



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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



MARCH-APRIL 2024

PURSUE THEIR PASSION

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

I believe everyone thinks that what we do matters. Sometimes it may seem like what we do is more akin to spinning our wheels in the mud or on the ice and progress evades us.

Inside of every human being, there is a passion for something. It may be a vocational skill or a special intellectual interest. It may be related to physical, emotional, or spiritual activity. It is that passion that ignites our actions and causes us to do what we do.

Once a man becomes a Mason, he either settles into the subordinate lodge or pursues his enthusiastic interests where the fraternity interests him most. If it is helping children, take your pick. The York Rite and Shrine offer a myriad of possibilities and I am proud to say that I support them all.

SO, IT IS WITH THE SCOTTISH RITE.



Our Rite Care programs all over the country help children with speech, hearing, and learning disabilities. Right here in North Carolina the clinics providing this help at Appalachian State, East Carolina, and Western Carolina

do an outstanding job. Think about this. Our public school system works with children who have needs that we address all the time.

Is there an avenue forward for us to connect with the school systems and our clinics?

“Why would we even think about such a thing?”

The answer to these two questions is there may be a path forward for us because we are thinking about such a thing.

Some years ago, I attended a leadership conference in Philadelphia that PGM Illustrious Dewey Preslar, 33°, continued to urge me to attend. I learned many things, but one thing I will never forget is that if “you can think it, it can be.” When you think about it, every great accomplishment begins with an idea about what could happen. A positive approach always or ultimately, works!

Do you want to help children? Do you want to learn more about history, symbolism, philosophy, and passion for Freemasonry? Do you want to be a part of something that is evolving everyday with the purpose not to be better than anyone else, but to be better than yourself yesterday?

If the answer to these questions is YES, then you already know why we do what we do. If you know someone else who is wondering about it, sharing what we do will become why someone else petitions the Valley so they can learn, pursue their passion, and improve themselves in Masonry.



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

Upcoming Event

March 11-13, 2024

SGIG and Grand Master
Trip to Washington, DC

The Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in North Carolina invite you to join us to our nation's capital for a tour of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial and the House of the Temple. We plan to attend a Scottish Rite Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal hosted by the Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia.

Anyone interested in joining us for this trip at your own expense can do so now.

Visit

NCScottishRite.org
for more information

LAST CALL

The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

By William Fitzpatrick 32° KCCH



On Saturday, December 16, 2023, members of the Valley of New Bern participated in the Wreaths Across America program at the New Bern National Cemetery on National Avenue in New Bern. During the Civil War, Union strategists looked at New Bern and the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad that runs through the town as a vital logistics line for the Confederacy. In 1862 the Union attack commenced in New Bern and the campaign included other battles in eastern North Carolina. In 1867 the New Bern National Cemetery was officially established, and contains the remains of Union soldiers who were initially buried throughout eastern North Carolina. Several northern states, including Rhode Island and New Jersey, erected memorials in the cemetery to their citizen soldiers, three hundred “colored troops” are interred, as well as more than 1050 unknown



soldiers primarily from the Civil War. The cemetery contains more than 6500 grave sites and wreaths were placed at each gravesite after a short ceremony where veterans from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Maritime Service placed wreaths on individual graves from the respective services. The Valley of New Bern was proud to participate in the annual wreath laying.

Save the Date

VALLEY OF GREENSBORO

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 10th

stated with officer installation

February 14th

stated with Ladies Night social & meal (meal is open)

March 1st

Council Feast with special speaker (closed to Masons only)

March 13th

stated with Ceremony of Remembrance (open event)

April 10th

stated and Spring Reunion kicks off

April 27th

second day of Spring Reunion

May 8th

stated with conclusion of Spring Reunion & 32° conferral

June 12th

stated with Consistory Feast honoring our Grand Master (open event)

July 10th

Valley is dark

August 14th

Valley is dark

September 11th

stated meeting

October 9th

stated with Fall Reunion kick off and Feast of Tishri

October 19th

second day of Fall Reunion

November 13th

stated with conclusion of Fall Reunion & 32° conferral

December 11th

stated with annual Ring Ceremony (open event)

2024

VALLEY OF FRANKLIN

THE NEW YEAR BEGINS.

By Christopher Wyatt, Valley of Franklin Venerable Master.

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Christopher Wyatt. I am currently the Venerable Master of the Valley of Franklin and a member of the Valley of Asheville.

We had a wonderful installation this past December and we have a great group of brothers in this Valley who are eager to get to work and support our organization. This year we are going to focus on many things, one of them being membership.

Our reunion will be held on March 2nd and the Valley of Asheville will have theirs on March 9th. We currently have two brothers who are going to join us and a couple more who are on the fence. It is our job to make sure they land on the right side by showing them how great the Scottish Rite is.

I, myself, was on the fence before joining and just by the passion and work I saw going on in this small Valley, it made me want to contribute. This is just one way in which we can attract new members, but we can also do so by supporting our local blue lodges, promoting comradery and fellowship and continuing community outreach.

Twice a year we do a litter pick up here in the heart of Franklin. This is something we really enjoy and has sparked conversation between us and a few men asking who we are and what we do. This has directly got us a member or two, one of which is a good friend of mine who caught me in the act of picking up litter and is now considering joining the valley.

By doing things like this and showing the community we care



we can gain support from our blue lodges and attract good men in our community who may be looking to become Masons. This is just one of the many things we plan on doing this year to pay attention and focus on new membership, fellowship and brotherly love.

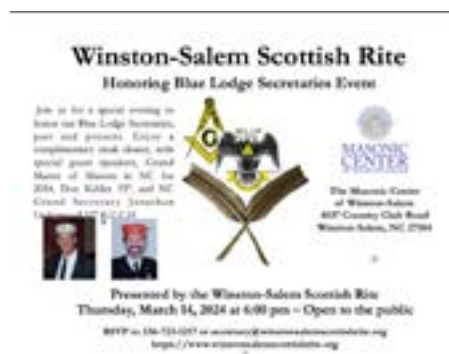
I would like to end this by thanking the two past Venerable Masters of the Valley of Franklin, Andrew Norton and Dan Killian for showing me support and giving me the confidence I needed to take on this job this year by showing me how good leadership should work. We have a lot to do this year and we are looking forward to it. Come see us if you are in the area. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month and the meeting starts at 7pm. Hope to see you soon.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

HONORING BLUE LODGE SECRETARIES EVENT

By Christopher Pearman 33°

Come join us at our March Stated meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024, starting at 6:00 pm, for our special event to honor our past and current Blue Lodge Secretaries. This event is open to the public, friends and family are welcome to join us. Enjoy a delicious and complimentary steak dinner prepared by the award-winning Big Boy Barbeque Team. Grand Master Ill. Don Kehler 33° and Grand Secretary Jonathan Underwood 32° K.C.C.H. will be making several presentations at this celebration.



Please RSVP to
secretary@winstonsalemsscottishrite.org
or
336-723-1217.

The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE

by Ill. Thomas A. Pope Jr., 33°

The Valley of Fayetteville has embarked on its first full year as a Lodge of Perfection, and the year began with the election and installation of officers at its January 17 Stated Communication.

Lee Short, 32nd KCCH and the Valley's RiteCare representative, was elected Venerable Master. Short, 40, is a Past Master of St. Pauls Lodge No. 474, and also holds membership in Phoenix Lodge No. 8 in Fayetteville and Lebanon Lodge No. 391 in Hope Mills. He was District 17's District Deputy Grand Lecturer for seven years.



Bro. Short graduated from St. Pauls High School, Robeson Community College and UNC Charlotte, and for the past 18 years has worked as a pediatric respiratory therapist. Both of his grandfathers were Masons and worked on the same block in St. Pauls in

the clothing business. He joined the Scottish Rite in 2014, and was awarded his red hat five years later. In addition to the Valley of Fayetteville, Bro. Short is a member of the Valley of Raleigh.

Other 2024 officers elected and installed are: Bro. Ken Wical, Senior Warden; Bro. Joseph Ferrand, Junior Warden; Bro. Kyle Sledge, Orator; and Bro. Carlon Mercer, Almoner. Appointed brethren are: Bro. John Frazier, Prelate; Bro. Sean Madden, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. Kenny Bell, Assistant Expert; Bro. Chris Donahue, Captain of the Host; and Bro. Michael Dodson, Tyler.

On Feb. 17, 2024, the Valley held its third reunion in nine months. The degrees were conferred in memory of Ill. Bro. James Hay, 33rd, who died in August 2020 at age 104. Ill. Hay was a Scottish Rite Mason for almost 67 years. Bro. Mike Noack of Lebanon Lodge No. 391 was the candidate of the day, and he will complete degrees 15-32 as a member of the Valley of Greensboro. Also slated to go through the same degrees, but at New Bern, is Bro. Laurice Williams Sr., one of the candidates from Fayetteville's September 2023 reunion.

VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE

ASHEVILLE

by J David Cashion

Spring and warmer weather is on its way. As I write this it's 9 degrees outside with a dusting of snow. Snow helps replenish the water tables and preps the ground for Spring.

Just as our Winters prepare our Valley's for the Spring Reunions.

On the Spring Agenda:

- Valley Reunion March 9th,
- the S.G.I.G and Grand Master's train trip to Washington, DC and the
- Grand Master's regional meetings.

Our Personal Representatives and Valley secretaries attended the Orient Wide Leadership Summit in Winston-Salem January 19th. A lot was accomplished to keep our Orient and our Valley's running smoothly. A couple of the goals for Asheville is to increase our attendance and hopefully this will increase our membership.

Have a very Happy Spring



Join the Valley of Raleigh
2-Day Reunion
Mar 23 & Apr 6

The RiteNews of North Carolina

SUPREME COUNCIL

HOT PIPE ORGAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Phil Short, Development

Since 1916 the Temple Room at the House of the Temple has had an organ to make our events even more special with music. The Shantz organ console located behind Lieutenant Grand Commander's Chair controls the sound from the 1,417 pipes located high above floor level. The acoustics perfectly allow the room to be flooded with sound. Typically, the organ is played by the Grand Organist for various Masonic events and ceremonies. On occasion, guest organists hold concerts in the Temple Room. The public also visits the Temple Room every week during tours at the HOT.

The current Shantz Organ needs rebuilding and improvement. Currently, only about 50% of the keys will produce correct sounds. This is why the Scottish Rite has opened the HOT Pipe Organ Capital Campaign to save our treasured organ. We formed a committee of members with vast knowledge and experience in organs to plan this work. We need to keep music as an important part of the ceremonies and rituals of our fraternity.

Our goal is to raise \$400,000 to pay for restoration, improvements to the instrument, and provide an endowment to pay for its maintenance and repairs in the future. Members all around the Southern Jurisdiction are giving, and we are making progress, but we are counting on every member's help – and your help – to reach the goal.

Gifts to this Capital Campaign are tax deductible as allowed by law. Your gift made payable to the HOT Historic Preservation Foundation can be mailed to:

Supreme Council - Development Office
Attn: Caitlyn Kent
1733 16th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009-3103

Or you can simply call Caitlyn Kent at (202) 777-3111, tell her your gift is for the "Pipe Organ Campaign" and give her your card payment information to complete your gift. All information will be kept confidential.

You can also make your gift directly online by going to: www.ScottishRite.org. Hover over "How to Give", then "Giving Types" and left click on "Cash Gifts". You will gain access to a secure jotform with blanks in which to type your information.



1. Select House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc.,
2. Select "House of the Temple Pipe Organ Capital Campaign"
3. And continue completing the questionnaire/form.

If you would like more information about this work or the campaign, please reach out to Donor Officer Phil Shortt at (240) 608-7425 or PShortt@ScottishRite.org. Help keep our rich music culture alive in the Scottish Rite by helping with this earnest effort.

The January/February edition of the Scottish Rite Journal has greater detail about saving the House of the Temple's Musical Treasure. Go to <https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/scottish-rite-journal/the-scottish-rite-journal/> for even more.

2024 Conference Dates

April 5–6: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
Hilton Salt Lake City Center

April 19–20: KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Kansas City Marriott Downtown

May 3–4: JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
Hyatt Jacksonville Riverfront



The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF RALEIGH

A BEACON OF LEADERSHIP

By B. Blake Taylor 32°, KSA

We in the Valley of Raleigh extend our heartfelt tribute to Ill. Mel Minton, 33°, who has exemplified exceptional leadership by presiding over all four bodies of the Scottish Rite Valley of Raleigh. His steadfast dedication and commitment to the ideals and values of the Scottish Rite shine brightly, serving as an inspiration to us all. Below is a testament to his years of service as a distinguished presiding officer across our various bodies.



VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

2023 SCOTTISH RITE SERVICE AWARD

By Christopher Pearman 33°



50-Year Scottish Rite Service Award

Congratulations to Brother Charles Williams for receiving his 50-year Scottish Rite Service Award.

Illustrious Brother Michael Fischer traveled to Brother Williams' home to present his award.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

2023 SCOTTISH RITE SERVICE AWARD

By Christopher Pearman 33°

Congratulations to Brother Mark Stewart for being awarded the Scottish Rite Service Award for 2023.

Thank-you for all that you do for our Valley and all of Freemasonry!



VALLEY OF NEW BERN

A BEACON OF LEADERSHIP

By Johnny Surles, 33°

The Valley of New Bern celebrated their Ring Ceremony on Saturday, 10 February 2024. The following Brothers were present to receive their 14° ring along with many family members:



Francis L. Anson, Bill Riggan, III, Jonathan F. Worthington, Bryon Gray Schmitt, Joseph Anthony Lasorsa, William Morgan Shackelford, Thomas Edwin Rhame, Thomas Casey Morris, William (Billy) Ray Askew, Eric Jason Vestal, Dustin Neil Schultz, William (Bill) David Schaefer

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

SERVING AS THE HEAD OF ALL FOUR SCOTTISH RITE BODIES SERVICE AWARDS

By Christopher Pearman 33°



Valley of Winston-Salem - Congratulations to Brothers George Kalamaras, M. Kirby Matthews, Jon Canupp, Tom Jolly, and Chris Pearman for recently receiving service awards for serving as the head over all four Scottish Rite Bodies. Ill. Brother

Michael Fischer 33° and Ill. MW Brother A. Gene Cobb Jr. 33° S.G.I.G. presented the awards to these brothers, which included a shadow box containing the jewels of all four of the Scottish Rite Bodies.

Come Join Us

for a Check Presentation at ECU

Saturday March 20

VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE VALLEY KSA SERVES IN SABER BRIGADE

Scott Brand, Charlotte Valley KSA Historian

On the first weekend in December, the Charlotte Valley KSA was honored to participate in the installation of the 2024 officers of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Under the capable leadership and guidance of Mike Harrelson, 32° KCCH from the Valley of Greensboro and Saber Brigade Commander, a delegation of five Charlotte Knights made the trek to the Outer Banks to be part of the Arch of Sabers Ceremony, honoring Grand Master Don Kehler and his officers.

The trip was a great opportunity for the Charlotte KSA brethren, allowing them a chance not only to honor their new Grand Officers, but also to brush up on their sword work – as well as learning how to deal with the particular difficulties of the kilt uniform! But more importantly, it afforded them a chance to meet with other Knights from the Valleys of Greensboro and Raleigh, getting to know these fine Brethren and exchanging invaluable information about the KSA itself and how to best serve our respective Valleys.

As a bonus, the trip also allowed the Knights to enjoy excellent meals and fellowship together – with more than a little hilarity in the van thrown in, for good measure! All agreed that the time together was too short, but that they were very glad for the chance to work side by side with their Brethren, to represent our Valley and serve our Grand Lodge. In fact the Knights emerged from the experience with renewed enthusiasm, about how we might take the lessons learned and apply them in our Valley, to add that little extra touch of pomp and circumstance at special events like the Ring Ceremony.

All in all the weekend was an excellent illustration of how membership in the KSA provides a great opportunity for new Masters of the Royal Secret to really hit the ground running,

giving them a chance to get involved in the work of their Valley right off the bat – and to have a great time with their new Brothers in the process. To a man, the Knights who made this trip stated that they'd do it again in a heartbeat.

If you're a new "black cap" and this sounds like the kind of fraternal service and fellowship you're looking for, talk to your KSA leadership about getting involved with your Valley's chapter. And if your Valley doesn't yet have a KSA chapter, please feel free to get in touch with the author about starting one.



Charlotte KSA Sabre Brigade
Pictured L to R: Garrett Latham, Tanist; Rob Dull, Herald; Scott Brand, Historian; Gary Stevenson, Quartermaster; Don Lookadoo, Seneschal

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

VALENTINE'S EVENT

By Christopher Pearman 33°

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite recently held a Valentine's Event at the Masonic Center. A delicious dinner, drinks, and entertainment was enjoyed by all in attendance. Thank-you to Brother Kenny Allen for doing another fantastic job of organizing this great event.





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MARCH-APRIL 2024

October 5



Emerald Golf Club • New Bern, NC

Kirby Matthews, 33°
Orient Golf Tournament Chairman

2024

Winston-Salem Golf Tournament

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite will be holding its thirteenth annual charity golf tournament on Friday, June 14, 2024. This event will again be held at the Oak Valley Golf Club. We have plenty of room for golfers, sponsors, and volunteers. Please join us for this event to raise funds for the clinics at Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, and Western Carolina University.

Please help us continue to support the great work being done at these clinics.

Golf Tournament

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

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

Craig J. Horton, Editor In Chief 919-740-0789
editor.ncsrjournal@gmail.com



Attend Support

Your Blue Lodge

Become a Scottish Rite Mason

Spring Reunion March 2024

4th-32nd degrees



Asheville•Charlotte•Greensboro
New Bern•Raleigh•Winston-Salem