

ORIENT OF

NORTH CAROLINA

# SCOTTISH RITE

of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction USA

January/February 2025



PASS THIS CARD TO A BROTHER  
WHO IS SEEKING  
FURTHER LIGHT IN MASONRY



ALL ABOARD...MARCH 10-12

## 2025 Annual Train Trip to Washington DC

Spring Reunion Locations  
March & April 2025

North Carolina Golf Tournament  
Oct 3 2025

**SPECIAL EDITION  
INTERACTIVE**

North Carolina  
Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation  
Mission and Purpose Statement

The North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation is a 501.C.3 charitable organization dedicated to providing present and future benevolent financial support toward the training of licensed professionals and treatment of children with speech, hearing, and learning disabilities who may receive services with little or no cost to families. Along with 170 such programs nationwide, we are achieving this mission through the generous support of our members, sponsors, and the public. In addition, North Carolina Scottish Rite members also support Masonic Youth organizations and victims of natural disasters recognized by the Masonic Service Association of North America.

**NCSRMF.org**

## From the Editor's Desk

Just a note to say, "Thank You", for all of our writers and reporters who shared with the Orient about your work and dedication throughout this great state where Scottish Rite Freemasonry can and is being shown with the "Right/Rite" Heart. Some examples:

- All Valleys continue to have spring and fall reunions which grow membership and newer members take an active part.
- Orient leadership, through OWLS and SOAR, continues to grow cohesiveness with budgets, RiteCare programs, annual golf tournament, Americanism, and charity.
- Responding with compassion for the victims of Hurricane Helene.

With the new year ahead, let's continue to work and consider newer innovations so we can honor those gone before us, mindful of what has been passed on to us.

TOGETHER, WE R.I.S.E.

LET'S GO TO WORK!

NC SCOTTISH RITE HAS  
THE RIGHT/RITE HEART!

These phrases are a call to action for Freemasonry in North Carolina. It is time for us to COME ALIVE IN 2025, but how will this happen? Mark your calendars! We have a wonderful year planned.

- Our Reunions will begin in February, March, and April and continue in September, October, and November.
- Our Orient Leaders will meet quarterly, twice in person and twice by Zoom. We regularly update and change how we do things to help serve you better.
- The Conference of Grand Masters of North America will meet in Myrtle Beach, SC, in February.
- The Lee County RiteCare Program will launch in January 2025.
- The Fayetteville Valley has requested "Letters Temporary" and begun the work toward forming a Chapter of Rose Croix.
- We will continue to help with the recovery of Western North Carolina.
- Our Development Program will be launched in the Spring under the leadership of Barry Deutsch, 32° KCCH.

# COMING ALIVE IN 2025

- Start looking for opportunities to celebrate America's 250th anniversary at [ncscottishrite.org](http://ncscottishrite.org).
- There will be three online Scottish Rite Leadership Workshops (Remember we cover twenty-three time zones)
  - Saturday, January 25, Noon to 3:00 PM, EDT
  - Friday, February 21, 9:00 PM to Midnight EDT (6pm PDT)
  - Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, EDT
- Our Summer Orient Advisory Retreat, which will be open to the entire Orient, will be scheduled later this Winter. At SOAR, we will award the 2025 Valley of the Year.



ILLUSTRIOUS A. GENE COBB, JR., 33°  
SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH CAROLINA

- The GrandMaster/SGIG train trip to Washington, DC, is March 10-12, 2025. Sign up now at [www.ncscottishrite.org](http://www.ncscottishrite.org).
- The Biennial Session in Washington, D.C. will be in August. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Register early when it opens!
- The Orient Golf Tournament is in October. [www.ncgolftournament.com](http://www.ncgolftournament.com)
- Honors Weekend will be in Wilmington in November, as that process has already begun! At this event, we will recognize Fifty-Year Members and install/reinstall Personal Representatives.
- Our NCSRMF will continue to provide RiteCare Program Support.
- Our Wilkerson College Board of Regents will continue to support the finest educational offering anywhere in the country for subordinate lodge leadership.

You will hear more about these opportunities through your Valley leadership and our webpage. As always, if we can help make the Scottish Rite a better experience for anyone anywhere, just let us know. As soon as we complete our year-end reports, get ready because....

“WITH THE RIGHT/RITE HEART, TOGETHER WE RISE AND GO TO WORK AS WE COME ALIVE IN 2025!”



## VETERAN'S DAY JACK LUCAS

By: Ill. Johnny Surles, 33°

On Monday, 11 November the Valley of New Bern presented a Veteran's Day program. It was an outstanding program attended by over 50 Brothers and spouses. Ill. Brother Harry Sanders, 33° asked if we could contact the Valley of Hattiesburg, MS and ascertain if they could purchase a wreath and perform a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of our own

**BROTHER JACK LUCAS, 32° KCCH, THE YOUNGEST MARINE TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR.**

Ill. Lane Dorsett Personal Representative for the Valley agreed.

He gathered an impressive group of Scottish

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of New Bern

**MARCH 14 & 15**

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Rite Brothers to help him.

Ill. Lane purchased the wreath and refused to let us pay for it. Brother Jack was a member of the Valley of New Bern.

From left to right in the picture are:

Jiles Grice, 33° who presided over Brother Jack's funeral

Gerald Essay 32°, who was Brother Jack's neighbor

Michael Baker, 32° KCCH

Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH General Secretary Valley of Hattiesburg

Joe Voters, 33° Grand Cross

US Army Major Matthew Clark, 32°

Lane Dorsett, 33°

Not pictured but present: Mrs. Grice, Mrs. Vawters and Mrs. Clark

**Valley of New Bern**

Ill. Asa Buck, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Johnny Surles, 33°, General Secretary

(252) 638-4031

ScottishRiteNewBern.org



The Valley of Raleigh 2024 Fall Reunion had a class of 17 Masons that became Masters of the Royal Secret. In the above photo (front left to right): David Wicker, 33°, Personal Representative, PGM; Ahmad Jaber; Dionysios Kordoulis; Justin King; Richard O'Meara; Roland Payog; Kevin Vallecorsa; Tom Fahnnestock, 33°, Venerable Master; (back left to right) : Steve Owen; Brandon Harris; Rick Roberson; John Stevenson; Mickey Holland; Adam Organ; Jeremy Bayon; (back center): Ill. Gene Cobb, 33°, SGIG, PGM. Not pictured: Ruben Garcia; Kyren Harper; Greg Simmons; Jamie Measmer



Marshall Gurley, 32° was presented his Raleigh Valley 50 year Service Award.

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Raleigh

MARCH 22 & 29

North Carolina *SCOTTISH RITE* Newsletter Valley Editor: Greg Hirsh, 32°

Valley of Raleigh

Ill. David Wicker, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Don Butto, 33°, General Secretary

(919) 795-8505

RaleighScottishRite.org

50 YEAR

SERVICE AWARDS

50-Year Scottish Rite Service Awards were recently presented to Brothers William Marklin and Jack Weaver. Congratulations Brothers, and thank-you for your years of great service to our Valley.



KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

The Winston-Salem Valley Knights of Saint Andrew welcome our newest Knights: Randall Kepley, Mick Gunter, and Derek Frosh.



25 YEAR

SERVICE AWARDS

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite recently presented 25-year Scottish Rite Service Awards to Brothers Jon Canupp, Francis Hunter, and Craig Steelman. Thank-you for your years of service to our Valley and the Scottish Rite.



SIX-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Illustrious Brother Michael J. Fischer, 33° on celebrating six very successful years of service as our Valley's General Secretary on February 1, 2025. Well done and great job Brother! Thank-you for all that you do for our Valley and the Scottish Rite!



25 YEAR

SERVICE AWARDS

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite recently presented a 25-year Scottish Rite Service Award to Brother Raymond Burnette. Thank-you for your years of service to our Valley and the Scottish Rite.



VALENTINE'S EVENT

The Masonic Center of Winston-Salem

Contact Paul Woodruff

336-793-7757

pwoodruff42@gmail.com

The Valley of Asheville met in September, then along came Tropical Storm Helene on September 27. The Valley was out of commission until December. There was a lot of catch-up to do. The Advisory Conference was busy; most notably they prepared and approved the budget, nominated officers for the Bodies, and other actions. The Stated Meeting was filled with activities including the Installation of Officers and several presentations.

Illustrious Brother Dave Cashion expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Venerable Master for 2024. Rory Justin Byers also shared his appreciation for the privilege of serving as the presiding officer of all four bodies in recent years, most recently leading the Asheville Council of Kadosh and the Asheville Consistory.



Bro. Bill Keith received his 50-year cap from Illustrious Berry Rigdon, Personal

Representative to the SGIG. Bro. Bill continues to be active in the meetings and especially the reunions.

Three new 32° brothers received their patents from Illustrious Berry Rigdon. Left to right they are Bros. Jadon Foster, Jeff Ramer, and Garrett Pearson.



The new Masters for the Bodies are:

Rusty Woomer – Venerable Master for the Asheville Lodge of Perfection

Larry Dotson, Jr. – Wise Master for Buncombe Chapter of Rose Croix

Larry Peek – Commander for the Asheville Council of Kadosh

Curtis Nugent – Master of Kadosh for the Asheville Consistory

The ensuing year is shaping up to be a good one in the Valley of Asheville as we will welcome Illustrious Gene Cobb, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for North Carolina, to our Stated Meeting on January 9.

## Valley of Asheville

Ill. Barry Rigdon, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Tony Rathbone, 33°, General Secretary

(828) 550-6097

AshevilleScottishRite.com

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Asheville

MARCH 15

## 2025 OFFICER INSTALLATION

By Stan Bevers, 32° KCCH

The 2025 slate of officers for the Valley of Franklin were installed at our stated communication on Wednesday, December 18th, at Junaluskee Lodge #145. The meeting was open to the public, as SGIG Gene Cobb honored us by serving as the Installing Officer. After a wonderful meal, which was prepared by Ms. Leona Capen (mother of now Past Venerable Master Chriss Wyatt), we moved upstairs to the lodge room for the ceremony. Illustrious Sir Gene Cobb conducted the Installation with his usual grace and expertise.

The new officers are as follows:

Venerable Master -	Brian Jenkins, 32°
Senior Warden -	Greg Allred, 32°
Junior Warden -	Mike Coffey, 32°
Master of Ceremonies -	Shaun Cobb, 32°
Expert -	George Durden, 32°
Assistant Expert -	George Bulgin, 32°
Captain of the Host -	William Murphy, 32°
Prelate -	Olin Styles, 32°
Tyler -	Matthew Opinski, 32°



Cobb pulled out the winning ticket for Mr. Mark Carpenter. Congratulations to Mark Carpenter for winning this beautiful firearm, but an even bigger congratulations goes out to the brethren of the Valley of Franklin for raising \$4,400 for RiteCare!

While the raffle and installation of our 2025 officers was the main focus of our December meeting, we can't look past the immediate goals of the Valley of Franklin for the upcoming year. Our new Venerable Master, Brian Jenkins, has lofty goals for Franklin for 2025. While he plans to provide more details after the first of the year, his generalized agenda for 2025 is as follows:

1. Increase Valley membership and effectiveness through better outreach
2. Expand beyond our current Lodge of Perfection status
3. Place greater emphasis on VMAP achievement
4. Improve the Valley's Web and Social Media presence



After the 2025 officer installation, we held the drawing for our RiteCare/WNC Speech and Hearing Raffle winner. The prize was a Henry Big Boy .357 rifle, and SGIG Gene

And finally, as stated earlier, our specific plans for achieving the 2025 goals will be detailed in upcoming Journal articles. Likewise, our progress throughout the year will also be chronicled in this Scottish Rite Journal. But rather than getting immediately into the nitty gritty of our strategies, we prefer to take this opportunity to simply congratulate the newly installed brethren who will be spearheading these efforts for the ensuing year. As such, please welcome the Valley of Franklin officers for 2025.

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Franklin

**MARCH 8**

## Valley of Franklin

Jack Williams, 32° KCCH, Personal Representative  
Drew Norton, 32° KCCH, General Secretary  
(828) 226-1976  
FranklinScottishRite.org

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

By: Matt Moore, 32° KCCH, General Secretary

As the sun sets on 2024, we can look forward to the coming dawn of a new year. We are already gearing up for what will be a busy year at the Valley of Wilmington in which our Knights of St. Andrew will be greatly involved.

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Family Day: January 18th at 6:00pm.** We will be holding our first Dinner and a Movie Night in the Dining Hall. Please RSVP to First Knight, Jim Whitley at 717-743-6949 and inform him of how many will be in your party.
- **Spring Reunion: March 7th & 8th.** Please inform your blue lodge brethren of the Spring Reunion coming up. We are always looking for brethren to be active in the degree work and backstage in the robing and properties room. If you would like to be involved, please contact Director of the Work, Aaron Jackson, 32° KCCH at [directorofwork@wilmingtonscottishrite.org](mailto:directorofwork@wilmingtonscottishrite.org).
- **Cap & Ring Ceremony: March 22nd at 4:30pm.** The Cap & Ring Ceremony will be held for our brothers coming through the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 classes. All brethren and their families are welcome to come. Please RSVP to [secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org](mailto:secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org) by March 15th. The dress is semi-formal (suit and tie).
- **Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal: April 19th at 4:00pm.** This is open for brethren and family. Please RSVP to [secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org](mailto:secretary@wilmingtonscottishrite.org) by April 12th. The dress is semi-formal (coat & tie).
- **KSA Workdays (all brethren invited): April 5th, June 21st.** Workdays are led by the Knights of St. Andrew. However, all brethren are invited and encouraged to come. A time of fellowship will be shared at the end of the workday.

We hope that you will join us at the Valley and continue the great work we are called to do in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Wilmington

**MARCH 7 & 8**

**Valley of Wilmington**

Ill. Earl Wells, 33°, Personal Representative  
Matt Moore, 32° KCCH, General Secretary  
(910) 762-6452

[WilmingtonScottishRite.org](http://WilmingtonScottishRite.org)



Make a Donation to the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation  
<https://www.ncsrmf.org/donate.html>

Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Charlotte

**APRIL 26 & 27**

**Valley of Charlotte**

Ill. Gilbert Bailey, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. D.C. Heilman, 33°, General Secretary

(704) 365-3579

[CharlotteScottishRite.com](http://CharlotteScottishRite.com)

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Orient of North Carolina Scottish Rite Newsletter

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Press Pool  
January/February 2025

## HERE WE GROW AGAIN

Apparently, the throttle at the Valley of Fayetteville is stuck wide open.

The momentum we have been building since getting our Lodge of Perfection charter in August 2023 at the Biennial Session is continuing.

We have added 20 new Scottish Rite Masons since receiving our Letters Temporary/Lodge of Perfection charter, and 19 of them have gone on to become Masters of the Royal Secret at Greensboro, Raleigh, New Bern or Wilmington. The ring ceremony for our newcomers in 2024 was held December 18.



Several of those new Scottish Rite brothers have already participated as cast members in reunions that followed their introduction in our Lodge of Perfection, and more are getting involved as we prepare for our February 1, 2025, reunion at the Fayetteville Masonic Center. In addition to the 4th, 6th and 14th degrees we have already performed, we plan to add the 5th (captained by WBro. Chris Donahue, 32°) and 18th (WBro. Woody Inman, 32°) degrees to the work at that reunion. Degree team captains and members have been hard at work learning their new parts in anticipation of that event.

If you know of Master Masons in the Sandhills region who would like to start their Scottish Rite journey, please have them contact our Valley's General Secretary, James Pugsley, 32°, at [secretary@scottishritefayettevillenc.com](mailto:secretary@scottishritefayettevillenc.com)



Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Fayetteville

**FEBRUARY 1**

**Valley of Fayetteville**

Ill. Thomas Pope, 33°, Personal Representative

James Pugsley, 32°, General Secretary

(910) 574-1005

[ScottishRiteFayettevilleNC.com](http://ScottishRiteFayettevilleNC.com)

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Join the *SCOTTISH RITE* Valley of Greensboro

APRIL 26

Valley of Greensboro

Ill. Shaun Bradshaw, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Gary Handy, 33°, General Secretary  
(336) 275-3579

GreensboroScottishRite.org

North Carolina *SCOTTISH RITE* Newsletter Valley Editor: Inquire for Open Position(s) Available

