**VENERABLE MASTER'S MESSAGE***Mike Atkins, KCCH*

I hope this finds everyone healthy and in good spirits. What strange times we live in today. Children and college students being faced with challenges that no one has dealt with in the past. Go to school, stay at home, go home, half go on this day, and the other half go the next day. I am kind of getting a little confused talking about it.

Last month's stated meeting was a huge success under the current circumstances. There was approximately 30 brethren in attendance, along with our Grand Master, III. and MW Doug Jones, 33°, and also, MW Stuart Cook, 33°. It was a sad moment to have 26 departed Brethren's names read off by our Senior Warden. Brethren, our attrition rate alone with deaths jeopardizes our Craft daily. Through my travels, I am seeing younger men becoming Masons, which is a great thing.

As our Fall Reunion on October 17 approaches, I ask that each of you as you are traveling to make one last effort to get another Petition filled out and submitted to the office. We have our One-Day Conferral for the Masonic Lodges coming up on October 3 and 10.

As we move forward with the proposed sale of our building, plans are already in place for an alternate meeting place, which will be communicated upon the final paperwork being completed.

Brethren, I ask that each of you remain flexible and continue to remain supportive to the Scottish Rite as you have in the past. We need each of you to be our Ambassadors in the Lodges to grow, properly resize our facility requirements, while remaining safe and healthy. May God bless, protect, oversee, and be involved in everything we undertake in our lives.

MEMBERSHIP*Charles Robinson, 33°, Chairman*

The COVID-19 virus has affected just about every aspect of our lives, including all branches of Masonry. If it has taught us anything, it is that we must adapt and change to survive. Your Scottish Rite is doing just that.

We will be having our Fall Reunion on October 17. However, it will be like no other Reunion we have ever had. The Degrees will be communicated with the assistance of a Power Point Presentation and it will be done in the dining room. We do have a special treat. Our own III. Alan Adkins, 33°, G.C., Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia, will be communicating to and obligating the class on the required Degrees – 4, 14, 18, 30, and 32.

This class will have a special opportunity. They will get the degrees now and then get to go through them again as part of the class in the next regular Reunion. Think about how much more you would have gotten from your first three degrees if you had repeated them six months later.

This Reunion still has the special rate of \$265, so if you have any Petitions, you will want to get them into the office to get your candidate registered.

SCOTTISH RITE MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, October 26, 2020

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....No Dinner

Program during Stated Meeting

Monday, November 23, 2020

5:30 PM.....GUARD MEETING

6:00 PM.....Business Meeting

7:00 PM.....No Dinner

Program during Stated Meeting

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°



Fall has finally arrived. Cooler temperatures and nature's paint brush dominate the scenery, and we are all looking forward to Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the year-end holidays.

Brethren, our delinquent list is down to 22 members who have not paid their 2019 dues. Dues notices should have already been received for 2021, as they have been mailed by the Supreme Council. We still need some help contacting our brethren to bring their dues up to date. Please call the office and make arrangements to help us with this important task.

The Fall Reunion is on October 17. Petitions can still be accepted right up to the start of the Reunion as we take advantage of the Supreme Council's new Power Point Conferral Program. We will maintain the practice of masks and social distancing throughout the entire Reunion, which will be held in the dining room. Unfortunately, very little, if any, room will be available for brethren to observe.

Past Venerable Masters and new 50-year members will be recognized during the October Stated Meeting. November will complete this year of trials and tribulations related to the pandemic. Let us all pray for 2021 to bring us a vaccine.

Remember that the Valley is dark in December. Our next Stated Meeting after November will be our annual meeting in January. It will be a different annual meeting this year as we will not have an installation due to our officers electing to continue next year.

The office staff wants to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tom Varner, KCCH

"So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of Sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of Sabbath rest. Live in temporary shelters for seven days. All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

You may not be familiar with this Leviticus scripture, but it is the foundation from which developed the Feast of Tishri that we celebrated in September. What do you know about the Feast of Tishri? Until I again began working through the Master Craftsman program lately, all that I knew is that we have a sumptuous dinner and make toasts to our country and various Scottish Rite and Masonic dignitaries. Tishri is the Babylonian name of that seventh month in which occurred the harvest festivals, and it has now become the first month of the Jewish civil calendar in which is celebrated their most important holidays.

About 450 years after God issued this command, King Solomon dedicated his temple to coincide with both Abraham's birthday and the harvest festival – forming what is now known as the Feast of the Tabernacles. Because of its association with the dedication of the temple, Scottish Rite Masonry has now adopted and renamed it as the Feast of Tishri. It is the most important Scottish Rite dinner of the year. That is the background of how it developed, but what is its Masonic significance to us?

First, it reminds us that just as Solomon built the physical temple, and our Lodges are based on this model, so we Masons are dedicated to building moral and spiritual temples in the hearts of men. Second, just as Solomon's name means peace and God selected him to build the temple because he was a man of immense wisdom and peace, so we are to work towards establishing a lasting peace and brotherly love among all men and nations. Third, just as Solomon utilized King Hiram of Tyre, men from Gebal, and other foreigners to build the temple, so are we to welcome those of other faiths and nationalities to our fellowship. Finally, and perhaps most important to us, Solomon established the temple as a dwelling place for God, where He could communicate with his people and they commune with Him.

So, the last lesson of the Feast of Tishri could be a reminder that the spirit of God dwells within us, that he is present to guide and lead us, and that he will never leave or forsake us, as he promised to Joshua. As it says in the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide, "The Feast of Tishri thus epitomizes the character, principles and purposes of Scottish Rite Masonry, all being consistent with the dictates of the God who spake it into existence".

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sam Dunn, 33°

We are still under a lot of restrictions, however, there is a lot going on. By the time you receive this article, we will be preparing for our long awaited Fall Reunion, again different from anything we have ever witnessed. However, it will be wonderful to add approximately 20 new Masters of the Royal Secret to our Valley membership rolls. We will still be under social distancing regulations at this time so there will be limited audience and no food involved.

This may be a first and last time for a couple of reasons. First, this is a completely new way of conveying the degrees established by The Supreme Council, because of COVID-19. Second, this may be the last time that degrees are conveyed in our current building (more to follow).

It is times like this that we need our membership to remain strong and faithful to our Valley. We have missed the opportunity to raise funds for our beloved Childhood Language Center because we had to cancel our annual CLC Golf Tournament and our annual CLC Spaghetti Dinner. Both contributed greatly to the treatment of our deserving patients. The need for help for the Language Center continues to grow and our ability to raise funds diminishes. I ask that if you are so inclined, please send a donation to the CLC so we may continue to make a difference in every child's life. Our Director and Clinicians continue to work very hard to make sure that no child is left behind. Please continue to support their efforts through donations and your prayers.

As always, there are many rumors circulating about the sale of our Temple. I will attempt an explanation. If you have questions, please feel free to call. If I do not answer, please leave a message, as I would love to talk to you. I can be reached at (804) 370-1861.

A few months ago, we were approached with a letter of intent (LOI) to purchase our property that has been for sale since July 2018. Your Trustees reviewed the LOI, made several changes and sent it back to the agent for the prospective buyer. The LOI has been passed around and they finally have come to a working agreement giving us everything we requested. The next step is for the LOI to become a purchase agreement. Once the purchase agreement is presented to the Trustees, reviewed by a Real Estate Attorney and returned to the purchaser, they will have 90 days for a Feasibility study. At the end of 90 days, they can continue with the contract or decline the sale. If they wish to proceed, we will have a closing date of January 15, 2021. We are under a confidentiality agreement so we cannot discuss the name of the possible purchaser or any of the financial aspects of this agreement. We have secured a meeting place starting in January within 5 miles of our current location for our Stated Meetings.

So, the short answer is 'no', the building has not been sold, but may be soon. If the building sells, the CLC will be able to remain in place and operate as normal until we have a new location for our permanent home and they are able to join us.

Again, my Brethren, I beg for your continued support and prayers that our Valley will remain a strong center of Masonic Learning and a fountain of prosperity for our children. May God continue to bless you, our Rite and this great United States of America.

RICHMOND VALLEY

COMING EVENTS

— 2020 - 2021 —

OCTOBER

Saturday 3	Blue Lodge
and 10	One-Day Conferrals
Wednesday 7	Honour Court
Saturday 17	Reunion
Monday 26	Stated Meeting

NOVEMBER

Monday 23	Stated Meeting
Wednesday 25	Office Closed for Holiday
Thursday 26	Thanksgiving Holiday

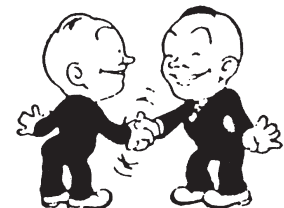
DECEMBER

Thursday 10	Hanukkah
Thursday 24	Office Closed
Friday 25	Christmas
Thursday 31	Office Closed

JANUARY

Friday 1	New Year's Day
Wednesday 13	Honour Court
Monday 25	Stated Meeting

SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU



TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME
A SCOTTISH RITE MASON...
DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM.

WOMAN'S CLUB NOTES

Valerie Layman, President

A letter is being sent to every member regarding our Club situation.

We will be meeting in September at 6:00 PM. We will meet again in October to propose closing The Scottish Rite Woman's Club. We do not have anyone to fill the Vice-President's position and our bylaws state we must have one. The annual audit was completed. At the November meeting, we will be having the final vote.

Remember, dinner will not be served, but it is important you still attend our meetings.

Wear your mask and stay safe.

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Master of Kadosh, Consistory

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Called from Labor

WILLIAM BRIGGS BROCKWELL

1931 - 2020

BOYD GORDON GRIGGS, JR.

1949 - 2020

ROBERT EUGENE KLINE

1941 - 2020

THOMAS ORVILLE LAYMAN

1924 - 2020

CHARLES BERNARD MILLHEIM, JR.

1953 - 2020

WILLIAM FITZHUGH RICHARDS

1937 - 2020

DAVID HERMAN SEGAL

1923 - 2020

Virtus Junxit-Mors non Separabit

"whom virtue has united, Death will not separate"

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