



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 2019

### ***Same Date, Different Time....6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30***

Ready for a change? Brethren, it was discussed and voted upon to change our Valley's meeting time from 7:30 PM to 6:30 PM. That's right. We will be meeting one hour earlier. I know, that will require a few changes to the way we do business, but it is a trial to see how it goes over with the membership. Some of the membership may have to leave a little earlier, but you get home earlier as well! And if you have to eat sooner or skip dinner, remember, for a donation of just \$5.00, you will get a great home-cooked meal. And we all know that Tracy has done a great job over the years providing a quality dinner for a reasonable price. Additionally, the membership can sit and relax and get to know other brethren over dinner! Think positively about this!

**6:30**

### ***More Awardees...***

At the June 13th "Celebration Dinner", the Valley recognized two scholarship winners. **Ms. Alyssa M. Reed** of 430 Locust Street, Roaring Spring and **Ms. Mya N. Burk** of 270 Donna Street, Hollidaysburg. Alyssa was the winner of the Sbbot Scholarship award in the amount of \$1,655.00 and Mya was the recipient of the first-ever Valley Scholarship Award in the amount of \$800.00 Both plan to attend college (Alyssa will attend Juniata College and Mya will travel to Lock Haven in the Fall) and become outstanding citizens in our communities! Congratulations to both.



From L to R: Mya N. Burk, Alyssa M. Reed

### ***Vacancies Still Available For Fall Reunion ...***

There is still time to get that petition to the Secretary so that these worthy brethren can become 32° Scottish Rite Masons. As planned, the Fall Reunion will be in conjunction with the District Blue Lodge's plan to initiate worthy men into the Masonic fraternity during the morning of Saturday, November 2, 2019. Following lunch, hopefully all of the newly made Master Masons as well as the numerous petitions that have already been processed will become Scottish Rite Masons. The Valley will have about 4 hours (1:00 – 5:00 PM) to create our new Scottish Rite members. Elsewhere in this edition, a copy of the schedule is in print. The cost for this experience has been set for \$108. This will include the initiation fee of \$75.00 and ½ of their 2019-20 dues (they will be paid in full until June 30, 2020). Petitions are still available. Convince that worthy brother to gain further light in Freemasonry by becoming a member of the Valley of Altoona! Following these ceremonies, the Jaffa Shrine will offer their Ceremonial for those interested in becoming Jaffa Shriners, another great organizational part of Freemasonry. I know it sounds like a full day –and it will be –but it will be a great end of the day feeling to know that that man who entered in the morning is now a Master Mason, a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, and a Jaffa Shriner. Do your part and help our fraternal organizations grow and prosper! As of August 1st, the Secretary has nine (9) petitions in hand... Let's see if we can double or triple that number!

### ***Polo Shirts...***

Brethren, we have recently began promoting our Valley thru our own line of Polo Shirts for both 32nd and 33rd members. These lightweight and breathable shirts are available in various colors and combinations ranging from the size (S to 4XL), the logo (32 or 33), the color, and with your name on it (front or sleeve). Shown are the basic colors, golf for the 32nd, and white for the 33rds. Because of the choices you need to make, the cost per shirt can range from \$25 to \$35. And if you really want, we can look into adding the logo to dress shirts (the Secretary has a blue one with the logo on the pocket!!).

We have already outfitted a dozen of your brothers, so if you would like one, they can be ordered thru Assistant Secretary Bro. Larry Bilotto. He will review your options and place the order. Payment to the Valley will be needed at the time of delivery. Direct any questions to Bro. Larry Bilotto. He can be reached at 814-935-5558 or at larstrek@gmail.com.



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

## Our Newest Celebrities...

This past summer saw the Valley "officially" welcome six new celebrities into the Valley's "memorable members"! At the COD meeting in July, Bro. Christopher Pechtold, 32°, MSA and Bro. Randolph Thompson, 32°, MSA as our newest Meritorious Service Awardees. The awarding of the jewel and lapel pin was a part of the annual COD dinner on Saturday, July 13th. The award provides recognition to those brethren who have distinguished themselves as tireless workers for the benefit of the Valley. They are recommended to the COD by the incoming Presiding Officers each year. Each Valley is limited to recognizing two members who are 32° Scottish Rite Masons. Congratulations to Bros. Chris and Randy. Keep up the good work!



From L to R: Randy Thompson Chris Pechtold

Four additional members of the Valley received distinguished honors this summer by being coroneted Honorary Members of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. This award is presented to those members of the Valley who have proved themselves worthy to be



From L to R: PJ Roup David Blackner, Brady Appleman, Dean Sipes  
Note: Edward Cernic Was Not Available

recommended by the Honorary Members of the Valley of Altoona for outstanding service to the fraternity and/or mankind. Each nominee was reviewed by the Honorary Members of the Valley and then submitted to the Active Members of Supreme Council. They make the final decision as to the worthiness of the nominees who are forwarded to them. While in Milwaukee in late August, the following brethren were coroneted in an impressive ceremony during the proceedings held during the Annual Meeting: Ill. Bro. A. Brady Appleman, 33°, MSA; Ill. Bro. David A. Blackner, 33°; Ill. Bro. Edward J. Cernic, Jr., 33°; and Ill. Bro. Dean A. Sipe, 33°, MSA. While there, they were awarded their white hats and jewels. Congratulations to all. When you see these brethren, shake their hand and congratulate them all!

## New Deputy for Pennsylvania...

At the most recent Council of Deliberation meeting in July, Ill. Bro. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, Active and Deputy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, chaired his final meeting as the Deputy and Active member of Supreme Council. Ill. Bro. Robert J. Bateman, 33° will succeed Ill. Bro. Tom. Ill. Bro. Sturgeon will become the state's newest Active Emeritus in August at the Annual Supreme Council meeting being held this year in Milwaukee, WI. He will continue as Grand Chancellor for the NMJ. Tom was made an Active in 1999.

Ill. Bro. Bateman, 33° resides in Springfield, PA and has responsibility for the following Valleys: Philadelphia, Scranton, and Reading. We all wish the retiring Deputy well. He was a good man for Freemasonry and Scottish Rite Freemasonry in general and for the Valley of Altoona in particular. We will miss his keen insights and manner of doing business!

### 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.....Brian Keen, 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.....James L. Beckwith, 42°

### 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.....Steven W. Matthews, 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.....Lawrence J Bilotto°, 32° MSA  
Captain of the Guard.....

### 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°

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

- 12:00 - 1:00 PM** Lunch and Candidate Registration – AASR Lodge Room
- 12:45 – 1:15 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*
- 1:15 – 1:45 PM** 4° - “Master Traveler” - DVD Format – AASR Lodge Room
- 1:45 – 2:25 PM** 8° - “Intendant of the Building” - Full Ceremonial Form - AASR Lodge Room -  
Bro. Randolph J. Thompson, 32°, Degree Master
- 2:30 – 2:40 PM** Opening/Obligation/Closing – Altoona Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16° - Bro. K. Dwayne Kaufman, 32°, MSA,  
Sovereign Prince, Presiding
- 2:40 – 2:50 PM** Opening/Obligation/Closing – Altoona Chapter of Rose Croix, 18° - Bro. Leon Collins, 32°, MSA,  
Most Wise Master, Presiding
- 2:50 – 3:00 PM** Opening – Altoona Consistory, S.P.R.S., 32° - Ill. David A. Blackner, 33°, Commander-in-Chief, Presiding
- 3:00 – 3:30 PM** 19° - “Brothers of the Trail” – DVD Format – AASR Lodge Room
- 3:30 – 5:00 PM** 32° - “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret” – Full Ceremonial Form – Auditorium – Ill. A. Brady Appleman, 33°,  
Degree Master Closing

Note: The Blue Lodge degrees will be in the morning followed by lunch. Following the above schedule, the Jaffa Shriners will conduct a Ceremonial and initiate new members. Following the Ceremonial, there will be a dinner. All are welcome to attend. Reservations and payment information will follow in a future notification.

## ***Fall Veteran's Jewels...***

Another new and exciting item from Supreme Council. They have put together a means of recognizing all members of the AARS in the NMJ who are veterans. It will be called the “Defender of Peace and Freedom Award.” As a result, in addition to what Supreme Council is doing, many other valleys are planning programs and activities.

The two key aspects of the 2019 Veterans Recognition include the Sammy Lee Davis Veterans recognition pin and certificate and the 32° Veterans pocket jewel to be presented to all 32° candidates for the Fall classes!

The Sammy Lee Davis Recognition pin can be presented to any member of the Valley who is a veteran. The Executive Board discussed this and an appropriate recognition program is in the planning stages. The pin comes with a card for the member to complete with regard to his military history. When that card is completed and returned to the Secretary, his “Military Service” record will then be updated in our membership database. A picture of the pocket jewel to be presented to all candidates is pictured herein.

Ill. Sammy Lee Davis, 33° is an Honorary Member of Supreme Council and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was awarded this prestigious distinction for bravery during the Vietnam War. Then President Lyndon Johnson made the presentation

NOTE: In order to receive your recognition pin and certificate, you must go to the NMJ website, find the drop-down menu entitled “Military Update” and enter your information. Recognition pins and certificates will be forwarded to our Valley on a quarterly basis.



## **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. Glattly, 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



## ***Secretary Questions What Motivates our Membership...***

This article is in response to the lack of participation in the June, 2019 Celebration/Recognition dinner...

My dear brethren... There was a time when the Valley would plan an event, advertise it and request that reservations be made by a deadline date. And the responses would come in. And if there was an associated cost, their reservation would include a check or they would make a note that they would pay upon arrival. In today's Valley, it seems that we have lost the courtesy to not only participate in a Valley function, but not even notify anyone!

The Executive Board decided to hold a Celebration Dinner to include the entire family and friends. All that was asked was that the Secretary be informed so that proper planning could be done. Brethren, we have about 1,200 members in our Valley...if we count spouses, we probably have about 2,000 potential attendees at a function. I received responses from our membership totaling 87 persons...not 87 Scottish Rite Masons, 87 total persons who planned to attend an event with entertainment, an opportunity to meet Pennsylvania's newest Active, and a chance to recognize those brethren who have made significant contributions to our Valley. As advertised in the Trumpeteer, the recognition dinner was for family and friends. Special letters of invitations were sent to those to be recognized. I had more than a few who did not even have the common courtesy to reply with a "no." I made sure that all officers of the Valley, our MSA awardees and our Honorary Brethren were also sent individual invitations to attend. Can you believe that even some of them failed to even respond!

I have been the Valley Secretary for over 18 years. I'm not sure what has to be done to generate interest in the functions of our Valley. Our Reunion classes continue to be small, many times less than double-digit petitioners. Thus, our Valley continues to shrink...take the low numbers in initiations and add to that those who die each year, those who demit for whatever reason, and those who are suspended for non-payment of dues. If this trend continues, I fear for the future. We, as members, may be searching for another Valley...Harrisburg or Coudersport or Pittsburgh. We may well be closing our doors. Now, I don't think it will be happening tomorrow, but it may happen within the next 10 years! And I keep coming back to the same question...WHY? Why do we have such poor attendance at functions? Yes, I know, there are many other demands upon our times when kids are involved. But when we provide the opportunity for children to be included and the numbers are still small, I have to believe there must be other reasons...I just don't know what those reasons are.

In recent years, I felt a little excited that we were attracting some younger members. I'm 73 so when I say younger, I'm excited when we get 45 and 50 year olds! But we are also attracting some young men in their 20's and 30's. Once we get them, what are we doing so wrong that we can't get them to come back and get involved? Remember, this is a fraternal organization. We do have limits. But I know a variety of ideas have been thrown out, and not many have met with much success. I've oft times remarked that maybe we would get a better turnout if I paid \$10.00 to each person who attended! And I'm not sure that would work either!

Cost? Do you all realize that we charge the lowest cost for dues in the state. You received your dues notice in late May. \$65.00...the same it has been for years! And of that \$65.00, \$27.00 goes directly to Supreme Council. Thus, our Valley operates on \$38.00/person/year. And what do you get for that \$38.00? Well, for starters, you get the opportunity to meet and greet other 32° Scottish Rite Masons with similar interests; you get the opportunity to participate in on-stage degree work (if you have the interest); you can work on developing your leadership skills by becoming an officer; you get coffee/donuts and a lunch at our reunions. Double that if we have two reunions in a year. And at times, there is a reunion banquet for which we do not charge. A \$20-\$25 meal that you get just for showing up. Again, double that if you bring your spouse or significant other! For a mere charge of \$5.00, you get a \$10.00 meal if you attend a stated meeting and arrive in time to eat! Add to food, are you aware of a brother who is in need? Our Hospitaler provides funds for those brethren --- not Supreme Council, but our Valley Hospitaler. Expand your horizons, become involved in your Valley. Help mold it into what you think it should be!

I will not apologize for airing my thoughts. I love our organization, and I want it to flourish! But we all need to acknowledge what I've said...Agree or not, I have a right to say it! And you have the right to respond and maybe even refute my comments. I would welcome to hear them and to print them in the next edition of the Trumpeteer!

## ***Another By-Law Change...***

Sometimes protocol seems to get in the way! But, unless we have standards to follow, any organization can run afoul of their intended purposes. Plus, it mandates that we maintain records of proceedings! Such is the case again. Recently we changed our Valley by-laws to incorporate Officer Duties and Responsibilities. The process is always the same: Announce the intended change, state it in print so all have a chance to see it, then vote for or against the change at a stated meeting.

Such is the case before us now. The Executive Board has discussed and decided that the KSA should NOT have a voting seat on the Board. There was ample discussion and the majority of the board felt that the KSA is an important part of the Valley, but it is a "service" part, not necessarily a leadership part. Thus, if approved, the by-laws will delete the Venerable Master, Knights of St. Andrew as a voting member of the Executive Board as listed in Article III, Section e, sub-section 1.



*Brethren Who Were Recognized For Longevity In The Fraternity. Congratulations To All!*

## ***Fall Reunion Date Announced...***

As a reminder, the Fall Reunion date has been decided upon. It will be a full day! Bro. Jordan Settle, 32° and Potentate of Jaffa Shrine has secured permission from the RWGM to hold a one-day adventure on November 2, 2019. Those proceedings will begin around 7:00 AM on that day.

Following lunch (at no cost to you or any candidates), the Valley of Altoona will initiate those interested in becoming 32° Scottish Rite Freemasons during the afternoon hours. A copy of the abbreviated schedule is listed elsewhere in this edition of the Trumpeteer. It will prove to be a lot of work crammed into a relatively short amount of time (about 4 hours), but the benefits are that we acquire new members and give them a taste of what Scottish Rite Freemasonry is all about. Following our work, the Jaffa Shrine will hold a Ceremonial as well. Following the Shrine Ceremonial, a dinner will be available for a reasonable cost. There is still time for you to find a candidate...get a petition or have him petition on-line. Let's have a big class!

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

## Now They Are Past...



From L to R: "PJ" Roup K. Dwayne Kaufman Brady Appleman Stanley Snyder Larry Bilotto

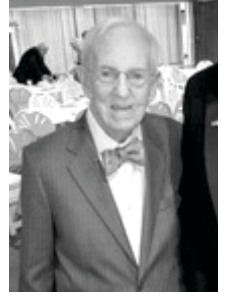
Kaufman, 32°; Bro. A. Brady Appleman, 32°, MSA, Past Commander-in-Chief; Bro. Stanley Snyder, 32°, Past Sovereign Prince; and Bro. Lawrence J. Bilotto, 32°, Past Thrice Potent Master. Congratulations to these brethren and thank you for your leadership in the Valley!

## Lost Brethren...

Mailings have been returned from the following brethren: The names and their last known address is listed. If anyone knows of their whereabouts, please contact the Secretary. Thank you. John K. Bolger, 10032 Oakhurst Way, Fort Myers, FL 33913-7090; Joel Alex Zelenske, 592 Candlewyck Road, Lancaster, PA 17601-2829; Clarence W. Sparks, 1516 Woodland Road, Indiana, PA 15701-8512; H. George Russell, 706 Montgomery Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-1438; George Hunter Good, 303 E. Holmes Avenue, 1st Floor, Altoona, PA 16602-3225; and Jeffrey Paul Grimes, 5730 White Oak Cv., Myra, Texas 76253.

## A Visit From a Right Worshipful Past Grand Master...

The Valley of Altoona was honored to welcome the oldest living Right Worshipful Past Grand Master and elder statesman as well. Ill. Bro. Samuel Williamson, 33° PRWGM, served our fraternity as Grand Master from 1982-83. He accompanied Ill. Bro. "PJ" Roup, our newest Active on a visit to Altoona's June Celebration Dinner. What a delightful individual! It was a pleasure to have him join us.



Samuel C. Williamson

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

Brethren, your dues were mailed to you around the end of May or the beginning of June. Many of you got your bill, wrote a check, and sent it to the Secretary. After an initial good response, the pace of returns has slowed considerably. It is about time that Supreme Council be contacted to send out a "second notice." They will gladly do that and charge us for the postage...probably a couple of hundred dollars. Then we will do that again in a couple of months and another cost of mailing. Let's save the Valley that additional cost...send your dues payment NOW! Remember, this Valley operates on \$38.00/member. The other \$27.00 of your dues goes to Supreme Council as our "assessment." I think we do pretty well operating and offering further light into Freemasonry for such a small price, BUT we need everyone to pay their fair share!

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CLIP & SAVE

How To...

Contact The Secretary

Email: [davekline5@comcast.net](mailto:davekline5@comcast.net)

Cell phone 814-244-7193.

Home Elizabethtown at 717-689-5687.

Office 814-942-2061

(Least effective not checked everyday)

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

