

THE BAGPIPE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
VALLEY OF NEW BERN



Vol. 50

Spring 09

No. 9

The Valley of New Bern of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

Announces

The Grand Cross Reunion of the Carolinas

April 15th thru 18th, 2009
Scottish Rite Temple, Charlotte NC



Regular Meetings

New Bern Lodge of Perfection No. 6
New Bern Chapter of Rose Croix No. 5
New Bern Council of Kadosh No. 4
New Bern Consistory No. 3

Second Monday of Each Month Except August & September

6:30 PM - Dinner in the Dining Hall

7:30 PM - Meeting in the Lodge of Perfection Room

Second Class Postage Paid at New Bern, NC
SUBSCRIPTION— INCLUDED WITH ANNUAL DUES
CIRCULATION 3,500

Editor: Steve Burgess, 32° KCCH email: sburgess2@suddenlink.net

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New Bern, NC

No. 6
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516 Hancock St., New Bern, NC
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NEW BERN SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to:
THE BAGPIPE, 516 Hancock St., New Bern, NC
28560-4925



Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council
Southern Jurisdiction



Ill. William B. Brunk, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of North Carolina

Allegiance . . .

The several Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of New Bern, Orient of North Carolina, acknowledge and yield Allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree, the Mother Supreme Council of the World, whose see is at Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, of which Ronald A. Seale, 33°, is Grand Commander, John E. Moyers, 33°, is Grand Secretary General, William B. Brunk, 33°, is S.: G.: I.: G.: in North Carolina, and William L. Dill, 33°, is Chairman, Inspector General's Advisory Conference of the Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of New Bern, Orient of North Carolina.



From the Orient . . .

The North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, Inc., offers a service medal, which is awarded to donors of \$1000.00 to the Foundation. The donation may be made all at one time or in payments. Payments may be made to the Valley Secretary, who will forward the payments to the Foundation Treasurer.

The Gift of \$100.00 to the Foundation will be recognized by the presentation of a Life Membership Certificate to the donor.

These are just two of the ways to support the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation.

Scottish Rite Creed

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people every where our ultimate goal.

OFFICERS OF NEW BERN LODGE OF PERFECTION NO. 6

Venerable Master	Garland Smith
Senior Warden	Tony R. Hawkins
Junior Warden	Jack Elrod
Orator	John Walston
Almoner	James A. Wiley
Treasurer	Oscar Kafer
Secretary	William Dill
Prelate	David Rose
Master of Ceremonies	Ron Sortino
Expert	Tom Janysek
Assistant Expert	Alvea Hearren
Captain of the Host	David Stapleton
Tyler	
Trustee	S. Frank Noble, Jr.

OFFICERS OF THE NEW BERN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX NO. 5

Wise Master	Steve Smith
Senior Warden	Tony Hawkins
Junior Warden	John M. Walston
Orator	Tom Janysek
Almoner	James A. Wiley
Treasurer	Oscar Kafer
Secretary	William Dill
Master of Ceremonies	David Rose
Expert	Robert Chambliss
Assistant Expert	Bernie Davis
Standard Bearer	B. E. Miller
Guardian of the Temple	Joseph Whitford
Tyler	David C. Grace
Trustee	Charles Dickinson, Sr.

OFFICERS OF NEW BERN COUNCIL OF KADOSH NO. 4

Commander	Edward D. Hartsell
1st Lt. Commander	Ricky Hawkins
2nd Lt. Commander	William E. Wooten
Chancellor	E. Coy Wetherington
Orator	David R. Garrish
Almoner	James A. Wiley
Treasurer	Oscar Kafer
Registrar	William Dill
Master of Ceremonies	John M. Walston
Tercopilier	David Rose
Draper	Steve Womble
1st Deacon	David Collins
2nd Deacon	Howard Kahn
Bearer of Beasant	Joe Whitford
Bearer of White Standard	Steve Natale
Bearer of Black Standard	Wilbert Futrell
Lt. of the Guard	Lee Hawkins
Sentinel	
Trustee	L. R. "Pete" Thomas

OFFICERS OF THE NEW BERN CONSISTORY NO. 3

Master of Kadosh	Tony Hawkins
Prior	Alvia Hearren
Preceptor	Tom Janysek
Chancellor	Bobby Meadows
Minister of State	David Rose
Almoner	James A. Wiley
Treasurer	Oscar Kafer
Registrar	William Dill
Prelate	E. Coy Wetherington
Master of Ceremonies	William Wooten
Expert	Lee Douglas Hawkins
Assistant Expert	John M. Walston
Captain of the Guard	Russell Jones
Tyler	Bobby Dail
Trustee	Oscar A. Kafer

Personal Representative Comments

III. William L. Dill, 33° SGIG Personal Representative

The Light Grows Brighter



What a wonderful and exciting time is unfolding. As spring began on the 20th of March recognizable changes were taking place all around us. Longer and warmer days, the excitement of March Madness, and a renewed desire for more light.

The desire to pursue more light has never been more evident or more available than exist now within the Scottish Rite. It seems as if everyday I receive an email from the Supreme Council notifying the Valley that another of our brothers has finished the Master Craftsman program. And in most cases no one is even aware this brother was involved in the program. Many hours of reading and study, six tests composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay, and each test evaluated by a member at the House of the Temple. That's all there is to receiving a certificate and lapel pin and the feeling of accomplishment. The certificate and lapel pin are nice but it's the feeling of accomplishment that brightens the face of each brother as they stand at the altar of the Lodge of Perfection to receive their well deserved recognition. Many have remarked they were so excited they could hardly wait to get a test evaluated, returned and the next test started. What a wonderful way to increase your knowledge and understanding of our Masonic Degrees.

What an advantage these brothers will have as they participate in the Grand Cross Reunion of the Carolinas April 15th -18th in Charlotte. Imagine all 29 degrees being conferred in one reunion. Just think how proud the Valley of New Bern will be as we confer the 22nd and 23rd degrees, two degrees never done before in our Orient. As I have attended reunions across our Orient and other Orients I have been unable to find a Valley that confers as many degrees as right here in the Valley of New Bern. Nineteen degrees are scheduled during each of our reunions and now we have the opportunity to add two more, the 22nd and 23rd. Once again the Valley of New Bern leads the way and imagine the possibilities for future reunions. Our candidates and members attending our reunions will continue to have the best we have to offer them in their individual pursuit of light.

If you have considered the Master Craftsman program or have decided to enroll do not wait another day! The time is now and the opportunity is yours. If you are interested in being a part of the Grand Cross Reunion of the Carolinas make your plans now. And like always if you need additional information about either of these outstanding opportunities contact the Valley Office. If we do not know the answer we can definitely get you to the right person.

Wishing each of you a wonderful spring and I look forward to seeing each of you in your pursuit of LIGHT!

Until we are together again may God Bless You!

Fraternally,

Billy

From the Editor

Steve Burgess, KCCH



One day a few weeks ago I was walking through the grocery store and ran into an old friend that I had not seen in years. After a few minutes of catching up on the latest news and family updates, I noted that I had not seen him in lodge in years. He had once been a very active Mason and then quickly dropped out of sight. His reply to my inquiry caught me completely off guard and I was left with little to say. The next few moments passed awkwardly and we parted with the usual courtesies and promises to keep in touch and get together some time.

Later as I had time to reflect on his answer, I was upset that I had not taken the time to seriously respond to him. I felt that I had let us both down. My Brother's response was really a cry for help and I had let him down, because of my inability to quickly find the right thing to say. He had told me that at one time he was really interested in Masonry and attending lodge meetings; but he felt that the last few times he attended lodge meetings he didn't get anything out of it. He had been going through rough times and no one at the lodge seemed to care. He further stated that he felt worse after leaving than before he came to lodge.

It took a few days but I found an opportunity to bump into him again. We sat down for a long and beneficial discussion. My friend's problems seemed pretty typical of what is going on today in lodges throughout the country. He was going through rough times and was embarrassed to tell anyone. He came to lodge burdened with problems, looking for support, and the general topic of discussion in the lodge was how bad the times were, what were we going to do about the decline in membership, and could we find anyone willing to go through he chairs and take the leadership positions. Not only did he not find any support; but he now was taking on the problems of the lodge. No wonder he went home saddened. Our brother came to lodge to get, not to give.

This begs the question; did we join the order to get or to give? Are we to give service to ourselves or to others? What is the basis for my relationship with my lodge and the order? A few moments of thoughtful reflection on these questions should shed some interesting insights. A lodge room like any other room, can be filled with the finest furniture or completely empty and stark; but the bottom line is that it is void of emotion until the first person walks in. Each member in turn brings in a complete set of emotions. If each of us comes to take, then what? How can we drink from an empty glass?

What if each person came to give? What if my relationship was to help my fellow man and to support my lodge? I think that during turbulent times we forget that we all need support; however, we all can't come to lodge meetings expecting others to provide for our needs. We need to be that support for others. It is in the giving of ourselves that we grow as individuals and make the necessary bonds of friendship and brotherly love that support a vibrant and growing lodge. If each member brings love into the room, all will benefit. Remember that you get out of Masonry exactly what you bring in to it. Let's turn our lodge rooms into repositories of brotherly love.

Fraternally,

Steve

Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendars now! You don't want to miss these events.

APRIL:

- 12 Easter Sunday
- 13 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Easter Observance
- 15-18 Grand Cross Reunion Charlotte

MAY:

- 11 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal
- 30 Carolina Pig Jig (Masonic BBQ Competition) NC State Fair Grounds

June:

- 8 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal

JULY:

- 4 Independence Day
- 12-14 York Rite Summer Assembly Maggie Valley
- 13 No Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal
- 31 NC Orient Leadership Meeting Winston Salem

August:

- 9 New Bern Scottish Rite Family Day Greenville
- 10 No Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal

September:

- 14 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal
- 25-26 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge

October:

- 4-6 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council Washington, DC
- 12 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal

November:

- 7 Conferral of the 33rd Degree Columbia, SC
- 9 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Meal
- 13-14 New Bern Fall Reunion
- 21 Installation of Grand Lodge Officers Scottish Rite Temple New Bern
- 26 Thanksgiving

December:

- 5 KCCH Investiture Wilmington, NC
- 14 Lodge of Perfection Meeting & Christmas Open House
- 25 Christmas Day



Members of the Scottish Rite Valley of New Bern
 Are deeply saddened to learn that the Supreme Architect of the Universe
 has called the following Brethren to that Celestial Lodge above.....



IN MEMORIAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Guy Roland Dickinson III	Don Alan Wayne	07/11/2008
Guy Hartwell Midgett	James Louis Huggins	06/15/2008
Johnny Elwood Sanderlin	04/27/2007	Coy Turner	09/03/2008
William David McFadyen, Sr	08/18/2007	Harold Franklin Williamson	09/12/2008
Willie Reece Terry	11/11/2007	Fritz Herman Kracke	09/19/2008
Orville Celestial Scarborough	11/26/2007	Johnny Ray Owen	09/21/2008
Roger Glendale Resor	12/05/2007	Joseph Earle Hardee	10/29/2008
George Calvin Upton, Jr.	01/29/2008	Charles Henry Higgins, Jr.	11/22/2008
James Garrett Wells, Sr.	02/06/2008	James Thomas Manning, Jr.	12/18/2008
Curtis Wayne Bender	03/10/2008	William Vance Gupton, Jr.	12/28/2008
Harold Irvie Dowling	03/22/2008	William Henry Leonard	12/29/2008
Ralph Harrison Freeman	03/30/2008	James Gifford Wisdom	01/20/2009
Stanford Stillpass	04/08/2008	Hubert Theoflus Long	01/28/2009
Robert William Groom	05/20/2008	Albert Earl Roberson, Sr.	02/19/2009
Junius Wesley Gaddy, Jr.	05/21/2008	Elmer Reece Twilley	02/19/2009
Robert Eugene Jernigan	06/01/2008	Leslie Holland Garner	02/23/2009

They lived respected and died regretted
 Farewell, my Brothers, until we meet again.

Notice!	Notice!	Notice!
During the March 10 th , 2008 meeting of the Lodge of Perfection, the decision was made to increase Dues to \$ 85.00 a year effective June 2009. This reflects the following dues structure:		
\$ 32.50 New Bern Lodge of Perfection No. 6		
\$ 17.50 New Bern Chapter of Rose Croix No. 5		
\$ 17.50 New Bern Council of Kadosh No. 4		
\$ 17.50 New Bern Consistory No. 3		

“Be always more ready to forgive, than to return an injury; he that watches for an opportunity of revenge, lieth in wait against himself, and draweth down mischief on his own head.”

.....Unto Thee I Grant

2009 BUDGET

BUDGET EXPENSE WORKSHEET

ACCT. #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
505	Purchases	
505.1	Caps & Cases	\$2,100.00
505.2	Jewelry*	\$1,650.00
505.3	Name Badges	\$500.00
505.5	""Bridge to Light"" Books"	\$100.00
505.6	Purchases - Bibles	\$900.00
506	Purchases-Vending	\$100.00
507	Purchases - Pyramids	\$900.00
	TOTAL	\$6,250.00
610	Accounting	\$2,500.00
622	Awards	\$150.00
625	Bank Charges	
625.1	Vital Fees	\$350.00
625	Bank Charges - Other	\$600.00
	TOTAL	\$3,600.00
627	"Bridge to Light" book fees	\$90.00
670	Dues-Subscriptions	\$415.00
672	Educational Expenses	\$1,700.00
680	Equipment Rental/Purchases	\$1,000.00
690	Insurance-Business	\$17,000.00
695	Insurance-Health	\$10,650.00
706	Per Capita & Fees	\$24,000.00
707	NCSR Foundation	\$8,500.00
715	Lease Expense	\$7,500.00
734	Events	
734.2	Reunion - Fall	\$2,000.00
734.3	Reunion - Spring	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$73,855.00
735	Meals	
735.1	Spring Reunion	\$0.00
735.2	Fall Reunion - Meals	\$2,500.00
735.4	Christmas/Easter Open Houses	\$1,000.00
735.7	LOP Refreshments - Meals	\$1,000.00
735.8	Meals - Other	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,500.00
737	Memorials/Flowers, Gifts	\$1,000.00
739	Fundraiser Expenses	\$1,500.00
740.3	Name Badges	\$50.00
750	Office Supplies-Expenses	\$1,250.00
755	Outside Services/Supreme Council Billing	\$2,000.00
775	Postage	
775.1	Postage - Meter Postage	\$2,500.00
775.2	Bagpipe - Postage	\$2,000.00
775.3	Postage - Other	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,500.00
776	Printing	
776.1	Printing - Office	\$400.00
776.2	Printing - Bagpipe	\$2,600.00
	TOTAL	\$3,000.00
790	Repairs & Maintenance	
790.1	Elevator Repair/Maintenance	\$4,000.00
790.2	Office Equipment/Maintenance	\$150.00
790.3	Repair Maint. Temple Preservation Fund	\$0.00
790	Repairs & Maintenance - Other	\$250.00
	TOTAL	\$4,400.00
800	Salaries/ Wages	
800	Administrative Assistant	\$37,312.00
805	Salaries - General Secretary	\$21,318.00
850	Supplies	\$0.00
850.1	Supplies - Office Expense	\$471.95
850.2	Supplies - Janitorial	\$297.99
850.5	Kitchen Supplies	\$14.93
	TOTAL	\$59,414.87
860	Taxes-Business (Sales Tax)	\$1,027.96
870	Taxes-Payroll	\$12,454.71
880	Telephone/Internet	\$4,000.00
	TOTAL	\$17,482.67
910	Utilities	
940.1	Utilities - Main Bldg. (Office)	\$17,000.00 18% Increase
910.2	Utilities - Consistory (Theatre)	\$15,250.00
910.3	Utilities - Parking Lot Security (Lights)	\$950.00
910	Utilities - Other (Gas)	\$700.00
	TOTAL	\$33,900.00
920	Secretary's Expenses	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$221,702.54

BUDGET INCOME WORKSHEET

ACCT. #	DESCRIPTION:	AMOUNT
410	Lodge Initiations	\$2,625.00
410.1	Deferred - 2009	\$1,137.50
412	Chapter Initiations	\$1,400.00
412.1	Deferred - 2009	\$612.50
414	Council Initiations	\$1,400.00
414.1	Deferred - 2009	\$612.50
416	Consistory Initiations	\$1,400.00
416.1	Deferred - 2009	\$612.50
	Total	\$9,800.00
418	Lodge Dues	\$54,200.00
418.1	Per Capita Fees-SC	\$4,800.00
420	Chapter Dues	\$32,600.00
420.1	Per Capita Fees-SC	\$2,400.00
422	Council Dues	\$36,675.00
422.1	Per Capita Fees-SC	\$2,700.00
423	Consistory Dues	\$36,675.00
423.1	Per Capita Fees-SC	\$2,700.00
	Total	\$172,750.00
425	SC Lang. Dis. Assessment Fee	\$6,750.00
426	Donations-Lang Dis. & Other	\$1,500.00
427	Donations-Almoner's Fund	\$700.00
428	Temple Preservation Fund	\$0.00
450	Building Fundraiser-Donations	\$2,500.00
451	Fundraiser-NCSR	\$600.00
452	General Fund Donations	\$1,000.00
471	Dues-Life Membership	\$2,500.00
473	IRS-Refund from Wages Withheld	\$260.00
475	Rental Income	\$1,500.00
476	Outside Source Rental Income	\$15,000.00
477	Purchase of Theater Seats	\$100.00
478	Printing Contracts	\$800.00
480	Promotional Sales	\$20,000.00
481	Vending Machines	
	TOTAL	\$53,210.00
483	Income-Meals	
483.1	Spring Reunion	\$0.00
483.7	Lodge of Perfection Refreshment	\$3,000.00
	Total	\$3,000.00
485	Other Income	
485.2	Jewelry Sales	\$4,000.00
485.3	Name Badges	\$1,200.00
485.5	""Bridge to Light"" Book"	\$120.00
485.7	License Plate Sales	\$0.00
485.9	Postage Income	\$25.00
485.10	Scottish Rite Baseball Caps	\$60.00
485.11	Hiram's Call CD's	\$0.00
485.12	Sale of Bibles	\$250.00
485.13	Other Income	\$0.00
	Total	6,855.00
486	Silent Auction	\$1,500.00
489	Sale of Photo Directories	\$0.00
	Total	\$1,500.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$247,115.00

Said the self-righteous preacher,
 "What, in your judgment, is the
 greatest sin in the world?"

"That of the person who sees other
 human beings as sinners," said the
 Master.



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ADVERTISING IN THE BAGPIPE

Would you or anyone you know like to advertise in the Bagpipe? We will do ads from 1/8th of a page to a whole page. The cost will be \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100, respectively.

Remember, this will go out to over 3,000 members. This would be an inexpensive way to get your name or business out.

A framed advertisement for PIC Frame & Gallery. The text is arranged as follows:
PIC (252) 633-4054
Frame & Gallery
For all your custom framing needs. . .
Village Square, 3601 Trent Road #9
New Bern
PPFA
Professional Picture Framers Association Member

North Carolina

Grand Cross Reunion of the Carolinas

April 15-18, 2009

South Carolina

Joint Reunion

Degree Starting Times

All Degree Teams Must Be In The Robeing Room – 30 Minutes Prior To Their Starting Time

Wednesday – April 15, 2009

Lodge of Perfection – The Historical Degrees

All Candidates Register at SR Temple – 3:00 – 5:00 PM

SR members can Register at the SR Temple or the Hotel – 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Sandwiches will be available in the Dinning Room After You Register

Candidates assemble in the Blue Lodge Room for Marshall Assignments – 5:00 PM

Class moved to Auditorium – 5:30 PM

Prayer, Welcome by SGIS's – 5:40 PM

Introduce SR and 4th Degree – 5:50 PM

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
4	Rock Hill	6:20	7:00	40	15
5	Aiken	7:15	7:45	30	15
6	Charleston	8:00	8:15	15	15
7	Greensboro	8:30	8:55	25	15

Thursday – April 16, 2009

Lodge of Perfection – The Historical Degrees (cont.)

Candidates assemble in Auditorium – 7:00 AM

Class Picture w/GC & SGIG's – 7:30 AM

Reception of Grand Commander - 8:15 AM

Reception of All SGIG's and others

Reception of Grand Master

Remarks of Grand Commander

Remarks of NC & SC SGIG's

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
8	Wilmington	8:50	9:10	20	15
	*****CLASS BREAK*****	9:10	9:25		
9&10	Asheville	9:30	10:15	45	15
11	Spartanburg	10:30	10:50	20	15
12	Rock Hill	11:05	11:45	40	15

Candidates & Degree Workers Lunch @ 1200 to 1315

Second Seating for Lunch 1330 to 1430

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
13	Columbia	1:25	2:00	35	15
14	Raleigh	2:15	3:45	90	15
	*****CLASS BREAK*****	3:45	4:00		

Chapter of Rose Croix – The Philosophical and Religious Degrees

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
15	Columbia	4:05	5:00	55	15
16	Spartanburg	5:15	5:55	40	15

Supper from 1800 to 1915

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
17	Greenville	7:20	8:05	45	15
18	Spartanburg	8:20	9:30	70	15

Friday – April 17, 2009

Council of Kadosh – The Chivalric Degrees

Candidates assemble in Auditorium – 7:00 AM

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
19	Charlotte	7:35	8:40	65	15
20	Spartanburg (PDDGM)	8:55	9:35	40	15
21	Raleigh	9:50	10:30	40	15
22	New Bern	10:50	11:05	15	15
	*****CLASS BREAK*****	11:05	11:20		
23	New Bern	11:25	11:50	25	15

Tour of the SR Children's Language Learning Center

Half of the Class can tour the first seating and the remaining during the second

First Seating for Lunch @ 1200 to 1300

Second Seating for Lunch @ 1300 to 1400

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
24	Winston-Salem	2:05	2:50	45	15
25	Winston-Salem	3:05	3:50	45	15
26	Greenville	4:05	4:35	30	15
	*****CLASS BREAK*****	4:35	4:50		
27	Charlotte Research	Gp4:55	5:35	40	15
28	Wilmington	5:50	6:30	40	15
Hotel	Cash Bar Reception	7:15	7:45	30	
Hotel	Banquet	7:45	until		

Saturday – April 18, 2009

Council of Kadosh – The Chivalric Degrees (cont.)

Candidates assemble in Auditorium – 7:00 AM

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Valley Conferring</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Stop</u>	<u>Stage Time</u>	<u>Setup Time</u>
29	Greensboro	8:00	8:40	40	15
30	Charlotte	9:05	10:20	75	40
	*****CLASS BREAK*****	10:20	11:00		

Consistory – The Ceremonial Degrees

31	Wilmington	11:05	11:45	40	20
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Lunch @ 1200 to 1330

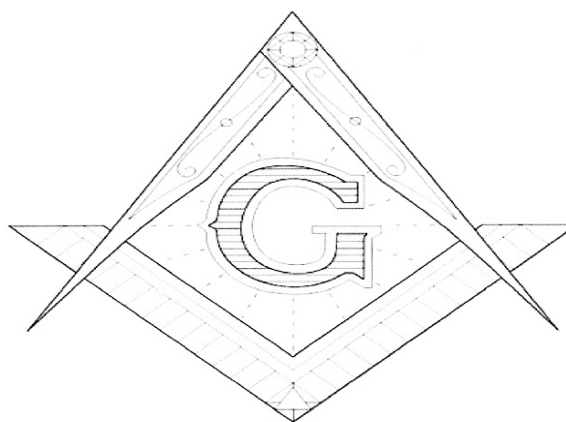
32	Charlotte	1:45	3:05	80	
	Graduation Ceremony		3:15		



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National Dodge—Subaru

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Service: Mon—Fri
7:30 AM—6:00 PM**

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To the Nth Degree

A Journey Through the Scottish Rite

Number Twenty-Three



Chief of the Tabernacle

The twenty-third degree is the fifth degree in the Council of Kadosh. The word "Kadosh" is a Hebrew word meaning "Holy." Although the degrees of Kadosh are called chivalric and philosophical they are also mystical with respect to the lessons conveyed and the symbols used.

The candidate represents Eliasoph, the son of Lael, Chief of the House of Gershon, the son of Levi. The presiding officer represents Aaron, the brother of Moses and is called "Venerable High Priest." The wardens represent the sons of Aaron and are called "Excellent Priests." The candidate comes to receive the first degree or lowest grade, of initiation into the mysteries of the Jewish Priesthood. In addition to public worship, most of the ancient nations had a private service reserved for only those who had been prepared by certain ceremonies called initiations. The Lesser Mysteries were received by all, but only a few were initiated into the "Greater Mysteries."

An understanding of the twenty-third degree requires some study of the history of the Jewish people found in the Old Testament. Levi was the third of the twelve sons of Jacob (also called Israel). The twelve tribes of Israel were the descendents and followers of the twelve brothers. Levi was the great-grandfather of Aaron and Moses. When Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan, the Levites were the only tribe who received cities but no tribal land. The Levites served particular religious duties for the Israelites and had political responsibility as well. In return the other eleven tribes were expected to give tithes to the Levites.

The Old Testament makes a sharp distinction between the Aaronites and the other Levites. In the threefold hierarchy of the priesthood, the Levites are the third after the high priest and priest, both hereditary positions of the family of Aaron. Only the Aaronites could offer incense before the Lord. The Levites functioned as subordinate officials in charge of the lower duties of the sanctuary. In Numbers 8:5-13, we find the Levites were installed by a ceremony consisting of lustration (purifying by water), shaving the body, laying on of hands.

This degree, Chief of the Tabernacle, is the Masonic equivalent of the Lesser Mysteries. The degree is actually very short, consisting of just one scene, a lodge or court representing the encampment of the twelve tribes in the desert near Sinai. The apron of the degree is white bordered with red, blue and purple ribbons. These colors, from the curtains of the Tabernacle, represent earth, fire, air and sea respectively, as well as the Lord's beneficence, glory, wisdom and power. On the apron is the golden seven-branched candlestick, representing the seven planets and virtues; the sun, faith and aspiration toward the infinite; the moon, hope; Venus, charity; Mars, fortitude, "victory over rage and anger; Mercury, prudence; Saturn, temperance; Jupiter, conqueror of the Titans and justice. The jewel worn is a small silver censer, or ornamented cup, held by a handle in the shape of an open hand. The duties are to be devoted to the service of God; to constantly endeavor to promote the welfare of man; to act with proper subordination to your superiors.

James A. Wiley 33°

Food For Thought

Some Thoughts on Reality, Actuality, Presumptuousness, and Tolerance

Fallibility is part of the human condition. Unfortunately, we often seem to disregard this fundamental truth. Though we might agree with it when pinned down, we often act contrary to it in our daily interchange with others. We simply let our egos lead us astray when we fail to properly consider the other's point and insist that we're right and they're wrong. Permitting a little bit of humility to temper our behavior here, we could go a long way in making the world a better place.

"True wisdom is less presuming than folly.
The wise man doubteth often, and changeth his mind;
the fool is obstinate and doubteth not;
he knoweth all things but his own ignorance."

-- Unto Thee I Grant

Listening to much of today's political debate, the thoughtful person cannot help but be struck by the obnoxious tone of it. Far from respectfully disagreeing, the rivaling factions battle with such hateful anger as if locked in mortal combat. This is particularly evident in the banter that occurs on the many talk shows that are broadcasting across the country. The arguments are mostly along the lines of the two major ideologies that make up American political thinking—liberalism and conservatism. Fired on by the often radical pronouncements of the talk show hosts, the callers are ranting about the evils of the other side with a degree of contempt and odium that has led to the point where some of these shows have actually been labeled Hate Radio.

Striking too, is the widespread preoccupation with the words "true" and "truth" that is exhibited by the proponents of the respective sides. They never seem to miss an opportunity in using those terms to label their own beliefs. Perhaps, this is what is at the core of what is troubling to the more circumspect listener, particularly the student of Masonic principles.

The terms reality and truth are commonly considered interchangeable, even synonymous. The word reality and its derivatives permeate everyday usage of the language. Phrases like "get real" and "the reality of it is...", or "reality check" are part of everyone's conversation. They are used in response to the perceived nonsensical, the phony, the mythical, and the false. A commercial somewhere admonishes that "perception is

not always reality.” Philosophers go further in equating perception with reality and in pointing out that the difference is between reality and actuality. Reality is what we “realize” through our perception. It is what we perceive through our, somewhat fallible, five senses and our far from perfect minds. Actuality is what describes the true, the actual nature of things and events. We humans are not always able to discern the difference. Once we understand this we become a lot less reckless in our employment of the word “truth.” Philosophies and ideologies, also political and even religions views, while often formulated by folks of superior intelligence, are all prone to be flawed and subject to debate. They all originate in human thinking. Great and respected philosophers clash in their views and ideas, which are often diametrically opposed to one another. In view of this, it would seem an astonishing presumptuousness for a person to lay claim to the absolute truth in an argument.

Differences of opinion are natural. Moreover, in the light of Hegelian dialectics they are beneficial in the search for agreement and resolution of conflict. If one starts with the idea that either side of an argument is rarely ever entirely correct, the resolution is greater in value than the sum of the arguments. Inflexibility and stubborn insistence on the validity of one’s own views are often counterproductive and even foolish. This is not to say that there are not great controversies that have deep rooted beliefs at their foundation on both sides. Those beliefs may compel the holder to fight to the death in defense of them. Two examples of such divisive issues are the bitter disagreements over the issues of abortion and capital punishment. Abortion is held to be the inalienable right of the mother by the proponents of the “pro-choice” side, who say that it is her right to decide on matters concerning her body. The “pro-life” faction on the other hand, holds that abortion is the taking of the life of a human being. Both have compelling and honestly felt arguments. In the case of the death penalty the arguments are perhaps more complex, if only because they cross the line of religious belief. There are religious as well as non-religious followers on both sides of the capital punishment issue with both sides bringing compelling arguments to the table. If a criminal commits a capital crime, gets convicted and sentenced to life in prison, then gets paroled and kills again, a very strong case can be made that, had he been executed, society would have been acting in self defense and an innocent life would have been saved. On the other hand, opponents could argue that the blame should be placed with the faulty justice system that granted parole to a murderer. These opponents point to the many false convictions that have placed innocent people on death row. This time supporters will blame the imperfect system. The point is that, while it may be easy to come out on either side of the line for those prone to make snap decisions based on visceral or emotional reaction, the more thoughtful will find those decisions much more difficult. And they will be much less likely to condemn the other side for their opinion.

continued

Steadfastness of views is considered a virtue and desirable, particularly in those seeking leadership positions in life. Whether these views are of proven value often seems of secondary importance. Similarly, changing one's mind is viewed with great prejudice. The proverbial right to change one's mind is chauvinistically reserved for the female sex. In actuality, of course, an occasional change of mind or a reluctance to take a stand is often nothing but an expression of conscience and concern about acting correctly when faced with decisions of great importance. To make things even tougher for the thoughtful amongst us, such reluctance to clearly come out for or against an issue is often treated less than kindly by a society that places great value on "taking a stand". It is considered weak and derided as wishy-washy.

Based on the premise of the fallibility of our senses and perception, the Masonic teachings remind us to be tolerant of other points of view. By the same token we should be hesitant in presenting our own as fundamental truth. It is probably not too farfetched to state that this attitude could go a long way in preventing hostility and acrimonious disagreement in our daily lives, in the hallowed halls of Congress, and in relations amongst the nations of the world. The world has come a long way in limiting the wars of attrition that so dominated the eras of feudalism and of the great monarchies. Today's wars are largely fought over ideological or religious differences and nationalistic interests. Unfortunately, these conflicts often result in much greater bloodshed and loss of life because, much like the religious wars of old, they are based on the self-righteous assumption that "we are right and they are wrong." While the old wars of attrition generally ended once the territory was annexed and the superior force had prevailed, conflicts over ideology, religion, or nationalism seemingly rage on forever. Witness the chronic hotspots in the Middle East or the Balkans, as well as those in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. If there is ever going to be peace in those regions it will have to come through compromise and willingness to live together with folks of different beliefs. And compromise is not likely to occur unless the warring sides manage to conjure up some recognition and respect for the arguments of the other side.

This then may just be the challenge of the twenty first century. The human race will have to come to terms with the fact that lasting peace will require tolerance, patience and the humility that comes from the realization that we are one; and that our differences stem from the imperfection that is inherent in our humanity.

--Arcturus (*pseudonym for anonymous author from peace consciousness ezine*)

God Said No

I asked God to take away my habit.
God said, "No. It is not for me to take away,
but for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, "No. His spirit is whole,
his body is only temporary."

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, "No. Patience is a byproduct
of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, "No. I give you blessings;
happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart
from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said, "No. You must grow on your own
but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said, "No. I will give you life,
so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me LOVE others,
as much as He loves me.
God said, "Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!!!"

SUCCESS SUCCESS SUCCESS

Once again, we will be holding a "silent auction" at our Fall Reunion. We missed the spring reunion this year so we really need to make a super effort in the fall to help replenish the funds. Last Fall, we raised almost \$700 for the Scottish Rite. The money raised will be used to help the building fund and make repairs around the temple.

We will be accepting gifts up to the start of the reunion on Friday morning. We have asked the Scottish Rite Clubs to donate gifts of approximately \$50. That is only a suggestion. What we'd like is to have some nice gifts for everyone to bid on. Donations from members are accepted. Last Fall, we had several gifts donated by members. It is a lot of fun and winners will be announced at Dinner on Saturday night. Good Luck!!!!



Education and Americanism

Ill. Howard Kahn, 33°

Americanism

The New Year is upon us and we need to reinvigorate our efforts in demonstrating our love of country. This can be accomplished by proudly and properly displaying our national ensign, showing proper respect during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner", teaching our children and grandchildren about the history of our great nation and explaining to them why we get goose bumps when we hear our national anthem and other patriotic songs. These are just a few thoughts on the subject, I feel certain that you can add to them.

Our Valley ROTC/JROTC program is about to commence and I hope the Brethren who have presented awards on behalf of the Valley will continue their efforts. You are greatly appreciated and we could not accomplish this most worthwhile program without you.

I still have some posters on Flag Etiquette and will be more than happy to provide them to you.

A clergyman who is also a member of the United States Marine Corps wrote the following. The author is Dennis Edward O'Brien, Major, USMC.

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.

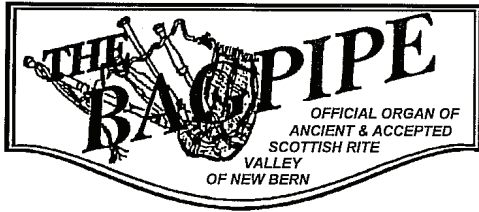
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Yours in love of country,
Howard

Howard

Howard Kahn, 33°
Americanism Chairman



Study the hearts of men, that you may know what is that world in which you live and of which you will to be a part. Regard the constantly changing and moving life which surrounds you, for it is formed by the hearts of men; and as you learn to understand their constitution and meaning, you will by degrees be able to read the larger word of life.

Light on the Path ...Mabel Collins

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