



MAY/JUNE, 2019

## A Scottish Rite Celebration...

The Valley is planning a "Evening of Celebration" at our **June 13, 2019** meeting. The Executive Board has decided that instead of just the distribution of past officer's jewels at the June meeting, let's have a family celebration of all brethren scheduled to be honored at sometime during the year! Thus, we are doing something new...and exciting!

We are in the planning stages of a buffet dinner and a program focusing on entertainment and recognition of our members. The dinner will be for **ALL** members and their spouses and any other friend and/or family members. We have invited one of the state's newest Actives, Ill Paul "PJ" Roup, 33°. Also, we have a great magician lined up who will WOW! us all!. For the little ones who might get a little bored, we will have crayons and pictures to be colored! We might even be able to find a prize winner among them! We should be on our way home no later than 9:00 PM.

This is our first effort at a recognition event of this magnitude! Let's make it a memorable one for the Valley and for **Ill. Bro. PJ Roup, 33°**, our newest Active. Remember, this is a celebration for ALL members of the Valley and any guests you would like to bring along. Look for a reservation form elsewhere in this edition and send it in!

### Who's being Recognized?

- 10-year members of the valley;
- 50-year members of the valley;
- 60-year members of the valley;
- 65-year member of the valley
- MSA recipients for this year – 2019;
- Honorary Members for this year – 2019;
- Abbott Scholarship winner(s) Valley of Altoona Scholarship Winner
- Immediate Past Presiding Officers

*"The Commander-in-Chief receives a certificate from the Wreaths Across America organization, December 15, 2018."*



From L to R: Christopher Pechtold, A. Brady Appleman, and Larry Bilotto.



New LED Lighting!



Remodeling the Ante Room

## Membership...

I mentioned it in the last newsletter...and I will say it again: we need members! Now is the time to begin the recruitment process. Find that Blue Lodge brother who has not seen additional light and invite him to join us in November 2nd. Also, look for that good man you know at work or a neighbor or at church. Encourage him to become a Mason on November 2nd. Then stay and become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. If he chooses to, he can become a Jaffa Shriners that same day! The chances are that we will not have a lot of men who will approach us to join! We have to do the work...make the effort...make the call. Petitions are available either through the office or online. If you have someone and need a petition, call me or e-mail me and I will see that one is available right away! Initiation costs for November 2nd have been reduced to \$75.00 + \$33.00 for dues for the remainder of this Scottish Rite year... a total of \$108.00. Let's do what we can to generate some interest in the fraternity! Elsewhere in this edition, look for a little article on retaining our membership...

## From the Venerable Master, KSA...

It is with bittersweet emotion that I say goodbye and end my term as Venerable Master of the KSA. Having the opportunity to be a part of the founding of such a great, and I do believe now, a vital part of the Valley of Altoona. It has been exciting and sometimes stressful to see the group form and grow, from trying to convince the executive board to allow us to form; to having the Sovereign Grand Commander throw his support to us and help us get on our feet. We've had our growing pains, but I feel that we are on solid ground, and I strongly believe that moving forward there will be a strong line of leadership and that the Altoona Clan of the KSA will be solid for a long time to come.

It is without question that we have become the most recognizable part of the Valley. I have no doubt that secretly there are some of you who are a little jealous that you don't get to wear a kilt. I have to say that I am very proud of some of the things that we have been involved in, such as our part in making the ante room look as great as it does, to cleaning out the back rooms, to escorting the ladies during reunions. I know without a doubt that the incoming leadership will be just as focused and diligent in continuing this tradition.

I would like to take this time to thank my officer line and the rest of the membership for making my time as Venerable Master memorable and enjoyable. Best of luck to the incoming officers. Make the Knights of St. Andrew Altoona Clan proud.

Fraternally, K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA, PVM—KSA

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

## ***Election Scheduled for May...***

It's election time again...not a lot different than in previous years except that we will be electing in all four bodies this year. The outgoing officers did a great job in trying to move the Valley forward. Efforts were made to become more visible in the community. And it seems to be working! The Altoona Food Bank has seen some additional deposits and another one on the way. The Valley has expended some funds to help a teacher of students with dyslexia. Additional activities are planned in the future. Worth mentioning is the work initiated with **Bro. A. Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA**. With the assistance of many, a section was added to the by-laws of the Valley addressing "...Duties and Responsibilities of Officers." It is an in-depth look at the establishment of working committees and what office is responsible for chairing that committee. Needless to say, it is an ambitious project, but one that helps guide and direct our Valley to newer and greater heights. It is somewhat unique in that the committees are made up of officer positions in the subordinate bodies, not people! People pass on from year to year...the position on the committee stays! So, for those of you who are moving up, look at your position and see what committee you are on and who is the Chairman! Then, lend a hand!

## ***Projected Officers for 2019-2020...***

As mentioned elsewhere, May is election month. I have to believe that some of you may have mixed feelings about moving up in the ranks! In some cases, you are glad to rise to the top and assume that leadership to continue to see the Valley grow and prosper. I'm sure there are others who think maybe they made a mistake and they are not ready to become a leader. And I am sure there are still others who are learning as they go. Unless there are any contested elections, the following list of officers will serve the Valley of Altoona for the 2019-2020 Scottish Rite year. They will be elected and installed on the same evening. Thus, the "new" leadership will take effect immediately. The officers and members wish the following elected officers the best of luck and offer our hands to help them achieve and be effective:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Lodge of Perfection:           | Thrice Potent Master—Christopher D. Pechtold, 32°<br>Deputy Master—Jordan W. Settle, 32°<br>Senior Warden—William P. Settle, 32°<br>Secretary—J. David Kline, 33°<br>Treasurer—Wayne M. Baggett, 32°, MSA<br>Trustee—Ronald R. Yoder, 33°<br>At-Large—Dean A. Sipe, 32°, MSA |
| Council, Princes of Jerusalem: | Sovereign Prince - K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA<br>High Priest—Vernon A. Carey, 32°<br>Senior Warden—John P. Richards, 32°  |
| Chapter of Rose Croix:         | Most Wise Master - Leon Collins, 32°, MSA<br>Senior Warden - Jason A. Nye, 32°<br>Junior Warden - Gary W. Smith, 32°   |
| Consistory:                    | Commander-in-Chief - David A. Blackner, 32°<br>1st Lt. Commander - Alvin E. Just, 33°<br>2nd Lt. Commander - Earl J. Hockenberry, 32°d be effective:   |

Appointed officers are appointed at the will of the incoming Presiding Officers. Again, the following are expected to be appointed. The appointed position at the bottom of each body has not yet been determined...we may have to wait until installation to find out who they are!

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Lodge of Perfection;           | Hospitaler – Rev. Dr. Robert Ludrowsky, 32°, MSA<br>Junior Warden – Philip J. Mentzer, 32°<br>Orator – Ashley K. Sorge, 32°<br>Master of Ceremonies – Timothy J. Balconi, 32° |
| Council, Princes of Jerusalem: | Junior Warden – John G. Myers, 33°<br>Master of Ceremonies – Andrew J. Rand, 32°  |
| Chapter of Rose Croix:         | Orator – Richard F. DeLozier, 32°<br>Master of Ceremonies – Arthur Stanton, 32°   |
| Consistory:                    | Orator – Evan R. Watters, 33°<br>Chancellor – Randolph J. Thompson, 32°   |
| Master of Ceremonies:          | Joshua M. Kline, 32°  |
| Engineer & Seneschal:          | David E. Dodson, 32°  |
| Standard Bearer:               | Jeremy R. Johnson, 32°, MSA   |

## ***Short and Sweet from the Sovereign Prince...***

Brethren: It has been a rewarding year for me to serve as the Sovereign Prince of the Valley of Altoona. Rewarding in that the brethren of the Valley stepped up to aid and assist in helping the Altoona Food Bank in their constant effort to help those in need. It was a pleasure to be a part of that. I would also thank the officers who served with me. Without your help and support, the Council would not have been successful. I was responsible for planning two programs for the stated meeting nights. They were programs that were interesting and well-received. I can assure you all that because I am becoming a "Past" officer does not mean that I plan to sit on the sidelines and complain about how the Valley is being run! My plans are to continue to work for the constant improvement of the Valley and to work hard on generating a stronger membership base. Thank you all for helping to make my year a successful one.

## **Valley of Altoona, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Officers - 2019 - 2020 Altoona Lodge of Perfection, 14°**

Thrice Potent Master.....Christopher D. Pechtold, 32°  
Deputy Master.....Jordan W. Settle, 32°  
Senior Warden.....William P. Settle, 32°  
Junior Warden.....Philip J. Mentzer, 32°  
Orator.....Ashley K. Sorge, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Timothy J. Balconi, 32°  
Captain of the Guard.....Timothy J. Balconi, 32°

## **Altoona Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°**

Sovereign Prince.....K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA  
High Priest.....Vernon A. Carey, 32°  
Senior Warden.....John P. Richards, 32°  
Junior Warden.....John G. Myers, 33°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Andrew J. Rand, 32°  
Master of Entrances.....Andrew J. Rand, 32°

## **Altoona Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°**

Most Wise Master.....Leon Collins, 32°, MSA  
Senior Warden.....Jason A. Nye, 32°  
Junior Warden.....Gary W. Smith, 32°  
Orator.....Richard F. DeLozier, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Arthur Stanton, 32°  
Captain of the Guard.....Arthur Stanton, 32°

## **Altoona Consistory, S.P.R.S., 32° (2019-2021)**

Commander in Chief.....David A. Blackner, 32°  
1st Lt. Commander.....Alvin E. Just, 33°  
2nd Lt. Commander.....Earl J. Hockenberry, 32°  
Orator.....Evan R. Watters, 33°  
Chancellor.....Randolph J. Thompson, 32°  
Master of Ceremonies.....Joshua M. Kline, 32°  
Engineer & Seneschal.....David E. Dodson, 32°  
Standard Bearer.....Jeremy R. 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 05/19.....Ronald R. Yoder, 33°  
Trustee - term ends 05/20.....James A. Yoder, 33°  
Trustee - term ends 05/21.....John R. Biddle, 33°

Member at Large - term ends 05/21...Dean Alan Sipe, 32° MSA  
Member at Large - term ends 05/20...Randy E. Smith, 33°

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

## Membership Retention...

As all organizations, whether they be Masonic or otherwise, it seems that retaining membership is always a struggle. Over the years, the Valley of Altoona has experienced the same...and no matter how many times I tell members, they still die! I just can't seem to get through to them that we need them! Still others demit or transfer to other Valleys. And unfortunately, some fail to keep up with their dues and must be suspended. Here are the results of a little research regarding membership losses over the last several years:

|              | Initiated  | Demit Or Death | Suspended | To be Suspended | Owes 1 year | Current   |
|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Fall, 2013   | 13         | 1              | 2         | 0               | 0           | 0         |
| Fall, 2014   | 9          | 0              | 1         | 1               | 1           | 6         |
| Spring, 2015 | 23         | 0              | 8         | 3               | 5           | 7         |
| Spring, 2016 | 10         | 0              | 0         | 4               | 1           | 5         |
| Fall, 2016   | 107        | 0              | 0         | 30              | 0           | 77        |
| Fall, 2017   | 9          | 1              | 0         | 0               | 0           | 0         |
| Spring, 2018 | 3          | 0              | 0         | 0               | 0           | 0         |
| Fall, 2018   | 5          | 0              | 0         | 0               | 0           | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>179</b> | <b>2</b>       | <b>11</b> | <b>38</b>       | <b>7</b>    | <b>95</b> |

So, what is to be gleaned from this chart? Several things: 1) We need to try to do a better job recruiting new members; 2) We need to cut down on the suspensions...even though this may be out of our control; and 3) Only 57% of our "new" membership from these years are current on their dues. The first argument is that you as an individual member, has little or no control over #2 and #3. However, #1 cannot be argued! We need to work at bringing new members into our Valley...only 72 members over the last 8 reunions (not counting the 2016 class)...the average is 9 or actually less since there were a couple of reunion seasons in which we did not have a reunion! The bottom line is that membership is a key area where we need to focus our attention! Let's make an effort to bring new members into the fraternity on November 2nd. Current, we have 2 candidates on file.

## Last Words of the Thrice Potent Master...

As the Thrice Potent Master, I had the privilege of serving the Valley of Altoona as we tried and accomplished a couple of things during my tenure. The "Wreaths Across America" program was truly an outstanding endeavor. Those who did not attend and participate missed a grand opportunity to serve our Valley and our nation. It was an awe-inspiring trip...service, brotherhood, and great food! I was also proud to be a part of the revised By-Laws which incorporated the updated "Duties and Responsibilities" of our officers. Implementation of something new always has its challenges, but I feel that we are on the right track to solid planning and implementation of quality programs and leadership. I would thank my officers for serving with me this past year. Without them, the Lodge of Perfection would not have been as successful as it was. Having recently retired from the PA Department of Transportation, I should be able to devote some additional time to the KSA and the Valley as well as to my duties in the Blue Lodge as a District Deputy. My attitude is positive one, and I believe I am positive because my brothers are also positive. Thank you all.

## Celebration Day Program Outline....

The program and the evening is planned to be all about food, fun, and a great evening as a member of the Valley of Altoona. Some of those details often over-looked include dinner beginning with welcoming remarks by our new Commander-in-Chief Bro. David A. Blackner, 32°. He will get us all seated and ready to meet "the new guy on the block" Ill. Paul PJ Roup, 33°, a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh and one of our state's newest Actives. Ill. Bro. PJ will be replacing Ill. Bro. Thomas Sturgeon, 33° who will become an Active Emeritus this year. Ill. Bro. PJ will assume the responsibility of keeping the Valley of Altoona in tow! And because we are acknowledging so many brethren that evening, we engaged the services of a relatively new member of the Scottish Rite, Bro. Seth Neustein, 32°, who will be our entertainment for the evening. In addition to being a "strolling magician", Bro. Seth will also entertain us from the stage. I have heard wonderful things about his show and am anxious to see it all unfold in front of us! In the event we have some smaller people with us, we will have an area set aside for them with some crayons and some pictures for them to color. And who knows, maybe there will be some awards for them as well! Brethren, mark your calendars and plan to attend the June meeting...and bring your spouse and some guests. We will be asking for a reservation so we know how much food to prepare! Use the form below:

I plan to attend the June 13th Evening of Celebration program.  
 I will be attending along with \_\_\_\_\_ others for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ persons.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Return this form to: J. David Kline, Sec.  
 730 Harding Drive  
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022 Deadline date: June 1st

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

To the brethren: I wish to thank all that made an effort to contribute to the success of the Valley of Altoona during my tenure as Commander-in-Chief. I have many thank yous to give, and I am very appreciative of all the work that has been done. I am extremely happy that each subordinate body ran a project each year for the betterment of our Brotherhood. The laying of the wreaths at the National Cemetery, the contributions to the food bank, the raising of funds for dyslexia, the Lincoln degree being performed in five blue lodges to help with recruitment, and the coordination of a voluntary get-together to explain the duties of the offices which are held under the lodge were all at my request and all were executed with precision. I have deep appreciation and a special thank you to Ill. Bro. Dave Kline, 33°, our Secretary, who guided me in the ways of Scottish Rite. He spent endless hours helping and educating me in making our Valley more viable and transparent to the public. I also want to thank Bro. Jeremy Johnson, 32°, MSA for his work as the Director of Work. Our degree work has improved significantly, and it is due a great deal to his efforts. Bro. Earl Hockenberry, 32° has done an admirable job as the reunion coordinator. I am especially proud of the reunions in which we treated our Ladies to a day of excitement. Having them see the Autumn foliage on a train ride and then witnessing a re-enactment of a Civil War battle and then going to a winery for a presentation and coming back to the center to have tea and crumpets at a presentation by five vendors was of great satisfaction to me. I still feel that we need to do more for all of our brethren. I know that Bro. Dave Blackner, 32° who will be taking over as Commander-in-Chief will expand on this. Thanks again to all who made the effort to make our Brotherhood stronger. Fraternally, Commander-in-Chief Brady

## 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

## Dues...And Unfortunately, Suspensions...

It is that time of year again! It is the worst time for the Secretary as he must bring before the open body those brethren who are two years in arrears of their dues. If you know of someone who is in this situation and needs some help, take the time to let the Secretary know so that the situation can be investigated. Maybe there is a problem whereby the Hospitaler can help out until such time that our brother in need gets back on his feet. The last thing the Valley wants to do is to suspend for non-payment of dues. The names will be read and voted upon at the May meeting. Unfortunately, at the time of this printing (late April), there are about 60 members who will face suspension.

## Council of Deliberation Meeting Scheduled...

As is the case each year, the annual meeting of the Council of Deliberation has been set. Again this year, the meeting will be held on the second Saturday of July (July 13). The meeting will be held at the Marriott Hotel in King of Prussia. There will be some interesting meetings in the morning, the formal meeting in the afternoon, and the banquet beginning around 6:00 PM. The overnight rates are better and the meeting space, the Hospitality Room, and the Banquet Hall are all relatively close by. If you are an elected officer, an MSA, and/or an Honorary Brother, you will receive an invitation. It is at this meeting that those selected to receive the MSA will formally and officially receive their jewel and lapel pin. The awardees from our Valley include **Bro. Christopher D. Pechtold, 32°** and **Bro. Randolph J. Thompson, 32°**. If you are eligible to attend, please mark your calendars to witness those from our Valley to be honored.

## Capital Investment...

As you peruse this edition of the Trumpeteer, you will see a couple of pictures of the ante-room. New flooring, new lighting, and walls being patched and painted...wow! Does it look nice! A little history... The Jaffa Shriners are engaged in a renovation project encompassing almost all portions of the Shrine Center. If you are a Shriner, you already know about some of the things they are doing and some of the things they are still looking to do. The approached the Executive Board a little while ago and asked about the Ante-Room. The pictures show the results. The Shriners paid for a portion and the Valley paid \$3,000 for what you see. It looks even better in person! Now, do we want to continue to remodel and renovate??? The last time anything was done to our meeting room was somewhere around 35-40 years ago. I remember when the floor was tile!

If the Valley wants to make any changes, we need to raise some serious dollars. To redo the walls (new drywall and paint), new flooring (vinyl), and new LED lighting along with new ceiling tiles, the cost will be around \$30-35,000. It was noted that bolting seats to a laminate floor is not a good idea. Thus, the options might include new individual chair seating or possibly "church pew" seats. Regardless, there is an additional expense not included in the original estimate. A recommendation was to include bringing the East out some 10-20 feet, re-adjust the curtains and overhead lighting so that this area could be used a stage for degree work. Again, this work is not part of the estimate, but some consideration might be given before we do anything and then wish we had thought it out a little more.

So, at this time, I am asking for some input. Tell me what you might like to see, if you think we need any changes, or if we are OK as is...At this point in time, I am not asking for any monetary contributions, but I may be soon!

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

