



AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

ORIENT OF TEXAS • VALLEY OF AUSTIN

The Messenger

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 24, 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dues notices will be in the mail soon so be on the lookout! The dues for 2019 are \$150 per year so please send them in as soon as you can.
- The Orient convocation will be held on September 7th and 8th in Waco. Speakers will be Past Grand Master and SGIG Michael Wiggins: M. W. Tommy Chapman, Grand Master of Masons in Texas; and Bro. Bob Davis, past Secretary of the Valley of Guthrie. Registration forms are available online or from Bro. Moxley.
- On October 3rd, we will have the Feast of Tishri in lieu of our regular stated meeting. This will be a coat and tie event; tickets will be \$45 per person. Please see the General Secretary for more details.
- Please feel free to have your wives, girlfriends or significant others join us for dinner and the open program.

From the Personal Rep...

LOOK AT US!

You are reading this newsletter, our second mailer this year, all of which is due to the financial success of our recent fundraiser on May 26th! Through the incredible efforts of Br. Fernando Albornoz, 32°KCCH, and the generosity of many brethren and friends we were able to generate additional communications, membership services, and other Valley activities. We plan to have an introductory dinner for newly made Master Masons next year as an invitation to our Reunion, which will be held during the first part of May 2019. Also, as a result of the aforementioned fundraiser, we will be introducing other community outreach activities to recognize and help our neighbors and public servants.



Brian Vance 33° IGH
Personal Representative
Valley of Austin

In addition to the financial success of the fundraiser, a good time was had by all! We had a nice cross section of Masons, family, our widows and friends. We look forward to more of these in the future.

The week following the fundraiser we held our Annual Reunion. Our Valley does some of the highest quality degrees around. I think those that attended were well rewarded with inspirational work and an introduction to a class of high quality men joining our ranks.

It is always a pleasure to be talking about the positive, proactive things we can do for Masonry, the Community, and the Valley. Many of the things we are doing are done with a prodigious commitment of just a few of our members. I encourage everyone to pick an activity that particularly speaks to you or that has a need for your time, temperament, and talent. Become involved in that one activity. It will provide relief to those few and will enhance the Valley and the Masonic experience for everyone. Plus it will provide you with renewal of Masonic and fraternal experiences. It only requires but a handful of days and evenings of your time during the year.

We are working hard to get the future activities on the calendar with plenty of advanced timing so that everyone can plan to attend. Please see our website at <http://www.austinscottishrite.com/> to keep up with all of the activities going on in the Valley. Future events, such as the Double Eagle Award dinner, the Reunion as well as the Honor's Ceremony will be posted there. And as a side note, our Reunion dates are locked in for the next five years! I look forward to seeing all of you soon! ~ Brian

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From General Secretary George Moxley...



Brethren,

We have been very busy this year gearing up for a Reunion and Fundraiser that were held just a week apart! On May 26th we had a very successful fundraiser featuring Jake Penrod (see inside the newsletter for more information and pictures from the event).

This year's Reunion was dedicated to Bro. Mike Plemons. We are pleased to announce that we now have nine new Scottish Rite Masons who are eager to learn more about our fraternity and to find a place to help with all of the work in our particular quarry. Please welcome these new Brothers: Thomas Chenault, Eduardo Contreras, Mladen Donchev, Jacob Hyde, Iraki Mirzashvili, Christopher Netek, Danut Prisacaru, Stefan Prisacaru, and James Stephens.

We will begin taking nominations for the Double Eagle Awards at the August stated meeting. There will be cards available at the sign-in table near the front door for you to submit name(s) of deserving worthy Brethren. The Award banquet is scheduled for October 18th at the Austin Club so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. There will be more details soon.

We still have plenty of Texas flags as well as a new shipment of United States flags, thanks to

Illustrious Brother Robert Northcutt, 33° IGH. The flags are in the Secretary's office for lodges to present to schools or other worthy public venues in your area to show that Masons support our public school systems...which we proudly helped to establish.

A reminder that Bro. John Wallace, 32°KCCH, is starting a class to go through the Master Craftsman program; class starts at 5:30 p.m. before each monthly stated meeting ~ George

Austin Scottish Rite Fundraiser is Great Success!

By Fernando Albornoz, 32° KCCH

Fellowship, family and fun were in ample display at the Austin Scottish Rite's Starlight Auditorium on May 26th, when the Valley held a very successful fundraiser. The *Country-Western Concert & Dance* brought in a whopping \$12,000-plus in gross donations, which resulted in over \$9,000 of net profit after expenses. More than 100 people packed the auditorium and displayed just about as many renditions of the immortal Texas Two-Step. While the general public was invited, almost all attendees turned out to be Scottish Rite Masons and family. The featured performer, Jake Penrod and His Million Dollar Cowboys, did not disappoint! The 2017 Honky Tonk Male Vocalist of the Year won the crowd over and lived up to his well-earned reputation of performing in the traditional style of the legendary stars like Ernest Tubb, Tex Ritter and the great Hank Williams. But in the end, the real stars of the show are all of you, Brethren, who made this event a huge success due to your generosity and support. The success of this fundraiser goes to show that the Austin Scottish Rite Valley is indeed one of the brightest stars in Texas Masonry.



Scottish Rite 101

Scottish Rite 101 is a program for Blue Lodges that explains the basics of Scottish Rite Masonry in an approximately 10 minute Masonic Moment format to be given at a Stated Meeting of a constituent Lodge. It will be given by an Ambassador or by invitation to a particular, well versed Scottish Rite Mason. The Brother giving the talk will then stay after the meeting for a few minutes to answer any questions that the Blue Lodge Mason may have about Scottish Rite Masonry.

Scottish Rite 101 is currently an ongoing project after stated meetings of Austin Lodge #12. It is held in the Scottish Rite Theater at about 9 pm on the third Monday of each Month. All are welcome.



The purpose of the program is to elicit more interest in Scottish Rite Masonry and to bring Blue Lodge Masons the possibility of more light in their lives. We believe that Scottish Rite Masonry is uniquely positioned to help seeking Masons to study, thereby promoting deeper thinking and more and better involvement in both their Blue Lodge as well as at the Austin Valley.

If you would like a presentation at your Blue Lodge, but don't feel comfortable giving the talk, please contact: John Brengle—512-560-6636, or at: jbrengele@brengelewood.com

The Grand Commander Needs You....

From the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction's website...

The very foundation of VMAP is that the best ideas about strengthening a Valley come from the Brothers out there making it happen every day. Over the last several years, we have seen VMAP develop through grassroots efforts, and now it's time for the next set of ideas to be brought forward, so that the project continues its success.

In his message on p. 2 of the March/April 2018 *Scottish Rite Journal*, Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale asks for YOUR help:

"We are called to fraternity—to be A Fraternity; to be brothers one to the other. In its purest sense, all Freemasonry is relationship driven. Upon entering Lodge, that first handshake that you receive from the first individual you encounter—that's our product right there."

With that idea in mind, he asks a direct question to each member of the Rite: *How can we be better? How can we as the Scottish Rite lay rightful claim to being the best that Freemasonry has to offer?*

The best ideas always have and always will come from Scottish Rite Masons who are hard at work in their Orients and Valleys. You are likely one of them, and perhaps your idea is the one that will help shape the future of the Scottish Rite. Big or small, the Grand Commander is asking for your ideas. Please send them to him at vision@scottishrite.org.

Ambassador's Program

We now have limited number of programs that can be offered to our Blue Lodges. Please help Brother Scully and his Ambassadors get the word out to all our Masonic Lodge. Brother Joe Shriever has designed a Masonic Business leadership program that he is happy to deliver personally to any Masonic organization. For more information, please contact the General Secretary...





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A reminder about parking at and near the Temple:

- ⇒ PLEASE do not park in the spaces that are reserved for the news channel. Those are contractually obligated as they do pay rent for them!
- ⇒ PLEASE remember our brethren who have mobility issues and leave those spaces available for them to park; there will be new designated parking for them next to the building soon.
- ⇒ There is also FREE parking available after 5 p.m. in the state parking lot located behind the Spectrum building at the corner of 17th and Colorado.

The Cause of Human Progress is our cause, the enfranchisement of human thought our supreme wish, the freedom of human conscience our mission, and the guarantee of human rights to all people everywhere, the end of our contention.

Austin Scottish Rite
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