



THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR....

by William B. Brunk, 33° SGIG in North Carolina

We're at that time of the year in which we invoke many of our favorite traditions. As Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season approach, we can smell the turkey cooking, Mom's apple pie in the oven—and we dream of colored lights, festive store windows, and a crackling fire.

In Sweden, St. Lucia Day honors a third-century saint on December 13th, when girls dress up as "Lucia brides" and wear long white gowns and red sashes—a tradition that dates back to the 18th century. The attire is accompanied with a wreath of burning candles on their heads. The girls wake up their families by singing songs and offering coffee and a traditional bun, called a St. Lucia's bun.

Jewish people all over the world observe Hanukkah, but perhaps there is not a more brilliant celebration than in Israel. The eight-day holiday, which lands on different dates in December every year, marks the successful Jewish rebellion over the Greeks. The focal point of celebration is the menorah, a branched candelabrum. Each night, one candle is lit and gifts are given to children, games are played, and food is enjoyed.

In the South American country of Ecuador, a family dresses up a straw man representing the old year. Family members write out a will for the straw man, listing all of their faults. At midnight, they burn the straw man in hopes that their own faults will disappear with him.

In France, Christmas is called Noel. A figure called "Pere Noel" (father of Christmas) visits homes with gifts. On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace, in anticipation that they will be filled with the gifts.

Traditions of the Scottish Rite have been described in many forms. The noted Masonic author, Ill. Robert G. Davis, 33°, has outlined six different themes, or traditions, that are expressed in the ritual of our Order. These range from our tradition of secrecy through those of chivalric conduct, the Ancient Mysteries, and the rose and cross.

Almost half of our members are of the Traditionalist generation, born before the end of World War II. Mindful of the decline in membership that our organization has experienced for several decades, we've undertaken a number of efforts to attract new members – primarily focusing on younger men of the Gen X and Gen Y ages. A significant initiative in the coming Biennium will be an effort to better engage our members—of all ages—such that we might increase the number of members that stay with us for decades on end.



This effort will be important, for many reasons. Of greatest importance is that this fraternity is just that—a fraternity; one that is dedicated to the proposition of emphasizing a way of life that is upright, that is moral, and that reflects behavior consistent with our beliefs in a benevolent Supreme Ruler. As such, its influence in society and across the world is important, perhaps more important today than at any time in the past. You'll hear a good deal about the effort to re-engage our members, and I hope you'll jump on the bandwagon and enthusiastically help maintain our traditions. Happy Holidays!

LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

Asheville, 2nd Thursday of each month

(Advisory Council 5:00PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:00PM)

Charlotte, 1st Wednesday of each month

(Advisory Council 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM and Stated Meeting 7:30PM)

Greensboro, 2nd Wednesday of each month

(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)

New Bern, 2nd Monday of each month

(Dinner 6:30PM & Stated Meeting 7:30PM)

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

(Advisory Conference 6:30PM, Master Craftsman 6:30PM, KSA 6:45PM, Refreshments 7:00PM, Stated Meeting 7:30PM)

For more information, call the General Secretary in your Valley

Rick Patton (Asheville) 828-253-9911

D. C. Heilman (Charlotte) 704-918-3797

Donald Kehler (Greensboro) 336-275-3579

William Dill (New Bern) 252-638-4031

Luigi Ammons (Raleigh) 919-834-8873

Ace Everett (Wilmington) 910-762-6452

Truett Chadwick (Winston-Salem) 336-723-1217

Michael May (Raleigh), Editor In Chief 919-481-0425

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1-2Lodge Master's Reunion Dinner (NB)

November 1-2 Fall Reunion (W)

November 13Presentation of the Grand Cross to
Ill James B Exum—32nd degree to follow (G)

November 1432° Degree at Stated Meeting (R)

November 23Orient of NC Court of Honor (C)

November 27Research Group (R)

December 18Research Group (R)

THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS - BRO. FRANK RONNIE REECE, 32° KCCH, U.S.M.C.
 by Ill. John M. Burchfield, 33° V.O.A. Public Relations Representative

In this issue the Valley of Asheville spotlights Brother Frank Ronnie Reece, United States Marine.

Like many young men before him, and countless others since, after graduating from North Buncombe High School in June of 1968, Brother Reece answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Marine Corps. He knew from the images that he saw on the evening news that there was a good chance that if he did join, that he would soon be heading to Vietnam. A few months later he found himself in Beaufort County South Carolina at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, better known as Parris Island. After a week of orientation twelve weeks of boot camp, and nine months in the Mediterranean, they sent Private Reece to Vietnam. On arrival he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion-5th Marines, and was involved in round-the-clock patrols looking for the Viet Cong a.k.a. "Charlie" and "Mister Charles." In thinking back to that time Brother Reece recounts the following: *"You know we were surrounded by mountain ranges on all sides and there was a constant barrage of rocket attacks showering down on us. Most of the time we never knew when they were coming, and at other times you could set your clock by when they started. When we went out we would lookout for mines and booby-traps. Inevitably there would be attacks and ambushes. They would use guerilla tactics, pop-up, shoot a few rounds, pop-back down and disappear. Sort of a hit and run squad."*

Ten months into his tour, Lance Corporal Reece was wounded in action when he was hit with shrapnel in his left knee. Luckily he would recover and be able to return back to his childhood home of Jupiter, NC, near the foothills of the Appalachians.

As Brother Reece reminisced a bit, he said, *"I'll tell you, leaving that place, (Vietnam) and getting back to Western North Carolina is probably the single greatest feeling I have ever had in my life."*

Since his return Brother Reece has continued to serve his country and his fellowman in many ways. He now has over thirty-eight years in public service as an Emergency Medical Technician,



Paramedic and Operations Supervisor with Buncombe County Emergency Services. Pertaining to his transition from the battlefields of Vietnam back to the peace and quiet of the valley upon his return home, he said, *"You know, I couldn't sleep in a bed for about the first year, and when I was in Vietnam I smoked. You learned to cup your fingers around the end of your cigarette with your hand or the VC would be able to spot you when it was dark, and you didn't want that to happen. Even after getting back home I can still remember cupping my cigarette with my hand. You know how it is; old habits are just hard to break."*

Brother Reece received his Scottish-Rite degrees in April of 1986. He serves on the Valley's Scottish-Rite Advisory Council, he is the current Master of the Asheville Consistory, and is Past Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection for 2011 and 2012. Brother Reece was a Knight Commander Court of Honour recipient in 2009, and has been selected to receive the 33° Inspectors General Honorary for the Valley in November of this year, and is slated to receive The Order of the Purple Cross of York in July of next year in Denver, Colorado. Brother Reece's home lodge is French Broad 292, where he has served as Master on two different occasions. He also served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 39th Masonic District for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Sadly, and according to the National Archives, the Vietnam War resulted in more than 58,000 Americans losing their lives while serving their country, with more than 330 thousand being wounded. In North Carolina the death toll from the War has been numbered at 1,613. As of May 2012, there were 58,282 names arranged chronologically in order of the date of causality on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Of these, there are approximately 1,200 that are still listed as either missing in action, prisoners of war, or causes that are unknown. This is according to information obtained from the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.

If you haven't heard it in a while Brother Reece, we are glad you made it back and that your name is NOT on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

We Salute you Brother Reece, and we thank you for your service. Welcome home.



THE VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE
KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW
 by Bro. Jack Williams, 32° K.S.A. – V.O.A. - Franklin Club President

The Valley of Asheville announces new KSA Officers for the next year. Brother Johnnie R. Kinard, seated on the right in row two will be our new Knight Master. Brother Bill Black, seated on the left in the second row has served as Knight Master for the last two years, has done a tremendous job and deserves the much needed rest. He will get it come November as he is one of the Valley's 32° KCCH recipients. The Valley also initiated three new K.S.A. members on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Pictured from L-R in the front row: Bro. Igor C. Silka, 32° K.S.A., Bro. Edward D. Flocken, 32° K.S.A., and Bro. Darren A. Helton, 32° K.S.A.



THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
SUPREME COUNCIL BIENNIAL SESSION
 by DC Heilman, 32° KCCH General Secretary

In August of this year the Supreme Council held the 2013 Biennial Session in Washington DC. This is a photo of the new 33° Inspector General Honorary recipients along with brethren from the Orient of North Carolina in attendance to support them.

Those who participated in the coronation ceremony were: Evangelos J. Fagos of Wilmington, Gary D. Handy of Greensboro, Richard W. Knauss of Wilmington, Richard N. Wilkerson of New Bern. Congratulations to these brothers.

November 23rd the Orient of North Carolina will be holding the 2013 Court of Honor activities in the Valley of Charlotte. Events will begin the coronation of the recipients of the 33° Inspector General Honorary in the morning. An open luncheon will follow the closed coronation ceremony.

THE VALLEY OF CHARLOTTE
2ND TABLE LODGE HELD
 by DC Heilman, 32° KCCH General Secretary



August 15th was a special evening in the Valley of Charlotte. We celebrated the 2nd table lodge to honor our Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, Most Worshipful Dewey R. Pre-slar, Jr. The evening was filled with fun and frivolity as the group celebrated in the vein of our masonic ancestry with good food, singing and fellowship.

Following the luncheon will be the conferral of the Knight Commander Court of Honor to those selected by the Supreme Council to receive this honor in recognition of their work and dedication to the Rite. At the close of the Court of Honor activities at the Temple, guests are invited to retire to the Marriott Charlotte Center City to mingle and converse while enjoying delightful hor'duerves culminating in the Red and White Banquet. The guest speaker for the evening will be Richard N. Wilkerson, newly coroneted 33° Inspector General Honorary from the Valley of New Bern. Tickets for the luncheon and the Red and White dinner are available from your Valley Secretary.



THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERS WHO WERE ELECTED TO RECEIVE SCOTTISH RITE HONORS 2013

by Jesse Bowman, 32° KCCH Venerable Master

Please join me in welcoming our Brothers to be recognized for their service to our Valley. Congratulate the following members who were elected to receive Scottish Rite Honors 2013. Inspector General Honorary 33°: George Henry Allred, Christopher Lee Wright, and Gary Dean Handy. These Brothers were nominated and receive the final and last Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry.

Additionally, five members of our Valley were nominated

to receive the recognition of the Knight Commander's Court of Honor. 32) Knights Commander of the Court of Honour: Donald Edward Kehler, Brian Reuben Langhoff, James Dean Richardson, Frank Gregory Seel, and Benjamin Grady Wallace

Our Pancake Benefit for our Children's Language Clinics was conducted in September. Thank you for your support and your contributions. We can make a difference as an individual mason and by a large group of masons, dedicated and focused masons can change our Valley.

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
THREE PILLARS OF MEMBERSHIP

by Gary Handy, 33° - Membership Services Director

Your Valley's membership team has been very active during the summer break and now leading up to the Fall Reunion calling and reaching out to folks in our Valley.

I once heard someone say that membership consisted of three pillars. The first pillar is keeping the members you have now; hence, the calls to members who may be floundering and have become disengaged for one reason or another.

The second pillar is to create new members. We hope that the format that we are following for the Fall reunion has generated some interest and all are enjoying it. Please do not be alarmed in thinking that this format will become the norm in Greensboro,

because it is not. This is just another way in trying to reach Brothers who may have difficult schedules with work and personal lives, but have a desire to be a part of Scottish Rite.

And finally, the third pillar is to give all members a meaningful experience. This is an ongoing system of trial and error. Trying to keep things fresh and not becoming complacent; as we know from personal experience can be extremely difficult. So remaining open to new ideas and patterns is essential to creating a special event and experience. Brother Winston Churchill sums it up quite well; *"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts"*

THE VALLEY OF GREENSBORO
THE BIENNIAL SESSION 2013

by Illustrious A. Gene Cobb, Jr. 33° Personal Representative

The Biennial Session of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction was August 25-28. It was my first trip to Washington as the Personal Representative of the Valley of Greensboro. Our Valley Secretary Don Kehler 32° KCCH-elect and his wife Melody, Illustrious Brother Shaun Bradshaw 33°, my-by-far-better-half Brenda and I climbed aboard Amtrak a day early with our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Illustrious Dewey Preslar, Jr. 33° and his wonderful wife Terri a day early for the journey. It was a *"long but great ride"* as we fellowshipped and celebrated who we were as a brotherhood from Salisbury to D.C. The meeting was headquartered at the Washington Hilton and it was always a pleasure to meet our brethren from other countries and from around the United States. A second group came by train on Sunday and were delayed four hours! We were very happy to finally see them. They unfortunately missed the Vespers Service at St. John's Church, *"The Presidents' Church"* where every United States Commander in Chief has wor-

shipped since James Madison! The Reverend Dr. Kenneth Lyons delivered a powerful message to us entitled *"Forward March"* and when he was finished we were ready to get started with the message of brotherhood. On Monday morning, we attended the full session in the International Ballroom. As Scottish Rite leaders were introduced from around the world, it was easy to understand the universality of our fraternity, especially as our Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother Ronald Seale 33° graciously welcomed Grand Masters, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, and Representatives literally from around the world. Commander Seale's message about brotherhood and taking the message from illusion to reality is something I promise our Valley will be hearing about repeatedly over the next two years. On Tuesday afternoon, we gathered at the Washington D. C. Valley's home for the Inspector General Honorary Degree as a team from Maryland and the District of Columbia did an outstanding job conferring the Thirty-third and

last degree upon the class. North Carolina's own Illustrious Brother Richard Wilkerson, 33° was the active candidate. His father is our past Sovereign Grand Inspector General, H. Lloyd Wilkerson 33°. Our current Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious Brother William B. Brunk 33° arranged for our own Illustrious Brother Gary Handy 33° to receive his conferral in the nation's capital with the class. After the ceremony, a group of us from North Carolina stood for a picture. When I saw that picture, I was truly

grateful to have been a part of something so special for such a great Orient as ours. Now that we are home, our attention turns to the Progressive Reunion at our September, October, and November Stated Communications. Washington was a mountaintop experience for us. There is no reason Charlotte will not be the same for us as an Orient in November. Now, however, all of us face the challenge to come down from the mountain go to work in the valley!

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

by Steve Burgess 33°

The Valley of New Bern has scheduled a Christmas Open House at the Scottish Rite Temple for December 9th, 2013 at 6PM. The event will be open to the public. The auditorium will be open and an appropriate scene displayed. Current plans are to have St. John's lodge room open and an individual available to provide background and historical information about the lodge. There will be snacks and light hors d'oeuvres in the dining hall. Santa is scheduled to arrive about 7PM. Brethren this a perfect opportunity to introduce prospective candidates and family members to Scottish Rite Masonry. The building will be lit up, scenery displayed, and questions answered. The purpose of this event to show the community and family members how *"Masons meet"* and demonstrate brotherly love and friendship. Please attend this event and more importantly bring a friend or two!



THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
LODGE MASTER'S REUNION

by Steve Burgess 33°

Just a reminder the Lodge Master's Reunion is scheduled for November 1st and 2nd. The Masters of the Masonic Lodges within our jurisdiction will be invited as

our guests at the banquet Friday evening. Let give them a good showing and pack the dining room.

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
SILENT AUCTION

by Steve Burgess 33°

Brethren the Silent Auction has been a vehicle used by the Valley to raise money to help defray the cost of putting on the reunions. It seems that lately that the items available to auction have been fewer in number and quality. We truly appreciate all items donated; however the key here is to offer items that will spark interest and competitive bidding.

THE VALLEY OF NEW BERN
BUILDING REPAIRS

by Steve Burgess 33°

Good News! The stucco façade on the side of our Temple Building has had a new facelift. For many years now the stucco on the south side of the building has been crumbling and separating from the brick underlayment. Although the building was still structurally sound, it was beginning to be unsightly. Thanks to Brother Dana Outlaw, KCCH the building is sporting a new look. Brother Dana spent many hours working with and learning from the professional on how to do stucco repairs and the prop-

er methods of surface preparation to ensure that it adheres properly. If you ever want an interesting conservation ask Brother Dana about surface preparation techniques and challenges. Make sure you have a full cup of coffee. Thanks Brother Dana for stepping up and making a difference.



THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP DONORS
 AND STUDENT RECIPIENTS AT APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

by Michael May 32° KCCH

This year three Scholarships were awarded by Dean Fred Whitt of the College of Health Sciences to students attending the Charles and Geneva Scott Scottish Rite Speech Clinic.

The recipients were as follows: Ms Kayla Helms (could not attend) and Ms Brittany Barry received the Charles E. and Geneva S. Scott Scottish Rite Scholarships and Ms Kelsey Armstrong received the Graduate Student Speech Therapy Scholarship from the May Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation.



L-R Brittany Barry, Dr. Dawn Botts – Speech Clinic Director, Kelsey Armstrong

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
KSA NEWS

by Glenn Todd 32° KSA

Spring has jump started the KSA into action helping the Valley with its Reunion. This year we held a one day affair with only four of the required degrees conferred at that time. The Thirty-second degree was done at our regular meeting in April. As usual, the cast did a superb job. We were asked to provide a “dress-up” Honorius Dinner for Brother Andy Adams 33°, who was the immediate outgoing Grand High Priest of the York Rite of North Carolina.

There was great participation by the KSA membership and we are truly thankful for the opportunity to serve our Brothers “across the aisle”. It seems our fame and notoriety

is spreading because we were requested to provide lunch for the Spring York Rite Festival and lunch at the Museum of History Veteran’s Observance, all on the same day. We came TOGETHER and accomplished these events which added to our Treasury to better assist the Valley.

Teamwork is the key to helping the Scottish Rite, KSA, and Masonry grow. The old adage about “Sweating together makes for better understanding” is true. As we continue to grow in numbers may we also grow in strength, resolve, and fortitude.

THE VALLEY OF RALEIGH
RESEARCHING MASONIC RELATED SUBJECTS

by Glenn Todd 32° KSA

The Valley of Raleigh has for the past 2 plus years instituted a very informal meeting on the Fourth Wednesday of each month. This “get-to-together” is for the purpose of researching Masonic related topics to further our understanding of the myriad factoids associated with our Order.

We decided that this casual gathering was to be open to any Master Mason in good standing, that the material covered would varied, and that the speaker for the meeting would be passed from one to another rather than having the same person “teach” at each meeting.

The gathering started with just a few attendees and has steadily increased in numbers. The topics have ranged from Ancient Gothic Architecture, to the Schism of the two Grand Lodges in England, to the intimate meaning of some of our symbols. It is intended to expand the minds of those who crave the revelation of understanding the “hidden in plain view” meaning of our Fraternity. The gathering lasts no longer than 45 minutes which includes some time for questions.

This has assisted the Valley in publicizing what the Scottish Rite is all about. It has become time of fellowship and reflection that aids us all.

THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
STATED MEETINGS RETURN

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

In an effort to enhance the fraternal brotherhood aspect of our Valley, we are beginning to work our way through the 29 Scottish Rite Degrees at our Stated Meetings. At each meeting, we will review the lessons taught and values learned from the degree being presented. This will be followed by an open discussion of what the degree means to you and how the principles taught in this degree can be used to improve our Fraternity and the Temple. In order to capture our thoughts, a moderator will write our suggestions and ideas down on a flip-chart. “The Whole is only as good as the sum of its parts.” and this is your chance to help make our Valley better. You

are encouraged to not only attend our Stated Meetings but to bring another member with you. Let us rebuild our fraternity into the Valley it once was, “One Degree at a Time”.

As usual, the Advisory Conference will meet at 5:30; dinner and fellowship at 6:30 followed by the stated meeting at 7:30.

Please report any address changes and or deaths



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
FOUR GO TO WASHINGTON, TWO GET CONFERRED

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

On August 27th four members of the Valley of Wilmington attended the 33° Conferral held in Washington, D.C.

Richard W. Knauss, and Evangelos J. Fragos were members of the conferral class and are now 33° Scottish Rite Masons.

Pictured from left to right: Charles A. Lewis, Jr., 33°, PGM; Richard W. Knauss, 33°; Evangelos J. Fragos, 33°; Edward A. Gaskins, Jr., 33°, Director of the Work. Joseph H. Gupton, 32°, KCCH will attend the 33° conferral held in Charlotte, NC on November 23rd.



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
**WOODMAN OF THE WORLD
 PRESENT FLAGS**

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

On September 12th Travis L. Horrell, on behalf of the “Woodmen of the World”, presented our Valley with both an American and a North Carolina Flag.

Pictured below from left to right: A.C. Everett, 33°, General Secretary; Travis Horrell, WOW Representative; William Mathis, 33°, Personal Representative; Harry Turner, 32°, KCCH, Venerable Master.



THE VALLEY OF WILMINGTON
2014 SPRING REUNION

by Richard W. Knauss, 33°

The 2014 Spring Reunion will be held on Friday March 7th and Saturday March 8th. Petitions are available at the Temple or on the “Reunion” page of our website www.wilmingtonnaasr.org. Remember that the initiation fee is \$300.00 per candidate. Petitions will be accepted as late as 7:00 A.M. the morning of the first day of the reunion. Up-to-date information can be found on our website or by calling the Temple at (910) 762-6452 or in NC 1-800-708-8680.



THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Ray Ashby 32° KCCH

At the monthly meeting of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite, held in Boone, North Carolina, the Valley voted to send \$10,000.00 each to the Appalachian State University and East Carolina University Learning Disorder Clinics. This money was a combination of our Annual Golf Tournament net proceeds and from our Charity Fund. Through our tournament, we have been able to send over \$30,000.00 to these to great programs, thus allowing them to continue their work with our children. 



(From left to right): Dr. David Taylor, Dr. Robin Morehouse, Dr. Dawn Botts, and Brother Michael Fischer 32°.



THE VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

by Christopher Pearman 32° – Knight Master

Thank-you to all of the members of the Knights of Saint Andrew for their hard work and support during 2013. Our Valley had a very successful golf tournament, moved out of our current building, and assisted with the one day fall reunion. We had a busy year, and the help of the KSA was instrumental in making these events, as well as several others, such a great success.

In November the Knights of Saint Andrew installed their officers for 2014. Congratulations to Brother Andy Thomas 32° for his election as Knight Master. I'm very pleased to see the KSA in such capable and diligent hands. I wish our chapter continued prosperity and growth in 2014. 