



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF
THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA



JULY-AUGUST 2024

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT "CHANGE"

By A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, SGIG Orient in North Carolina, Grand Chaplain

Change.

As we all know, change is both inevitable and expected. Some embrace it, while others may find it challenging. However, it is through change that we continue to evolve and grow. It is the catalyst that allows us to witness the beautiful transformation of an apprentice into a master. Without change, we stagnate. Without change, we cease to exist.

Something happened during our Leadership Conferences around the country this year. Our Sovereign Grand Commander said the reviews this year were our best ever. Part of that change was the involvement of two of our Personal Representatives and our Orient Chair of Public Relations. Those of you who attended witnessed it firsthand. Those of you who were not with us in Salt Lake City, Kansas City, and Jacksonville have another "opportunity."

The Summer Orient Advisory Retreat is open to all Scottish Rite Masons who want to attend. At this event, the changes happening in our corner of the Masonic world are reviewed and addressed. The plan now is to have this event every two years.

address our questions. We will hear about Artificial Intelligence and its pros and cons for our fraternity. There will be an incredibly special ceremony that only one Valley has ever seen in North Carolina. I expect all Personal Representatives and Secretaries will be keenly interested in this ceremony. I'll know when people read this article because I'll get questions about it. Finally, I will share with the Orient the vision and plans regarding the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, Wilkerson College, Ritual, Degree Team Solutions, Honors, Mentor Program, and more! Stay tuned to your Valley for further details and visit ncscottishrite.org often!



Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

I hope to see a large crowd in Winston-Salem, as they always deliver a great gathering for us. Please contact your Valley Secretary to register your attendance; he will assist you with reserving a hotel for the event.

We had such an exciting time in Washington, DC, in March this year. It's going to be even better in August in Winston-Salem because things are changing for the better in North Carolina because the "Right/Rite" heart changes us. Everyone, no matter how we feel about change, is welcome to be a part of it.

WE MEET AUGUST 16-17, 2024,
AT SOAR IN WINSTON SALEM THIS YEAR.

It is an exciting lineup with Illustrious Brent Morris, 33°, Grand Cross presenting the Keynote address. There will be panel discussions with Grand Line Officers and Orient Leaders as they

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Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF GREENSBORO

By Alex Wilson, 32° KCCH

The Greensboro Scottish Rite Valley held their reunion on April 27th and concluded on May 8th where we had the great honor of inducting 5 brothers to the 32nd degree. The brothers were John R. Lauritzen, Jr., Michael S. Noack, Sr., Nathaniel A. Udy, Girvan O. Welds, and Christian Williams. The Degree teams offered a superb display of the 4th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 19th-22nd, along with the 30th, 31st, and finishing with an incredible 32nd degree. Each of the candidates expressed how the different degrees both those performed and discussed affected their view of not only masonry, but related to themselves and their personal growth in their lives. The candidates had the opportunity to receive an in-depth education on the 15th-17th and the 23rd- 29th degrees including a question-and-answer session.

Our valley has found that providing this time for the candidates to ask questions and reflect on what was said and shown during the different degrees provides for a time where what was seen and heard can be better absorbed. The expression by a few of us in the past of feeling like one is drinking from a fire hose with all the knowledge, movements, and symbolism that is shared can be a missed opportunity for the candidates to learn and reflect with their Masonic knowledge. It was due to this belief that our valley has adopted this form.

In the past we have performed all the degrees, but even at that time this time of reflection where questions could be asked, and a more in-depth exploration of the degrees occurs. It



was a great reunion where not only do we have the honor of adding to our Scottish Rite Brothers, but it provides an opportunity to those 32nd degree brothers present to get to participate in and reflect on the degrees. These engagements and education contribute to the connection to their own inner growth and work in the Scottish Rite. We appreciate all the work the brothers do to make each reunion a great one and such an inspiration to the newly initiated brothers.

VALLEY OF RALEIGH

By Don Butto, 33°

The Valley of Raleigh hosted a Ring Ceremony for its 2024 Spring Class members. The ceremony was introduced by the Venerable Master, Thomas V. Fahnestock, 33°. The Senior Warden, Alan Mabry, 32° KCCH, recited the poem titled "If Your 14° Ring Could Speak." The Secretary, Don Butto, 33°, provided the history and education.

Historically, the ceremony featured a large golden ring when held at the Masonic Temple downtown. However, with the transition to a blue lodge setting with limited storage space, adjustments have been made. For the past two years, a wooden bridge prop

covered with a red carpet, referred to as the Bridge to Light, has been used. The Director of the Work conducted each class member over the bridge to the Venerable Master, who then presented them with their 14° ring and congratulated them on their accomplishment.

In this manner, the Venerable Master presented 14° rings to brothers Michael Tindall, Vance Harrell, Jordan Ovalle, Christopher Rozier, Bryan Braman, and Carl Wirth.



VALLEY OF WILMINGTON **SPRING REUNION 2024**

By Harry Steele, 32°KCCH

Congratulations to our new Valley of Wilmington Scottish Rite Brothers. We enjoyed two days of Brotherly fellowship with meals provided under the direction of our own Ill. Happy Buffkin, 33° and his wife, Belinda. Thanks to them and all the kitchen staff for their hard work also, many thanks to all the degree teams for all of their hard work and hours of practice and preparation. We appreciate you all!



First Row: Edward L. Anderson 32°, Ill. Jim Brandt, 33°, Ill. E. Earl Wells, 33° and Ill. Eddie Gaskins, 33°, Director of the Work, Diego A. Palacios. Second Row: Steve Bland, 32°, KCCH, Micheal C. Doyle 32°, Hubert L. Hinkley 32°, Robert E. Lane, 32°, W. Scott Pippin, 32°, Sam Watson 32°, KCCH, John Shawver 32°.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN **VONB CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER**

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

Valley of New Bern held its annual BBQ Chicken Dinner plate fundraiser on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the Valley of New Bern building on Glenburnie Ave. in New Bern. Bro. Sparky Travis, 32° KCCH led the effort. This year, 500 chicken plates were sold. A total of \$18,940.00 was raised in support of the Scottish Rite Foundation and Rite Care. Bro. Thomas Mann won the \$500.00 raffle drawing which he so graciously donated back to the fundraiser. This increased the fundraiser's profit to a grand



total of \$19,440.00. Over the last four years, this was the most productive to date with a \$2.7K increase over 2023. This year, the donation through Rite Care is designated to support the SGIG Ill. Brother Gene Cobb's Lee County High School Audio Center Initiative.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM **JROTC AWARDS**

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

Brother Dean Gordon, 32° recently presented Scottish Rite JROTC awards to Cadet Austin Riggins at Surry Central High School, and to Cadet Owen Hughes at East Surry High School.



VALLEY OF NEW BERN

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT NEW BERN NATIONAL CEMETERY

By Robert Mull, 32°

On Monday, May 27th, various Masonic organizations, including members of the Scottish Rite Valley of New Bern, veterans and the community attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the New Bern National Cemetery to pay tribute to the lives of the men and women buried in the cemetery. All are veterans that took a sacred oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies and to safeguard and guarantee the freedoms we enjoy. The purpose is not only to honor their memories but preserve and carry their commitment to freedom. First established on February 1, 1867, New Bern National Cemetery was initially used to reinter remains from the numerous battlefield cemeteries around the area, including nearly 1,000 unknown soldiers and the remains of Union soldiers who died at the Battle of New Bern. The Memorial Day program consisted of the Invocation, presentation of the National Colors, singing of the National Anthem by Sam Lewis, the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduction of Gold Star Families. Mark Sandvigen, Chairman of the Veterans Council of Craven County (VCCC) opened the ceremony and presented the principal speaker, Dr. Ronald E. Walters, PhD, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs (PDUSMA) for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the keynote speaker, Dr. Carrie A. Brown, PhD, D-ABFA, ACC. Dr. Brown is a Supervisory Forensic Anthropologist and Laboratory Manager at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory on Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Both speakers focused on the identification



and repatriation process of the remains of Army Air Corps Staff Sergeant Robert L Ferris Jr. a B-17 Ball Turret Gunner 80 years after his aircraft was shot down by a German fighter and crashed near the village of Bernières-sur-Seine, France. The program closed with the placing of veteran and community wreaths and sounding of Taps. Attending the ceremony was Ill Brother Johnny Surlis (Valley Secretary), Ill Brother Bobby Meadows, Russ Bauer 32° KCCH, (Valley Asst. Secretary) , Bill Fitzpatrick 32° KCCH, Mack Smith 32° KCCH, Billy Joiner 32° KCCH, Arthur Romans 32°, Robert Mull 32°, and Dominick Georgiani 32° (NMJ)

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

2023 VMAP AWARD

By Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH

The Valley of New Bern has again been awarded the Supreme Council's Valley Membership Achievement Project Award (VMAP) for 2023. This marks the Valley's 9th consecutive VMAP award since 2015. This year the Valley focused on new member recruitment and member engagements. The Valley's 'Boots on the Ground' program visiting subordinate lodges, presenting the Scottish Rite and our members' support to subordinate lodges were grass root efforts over the Valley's large geographic area reaching from I-95 Virginia Border south to Fayetteville and east to the Outer Banks. As a result, initiations and affiliations increased by 64%. Membership engagement included improved communications via our Web Page, emails on important events, an active education program, "Happy Birthday Phone Calls", active Scottish Rite Clubs, and encouraging new initiates on how to "be a part" of the valley. This has resulted in an increase in "black hat" presence at LOP meetings and re-establishing our



Knights of St. Andrews Chapter. As a side benefit our focus on these efforts also encouraged brethren to affiliate and reinstate their membership. The Valley of New Bern has embraced VMAP and will continue to in 2024.

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

MASONRY UNITED

By Thomas Pope, Jr., 33°

Stated communications can often be little more than perfunctory gatherings. There's always business to attend to, but it's infrequent that a regular meeting can have historical impact.

That was the case on May 20, 2024, when Eureka Lodge No. 3 [Prince Hall Affiliated] of Fayetteville invited its AF&AM brethren to attend its second Stated of the month. Little did the 15 AF&AM members in attendance know what was in store beyond the lodge's usual business.

After the standard business items were taken care of, Eureka's Worshipful Master, Brian I. Pickering, called for AF&AM brothers Thomas Pope, James Pugsley, Jonathan Strange and Mark Saults to assemble west of the altar. They were met there by Past Masters Larry White and Robert Salters, who surprised the four with certificates of honorary membership.

What's historic about that? Eureka No. 3 was chartered on March 2, 1867. In its 157-year history, Eureka bestowed honorary membership only once, and that was on Brother Milton "Toby" Fitch Jr., who at that time was serving as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

In recognition of their efforts in helping promote unity and brotherhood between AF&AM and PHA in the Fayetteville area, Bros. Pope, Pugsley, Strange and Saults were invited to become a part of Eureka's history.



How is that pertinent to Scottish Rite?

Because all four AF&AM brothers are members of the Scottish Rite. Ill. Bro. Pope serves as the Personal Representative and Director of the Work to the Valley of Fayetteville Lodge of Perfection, and Bro. Pugsley is the Valley's General Secretary. Bros. Strange and Saults became Masters of the Royal Secret in 2023. In addition to being members of the Valley of Fayetteville: Ill. Bro. Pope is a member of the Valley of New Bern, and Bros. Pugsley, Strange and Saults are on the roll at the Valley of Greensboro. Bros. Salters and White are Scottish Rite 33rds and members of Edward Evans Consistory No. 196 in Fayetteville, which is under the jurisdiction of the United Supreme Council.

The Valley of Fayetteville Lodge of Perfection will go dark in July and August, then reconvene for its Stated meeting Sept. 18. The Valley will host its next reunion Saturday, Sept. 21.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

13th annual Masonic Charity Golf Tournament at the Oak Valley Golf Club. This event was a tremendous success. This event raised several thousand dollars for the NC Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, which funds the clinics at Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, and Western Carolina University.

Brothers from across the Orient came together to support this most worthy cause. A big thank-you to Brother Benton Williams for doing a fantastic job of organizing this special event.



Remembering and Honoring

Valley of Raleigh

Illustrious Brother James Claudius Barbot, Sr., 33°.



Ill. Bro James Claudius Barbot, Sr., 33° Inspector General honorary, laid down his working tools for the last time on May 8, 2024 at home after a long bout with Alzheimer's disease. He was 85 years old.

He was born June 13, 1938 in Wilmington, NC to Julian Augustus Barbot, Sr and Vera Hawes Barbot. He attended New Hanover High School and played French Horn in their Marching Band and the School Orchestra. He also was a member of their Radio Club. James was a member of the First Baptist Church in Wilmington.

After high school, James, attended NCSU, graduating in 1962 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He was in AFROTC and the Engineering clubs. He worked as an Radio and TV Engineer for WRAL, helping with the installation of the new Station facilities

during that time. Jim worked with many Radio Stations in the area and is still remembered by those who followed him.

When he entered active duty in the US Air Force, he was assigned to a radar site at Montauk Point, NY as a Micro Wave Engineer and later was transferred to Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts as a First Lt. He work in Greenland, the DEW Line and other northern points in the communication area.

ITT hired James when he left the AF and he moved to Raleigh. After several years, he started his on Consulting and Development Communication Company. He was one of the pioneers and founders of Self Service Gasoline and other types of electronic communication equipment.

James was a member and leader of the ISA and IEEE. He belonged to First Baptist Church and served as a Deacon and Youth Leader. He was a Past Master of the Millbrook Masonic Lodge # 97 and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.

He was married to Jane Owen Barbot for 62 years and had a son, James Claudius Barbot, Jr. He is predeceased by brother Julian A. Barbot, Jr. and his parents.

A Celebration of life Graveside Service was held at Montlawn Memorial Park in the Military Section on Thursday May 16, 2024.

Bro Jim will be missed by many.

June 13th was a very special milestone for Illustrious Sir Phil Presley, 33°, who received his 50 year cap. Phil has filled these 50 years with service to both the Craft and his community.

The Valley of Asheville presented Brother Ralph P. (Phil) Presley with a blue hat for 50 years of service in the Scottish Rite Bodies of Asheville. Brother Phil was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Mt. Hermon on February 17, 1964. In September of that year, he received the Scottish Rite Degrees.

Brother Phil served as Master of Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 118 in 1988 and has been active in the York Rite Bodies, serving as Grand Commander in 2001/2002. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 39th Masonic District (formerly the 61st) for three (3) years.

He has also served on the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Finance Committee, Board of Directors for the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, Board and Whitestone- Masonic and Eastern Star Home, as well as, several York Rite committees. He received the Investiture of the KCCCH in October 1993 and Coronated an Honorary 33° Degree in November 1997. He has been active in other Appendant Masonic Bodies.

He attended UNC – Chapel Hill and Asheville, served in the US Army, joined the family businesses serving, variously, as Vice Presidents, Presidents and Treasurers over 59 years. He is a former member of the American Business Club, several trade organizations, active in Asheville Rotary Breakfast Club and a member of the Vestry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Brother Phil feels that he has been blessed to have been able to serve his community, church, businesses, organizations, and masonry.



Valley of Winston-Salem

Illustrious Brother Richard Jackson Smith Sr., 33°

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite remembers and honors Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Richard Jackson Smith, Sr., 33°. He laid down his working tools on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at WhiteStone, a Masonic and Eastern Star Community in Greensboro. He was 77 years old.

Illustrious Rick was a 36-year member of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite. He received his Knight Commander Court of Honor 12/5/2009, and was coronated an Inspector General Honorary (33°) on 11/20/2021.

He was a valued member of the Advisory Conference and chaired the Americanism Committee for many years. He was an educational leader in the Valley, mentoring several brothers in the Master Craftsman program. He also chaired and served in the robing room at Reunions for many years as well as assisting in several Degrees.

- WB Rick had a long and distinguished Masonic Career. Some highlights include:
- Raised in Pilot Mountain Lodge # 493 in 1986 where he was Master in 1990.
- Worshipful Master of Wilkerson College Lodge # 760 in 2018.
- A charter member of Lux Libertas Lodge # 772 in 2017, where he was currently serving as Senior Deacon.
- DDGM of the 25th District from 2002-2005
- Grand Chaplain in 2014.
- A member of Royal White Hart Lodge # 002



- Honorary member of Renfro Lodge # 691.

Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Smith is fondly honored and remembered. Please keep the Smith family in your thoughts and prayers.

<https://www.moodyfuneralservices.com/obituaries/dr-richard-smith-sr>

SGIG presenting 50 year cap to Ed Little, 32° KCCH
Valley of Greensboro



The RiteNews of North Carolina

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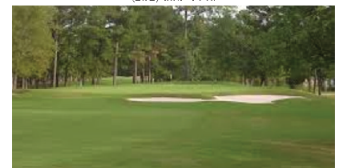
No rain dates are scheduled

The NC Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation is an IRS-determined 501(3)(c) corporation, and your donations, less the cost of goods and services received, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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(252) 633-4440



NORTH CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE

SCOTTISH RITE INITIAL YOUTH GIFT TO RAINBOW GIRLS OF NC

By Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° SGIG



The Grand Assembly of North Carolina's International Order of Rainbow for Girls gathered in Greensboro this year. On Monday June 24, 2024, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, along with other leaders of the Masonic family of North Carolina addressed support for the future of our fraternity and the world: **OUR YOUTH.**

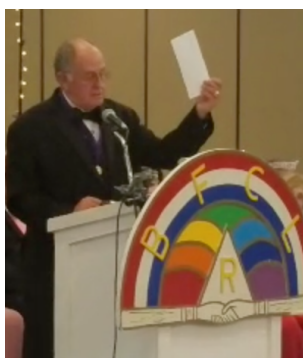
When asked about how Scottish Rite dues were making a difference, SGIG Cobb said, "If we do not at present invest in our future, then we cannot be disappointed in no future being present. Rainbow Girls and DeMolay are a vital part of our present and a most certain part of our future because they live on after us."



Last year, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General increased the NC Assessment for every member of the Scottish Rite of North Carolina to provide financial support on an annual basis for our Masonic Youth which are the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay.

Masonic Youth Organizations may submit a grant to apply for funds each year. For more information on how to do more, please contact SGIG Cobb through nccscottishrite.org.

At the Monday evening session, SGIG Cobb presented a check for \$2000.00 to the NC Rainbow Girls which came from every dues-paying Scottish Rite across North Carolina through the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation.



VALLEY OF NEW BERN

KSA REESTABLISHED IN THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN

By Russ Bauer, 32° KCCH

The Valley of New Bern reestablished its KSA chapter in conjunction with its Spring Reunion. A KSA Chapter was chartered in 2010 and was not rescinded when the chapter dissolved several years ago. A core team rewrote the chapter bylaws which General Secretary Johnny Surles and Personal Rep Asa Buck approved at the March LOP meeting. The team then continued to organize the chapter, recruit new and legacy members, and held an inaugural meeting on the evening of Thursday 14 March at the old New Bern Scottish Rite auditorium. Members knighted that evening from Left to right are: Bill Sanford, Fred Whitty, Billy Ray Askew, Wayne Cox, Esteban Gonzalez, Sam Gilliland, Dustin Wood, Mark Brewington, Ed Shannon, and Tim Harris. Johnny Surles



General Secretary and Russ Bauer Assistant Secretary were also in attendance. The KSA supported the Reunion throughout the weekend during which they formed an Honor Guard for Ill Gene Cobb, SGIG.

The RiteNews of North Carolina

THAT BEAUTIFUL AND DIVINE DECLARATION

In the summer of 2008, I was on active military duty in the desert of southern Afghanistan as an advisor to a ranking commander, along with my British counterpart. With the Independence Day holiday approaching, an afternoon of celebration had been arranged for that day that included sporting events and as much of a feast as we could pull off. Following a meeting, the Commander asked a few questions and obviously had some enjoyment, sharing the joy of Independence, at the expense of the British officer who did not have to be made aware of whose defeat we were ultimately celebrating. The British officer made some snide remark, in his opinion, that the colonists were mostly criminals and former convicts anyway. I counted to ten and envisioned his dental work on the floor. After a breath, I calmly remarked that if that were the case, not many chose to return to the bondage of England. The commander broke the uncomfortable silence when he turned to me, with a gleam in his eye, and stated the free people of Afghanistan had won their Independence twice from the British...and a third time should not be overlooked. That statement... was a beautiful and powerful declaration

We are entering into a period of celebrations that will culminate in the 250th celebration of our Nations beautiful declaration. One that we declare can be repeated against tyranny as often as necessary. Our next big event is the **250th Anniversary of the meeting of the First Provincial Congress**, which will be celebrated in **New Bern** on **August 23-24, 2024**. Plans are already underway to make this a big celebration with many of our Masonic Bodies collaborating and participating in this public event, to include the hard-working Brethren of the Valley of New Bern. Key to this celebration is the pre-Declaration document of the New Bern Resolves.

As to the Declaration of Independence, made public in 1776, you may recall it is comprised of 5 different sections. They are; the introduction, the preamble, the indictment of King George, the denunciation of the British people and the conclusion. Additionally, there are 4 key ideas expressed in the Declaration; equality, unalienable rights, consent of the governed, and the right to alter or abolish government. The document was an “in your face declaration” against the most powerful tyrant of that day. Against tyranny, declaration of self-rule is an invitation for war. It was necessary for this document to contain something powerful and absolute, to be taken seriously by the King and the rest of the world. That was accomplished in a **beautiful and divine way**.

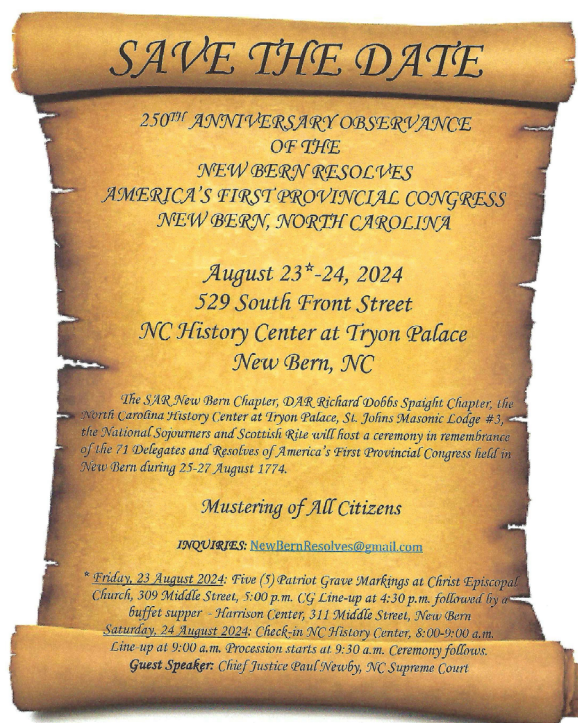
As Masons, we know the source of all things and in Whom we place all our trust and hope. Masonically, this gives us the right and authority for petition of membership and to receive the degrees of Freemasonry. Without it, entrance and participation would be fraudulent. The colonials, in search of religious freedom, knew the Creator was the only source and authority whom they knew they could truly place their trust, for all things of hope and happiness. This became clear to all with the statement, “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*”. Jefferson refers to our Creator three times in the Declaration, and each one is different. In one reference he uses the term “Nature’s God”, later he uses “Creator” and lastly “Divine Providence”

By the authority given men by their Creator, they made their Declaration to the World. Without apology they declared the right and absolute intention to be in bondage only to their Creator and live their lives in a way where they choose their own opportunities and the limits on their ability to do so. With that in mind, the colonials proclaimed this beautiful and divine declaration. Let us always remember this in our celebrations of Independence, Liberty, and Justice for all.

So mote it be.

Hope to see you in New Bern.

Tim Parker
Americanism Chairman
ncscottishrite.org



SCOTTISH RITE Clubs

LEE COUNTY SPRING REUNION

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

The Valley of New Bern held its Brother Jim Hey, 33° Memorial Spring Reunion in New Bern on March 15-16, 2024. Friday night, the VONB honored the memory of Ill. Brother Jim Hey, 33° with a dinner including multiple guest speakers. There were multiple leaders from the State of North Carolina including GL of NC Grand Chaplain William R. Askew, Orient of NC SGIG Ill. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33°, and Valley of New Bern leadership including Ill. Bro. Asa Buck, 33°, VONB Personal Representative to the S.G.I.G; and Ill. Bro. Johnny Surles, 33°, VONB Secretary. The Valley had 16 candidates attending the VONB Spring Reunion. This is the largest class in a decade! Let us keep the momentum going! We welcome our new Scottish Rite Brothers into our Valley.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN VONB SPRING REUNION SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

Lee County Scottish Rite Club (LCSRC) provided two Silent Auction donations to the VONB Spring Reunion on March 15-16, 2024. Bro. Bobby Diggs, 32° built a hand-crafted Masonic Clock and Bro. Thomas Janysek, 33° built a hand-crafted wooden Cutting Board. At the close of the Silent Auction on Saturday afternoon, the winning clock bid was \$100.00 and the winning cutting board bid was \$130.00. Money raised goes into the Almoner's Fund.

LEE COUNTY LCSRC CLOCK PRESENTATION TO ORIENT OF NC SGIG – 2024 SPRING REUNION

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

On behalf of the Lee County Scottish Rite Club, Ill Bro. Garland E. Smith, 33° presented Ill Bro. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., Orient

of NC SGIG a hand-crafted clock, built by Bro. Bobby Diggs 32°, at the VONB Spring Reunion held on March 15-16, 2024 held in New Bern.

On behalf of the Lee County Scottish Rite Club, Bro. Samuel Gilliland 32°, President LCSRC, presents Bro. Bill Sanford, 32°, KSA VONB Chapter President with a \$100.00 check donation at the VONB Spring Reunion on Friday, March 15, 2024. This donation will help offset the KSA Chapter startup costs.

LEE COUNTY LCSRC 21ST DEGREE TEAM - NEWEST LCSRC MEMBER

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

The LCSRC presented the 21st Degree, Prussian Knight, at the Valley of New Bern Spring Reunion in the morning of Saturday, March 16, 2024 in New Bern. Included in the cast are (l-r): Brothers Michael Talbott, Jonathan Smith, Ill. Brother Garland E. Smith, Robert Breyer, Ralph H. Meeks, Jr, Esteban Gonzalez, Peter Hedges (Active Candidate), David Oakley, Donald V. Collins, and John H. Miller. We would like to welcome Bro. Peter Hedges, 32° as the newest member of the Lee County Scottish Rite Club

LEE COUNTY LCSRC 21ST DEGREE TEAM - NEWEST LCSRC MEMBER

By John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

On March 20, Scottish Rite brothers from around the state were hosted by the faculty and graduate students from the East Carolina University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in Greenville, North Carolina. Ill. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina was on hand to assist in presenting a check for \$36000 dollars to the Speech and Hearing Clinic administrators as part of the Orient's Rite Care support. The Scottish

Rite Childhood Language Program at ECU evaluates children from all around eastern

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Our newsletter is usually 8-pages; however, this
issue is 12-pages due in large part of these men
who purchased additional pages at \$50 ea.

If you are interested in purchasing a page;
please contact Gene Cobb, SGIG or
Craig Horton, 33° Orient-Wide Editor

North Carolina in the areas of decoding and comprehension of written language, written expression, oral language (understanding and expression), memory and cognition, and social language. Graduate student clinicians from the department gave the visitors a tour of the facilities and expressed gratitude for the Rite Care support that is provided every year.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN EAST CAROLINA SCOTTISH RITE CLINIC VISIT

East Carolina Scottish Rite Clinic visit on March 20, Scottish Rite brothers from around the state were hosted by the faculty and graduate students from the East Carolina University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in Greenville, North Carolina. Ill. A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina was on hand to assist in presenting a check for \$36000 dollars to the Speech and Hearing Clinic administrators as part of the Orient's Rite Care support. The Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program at ECU evaluates children from all around eastern North Carolina in the areas of decoding and comprehension of written language, written expression, oral language (understanding and expression), memory and cognition, and social language. Graduate student clinicians from the department gave the visitors a tour of the facilities and expressed gratitude for the Rite Care support that is provided every year.



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF
THE ORIENT OF NORTH CAROLINA



JULY-AUGUST 2024

SCOTTISH RITE Meetings & Reunions

Asheville, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Sep 14

Charlotte, 1st Wednesday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

Fayetteville, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Sep 21

Franklin, 3rd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Sep 7

Greensboro, 2nd Wednesday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm & Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 9, 19 and Nov 13

New Bern, 2nd Monday of each month
Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm
Next Reunion: Oct 18-19

Raleigh, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6:30pm, Advisory Council 7:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 26

Wilmington, 2nd Thursday of each month
Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Stated Meeting 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

Winston-Salem, 2nd Thursday of each month
Dinner 6pm, Advisory Conference 6:30pm, Stated 7:30pm
Next Reunion: Oct 25-26

RiteCare
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Helping Children Communicate

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LANGUAGE
AND
LITERACY

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- Gary Handy (Greensboro) 336-275-3579
- Johnny Surles (New Bern) 252-638-4130
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