



THE RITE NEWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

THE BEEHIVE IS BUZZING

by Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr., 33° Deputy of the Supreme Council

As we returned from the 2023 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council, there was plenty awaiting us.

First and foremost is our Orient RiteCare golf tournament. On September 17, 2023, we will gather on the campus of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford to hear basketball legend Phil Ford bear witness to God's presence in his life, have a lunch, and then go play golf to raise funds to help our children be able to speak and communicate so their lives can be productive and positive.

We will return to our regular busy September meetings with two of our Valleys meeting together in Boone, home of our Appalachian State University RiteCare clinic. The work done there is phenomenal! All our Valleys will be meeting in September, preparing for, and conducting their upcoming reunions, and beginning their work as a fully chartered Valley of the Supreme Council. After such a busy September, we will travel to Winston Salem and be present and supportive of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Our NC Scottish Rite Foundation will have its annual meeting and make decisions about the growth of our fund and how we will help our RiteCare children in perpetuity.

After the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, our Valleys will engage in reunions and begin to focus on our "Red, White, and Blue Banquet." Formally the "Red and White Banquet," this event on Saturday night of Honors Weekend will include a time of recognizing all our Fifty-Year Members around the state. Their names will be listed in the program as provided by the Secretaries of each Valley. It will also be a time for us to transition our focus away from our honors to the honor we all have to live in the greatest nation on earth as we look to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of our nation's independence in 2026. Wilmington is our host for Honors Weekend and Illustrious Bill Sizemore, 33° will be our guest speaker. We are all excited!

In March, the Grand Master will join one Master Mason and one Master of the Royal Secret from each Valley on a train trip March 11-13, 2024, to the House of the Temple, the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, and the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia. Details will be available with the Valley Secretaries, and we are looking for donations and sponsors to help these newly raised and created brothers have a great experience as they begin their Masonic journey.

Looking back, the 2023 Biennial was a time North Carolina will long remember. Forty-three attended our Orient dinner at The Palm on Monday. Fayetteville received their charter. Two of our

honor men received their Inspector General Honorary caps in Washington.

Thank you all for your presence at this most memorable Biennial for North Carolina and for me but listen because you can hear it: the beehive is buzzing!



LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

- Asheville**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:00pm)
- Charlotte**, 3rd Tuesday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm and Stated Meeting 7:30pm)
- Fayetteville**, 3rd Wednesday of each month
(Stated Meeting 7:30pm)
- Franklin**, 3rd Wednesday of each month
(Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm)
- Greensboro**, 2nd Wednesday of each month
(Dinner 6:30pm & Stated Meeting 7:30pm)
- New Bern**, 2nd Monday of each month
(Dinner 6:00pm & Stated Meeting 7:00pm)
- Raleigh**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Dinner 6:30pm, Advisory Council 7:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:30pm)
- Wilmington**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Stated Meeting 7:30pm)
- Winston-Salem**, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Dinner 6:00pm, Advisory Conference 6:30 pm, Master Craftsman&KSA 7pm, Stated 7:30pm)

For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley

- Anthony Rathbone (Asheville)828-550-6097
- D. C. Heilman (Charlotte) 704-918-3797
- James Plugsley (Fayetteville) 910-574-1005
- John Craig Williams, III (Franklin) 828-215-6181
- Gary Handy (Greensboro) 336-275-3579
- Johnny Surlis (New Bern) 252-638-4130
- Donald Wayne Butto, Jr. (Raleigh) 919-834-8873
- James Brandt (Wilmington)917-359-0371
- Michael Fischer (Winston-Salem) 336-337-6892

Craig Horton, Editor In Chief 919-740-0789

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

NEW VALLEY KEEPS THE HAMMER DOWN

by Thomas A. Pope Jr., 33rd Elect

Mission 1: Accomplished.

Mission 2: Full speed ahead.

The pace hasn't slowed one bit for one of the country's four newest Valleys, the Valley of Fayetteville Lodge of Perfection. After receiving Letters Temporary in mid-May and conferring its first degrees 4-14 in June, the Valley was then able to move on to the next step. On Aug. 21 in Washington, D.C., Sovereign Grand Commander James Cole presented the charter to Senior Warden Lee Short (32nd KCCH) during the Biennial Session.

The new Valley had no time to rest on its laurels; not that it ever entertained that idea. With full reunions 4-32 slated for Raleigh, New Bern, Greensboro and Wilmington later in the fall, Fayetteville scheduled its first chartered reunion to help launch new Perfect Elus in the direction of those Valleys.

Fayetteville's September reunion was named in memory of John Huske Anderson (1868-1948). Ill. Anderson, known in his time as "North Carolina's No. 1 Mason," was Master of Phoenix No. 8 in Fayetteville, served as the state's Grand Master in 1927, was one of the first three recipients of the Montfort Medal (the state's highest Masonic award), and also led multiple appendant bodies.

The reunion in Ill. Anderson's name was to be held over two days,

Sept. 16 and 20. The 14th Degree was to be exemplified on the latter date as part of the Valley's Stated Communication for the month. At that meeting, the Valley presented its proposed by-laws, and had its slate of officers installed by SGIG A. Gene Cobb Jr., 33rd..

Fayetteville also plans to host another reunion — in memory of Ill. Jim Hay, 33rd — for degrees 4-14 on Feb. 17, 2024, to start new Scottish Rite Masons on their path to the remaining degrees during March and April.



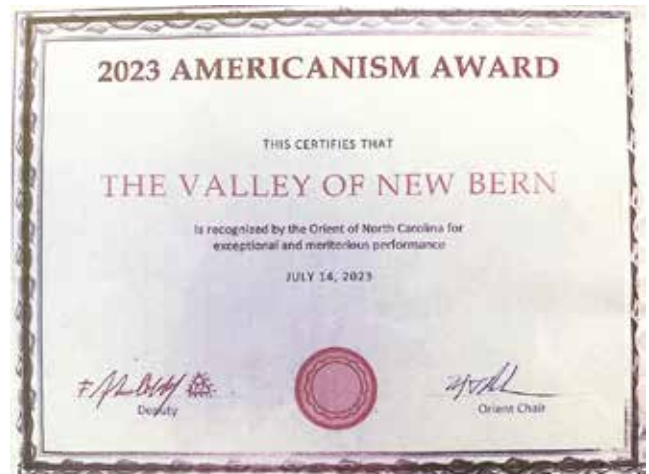
Sovereign Grand Commander James Cole, center, was pleased to present the Valley of Fayetteville its charter as a Lodge of Perfection on Aug. 22, 2023. Joining him, from left, were: Senior Warden Lee Short; Personal Representative/Director of the Work Thomas Pope; James Pugsley, General Secretary; and Ken Wical, Junior Warden.

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

AMERICANISM

by William Fitzpatrick 32nd Degree KCCH

The Valley of New Bern recently was recognized for its Americanism by the Orient of North Carolina. Attachment, respect, and allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States is what the dictionary says. It isn't particularly specific, as I believe that many of us may have various images that come to our mind when we think of Americanism. I am reminded of my dad and of all those who worked and fought, and sometimes died, to win the Second World War. In the early 1990's, he asked me to take him to Quantico, Virginia in February, where his unit had been meeting each year since 1946. It gave me chills as I watched the surviving men of Edson's 1st Marine Raider Battalion who had gathered with their wives or adult children, stand to recite the pledge to start the meeting. I knew a little about what they had endured on what became known as Edson's or Bloody Ridge in the far away Pacific Island of Guadalcanal. I am also reminded of things more current, such as all the small-town parades throughout



eastern North Carolina. Some at Christmas, and some are to celebrate a festival of some sort, for things such as watermelons, shrimp, collards, fossils, or shad. One noticeable Americanism is that the whole community is either in the parade or watching, and all are smiling, waving and “in community with one another.” Where else do we ever see that kind of respect for community and cohesion in this divided country? All races and all ages, side by side, and all celebrating community in America. What makes our country unique that we should celebrate? It happens to be some of the very same principles that we embrace in the Scottish Rite: things like freedom of conscience and equality. These ideas were built into our constitution, and while many of these principles have been under attack in recent years, they are worth celebrating and

worth saving, in my view. While it is disappointing when I see others who do not respect the American flag, it is one ironic aspect of Americanism (freedom of conscience) that allows for people to have these different ideas and to freely express them. Awards are meant to encourage particular behaviors and activities. However, regardless of awards, we can support the best of Americanism by honoring veterans and visiting the sick and infirm who are in hospitals or long-term care. We should all strive to know and learn about our system of government and the rights/responsibilities that are for each and every citizen, and then help to pass them on to the younger citizens of our great country. Let all of the valleys in North Carolina challenge each other to promote Americanism in the coming year.

VALLEY OF RALEIGH

THE POWER OF A COACH

by B. Blake Taylor 32°, KSA

Just this year, I celebrated my first anniversary as a Scottish Rite Mason, and what an experience it has been!

When I finished my 3° catechism, my coach encouraged me to continue exploring Masonry outside of the Blue Lodge. That was easy for him to say because he was always on the road doing masonic work. I was very green, and truthfully, I still am, but there was something in his pursuit and excitement that I wanted to be a part of. So I did what any new Mason would do: I knocked and gained admission to receive the degrees of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my journey and the relationships that have grown into friendships, but there's one that will always stand head and shoulders above all others: the relationship I had with my coach.

In the lodge, during those hours, we talked about habits in ritual work and how they were just like habits in anything else we choose to do or not do. My coach talked to me about the power of showing up and doing a little every day. He spoke to me about the importance of creating systems and having them in place in my

day-to-day life and businesses.

There, I learned to make Masonry operative in my day-to-day life. I am still learning, but a foundation was laid for me by my coach to continue that pursuit of excellence in Masonry.

As this year wraps up, we move into a season of gratitude. I am certainly thankful for the guidance I've had in Masonry. I sincerely hope that the ripple effect of the mentorship I received positively impacts the body of the Scottish Rite as a whole and the community surrounding me. A similar weight of responsibility should be felt throughout each Mason who can echo those same sincere sentiments for the coaching they have received throughout their Masonic travels.

Gratitude is just the beginning. It is in vain if we are not moved to daily action, even if it means crossing the line of inconvenience.



VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

2023 HONOURS CELEBRATION

by Harry Steele 32° KCCH

The Valley of Wilmington is excited to be the host for the 2023 Honours Celebration. Highlights are the KCCH conferral at 10:00 am at the Wilmington Scottish Rite Center, the 33* Coronation at 1:30 pm in the Wilmington Scottish Rite Center; and the Red, White, and Blue Banquet celebrating our new Honour Men and 50 Year Members in our Valleys to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Wilmington beginning at 6:00pm. All events will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023. For information on these events please call your local Valley or the Valley of Wilmington at 910-675-6752.

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

HERO OF TWO WORLDS: THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

by Bro: Al Leathers, 32° KCCH

The Marquis de Lafayette, born Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier on 6 Sep 1757, was a man of privilege and accomplishment. He was a French nobleman, a military officer, a Freemason and a revolutionary. He was a man who fought for freedom and democracy on both sides of the Atlantic, a hero of two worlds.



Lieutenant General Lafayette in 1791, by Joseph-Désiré Court (1834)

Lafayette may have been raised as a Master Mason in France before coming to America. His mother lodge could have been Loge La Candeur in Paris, or the Loge Contrat Social of Paris. It is also possible that he was raised at a military lodge in Morristown, N.J.; however, it is much more likely that his Masonic journey began in Pennsylvania.

There is convincing evidence that he was initiated, passed, and raised at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. Dr. George W. Chaytor, addressing Lafayette Lodge No. 14 in Wilmington, Delaware, on January 18, 1875, made the following statement regarding Lafayette's Masonic credentials: "Lafayette was not a Mason when he landed in America, nor was he a Mason at the Battle of Brandywine. The Army under Washington, in December 1777, retired to Valley Forge, where they wintered. Connected with the Army was a Lodge. It was at Valley Forge that he was made a Mason. On this point there should be no second opinion—for surely Lafayette knew best where he was made a Mason. Lafayette's own remarks do support the fact he was made a Mason in America, after having met General George Washington. Lafayette said, "After I was made a Mason, General Washington seemed to have received a new light—I never had, from that moment, any cause to doubt his entire confidence. It was not long before I had a separate command of great importance."

Regardless of when and where, Lafayette was indeed a Freemason and one of strong character and leadership. In the Scottish Rite, he received the degrees in the Cerneau



Lafayette's Apron, 1813 GL of New York

Supreme Council of NY and was made a 33rd degree Mason and Honorary Grand Commander of that body.

In 1777, Lafayette traveled to America, eager to fight for the revolutionary cause. Disobeying the King's order, he bought his own boat and sailed for America (while the King's ships were in pursuit) to fight against England and finally fulfill his dream. At only 19 years old, General George Washington appointed Lafayette as a Major General in the Continental Army. The U.S. Congress regarded his commission as Honorary, while the Marquis considered himself a full-fledged commander who would be given control of a division when Washington deemed him prepared. He and Washington formed a close bond, with Washington serving as a mentor to the young Frenchman. Lafayette fought in key battles, including the Battle of Brandywine and the Battle of Yorktown, and was instrumental in securing French support for the revolutionary cause. At Valley Forge, Lafayette clothed and fed his troops using his own money and endured the cold and near starving conditions with his men, despite pleas from his wife Adrienne to return home lest he perish.

Lafayette was married to Adrienne de Noailles, the daughter of one of the most prominent French families at the time. Adrienne was a strong and independent woman who supported her husband's revolutionary activities. She even accompanied him to America in 1780 and was a popular figure among the society of the Continental Army.

During the French Revolution, Adrienne was imprisoned on charges of counter-revolutionary activities. Despite the danger, Lafayette remained in France to be with his wife in hopes of securing her release. He used his connections and influence to advocate for her release and visited her in prison frequently, despite the risk to his own safety. Due to his efforts, his wife Adrienne was released from prison but was arrested again in 1794. This time, she was held in the Carmes prison in Paris and subjected to harsh conditions. Her husband, Lafayette managed to get her released again, and they fled to Austria, where they lived in exile for a few years but had trials and tribulations there also. Adrienne returned to France in 1797 and reunited with her husband. The hardships Adrienne endured during her imprisonments took a toll on her health, and she died in 1807. The Marquis was deeply affected by her death and never fully recovered from the loss of his wife. He continued to honor her memory and kept her letters with him always. During their marriage they had four children: Henriette, Anastasie Louise Pauline, Georges Washington Louis, and Marie Antoinette Virginie. Note that their only son bears the name of his

beloved General and mentor, George Washington.

Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge, 1907, John Ward Dunsmore

In 1824, President James Monroe invited Lafayette to tour all 24 U.S. states of our young nation. President Monroe wanted the visit to celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary. At 66 years old the Marquis had acquired gravitas during his political career in France and was the only General of the American Revolution. Lafayette had persevered the tumultuous years of the French Revolution and its aftermath, which for him included a five-year prison term as well as that noted previously for his wife Adrienne. During his whirlwind U.S. tour from July 1824 to Sep 1825, the nation's populace greeted him with a hero's welcome at stops, and many honors and presentations were given to commemorate and memorialize the historic visit. In the Fall of 1824, he paid a visit to George Washington's family at Mt. Vernon and paid his respects at his tomb. He also made three stops in North Carolina to include Halifax, where the North Carolina delegation that endorsed a declaration of independence from England met in 1776, and then went to Raleigh received by Governor Hutchins



Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge, 1907, John Ward Dunsmore

and attended several dinners and balls in his honor; however, the largest reception for Lafayette awaited in Fayetteville. Out of dozens of places named for him in America, Fayetteville, NC is the only one he ever visited, arriving there by horse-drawn carriage on March 4, 1825. He returned home to France aboard a newly commissioned ship, the USS Brandywine named in his honor. After a stormy three weeks at sea, the U.S. warship arrived off Le Havre, France, early in October 1825. Lafayette again returned to politics amidst conflict and the looming Revolution of 1830 was just around the corner. He remained loyal to his convictions and fought tyranny until the end. He was deeply committed to the ideals of the Enlightenment and the Fraternity provided a natural fit for him. He corresponded with other prominent figures of the time, including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, and his ideals were influential in shaping our new nation that we hold dear. Finally, on May 20, 1834, at the age of seventy-six, Lafayette pressed a medallion bearing a portrait of his beloved Adrienne to his lips and succumbed to a months-long bout with pneumonia.

In the United States, President Andrew Jackson ordered that Lafayette be granted the same memorial honors that George Washington received in December 1799. Both Houses of Congress were draped in black bunting for 30 days, and members wore mourning badges. Congress urged Americans to follow similar mourning practices for the deceased Marquis. Later that year, former president John Quincy Adams gave a eulogy of Lafayette that lasted three hours, calling him "high on the list of the pure and disinterested benefactors of mankind".

In closing, it is highly improbable that the United States would have won the war without the assistance of France, Spain, and the Netherlands. The Marquis de Lafayette served as a vital link in securing our independence. I hope this short article piques your curiosity to learn more about this amazing yet imperfect man who was truly a hero of two worlds.

Sources:

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VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

WINSTON-SALEM AND ASHEVILLE JOINT MEETING IN BOONE AND APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY CLINICS TOUR

by Christopher Pearman 33°

At their September stated meeting, brothers from the Winston-Salem and Asheville Scottish Rite Valleys toured the clinics at Appalachian State University. After the tours, the Winston-Salem and Asheville Scottish Rite Valleys held a joint September stated communication at Snow Masonic Lodge No. 363 in Boone. A delicious dinner prepared by Brother Bill Carter, his wife, and several other members of Snow Lodge, was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Dr. Devery Ward and Assistant Professor Ashley Pennell from the ASU Clinics gave an insightful educational presentation about the clinics to the brothers. Brother Phil Shortt, Supreme Council Major Donor Officer (Mid-Atlantic and AL, FL, GA, MS) also joined us for these events, and offered several informational comments concerning the Acacia Guild, Intendent of the Building Society, as well as several other opportunities to give to the Scottish Rite. A great evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.



Tour of the Pat A. Anderson Reading Clinic



(Left to right) Ill. A. Gene Cobb Jr. 33° - S.G.I.G. and Ill. Michael J. Fischer 33° - Winston-Salem Valley Secretary



(Left to right) Ill. A. Gene Cobb Jr. 33° - S.G.I.G., Mrs. Katie Talbert Ed. D - Director of Development for the Beaver College of Health Sciences, Mrs. Gail Donaldson Ph.D. - Clinic Director, BCBS-NC Professor, Department of Communications Sciences, and Kenneth Allen - Winston-Salem Valley ASU Advocate/Liaison



Winston-Salem and Asheville Valleys Joint Stated Meeting at Snow Masonic Lodge 363



Tour of the Clinics in Leon Levine Hall

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL ILL. A. GENE COBB JR. 33°

by Christopher Pearman 33

Congratulations to Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother A. Gene Cobb Jr. 33°, who was recently crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of NC at the Biennial Session. Well done brother! Thank-you for all that you have done, and continue to do for all of Masonry and the Scottish Rite.



VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

CAP, PATENT, AND 14° RING PRESENTATION

by Christopher Pearman 33

Congratulations to Brother Robert Poe, who was recently presented with his Scottish Rite cap, patent, and 14° ring. Welcome brother!

Congratulations to Brother Robert Poe, who was recently presented with his Scottish Rite cap, patent, and 14° ring. Welcome brother!



VALLEY OF FRANKLIN

THIRD-ANNUAL CAMP LEAD AT WCU SPEECH AND HEARING CLINIC A HUGE SUCCESS!

by Andrew Norton, Valley of Franklin Venerable Master and WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic Advocate/Liaison

Brethren,

It is with great pride I am able to share the resounding success of the third-annual Camp LEAD (Literacy/Language Engagement And Development) at the Western Carolina University Speech and Hearing Clinic. This summer program is directly funded and made possible entirely by donations from NC RiteCare. Dr. Johanna Price, Associate Professor and Camp LEAD Director, gives us an excellent insight into exactly how our donations to RiteCare impact the Cullowhee, NC community the clinic serves.



Camp LEAD Paws
WCU Mascot Paws visits with the clinic staff and children during Camp LEAD

With the generous support of NC RiteCare, the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic conducted Camp LEAD for the third consecutive summer. At Camp LEAD, we provide Literacy/Language Engagement And Development for children in our area with speech, language, and/or literacy disorders. Camp LEAD is a morning program from 9am to noon, that runs each weekday for four weeks. That's 60 hours of intervention for each child who attends! This summer, we served 8 wonderful children, ages 8-12 years, and provided training for 4 graduate clinicians (Taylor Ingle, Daija Irizarry, Andrea Mastores, and Gillian Scruggs) and 2 undergraduate volunteers (Zoie Lucksavage and Hannah Potochnik). Our aim is to support each child's individual speech, language, and literacy needs in a fun and supportive environment, while also promoting positive reading experiences with peers. In our work with individual children, we supported needs ranging from sounding out words to articulating sounds correctly. We also enjoyed a read aloud, *The One and Only Ivan*, that gave us a great avenue for learning new vocabulary words and comprehension strategies like prediction and compare/contrast.

One of the highlights of Camp LEAD this summer was regular visits with a certified pet therapy team—dog Bailey and his trainer, a member of the Cullowhee community. Children could choose to practice reading and narrating stories to Bailey, and we saw

increases in their motivation and confidence. Another highlight was our visit from Paws, the WCU mascot! Of course, we also enjoyed snacks, free play for letting our imaginations run wild, and games like corn hole, ring toss, Uno, and Break the Ice. We ended Camp LEAD with a cookies and lemonade celebration of our campers and all we learned.



Camp LEAD Bailey
Therapy dog Bailey and her trainer

Camp LEAD could not happen without the support of NC RiteCare, the Valley of Franklin Scottish Rite, the WCU College of Health and Human Sciences (especially Dean Lori Anderson), the WCU Speech and Hearing Clinic (special thanks to Clinic Director Dr. Tracie Rice), the WCU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (special thanks to Department Chair Dr. Leigh Odom), professor and clinical supervisor Dr. Amy Rose, and our dedicated Camp LEAD parents!! We also thank our special visitors Bailey and his trainer, as well as Paws (thank you, Tyler Pope, Chad Garrity, and WCU Athletics). To all of these parties, THANK YOU!

Johanna Price, PhD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor and Camp LEAD Director

I am also pleased to report that Brother Dan Killian, 32° KCCH, former WCU clinic Advocate and member of the Valley of Franklin and Valley of Asheville, has been named to the Advisory Board for the WCU Clinic. Dan has worked tirelessly for the WCU clinic, and his efforts are to be applauded and thanked.

As you can see, your RiteCare dollars are hard at work making an impact in the lives of children in Western North Carolina. Each of us should be proud of the work being done in our clinics, and we should strengthen our resolve to continue our support into the future.