continue to assist in this worthy cause. Your financial contributions to this charity will be greatly appreciated. Include a little something extra with your dues payment or make a separate donation and mail it to the Secretary for proper distribution. Your thoughtfulness will be rewarded when a recipient learns to read and becomes a better productive citizen.

## Dues...Dues...Dues...

Doesn't the Secretary get tired of reminding everyone about his dues being due!!! Once again, you are reminded that your 2018-2019 dues notice was mailed to you around the end of May, 2018. A second notice was mailed to you around mid-September and if you haven't paid your dues yet, a third notice was mailed to you around mid-December. For those of you who might be two years in arrears and have an e-mail address, not long ago a reminder was sent. For those of you who are two years in arrears and do not have an e-mail address, watch your mailbox! You will be getting a final letter from the office telling you that if you do not pay your dues, you could face suspension in May, 2019. Please make an effort to pay your dues or tell either the Hospitaler or the Secretary why you can't. If a real need exists, there is possible financial help available. Remember, it your \$38.00 that helps keep the Valley in existence!

## Our Newest Active...

In a previous newsletter, it was announced that PA had two new Actives, **Ill. Tom Labagh, 33°**, and **Ill. Paul "PJ" Roup, 33°**. At that time, we did not have any information about Ill. Bro. PJ. Well, that has all changed! I found an article that reveals much about our newest Ill. Sir. However, that article contains way more than what we have room to print in this issue! So, just the highlights will be touched upon. Maybe we can learn more about him when he is invited to one of our reunions in the future! Ill. Bro. PJ joined his late grandfather's Blue Lodge in 1997 (Plum Creek-Monroeville #799). He served his lodge as Worshipful Master in 2002. Then came the envious task of DDGM, District 54. He faithfully served in that position for 10 years. He joined the Valley of Pittsburgh in 2007 and received an appointment in the Lodge of Perfection where he served as Thrice Potent Master in 2015. As a member of the Valley, he sang in the choir and assisted in the conferral of a multitude of degrees. He owns two businesses: the Roup Insurance Agency and Dreamscape Video Productions. We'll allow him to elaborate on those businesses when we meet him! Because of his theatric experience as a writer and director, Bro. PJ earned a seat on Supreme Council's Ritualistic Committee where he spends his free time overseeing the production of current degrees as well as the creation of new degrees. He was coroneted an Honorary Member in 2013 in Washington, D.C. We welcome Bro. PJ and we are anxious to meet him!

## Remaining Menu...

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...

**March 14** .....Corned Beef and Cabbage, Salad, Dessert  
**May 9**.....Stuffed Shells, Salad, Roll, Dessert  
**June 13**.....Pot Roast, Pepper Slaw, Salad, Dessert



## Altoona Food Pantry ...

**Bro. Stanley Synder, 32°**, Sovereign Prince of the Council, Princes of Jerusalem, has asked that the brethren be reminded that the Food Drive for the Altoona Food Pantry is an ongoing project. The non-perishable food products that are donated are taken regularly to our local food pantry. No one realizes just how much the donations we receive help those in need in our local area. So, make a note and clip it on your refrigerator to serve as a reminder to bring something along to the next meeting for Bro. Stanley to take to the local pantry

## 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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## ***More on the Fall Reunion...***

Elsewhere in this edition was an article highlighting the fact that we, as a Valley, have an opportunity to swell the membership numbers of our Valley if we really get out there and recruit not only new Blue Lodge members but Scottish Rite members as well. As stated earlier, one of the key selling points is that they can become a "32° Scottish Rite Freemason" in as little as 4 hours on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Listed below is a copy of the reunion schedule. Keep in mind, there may be a few "tweaks", but in general, this is what their Scottish Rite experience will look like on November 2, 2019:

- 12:00 - 1:30 PM Lunch and Candidate Registration – AASR Lodge Room
- 1:30 - 1:45 PM Introduction – “Transition from Blue Lodge to Scottish Rite” – Ill. JD Kline, 33; Opening - Altoona Lodge of Perfection, 14° - Bro. Christopher D. Pechtold, 32°, Thrice Potent Master, Presiding
- 1:45 - 2:15 PM 4° - “Master Traveler” - DVD Format – AASR Lodge Room
- 2:20 - 2:50 PM 8° - “Intendant of the Building” - Full Ceremonial Form - AASR Lodge Room - Bro. Randolph J. Thompson, 32°, Degree Master
- 2:50 - 3:00 PM Opening/Obligation/Closing – Altoona Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16° - Bro. K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA, Sovereign Prince, Presiding
- 3:05 - 3:15 PM Opening/Obligation/Closing – Altoona Chapter of Rose Croix, 18° Bro. Leon Collins, 32°, MSA, Most Wise Master, Presiding
- 3:20 - 3:30 PM Opening – Altoona Consistory, S.P.R.S., 32° - Ill. David A. Blackner, 33°, Commander-in-Chief, Presiding
- 3:30 - 4:00 PM 19° - “Brothers of the Trail” – DVD Format – AASR Lodge Room
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM 32° - “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret” – Full Ceremonial Form – Auditorium – Ill. A. Brady Appleman, 33°, Degree Master; then Closing

So, get out there and recruit good men that we can make better! If you need a petition or two, let me know or go to the website, whether the Valley's or the NMJ's. Let's work for over 100!

## ***Scottish Rite Shirts Ad (cont'd from 1st page)...***

For an extra \$3.50, you can have your first name added to your right chest or sleeve.

At this time, we don't have costs for a dress shirt, but if you're interested, still let us know and we'll get back to you. If you want one, please contact Larry Bilotto at 814-935-5558 or larstrek@gmail.com with your size, color preference (gold is the default), and the style, polo or an oxford dress shirt.

Please don't feel rushed, we will revisit an order placement every 3 to 6 months based on interest and need. So, don't feel you only have this one shot. However, you must come see us at a meeting to pick it up; we want to see your smiling face!

## ***Abbott Scholarship ...Deadline Date: March 29, 2019...***

Again this year, the Valley will be accepting applications for the Abbott Scholarships available competitively through Supreme Council. The scholarships have been worth a little more than \$2,000 the past few years and will most likely be worth that again this year. This scholarship is a cash award. It is NOT turned over to the college/university and that amount deducted from a financial aid package. The criteria has not changed...It continues as follows:

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.scottishritenmj.org](http://www.scottishritenmj.org) under the membership downloads section. Call the Secretary with problems.

Remember, this means that grandfathers, stepfathers, brothers, and uncles now qualify as suitable sponsors for the applicant.

## **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:

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

### **ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR PENNSYLVANIA**

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

### **ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS**

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



## Lost Members...

Still lost are the following brethren with their last known address. Any help would be appreciated: **H. George Russell**, 706 N. Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; **Jeffery Paul Grimes**, 5730 White Oak Cv., Myra, TX 76253; **George Hunter Good**, 303 East Holmes Avenue, #1st Floor, Altoona, PA 16602, and **Joel Zelenske**, 362 Stahl Road, Somerset, PA 15501.

## Valley of Altoona Scholarship...

If you have ever looked at your dues statement over the last 5-6 years, you would have noted the opportunity to make a donation to both the Hospitaler's Fund and the Valley Scholarship Fund. Until this year, the Valley has not offered any kind of scholarship to deserving students. With several thousand dollars available, guidelines are currently being drawn up so that the Valley can award a scholarship or two this year. Applicants are to follow the same procedures as if they were applying for an Abbott Scholarship EXCEPT that they should write VALLEY OF ALTOONA across the top if they wish to be considered for the Valley scholarship. Applicants are welcome to apply for both scholarships. Please be advised, however, if an applicant receives an Abbott Scholarship, he/she will NOT be eligible to be awarded a Valley scholarship. This means that applicants will need to forward not two but four copies to Bro. John Biddle...two for the Abbott and two for the Valley. Bro. Biddle's address is: 809 Walnut Street, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. The deadline is the same...March 29th, close of business.

## Meeting Canceled...

The Chapter of Rose Croix, 18° meeting has been cancelled due to conflict with the Shrine Circus. **Ill. Bro. Jack Speece, 33°** has chosen to cancel the stated meeting scheduled for **April 11th**. There was some discussion regarding changing the venue, but it was decided to simply cancel this meeting.

## 50 Year Milestones...

The Secretary has recently received the newest batch of certificates recognizing our brothers who have achieved that 50-year or more membership milestone in the Scottish Rite careers. With deep appreciation for their efforts and their time, the following brethren will be 50-year members effective May 1st, 2019:

**Bro. Kline R. Wolf**, Howard; **Bro. Harlan L. Winters**, Osceola Mills; **Bro. John J. Schraff**, Altoona; **Bro. Charles E. Rutherford**, Altoona; **Bro. Ray A. Nycum, Jr.**, Altoona; **Bro. Fred N. Imler**, Hollidaysburg; **Bro. Robert L. Hite**, Altoona; **Bro. Donald E. Grove**, Altoona; **Bro. David Carl Eaton**, Susquehanna; **Bro. Ronald E. Davidson**, Ebensburg; **Bro. Leon Collins**, Hollidaysburg; **Bro. Roy O. Caffey**, Myrtle Beach; **Bro. John D. Baker**, Coalport; and **Bro. Terence N. Alwine**, McMurray. Two of these brethren, **Bro. Leon Collins** and **Bro. Donald Grove**, have also been recognized by their brothers with the Meritorious Service Award. All recipients have been invited to attend a recognition ceremony at the June meeting. Additional details are still being finalized but for sure each honoree will receive a certificate signed by the Sovereign Grand Commander and a lapel pin. Congratulations to all of our brethren!

## 60 Year Milestones...

In addition to the 50-year members being recognized, there are an additional 8 brethren who will be celebrating 60 years as Scottish Rite members on April 1st of this year. What an achievement! Those brethren include: **Bro. Herbert S. Bolger, Jr.**, Altoona; **Bro. William G. McNelly**, Somerset; **Bro. Richard L. Meadows**, Duncansville; **Bro. Edward L. Reichard**, Pittsburgh; **Bro. Carlton R. Schirm**, Alexandria; **Bro. Frederic V. Shaefer**, Altoona; **Bro. Sidney Silverman**, Pittsburgh; and **Bro. William E. Stahl**, Martinsburg. These brethren as well will be or have been invited to the June celebration along with family members.

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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"

