



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | FEB/MAR/APR 2025

RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND

**“I Bring you the grandeur
and the splendor of a
Scottish Rite Ritual...”**

If your Scottish Rite Ring Could Speak
Henry C. Clausen, 33°, PSGC





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Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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www.mdscottishrite.org

DONATIONS
Donations to our clinic, building or library are all tax deductible.
Donate online at www.mdscottishrite.org or call 410-243-3200

Our Scottish Rite Childhood Speech & Language Clinic is a 501(c)(3) organization and all charitable gifts are tax deductible.

A MESSAGE FROM Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I WISH EACH OF YOU THE BLESSINGS OF GOOD HEALTH AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN ALL YOU DO.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL:

I sincerely hope this issue of our Rite News finds everyone in good health and reflecting upon a wonderful new year. It is sometimes difficult to write an article almost two months in advance. In fact, as I am attempting to write this letter, the first snowflakes of the season are falling in Baltimore. By the time you receive this magazine, we will be in the middle of winter, anxiously awaiting spring.

First, let me start by saying thank you to everyone who made a donation of any kind to our brothers and sisters who were devastated by the hurricane in North Carolina. I considered it an honor to be able to take a truckload of clothing, bedding, and many other items to help in their relief. The trip would have been impossible without your truly unbelievable amount of donations. The devastation I saw was beyond unbelievable; homes and businesses were totally destroyed, and roads and bridges that were once present were then nonexistent. It doesn't matter what your donation was, there was someone who put it to good use, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank each and everyone of you who contributed.

I would also like to congratulate our recent fall class and those who performed excellent degree work. We are now getting ready for

our spring class, and I would encourage anyone who knows a Brother who wants to become a Scottish Rite member to join this spring class. You can now find a petition in this magazine, online, or by using the QR code.

There is always a lot happening around your Scottish Rite, and I encourage you to become as active as possible. Your Scottish Rite needs you, even if it is just to attend and sit on the sidelines. Taking a small part in the degree work would be a tremendous help to our degree teams. Remember, the word reunion means coming together again after a period of separation. There are seven valleys in Maryland, and each and every one would welcome your attendance and your help. Once again, I would like to say thank you for all you do for your Scottish Rite and, in closing, may I wish each of you the Blessings of good health and much happiness in all you do.



Sincerely and Fraternally,
Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland



The *Rite News of Maryland* is published quarterly for the members, family and friends of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Orient of Maryland. The views expressed in the Rite News of Maryland do not necessarily reflect those of the Orient of Maryland or its officers.

SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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Valley of Baltimore

BY: ILL. JASON Q. STANDISH, 33°—ORIENT SECRETARY-REGISTRAR



find a petition. There is one in the back of this magazine. All of our Valleys have online petitions available on the mdscottishrite.org website as well. More information can also be acquired by having a prospective member call the Scottish Rite office at 410-243-3200 or emailing aasr@verizon.net.

The cover photo on this issue shows the auditorium in Baltimore ready to receive new candidates. We also look forward to seeing you, our current members, back in the Temple. Reunions aren't just for candidates. It gives all of us an opportunity to come back together and enjoy the fellowship that only happens by being here collectively. By witnessing (or participating in) the Degrees, we are afforded an opportunity to reinforce our initial learning that we can't get from our books alone. A line may be delivered, or heard, in a slightly different manner which can lead to

thought, introspection and then ultimately a better understanding of the degree, the lesson it imparts, and how to apply that knowledge to our Masonic and everyday lives. I also encourage members to visit Valleys other than their "home" Valley. For those in Baltimore, seeing the degrees in the Lodge setting offers a unique vantage point. Also, seeing those degrees that you have only seen in a Lodge setting, performed on the "big stage" can provide an additional perspective.

Remember, "what you put into your Scottish Rite experience will be returned to you in like measure!" There is a place for you; this is your Scottish Rite! A complete calendar of events happening around the state is available at www.mdscottishrite.org – please check back frequently.

I look forward to seeing you at the Rite!

I HOPE THIS ISSUE of the Rite News finds you and your family well. While we are in the depths of winter, spring is just around the corner and with it our Spring Reunion cycle. Baltimore and the other Valleys around the state are busy preparing for their upcoming degree work. If you know of a Master Mason who is seeking more light in Masonry (and has completed his Third-Degree Catechism), be sure to help him

The Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

BY: BRO. NORMAN F. HENTHORN, III, 32°—VENERABLE MASTER

BRETHREN, it is with profound gratitude that I express my thanks for the privilege and honor of serving as your Venerable Master. The trust and confidence you have placed in me is humbling, and I look forward to a successful and enriching year ahead as we continue our shared pursuit of further light in Masonry.

I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the officers who will be serving with me in the coming year. Your dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts to uphold the principles and values of the Craft are invaluable to the continued success of our Lodge of Perfection. Together, we will work to build upon the rich traditions of Scottish Rite Masonry and continue the legacy of excellence that our namesake, Albert Pike, set forth for us.

As we embark on this new Masonic year, I encourage each of you to not only continue your own personal journey in search of further light but also to assist your fellow Brothers in doing the same. The Scottish Rite offers us all a unique opportunity to explore deeper meanings and lessons that help guide us toward becoming better men and better Masons. However, let us not forget



the importance of our Blue Lodges, the foundation of our Masonic journey. I urge you to support your Brothers in your Blue Lodges and encourage them to seek further light in the Scottish Rite. Our growth as Masons relies on continuous education and shared experiences.

This year, we have many exciting events and opportunities planned. From educational programs to social gatherings, there is something for everyone to participate in and enjoy. I personally invite each of you to join us at these events and challenge you to bring along a Brother from your Blue Lodge who may benefit

from further light in Scottish Rite Masonry.

In the words of Albert Pike: *"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."* Let this quote guide our actions as we support one another, strive for self-improvement, and remain committed to the service of the Craft and to those around us. By working together and lifting each other up, we can truly embody the values of Masonry and leave a lasting impact on both our fraternity and the world at large.

MARYLAND "SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY" LICENSE PLATES

Available through the Baltimore Office for SR Masons and their spouses.

The office is open M-F from 9am to 4pm, call 410-243-3200, or email aasr@verizon.net and the forms will be mailed to you.

Cost is \$40.00





Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO SEAN F. DOBBS, 32°—WISE MASTER

DEAR FRIENDS and Brothers, as we embark upon the new year, I am humbled and excited to serve as Wise Master of Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix in the Valley of Baltimore. I must say that as the term drew near, I was increasingly nervous after seeing all the past wise Masters seemingly up the ante every year. Nevertheless, I know the term will go just as God intends as long as we put in the work and remain humble.



I would like to express my gratitude to all the Wise Masters who came before me, most notably the late Illustrious E. Ray Leppo, 33°, G.C. As all of us know, Bro. Leppo was a pillar of Scottish Rite Masonry, and his recent passing to the Celestial Lodge is so very unfortunate for those of us who remain here on earth. In the wake of his passing, I attended his memorial service to pay my respects because throughout my journey in Masonry it has become abundantly clear that great men like him are the reason why our traditions remain intact.

As I sat listening to Bro. Leppo's minister delivering his eulogy, I was educated on his life's story and list of achievements, which are impressive. Amongst his many achievements, the many positions/offices he held in

Scottish Rite piqued my interest. As I listened to the long list, I heard his minister say that Bro. Leppo served as Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix. At that moment, I felt it was a sign, and any misgivings I had about my ability to meet the standard set by past Wise Masters was cast aside. I recognized hearing about Bro. Leppo's service as Wise Master as a sign because, looking back on my journey as a Mason, nothing has happened by mistake. God has always steered me toward the light using little nudges just like this.

One of the many lessons Masonry has imparted to me is the importance of listening, which includes listening to God who I believe often speaks to me through my fellows. Although I was deeply saddened to have to pay my respects to Bro. Leppo,

it is my respect for him and learning of his service in this same role that pushes me to put in the work to meet the standard he and the other past Wise Masters set. While Masonry has imparted many lessons and virtues over the years, one such lesson, which is found in the 16°, seems appropriate "God aids those who pursue good work, are faithful and can practice the virtue of wisdom." So, I very much look forward to pursuing the good work of serving as Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix without any reservation, knowing the faith and wisdom you all have helped grow in me will carry us through to another great year!

Maundy Thursday Observance & Dinner

ALL SCOTTISH RITE MASONS are encouraged to attend and the portrayal is open to friends and family of all Scottish Rite Masons.

In the Scottish Rite, darkness often refers to the disappearance of truth and justice in the world. As the symbolic lights are extinguished, we reflect upon this loss. By relighting them, we reinforce our belief

that as Knights Rose Croix, it is our duty to throw off the mantle of sorrow and darkness and to emulate those historical figures who have brought truth and knowledge to mankind. This solemn Ceremonial is an important part of the ritualistic work of the Chapter Rose Croix and expresses our commitment to the living of a conscientious and enlightened life.



THE SYMBOLS OF THE MYSTIC BANQUET

- 1. The Matzo**, or unleavened bread is also called bread of affliction. It is symbolic of the bread which the Hebrews made when they hastily left Egypt, because they did not have enough time to allow their dough to rise. The Matzo is the most important symbol of the Passover.
- 2. The Moror**, or bitter herb (represented by a small slice of Horseradish) is symbolic of the hardships which the Israelites endured while they were slaves in Egypt.
- 3. The Haroses**, a paste of apples, nuts, spices and wine, is symbolic of the mortar the Israelites used, when they were slaves, in the construction of the Pharaoh's treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses.
- 4. The Shank Bone**, a roasted bone is symbolic of the Paschal Lamb that was sacrificed and eaten on the eve of Passover.
- 5. The Hard Boiled Egg**, is symbolic of life and the springtime when nature renews life.
- 6. The Four Cups of Wine** commemorate the four promises made by God to Moses to redeem the Israelites and bring them out of bondage.

Meredith Chapter
Of Rose Croix

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

Thursday,
April 17th, 2025
6:30PM

Cost for this event:
\$35.00 per person.

Please RSVP to the office
@ 410-243-3200 by
Wednesday, April 9, 2025



Chesapeake Consistory

BY: HON. GORDON A. MUNHOLLAND, 32°, KCCH— MASTER OF KADOSH

I AM HONORED to have been elected to serve as Venerable Master of Kadosh for the Chesapeake Consistory. We have just finished the degree work for the Illustrious Teddy R. Barkley, Jr., 33° Memorial Class and am proud of the work that has been done by the Maryland Scottish Rite. The work that everyone puts into the degrees is at a professional level, even though it is by volunteers. If you have not been out to see the degrees lately, come revisit your Scottish Rite and support the brothers going through the degrees.

I believe the Scottish Rite is not just for us Masons, but

the ladies also. Before the meetings, there is a dinner which anyone can attend.

If you have not been out to see the degrees lately, come revisit your Scottish Rite and support the brothers going through the degrees.

The meeting itself is closed, but the presentation afterwards is open. I will bring my wife with me to these events. She has

made new friends and looks forward to it more than I do. I even joke that she is more popular than I am at the Scottish Rite (this could very well be true).

I hope this year to see everyone bring their lady with them for meetings in February, and more especially the Chesapeake Consistory meeting.

Come out and support your Scottish Rite.

ILL. TEDDY R. BARKLEY, JR., 33° MEMORIAL CLASS—CLASS OFFICERS—FALL 2024



(left to right)

Hon. Allen L. Washington, 32°, KCCH
Class Director

Bro. M. Wingate Pritchett, 32°
Class Treasurer

Bro. Ira L. Mitchell, 32°
Class President

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General

Bro. John A. Distel, 32°
Class Orator

Bro. Leon L. Pettaway, 32°
Chaplain

Knights of St. Andrew

BY: BRO. RICKY D. SMITH, 32°—KNIGHT COMMANDER

BRETHREN, as I write this article, I am in the beginnings of the 2024 holiday season and hoping for a happy and joyous time of year. I hope you all had the holiday season you wished for you and your families. I am looking forward to this next year and have started planning activities for the Valley of Baltimore KSA for 2025. We will have the Spring and Fall classes in addition to the regular meetings of the Valley. My goal is to expand our service to the Valley and the rest of the Orient. I hope we can schedule visits to the other KSA chapters to assist and learn from our fellow Knights.

This is my first article as the Knight Commander. I would like to tell you a little about myself. I

am a retired submarine officer, past master of two lodges and a current assistant scoutmaster of a Scouting America troop (formerly the Boy Scouts of America). What does that mean to the KSA? To me, it represents a significant amount of time in training, some technical, but also in management and leadership.

In becoming the Knight Commander, I am back in the leadership role of a small group. A role I became well versed in when I was on submarines. That's where I learned servant leadership. I didn't know the name of what I was doing at the time, but it was how I led my divisions and department. To me, a servant leader is one who is focused on successfully

achieving the goals of those around him, subordinates, peers, and superiors in addition to his unit. It's not the typical leadership style in the military. Leading by example is part of my servant leadership habits.

To the Baltimore KSA, I am looking forward to working with you to make you successful in reaching your goals as a Knight and as a Scottish Rite Mason. To the Valley of Baltimore officers and staff, I and the rest of the KSA will be there to help make the Valley as successful as it can be. To the Orient of Maryland, I will work to bring the other KSA chapters together to aid and support each other so we all are more successful.





Valley of Cumberland Focused on Membership Growth and Retention

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND conferred degrees on eight new members during its 184th Reunion and Conferral on October 19, 2024 to achieve a total of twenty-three new members in the Valley during the year. Membership growth and retention has been and remains a priority for Valley leadership. In addition to individual outreach to our existing members and recently raised Master Masons in regional lodges, members of the Knights of St. Andrew have sought to increase engagement with area Blue Lodges by attending their events and extending invitations to Master Masons, their guests, and members of the community to attend Scottish Rite events such as the Robert Burns Supper and Kirkin' of the Tartans, Festival of St. Andrew, Strawberry Night, Scottish Rite Family Picnic, and other social activities. Other initiatives such as partnering



Members of the 2024 Fall Class with Thirtieth Degree Cast. L to R: Hon. Mark C. Weatherholt, 32° KCCH; Bro. James B. Kalbflesh, 32°; SGIG III. Marlin L. Mills, 33°; Bro. Robert E. Edleblute, Jr., 32°; Bro. William Van Gilder 32°; Bro. Mark R. Pelletier, 32°; Bro. Timothy E. Friend, 32°; Bro. Michael A. Gilbert, 32°; Bro. Stephen J. Gray, 32°; Hon. Dwight C. Metcalf, 32° KCCH; Bro. Lary R. Johnson, 32°; Bro. Carliss E. Eby, 32°; Hon. Edward L. Kave, Jr., 32° KCCH; Bro. Max S. Summerfield, 32°; Personal Representative III. Jamey S. Hill, 33°; and Secretary-Registrar III. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°.

with area nonprofit arts and entertainment organizations to host events at the Cumberland Masonic Temple and offering tours to attendees has benefited

our efforts by enhancing the public's knowledge and perception of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.

Cumberland Masonic Temple Showcased as Part of Cumberland Heritage Days



Left: Pipe Major Andrew Donlon of the MacMillan Pipe Band conducts a beginners bagpiping workshop during Cumberland's Heritage Days Festival. Right: MacMillan Pipe Band.

AS A RESULT of active engagement with a number of community arts, heritage, museum, tourism, and other nonprofit organizations, the Cumberland Masonic Temple played a featured role in the city of Cumberland's 2024 Heritage Days Festival in September. As part of the 55th annual event, the Cumberland Masonic Temple partnered with the Allegany County Historical Society and the Cumberland Women's Civic Club to host a concert by the world champion MacMillan

Pipe Band from Rockville, Maryland at the Temple. The concert attracted a large crowd of visitors to the Temple and a newly-trained crew of docents provided a record number of historic tours of the temple throughout the day. Following the concert, the twenty-member band led a parade of historical reenactors through the festival midway, performed additional songs on the festival stage, and hosted a free workshop for beginning pipers at the historic Gordon Roberts

House operated by the Historical Society.

Funding for the concert and workshop was provided by grants from the City of Cumberland and the Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area. Information about plans to host a similar event at the Temple during the 2025 Heritage Days Festival on the weekend of September 13, 2025 will be available in early summer on the Temple's Facebook page at facebook.com/cumberlandmasonictemple.

9th Annual Bird Hunt Benefits RiteCare

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND'S Ninth Annual Masonic Bird Hunt to benefit the Scottish Rite Children's Speech Language Disorders Clinics in Cumberland,

Oakland, and Keyser, was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at On Point Outfitters in Addison, PA. Eighteen shooters competed.

This annual event is organized by Bro. Rob Elliot and has become an increasingly popular event for Masons and their guests to spend a day in the

upland while raising funds to support local RiteCare programs. The event raised \$1,500 to support Cumberland area RiteCare Clinics. The Tenth

Annual Bird Hunt is planned for Saturday, November 1, 2025. Interested hunters may register to participate in this year's event at cumberlandscottishrite.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

Robert Burns Supper
Saturday, February 1
5:00 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, February 3
7:30 pm

Cumberland Council of Kadosh
Monday, February 17
7:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, March 3
7:30 pm

Grand Lodge Regional Meeting
Ali Ghan Shrine Club
Saturday, March 8
8:30 am

Cumberland Consistory
Monday, March 17
7:30 pm

2024 City Public Art Committee



THE CITY OF CUMBERLAND and Allegany Arts Council hosted a public meeting in late 2024 to review proposals for a public art installation in the newly renovated downtown business district. This meeting drew a large number of new visitors to the Masonic Temple and offered the opportunity to provide tours and information about the history of the building and the positive role of Freemasonry in the community.

2024 Fall Ritual Champ

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND Fall 2024 Ritual Champion Award was presented to Bro. Christopher Ackerman, 32° during the Fall Capping and Ring Ceremony. SGIG Personal Representative Ill. Jamey Hill, 33° recognized Ackerman, who performed the role of Master of Kadosh in the conferral of the Thirty-Second Degree as well as the Departed Spirit in the Thirtieth Degree, for his outstanding performance and memorization of these parts in his first year as a member of the Scottish Rite.



Garrett County Members Committed to Success of RiteCare



GARRETT COUNTY SCOTTISH RITE members Jason Finch, Brent Lewis, and Lewis' wife Tammy organized another successful golf tournament in 2024 to honor the legacy of former RiteCare Speech Therapist Debbie Friend by raising funds to support RiteCare Speech and Language evaluation and services at the Oakland RiteCare Clinic operated by the Children's League. The Children's League is serving more than 400 RiteCare clients across its four clinics in Cumberland and Oakland in Maryland and Keyser and Petersburg in West Virginia. Approximately 100 golfers participated in this year's event and, thanks to strong

support from local business and community sponsors, the tournament raised \$16,000 for RiteCare. In addition to the funds raised from the golf tournament, Tammy Lewis presented a check for \$2,700 to the Children's League from funds she raised by volunteering to operate concessions for a local athletic league. Since they established the golf tournament in 2022, this hardworking team has raised more than \$55,000 to help our clinical partner, The Children's League, provide free RiteCare childhood speech and language evaluation and treatment to children living in Western Maryland and surrounding counties in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued

185th Reunion and Conferral
Saturday, March 22
8:00 am

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew - Initiation of New Members
Monday, March 31
7:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, April 7
7:30 pm

Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix
Monday, April 21
7:30 pm

Kirkin' of the Tartan Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Sunday, April 27
10:00 am

Ceremony of Lights and Spring Capping
Sunday, April 27
2:00 pm



Members Dedicated to Restoring and Preserving the Cumberland Masonic Temple

FOR 113 YEARS, the Cumberland Masonic Temple has shared a place among the steeples and landscape that compose the city's iconic skyline. While this impressive home to Cumberland's Masonic activity is clearly visible to motorists traveling on I-68 as well as to tourists and locals visiting shops and restaurants in the downtown business district, many local residents are unaware of the rich history that lies within its walls or of the many important contributions Freemasonry has made and continues to make in our community.

The Cumberland Masonic Temple is currently home to several Masonic organizations, including three Master Mason Lodges – Potomac Lodge No. 100, Queen City Lodge No. 131, and East Gate Lodge No. 216; the Cumberland Scottish Rite; the Cumberland York Rite; the Order of the Eastern Star; and two youth organizations – the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the DeMolay for Boys. In addition, two IRS 501(c)3 Charities – The Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation and the Cumberland Masonic Temple, Inc. – conduct



Members of the Cumberland Scottish Rite, Blue Lodges, and other organizations that call the Cumberland Masonic Temple home have been busily making improvements, small and large, to the Temple. Volunteers are pictured here working on landscape improvements and making necessary repairs to century old lighting fixtures at the Temple.

their business at the Masonic Temple.

In response to nearly a half century of deferred maintenance, the Cumberland Masonic Temple, Inc., has recently initiated efforts to repair and restore the architectural and artistic elements of the building. Extensive plaster repair and

painting have been completed in the main lodge room and reception rooms on the upper level and the roof has been replaced. In addition, wood flooring has been replaced or refinished in the banquet hall and other rooms. Most recently, the Temple's elevator has been modernized to ensure that members and visitors continue

to have access to the lodge room and other areas of the Temple.

With the assistance of a loan from the Grand Lodge of Maryland's Blue Lodge Support Fund, critical repairs are currently underway to exterior masonry areas of the Temple that have been damaged by water infiltration as well

as installing new exterior lighting to highlight the Temple alongside the city's other historic buildings and to provide for the safety of members and guests visiting the Temple. Plaster, murals, and paintings throughout the building are currently being evaluated to determine the most prudent

plan to preserve these aesthetic features as well.

Those who are interested in making tax-deductible donations to support the Temple Restoration program may contact the Temple Secretary at cumberlandmasonictemple@gmail.com or by phone at 301-729-2491.

KSA Welcomes New Members and Celebrates Festival of St. Andrew

VENERABLE MASTER MARK LATHROP and the officers of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew dubbed the newest Knights during the Chapter's Annual Communication in November 2024. New members pictured here – Duane Bair, Max Summerfield, and James Arnold – as well as Stephen Gray and Timothy Dykes, were elected to membership in the Chapter and recognized during the Festival of St. Andrew. The festival features a menu of wild game provided by members and prepared by Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield.



This year's menu included smoked salmon (Dwight Metcalf), turkey pie (Mark Weatherholt), roast pheasant breast with mushrooms and marsala (Jeff Leaf and Jamey Hill), seared goose breast

with orange sauce (Bill Hunt), braised elk roast with garlic and rosemary (John Dawson), as well as Maryland Crab soup prepared by Brett Bean and Scottish Shortbread with Strawberry Preserves and Cream

(Mike Kamauff). This annual event, scheduled for the last Monday in November, is free to members and guests but is limited to thirty attendees. Registration is available online at cumberlanscottishrite.org.



Scottish Rite Photos





Valley of Susquehanna

BY: ILL RALPH L. PERRY, 33°—PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

BRETHREN, it's a new year, and I hope that life finds you well as we begin 2025. The year 2024 was another great one for the Valley of Susquehanna. Our Valley continues to grow in numbers. More importantly we continue to grow as men and Masons. As our Sovereign Grand Inspector General emphasizes, it is more important to put masonry into men than it is to put men into masonry. I have been a Scottish Rite Mason for over 50 years, and it never ceases to amaze me how truly good and decent the men in our fraternity are. In a world where so many are happy to watch others fall, we build each other up. We are there for each other. We prove this in our everyday lives, but when we join as brothers it is even more evident. This was most evident when our Sovereign Grand Inspector General tasked the members of the Orient to collect clothing and needed items for those affected by the hurricanes that devastated the southern states. When we were told of this effort, the members of our Valley stepped up to the task. With community support, we were able to pack 110 boxes of clothing and needed items. Many members volunteered their time to collect and pack boxes all day. This was an outpouring of brotherly love

and relief so desperately needed for those affected by these horrible storms.

As I stated previously, our Valley continues to grow. Congratulations to our newest members of the Spring and Fall classes of 2024. These new members received excellent degree conferrals because of the dedication of our cast members. They work hard to provide a great experience for these brothers. Excellent degree work leads to better lessons learned. Better lessons learned lead to better Masons. Better Masons

lead to better men. And better men make for better fathers, husbands, siblings, friends, and members of society.

I am positive that 2025 will be just as great as last year. While the number of men in Masonry may be less than when I joined over 50 years ago, the masonry in men has proven to be just as strong. Let us continue with this undertaking of making good men better through the lessons we teach. Our brothers deserve it, and society desperately needs it.





Valley of Frederick Fall Reunion 2024



The First US Executive Positions: A Hidden Chapter in American Leadership

BY: ILL. S. DIRK WIKER, 33°

AS OUR NATION once again goes through the process of transitioning between presidential administrations, with debates about the Electoral College, popular vote, and our constitutional processes making headlines, it's interesting to look back at how executive leadership in our country began. The sophisticated system we have today, with its careful checks and balances, electoral procedures, and peaceful transfers of power, evolved from much humbler and less structured beginnings. While modern presidential transitions involve thousands of staffers, detailed protocols, and a system developed over two centuries, our earliest leaders operated under very different circumstances.

We are very proud of the fact that George Washington, our first President under the current Constitution, was a Freemason. He is the first of fourteen Presidents that were Masons. Brother Washington was not, however, the first executive leader of the United States. Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789 in New York City. Unlike today's elaborate electoral process, Washington was chosen unanimously by the Electoral College, which



is very different from our modern contentious elections where every electoral vote is scrutinized and debated. We all know our country started in 1776 with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, so who led the country during these early years?

From 1774 to 1781, our country was governed by the Continental Congress. The head of the Congress was called the "President of the Continental Congress." There were six Presidents during this time:

- Peyton Randolph
- Henry Middleton
- John Hancock
- Henry Laurens
- John Jay
- Samuel Huntington

In 1777, Congress adopted the "Articles of Confederation" but all 13 states had to ratify the Articles before they went into effect. Maryland was the last holdout, but our state finally ratified the Articles and the new federal government of the United States of America started on March 1, 1781. There was not an Executive branch of government in the Articles of Confederation. The leader of our country was titled "President of the United States in Congress Assembled." The following men served in this role from 1781 to 1789:

- Samuel Huntington
- Thomas McKean
- John Hanson

Continues on next page



U.S. Executives—continues from previous page



“FORGOTTEN” PRESIDENTS THAT WERE KNOWN MASONS

Peyton Randolph
(Virginia)
Member of
Williamsburg Lodge
No. 6,

John Hancock
(Massachusetts)
Member of
Merchants Lodge
No. 277

Henry Laurens
(South Carolina)
Connected to
Solomon’s Lodge
No. 1

Richard Henry Lee
(Virginia)
Member of
Hiram Lodge

Arthur St. Clair
(Pennsylvania)
Member of
Nova Caesarea
Lodge No. 10

- Elias Boudinot
- Thomas Mifflin
- Richard Henry Lee
- John Hancock
- Nathaniel Gorham
- Arthur St. Clair
- Cyrus Griffin

Although these men were considered the President, it carried much less weight than the current office of the Presidency. These “forgotten” Presidents were elected by Congress and served very short terms, typically one year or less. Their power was very limited and several of them had no desire to be in the position. Their primary duties included presiding over Congressional sessions, handling official correspondence, and signing documents. They had no executive authority as we know it today.

John Hancock and Samuel Huntington served as President under both forms of government, so in all, there were fourteen “Presidents” before George Washington. Of these fourteen, five are known to be Freemasons.

Two of the Presidents, John Jay and Elias Boudinot, may have been Masons but there is not enough evidence to confirm.

Over the years, several defects were realized in the Articles of Confederation, especially the lack of a strong federal government to regulate commerce and defense. Several meetings were held, such as a Convention held in Annapolis, Maryland in 1786 at Mann’s Tavern. This convention was the precursor to the broader Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia a year later,

where our current Constitution was drafted.

While not much is taught in schools about these Presidents, their service represents an important transitional period in American history. They helped guide the nation through its infancy, from a loose confederation of former colonies to a united nation under the Constitution. The experience of this period, with its weak central authority, directly influenced the creation of a stronger executive branch under the Constitution.

Looking at today’s intricate transition processes and electoral systems, it’s remarkable to consider how far we’ve come from these early days of American leadership. Our current system would be almost unrecognizable to these early leaders. Yet, the

fundamental principles they established – orderly succession, democratic selection, and service to the nation – remain at the core of our governmental structure.

The evolution from the simple Congressional selection of these first Presidents to our current complex electoral system reflects the growing sophistication of American

democracy. While we debate the merits of the Electoral College and other aspects of our current system, understanding this history helps us appreciate the thoughtful development of our governmental institutions and the role that Masonic principles played in shaping them.

This often-overlooked chapter in American history demonstrates how our system

of government evolved and how Masonic principles and leadership helped influence the early Republic. The progression from these early Presidents to the strong executive role we know today shows the wisdom of our founding fathers in learning from experience and adapting our governmental structure to better serve the nation’s needs.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 5th	Albert Pike LOP	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 12th	Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 19th	Maryland Council of Kadosh	6:30pm
Wednesday, February 26th	Chesapeake Consistory	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 5th	Spring Class Orientation	7pm
Wednesday, March 12th	Confer 4° & 5°	7pm
Wednesday, March 19th	Confer 11° & 13°	7pm
Wednesday, March 26th	Confer 14° & 15°	7pm
Wednesday, April 2nd	Confer 18° & 20°	7pm
Saturday, April 5th	Reunion Day	8am
Sunday, April 6th	Spring Ring Ceremony	2pm
Tuesday, April 15th	Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday	7pm
Thursday, April 17th	Maundy Thursday Ceremony	7pm
Saturday, August 9th	Lobsterfest	2pm
August 17th – August 19th	Supreme Council Biennial Sessions	



Maryland Council of Kadosh Festive Board



Valley of Baltimore Ring Ceremony Fall 2024





BALTIMORE REUNION DAY SCHEDULE*



In Memory of
Ill. E. Ray Leppo, 33°, GC
April 5, 2025

Coffee & Donuts	6:30am – 7:30am
Class Check-In	7:15am (Classroom)
Opening Ceremonies	8:00am
Confer 21st Degree	8:15am – 9:00am
Class to Classroom	9:00am – 9:10am
Confer 25th Degree	9:15am – 9:45am
Confer 30th Degree	10:00am – 11:15am
Class Picture	11:30am
Lunch	11:15am for Casts 11:30am for Members
Lunch Ends	12:15pm
Confer 31st Degree	12:30pm – 1:15pm
Confer 32nd Degree	1:30pm – 3:00pm
Closing / SGIG	3:00pm

**Times are subject to change*





Recent Charitable Contributions

AS OF 11/25/2024

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Einar Skretting

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In Memory of E. Ray Leppo, Jr. by Marlin and Brenda Mills

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In Memory of E. Ray Leppo, Jr. by The Rite Cheer Club

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In Honor of Robert L. Faby

Brothers Called From Labor To Eternal Rest

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Valley of Baltimore Feast of Tishri 2024



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Fax - 410-243-8791
Email - aasr@verizon.net

DATE

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
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Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Residence _____

(Street Address)

(City or Town)

(State)

(ZIP Code)

Mail Address _____

(Street Address)

(City or Town)

(State)

(ZIP Code)

I have resided at my current residence preceding date of this petition for _____ months/years.

Employed by _____

(Name of Firm or Gov't Agency)

(Address)

(Telephone Number)

My Occupation, position or trade is that of _____

(State fully name of your duties. If varied, please indicate your former duties and employer.)

I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____ Lodge No. _____

Location _____ Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____

(City or Town)

(State)

Date Raised _____ If raised in a Maryland Lodge, have you passed exam in 3rd degree Catechism? _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Spouse's Name _____

Recommended by two members in good standing in the Maryland Scottish Rite Bodies:

(1) _____
(Printed name of Recommender) (Phone Number) (Signature) (Scottish Rite ID Number)

(2) _____
(Printed name of Recommender) (Phone Number) (Signature) (Scottish Rite ID Number)

1. The Supreme Council requires the acceptance of the following fundamental principles: The inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, underlying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. Do you approve wholeheartedly of these principles? (Yes or No) _____

2. Have you ever been held or expressed opinions contrary to the foregoing or been affiliated with an organization which has? (Yes or No) _____; If your answer is in the affirmative, give particulars: _____

I attest that I have never applied for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees, and now respectfully petition to receive the Degrees, from the Fourth to the Thirty-Second inclusive, promising always to bear true faith and allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. *(Note: If applicant has previously applied for any of the degrees, explain fully as to date, place and to what bodies such application was made.)*

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed _____

(Signature of Applicant in Full)

INITIATION FEE: \$250.00

INITIATION FEE INCLUDES:

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Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland

BALTIMORE VALLEY

MEETS ON WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
3800 North Charles Street, Baltimore,
Maryland 21218

Ill. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC—Executive Director

Ill. Jason Q. Standish, 33°—Secretary/Registrar,
410-243-3200

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

MEETS SECOND WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

Ill. William A. Zarychta, 33°—Personal
Representative

Hon. Reginald J. Eda, 32°, KCCH—Secretary,
301-910-1906

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

MEETS ON MONDAY 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
15-21 Green Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°—Personal Representative

Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°—Secretary,
301-729-2491

FREDERICK VALLEY

MEETS ON THURSDAY 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702

Ill. Tommy J. Morris, 33°—Personal Representative

Ill. Scott Cameron, 33°—Secretary, 301-471-8777

SALISBURY VALLEY

MEETS ON MONDAY 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
110 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°—Personal Representative

Hon. Edward A. Welch, 32°, KCCH—Secretary,
443-235-6758

SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY

MEETS ON WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.

Masonic Temple
24410 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood,
Maryland 20636

Ill. John W. LeRoy, Sr., 33°—Personal Representative

Ill. Alfred Girard, 33°—Secretary, 301-904-6468

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

MEETS THIRD THURSDAY 7:00PM

Masonic Temple
136 E Gordon Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Ill. Ralph L. Perry, 33°—Personal Representative

Hon. David E. Martak, Jr., 32°, KCCH—Secretary,
443-686-0853

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