



WE ARE HAPPY

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

On March 10, I traveled to Smithfield to spend the night before the inaugural SGIG/Grand Master train trip with thirty-one people to Washington D.C. Our train ride was March 11 to Washington returning to North Carolina on March 13 where friendships blossomed!

March 12 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, the tour of the House of the Temple, a meeting with the Sovereign Grand Commander, a ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at the Valley of Washington where we were treated like royalty, was absolutely wonderful. This will be an annual event with the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, and we are proud of it. Thank you, M. ∴ W. ∴ Grand Master Don Kehler, 33°!

When I arrived at the train station in Selma on March 13, I drove to Greensboro for their Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. For many years, I led that team in Greensboro and to this day, I am still so proud of what the new team there has accomplished. The next day, March 14, I attended the Winston-Salem Valley meeting where they honored Secretaries around the state. Right Worshipful Jonathan Underwood, 32° K.C.C.H. delivered a great message about how important our Secretaries are and Illustrious Michael Fischer, 33° was honored by his Valley and the Supreme Council as a "Secretary of Distinction." I also invested one of our brothers from the Asheville/Franklin Valley, Donnie Wallace, with his 32° K.C.C.H.

On March 16, I traveled to the Valley of New Bern to witness an extraordinarily well-done 20th Degree led by Illustrious Thomas Pope, 33°, Personal Representative of the Valley of Fayetteville, NC, and a new conferral of the 22nd Degree led by Phil Johnson, 32° K.C.C.H. and others from my home county of Halifax. At lunch, we presented a 50-year award to Illustrious Arthur Lee Horton, 33°, who continues to lead the Scottish Rite Club of

Enfield.

I did get to spend some time at home with my wife, Brenda on March 17 doing much needed yard work before departing to Raleigh for some United Methodist Church Finance Committee meetings, where I serve as Vice Chair, before going to ECU for a RiteCare meeting on March 20.

Our Orient is also preparing to launch our new YouTube channel in May, welcome a new Secretary in Wilmington and Treasurer in Charlotte, and celebrate Illustrious Brent Morris' 33° G.C. for his fifty years as a Scottish Rite Mason in Raleigh and set the course for the future of the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation's benevolent endeavors.

When I look back on these last ten days, the one thing I'll remember more than the constant activity, is that we did everything with the "right/rite heart" in all our Valleys!

As we celebrate our present, we look forward to our future with joy! We are happy! See you at SOAR!



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

August 16-17

SOAR

Summer Orient Assembly Retreat

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

Visit

NCScottishRite.org
for more information

The RiteNews of North Carolina

Valley News & Upcoming Events

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

LEE COUNTY SCOTTISH RITE CLUB (LCSRC) 2024 INSTALLATION DINNER

By Bro. John H. Miller, 32° KCCH

Lee County Scottish Rite Club held its 2024 Installation meeting and dinner on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the Bay Breeze Seafood restaurant in Sanford, North Carolina. Installing Officer was Ill. Bro. Garland E. Smith, 33° and Installing Marshall was Ill. Bro. Thomas Janysek, 33° for the evening's event.

The following Valley of New Bern Scottish Rite Brothers were installed for the 2024 year:

Bro. Sam Gilliland, 32°	President
Bro. David Oakley, 32°	Vice-President
Bro. Charles C. (Chris) Tacia, III 32° KCCH	Treasurer
Bro. John H. Miller, 32° KCCH	Secretary
Bro. Michael Talbott, 32°	Chaplain
Bro. Bobby Diggs, 32°	Sergeant-At-Arms
Bro. Donald V. Collins, 32° KCCH	Director of the Work

In addition, Bro. Ronald J. Klepper, 32° was selected as the 2023 LCSRC Scottish Rite Mason of the Year for his outstanding leadership and many decades of dedication to the LCSRC. He received a plaque from the LCSRC and a donation for \$1,080.00 was made in his honor to Rite Care.



Pictured (l-r) include Bro. Sam Gilliland, 32° (LCSRC Pres); Bro. Ron Klepper, 32°; and Bro. Garland E. Smith, 33° (Honors Committee Chairman).



Officers installed in the picture include (l-r): Bro. John H. Miller, 32° KCCH (21st Degree Tm/ LOP #6 Jr. Warden); Bro. Bobby Diggs, 32°; Bro. Sam Gilliland, 32° (21st Degree Tm) , Bro. David Oakley, 32° (21st Degree Tm); Ill. Bro. Garland E. Smith, 33° (21st Degree Tm) ; Ill. Bro. Thomas Janysek, 33°; Bro. Donald V. Collins, 32° KCCH (21st Degree Tm); Bro. Michael Talbott; 32° (21st Degree Tm) Not pictured was Bro. Charles C. (Chris) Tacia, III 32° KCCH.



The members of the LCSRC Court of Honor captured a picture together from (l-r): Bro. Ralph H. Meeks, Jr, 32° KCCH; Bro. Henry Merritt, 32° KCCH (Valley of Wilmington); Bro. John H. Miller, 32° KCCH; Ill. Bro. Garland E. Smith, 33°; Ill. Bro. Thomas Janysek, 33°; and Bro. Donald V. Collins, 32° KCCH. Not pictured are Bro. Charles C. (Chris) Tacia, III 32° KCCH and Ill. Bro. Steve A. Womble, 33°

VALLEY OF FAYETTEVILLE

LOOKING FOR DEEPER MEANING

By Ken Wical, 32°; Thomas Pope, 33°.

The Valley of Fayetteville recently created a Scottish Rite Study Group, with plans to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The group's aims are to: 1. create an environment that promotes the free discussion and examination of Scottish Rite history, traditions, symbolism, books, and ritual; 2. educate the Valley's members on the many educational resources, videos, and courses available through the Supreme Council and assist them in accessing, utilizing and completing them; 3. informing Valley members about the many advantages of joining the Scottish Rite Research Society; and 4. encouraging and assisting members of the Valley in conducting research that will lead to the development of educational papers and/or presentations that can be delivered at Lodge of Perfection meetings or other Scottish Rite events. The Study Group is also leading the effort to form a Scottish Rite Research Library for the Valley of Fayetteville.

The location of each meeting will be announced at our LoP meetings. For more information, contact the Valley's Senior Warden, Bro. Ken Wical, at kenwical@aol.com.

Valley members filled most of the chairs in exemplifying the 20th Degree at New Bern's reunion in mid-March. Brothers from the Fayetteville area have performed that degree in New Bern for well over a quarter-century. Valley of Fayetteville members on the



team in March included Thomas Pope, Joe Ferrand, Kenny Bell, Woodrow Inman, Nelson Sanchez, James Pugsley, and Lee Short. Valley member Laurice Williams Sr. was among the 16 candidates in the class who became Masters of the Royal Secret, and he was the active candidate in the 20th. Helping round out the cast were Bill Ivey Sr., Bill Ivey Jr., Mark Brewington, Job Conner, Francis Anson, and Scott Lovvorn.

Fayetteville's next reunion is slated for Saturday, Sept. 21, and plans are to add the 6th Degree (Confidential Secretary) to the 4th and 14th already being exemplified.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

WINSTON-SALEM SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

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.



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VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

HONORING BLUE LODGE SECRETARIES EVENT

By Christopher Pearman, 33°

With a renewed emphasis regarding the Secretaries of our Symbolic Lodges under S.G.I.G. Illustrious and Past Grand Master A. Gene Cobb Jr., 33°, the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley, under the guidance and leadership of Ill. George Kalamaras, 33°, Personal Representative, and Ill. Michael J. Fischer, 33°, recently hosted an event to honor the past and present Secretaries of our Blue Lodges in North Carolina.

This special event was open to the public, with many attendees from across the state, both Masonic and non-Masonic in attendance for this very unique evening. A delicious prime rib dinner was prepared by the award-winning Big Boy BBQ crew.

Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Underwood, Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of NC, gave a compelling presentation entitled "The Heart of a Lodge: The Role of Lodge Secretaries." Brother Underwood recognized all of the previous recipients of the NC Grand Lodge Secretary of Distinction Award, and thanked them for their service to our great Fraternity. Ill. Brother Don Kehler, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in NC, along with S.G.I.G. Cobb, both delivered profound remarks to the audience. Ill. Brother Joseph Transou, Senior Grand Steward, also helped present these special awards. Ill. Brother Transou has also served our Craft very well in the office of Secretary, serving as Secretary for four years at Hiram 40, seven years at West Bend Lodge 434, and three years at



Piedmont-Pioneer Lodge 685.

Ill. Brother M. Kirby Matthews Jr., 33° was presented with the Secretary of Distinction Award by Grand Master Kehler, Grand Secretary Underwood, and several brothers from Denton Masonic Lodge # 404. Brother Matthews has served as the Secretary of Denton Masonic Lodge for over 37 faithful years.

Ill. Brother Michael J. Fischer, 33°, was presented with the prestigious Secretary of Distinction Award from the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. This distinguished award was presented to Ill. Brother Fischer from S.G.I.G. Cobb for his many years of exceptional hard work and service as the Secretary of the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Valley.



VALLEY OF RALEIGH

**HALF A CENTURY OF LIGHT:
 CELEBRATING BROTHER BRENT MORRIS'S GOLDEN MASONIC JOURNEY**

By B. Blake Taylor 32°, KSA

In the heart of Raleigh, a significant milestone was marked as the Masonic community celebrated the 50th Masonic birthday of illustrious Brother Brent Morris, 33rd. This half-century journey is not just a testament to longevity, but also highlights the immense contributions and unparalleled dedication Brother Morris has offered to the Masonic Fraternity.

Brother Brent Morris is not an ordinary member of the Masonic order; his credentials speak volumes of a life dedicated to the enrichment and advancement of Masonry. As a distinguished historian and scholar, his work has been revered within the confines of Raleigh and across the globe. His understanding of Masonry, coupled with his expertise in statistics, has provided valuable insights into the growth phases of Masonry, showcasing the evolving nature of this age-old fraternity.

Throughout his 50 years of service, Brother Morris has been a beacon of knowledge, shedding light on the complexities and beauties of Masonic tradition with a clarity that only a true scholar could provide. His contributions extend beyond mere membership; they have been instrumental in shaping the understanding and appreciation of Masonry's rich history and principles.

It is impressive to note that he is not only a Master Mason but also a 33° Scottish Rite Mason. Furthermore, his role as the former editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal* highlights his extensive knowledge and expertise in Masonic tradition and history. His contributions to the publication of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction have undoubtedly played a significant role in educating and enlightening Masons worldwide.

The celebration in Raleigh was a heartfelt tribute to Brother

Morris's unwavering commitment and remarkable achievements.



The presentation of his 50-year certificate was not just a formality, but a moment of pride for the entire Valley, recognizing a journey that has significantly impacted the Masonic world. Brother Morris's masonic birthday is a celebration not only of his personal achievements, but also of the enduring strength and relevance of the Masonic values he vividly embodies.

Brother Brent Morris's Masonic journey is a shining example of dedication, scholarship, and fraternal bond that will undoubtedly inspire future generations. As Raleigh's Valley stood in honor of this monumental achievement, the echoes of Brother Morris's contributions to Masonry will continue to resonate, symbolizing the timeless legacy of a remarkable individual in the fraternity's storied history.

VALLEY OF ASHEVILLE AND FRANKLIN

ALL ABOARD!! A RECAP OF A MASONIC JOURNEY TO WASHINGTON D.C.

By George A. Bulgin, 32°

On 11 March 2024, myself and Brother Olin Stiles traveled to Washington D.C. on a trip sponsored by North Carolina Scottish Rite. We departed from Salisbury Station early on Monday, 11 March, via Amtrak train. At stops along the way, we were joined by other Brothers from North Carolina for the journey northward. Having business class seats for all of us gave us the opportunity to meet, talk and enjoy the fellowship of being Brothers. Having

the opportunity to get up and walk around and eat in the Cafe car made the journey much more enjoyable.

We arrived in Alexandria, VA. in the late afternoon and walked the short 10 minute walk to our hotel. The following morning, we all gathered in the lobby and walked the 15 minutes to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. We were given

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a personal tour of the Memorial and were able to take in the wonderful tribute to our First President and fellow Brother. It was something that could easily take up a full day there as there were displays on Freemasonry, the appendant bodies, George Washington's life and masonic impact, and the impact of other famous American Masons.

After we had walked back to the hotel and had lunch on our own, we again met in the lobby and were driven to the House of the Temple where we were met in the Atrium by SGC Jim Cole 33°. Again we were given a personal tour of the House of the Temple, starting with the Temple Room. I honestly do not have words to adequately describe the experience and pictures are a poor substitute. We spent several hours touring the House of the Temple, but that amount of time does not do it justice. Our tour concluded with a personal greeting with SGC Cole in his office. A personal side note, the SGC's executive assistant, E.C. Sizemore, is the daughter of the Grand Executive Director, Ill. W.G. Sizemore II, 33°, GC, RADM, USN (Ret.), with whom I deployed to sea

with, twice, on USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) during the mid 1980's. This I discovered during my visit. Small world indeed.

From the House of the Temple, we were transported to the Valley of Washington, Orient of District of Columbia for dinner and to be guests for A Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. It was an incredible and moving experience to top off our trip. The following day, 13 March, we boarded the train for the southbound journey home having seen and experienced a wonderful, inspiring and humbling trip; a continuation in a journey seeking light and fellowship with many wonderful Brothers.

This was the inaugural trip to Washington D.C., hosted by North Carolina Scottish Rite, for newly raised Master Masons and Masters of the Royal Secret. It is a trip that will hopefully become an annual event and it is a trip that is open to any North Carolina Mason and their family, if they wish to attend and pay the cost. It is well worth it. I do hope that everyone can experience such a wonderful journey. Look it into. Ask about it. It is an illuminating journey that didn't disappoint. All Aboard!

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

MAUNDY THURSDAY CEREMONY

By Bro. John H. Miller, 32° KCCH, LCSRC Secretary

The Lee County Scottish Rite Club (LCSRC) and the Cape Fear Area Scottish Rite Club (CFASRC) presented a joint Maundy Thursday Service at Palmyra Masonic Lodge #142 in Dunn, North Carolina on Thursday March 28, 2024 beginning at 6:30 PM. This year, refreshments were provided by LCSRC.

Hubert Warren 33°, Joe Hemphill, and Ill. Herb Ruark 33°.

Not pictured include Bro. Jonathan Johnson 32° KCCH, Bro. Brinson Hunter, and Bro. Zachary MacDonald.



Members participating in the ceremony included Brothers from left to right:

Top Row: Brothers Michael Talbott, Esteban Gonzalez, Samuel Gilliland, Larry Mason, Steven Miller, Robbie Hardison.

Front Row: Brothers David Oakley, Peter Hedges, John H. Miller 32° KCCH, Ralph Meeks 32° KCCH, Ill. Garland E. Smith 33°, Ill. Bro. (Rev) Leon Tart 33°, (Guest Speaker), Chris Vancil, Ill. Herb Ruark 33°, Mark Tart 32° KCCH (President-CFASRC), Ill.

Thank you to the LCSRC Ladies including Ms. Joyce, Ms. Ruth, Ms. April, and Ms. Regina for preparing, set-up, and service of the awesome refreshments for the ceremony!

LCSRC meets every 3d Thursday, 6:30 PM at Bay Breeze Seafood Restaurant, 1385 North Horner Blvd, Sanford, NC 27330-9446 and CFASRC meets every 5th Tuesday, 6:30 PM at Palmyra Lodge #147, 700 Maple Avenue, Dunn, N.C 28334.

All Scottish Rite Masons and their families are welcome!

Come Join Us

Jacksonville Florida

May 2 -3

The RiteNews of North Carolina

VALLEY OF NEW BERN

MAUNDY THURSDAY CEREMONY

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.



VALLEY OF WILMINGTON

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL OBSERVANCE

By Harry Steele, 32° KCCH

Our Service of Remembrance and Renewal /Easter Observance was held at the Ill. E. Earl Wells Scottish Rite Center on March 30, 2024. Approximately 28 Brothers attended with families and guest. We should remember when we promote this program it is open to members and nonmembers of the Scottish Rite and Masons. This is a touching program and a special time to remember our departed brothers and recognizing the Easter season. Thanks to all those that participated in the ceremony, especially our guest speaker Dr. George Gates who presented an excellent message. A special thanks also to Ill. Happy Bufkin and wife Belinda Bufkin who cooked our traditional Easter meal with the help of Kenny Scott, 32°.

VALLEY OF WINSTON-SALEM

BRING A FRIEND EVENT

By Christopher Pearman 33°

On Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm, the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite will be hosting a "Bring a Friend" event at the Masonic Center. Join us for a delicious country dinner and fellowship. There will be exciting presentations about the Scottish Rite, the Shriners, the York Rite, and the Order of the Eastern Star by Ill. Brother William Carter 33°, Past Potentate of Oasis Shriners, Ill. M. Kirby Matthews Jr. 33°, Past Grand Commander of the NC Commandery of Knights Templar, and Mrs. Amy-Jo Fischer, Associate Grand Matron for the NC Order of the Eastern Star. This event is open to the public, family and friends are welcome. RSVP's are requested to the Valley Secretary, Ill. Michael Fischer 33°, at 336-723-1217, or Secretary@Winstonsalemsscottishrite.org

Bring a Friend Event
Presented by the Winston-Salem Scottish Rite

Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm – Open to the public – RSVP's required

Join us for a delicious dinner and fellowship, with exciting presentations on the Scottish Rite, Shriners, the York Rite, and the Order of the Eastern Star by:

Ill. William H. Carter, 33° - Past Potentate - Oasis Shriners
 Ill. M. Kirby Matthews Jr., 33° - Past Grand Commander of the NC Commandery of Knights Templar
 Mrs. Amy-Jo Fischer - Associate Grand Matron - NC Order of the Eastern Star

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THE RITENEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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



MAY-JUNE 2024

The Valley of Greensboro recently honored one of their 50 year members with a special presentation in the lodge. Brother James D. Carter, 32° a member of Jefferson-Penn Lodge No. 384 was given his 50 year certificate and lapel pin during a stated meeting. He was greatly appreciative and thrilled to have the presentation be made in his home lodge in front of his lodge Brethren. The Valley congratulates Brother Carter for his half century of service to the fraternity. Making the presentation for the Valley was W.B.: Clifford Shrewsbury, 32°, who is currently serving as the 22nd Masonic District's District Deputy Grand Master.



Ill Bro. Arthur Horton 50-Year Pin Ill. Brother Arthur Horton, 33° received his 50-year Scottish Rite Membership Pin and Certificate at the Valley of New Bern Ill. Bro. James "Jim" Hay Memorial Spring Reunion held on March 15-16 at the Valley of New Bern. He was presented his 50- Pin by Ill. Brother Asa Buck 33°, VONB Personal Rep to the SGIG and personally congratulated by Ill. Bro. A. Gene Cobb, 33° Orient of NC SGIG. He is a member of American George Lodge #17 in Murfreesboro and a Scottish Rite Mason since May 1974. He received his KCCH in October 1995, and his Inspectors General – Honorary in March 2001. Ill. Bro. Horton is still active in his lodge and the Valley of New Bern. Congratulations to Ill. Bro Arthur Horton on this great honor and being such a positive role model to all Making the presentation for the Valley was W.B.: Clifford Shrewsbury, 32°, who is currently serving as the 22nd Masonic District's District Deputy Grand Master.



LODGE OF PERFECTION MEETINGS

Asheville, 2nd Thursday of each month
(Advisory Council 5:00pm, and Stated Meeting 7:00pm)

Charlotte, 1st Wednesday 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
- Matt Moore (Wilmington) 919-422-2058
- Michael Fischer (Winston-Salem) 336-337-6892

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October 2024 4th-32nd degrees



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