

# RITE LITE

Volume 62

No. 1

Jan. 2025

**A 32° Masonic Publication of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite**

**Valley of Akron / a newsletter / January - February 2025**

**Instituted December 13, 1958 • Date of Charter: September 23, 1959**



**Thousands of dollars in donations.**

**Dozens of members of the Valley of Akron Masonic Family.**

**Hundreds Helped. This was the Masonic Assistance Program 2024.**

## VALLEY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6: LADIES & COUPLES DATE NIGHT:  
SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20: MEETING. REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20: MEETING. REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1: DEADLINE FOR ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS. APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON THE VALLEY OF  
AKRON WEBSITE: [WWW.VALLEYOFAKRON.COM](http://WWW.VALLEYOFAKRON.COM). FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE VALLEY OFFICE. ALL  
APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED LEGIBLY.

OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

VALLEY OF AKRON / P.O. BOX 468 / CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO 44223

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.

THE OLD ONE WILL NOT WORK.

[VALLEYOFAKRONOHIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VALLEYOFAKRONOHIO@GMAIL.COM) • 234.900.5424

THE NEXT RITE LITE NEWSLETTER WILL ARRIVE IN MARCH.

IF YOU HAVE NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, THIS DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

EMAIL THE EDITOR: [DXFERRIS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DXFERRIS@GMAIL.COM) . WE ARE HAPPY TO DO WHAT WE CAN FOR YOU.

## WE NEED PHOTOS.

Your *Rite Lite* newsletter looks better with more photographs. If you take pictures at a Valley event, please share with the editor: [dxferris@gmail.com](mailto:dxferris@gmail.com).

RITE LITE NEWSLETTER. A PUBLICATION OF THE VALLEY OF AKRON, A.A.S.R., OHIO.

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH, IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC EDITIONS. EMAIL UPDATES WEEKLY.

Our vision: We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.

# M.A.P.R. (MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT)

## Brethren:

Many, many thanks to everyone who made the **2024 Masonic Assistance Program (MAP)** a success. In October, we had only \$4,700 in the MAP account.

We had lost a rather significant contributor.

But through the work of our Ambassadors, Presiding Officers, and other AASR members, the word got out that we needed help.

And our Masonic Brethren and families proved brotherly love and charity for others.

**Steve Prentice, TPM**, was a significant solicitor this year, when he was visiting Lodges as DEO. Thanks Steve!

Another contributor this year delivered a big, important surprise this year: **Valley Treasurer Christopher Schill** drummed up the donation of 100 laundry baskets. Through the power of the internet, Chris was able to solicit donations from all over the country. And then he was able to pick up the baskets at a local Walmart. Ingenious!

Thanks, as always, to **Hudson Lodge #510** for starting early. They picked up the groceries at Acme on Massillon Road in Green. Then they delivered them to Craftsmen's Park.

Thanks to **Brother Gregg Walton**. Walton opened the dining hall at Craftsman Park, where we assembled the baskets.

And many thanks to all the brothers and families who assembled and distributed baskets. Job well done! We should all be proud of what we accomplished this year.

Between Brethren and their generous family members, **56 people attended**.

**41 of those were Brothers.**

Together, they assembled **95 baskets**.

**Each basket was worth \$100.**

From October 1 to December 18, **we raised over \$10,500**. This was in addition our beginning balance.

**17 Masonic bodies donated**, including Blue Lodges, Commandery, and Eastern Star Chapters.

...as did many individual members, individuals, and businesses.

Many folks told me this is very fun and rewarding event.

It's always cool to see how quickly **95 baskets** can be prepared for distribution.

The best part is when a full basket is handed over to the recipients. Their eyes will say thank you better than their words. You can tell they are really thankful .

Donations can be sent any time to AASR Valley of Akron, PO Box 468, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0468. **Please make checks out to Aroba Lodge of Perfection, with MAP in the memo.**

Together, we reached reach our goal!

— Dutch Chancey, MAP Chairman, MSA









# Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Akron

P.O. Box 468, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0468  
Phone: 234-900-5424 • Email: valleyofakronohio@gmail.com



GEORGE E. TILDEN, 33°  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AROBA LODGE OF PERFECTION, 4°  
ADAR COUNCIL PRINCES OF JERUSALEM, 16°  
ARRAS CHAPTER ROSE CROIX, 18°  
AKRON CONSISTORY, 32°

Happy New Year Brethren!

Let's begin with the new year with a resolution to attend the **Six Valley All Degree Day** on **Saturday, January 25, 2025** which is being hosted by the **Valley of Canton** located at **836 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44702**.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 8:00 AM-8:50 AM Registration/Coffee & Donuts
- 8:30 AM 4th Degree for Candidates Only
- 8:50 AM Opening & Introductions
- 9:15 AM Featured Degrees
  - Valley of Akron - 25<sup>th</sup> Degree Master of Achievement
  - Valley of Cambridge – 9<sup>th</sup> Degree Master of the Temple
  - Valley of Canton – 31<sup>st</sup> Degree My Brother's Keeper
  - Valley of Cleveland – 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Perfect Master
  - Valley of Steubenville – 26<sup>th</sup> Degree Friend and Brother Eternal
  - Valley of Youngstown – 29<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight of St. Andrew
- 12:00-1:30 PM Lunch

The cost of breakfast and lunch is \$25.00.

Please register to attend this event by email at [valleyofakronohio@gmail.com](mailto:valleyofakronohio@gmail.com) and mail a check made payable to **Aroba Lodge of Perfection** in the amount of **\$25.00** to **Valley of Akron, P.O. Box 468, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0468** no later than **Monday, January 13, 2025**.

This will be a great opportunity to extend an invitation to a Brother seeking more light and continue their journey in Masonry in becoming a member of the Valley of Akron.

Let us Thrive and Journey On in 2025!

George E. Tilden, 33°  
Executive Secretary

# *Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Six Valley Degree Day*



*Saturday, January 25, 2025*

*8:00 AM-5:00 PM*

*Lunch - 12:00-1:30 P.M. Cost \$25.00*

*Canton Masonic Temple*

*836 Market Avenue North*

*Canton, OH 44702*

Brethren, mark your calendars for a momentous experience! On this day, Scottish Rite Masons will gather together to share fellowship and view outstanding portrayals of Degrees seldom seen by our Brethren presented by the Valleys of Akron, Cambridge, Canton, Cleveland, Steubenville and Youngstown.

The Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, and Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, Illustrious and Most Worshipful William M. Carter, III, 33°, as well as our Illustrious Donald R. Heldman, 33°, Active Member of Supreme Council and Deputy for Ohio, will be in attendance.

To accommodate Candidates, the *4th Degree - The Builder* will be presented by video.

Passports stamping will be available following the portrayal of each degree:

<i>25th Degree</i>	<i>Master of Achievement</i>	<i>Akron</i>
<i>9th Degree</i>	<i>Master of the Temple</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>
<i>31st Degree</i>	<i>My Brother's Keeper</i>	<i>Canton</i>
<i>5th Degree</i>	<i>Perfect Master</i>	<i>Cleveland</i>
<i>26th Degree</i>	<i>Friend and Brother Eternal</i>	<i>Steubenville</i>
<i>29th Degree</i>	<i>Knight of St. Andrew</i>	<i>Youngstown</i>

**Brethren in all 12 Valleys in Ohio should contact their Valley Secretary for reservations.**

**All Out of State Brethren can make reservations to the Valley of Canton as follows:**

Email: [valleyofcanton78@gmail.com](mailto:valleyofcanton78@gmail.com)

Office Phone: (330) 455-2321

Mail: AASR Valley of Canton

836 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44702

*Deadline for reservations is Friday, January 17, 2025.*

Lunch tickets will be given when you register at the event.

# SECRETARY'S CORNER, BY ILL. GEORGE TILDEN, 33°

## DUES NOTICES

Are your Lodge and Scottish Rite dues cards current? Please check your dues card.

Please be aware that you must be current in your Blue Lodge to be eligible to participate in the Valley of Akron. It is alarming to know that I have had to suspend 13 members for non-payment of Blue Lodge dues — and 24 members for non-payment of their Scottish Rite dues.

For the past three years the Officers, members and Trustees of the Valley of Akron have received the Valley of Excellence Award from the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

As we continue to excel in our ritualistic work, activities and serving others, we are missing an important piece of the puzzle for our success which is YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns about your dues, please contact me by email or phone.

## MY THOUGHTS

Membership is more about momentum than numbers. Together, we can THRIVE in 2025 by building a brighter and stronger future.

We have heard several times that our forefathers have left a legacy. Today, we are that legacy. And we have a responsibility to continue to leave a legacy. We must ensure that the Valley of Akron provide opportunities, share our values, develop leaders, and create and maintain the brotherhood of mankind.

The Valley of Akron recognizes and appreciates the dedication, support and your financial contributions. They help us to continue the journey to thrive, grow, and be successful.

## VALLEY OF EXCELLENCE

We are on target for another successful year. However, in Membership, we are behind. I am asking each and everyone of you to seek out a new Brother, or ask a former member to return. If each of us would bring in 2 members (1 for growth and 1 to replace us), WE will THRIVE in 2025! See page 12 for more about Excellence.

## ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIP

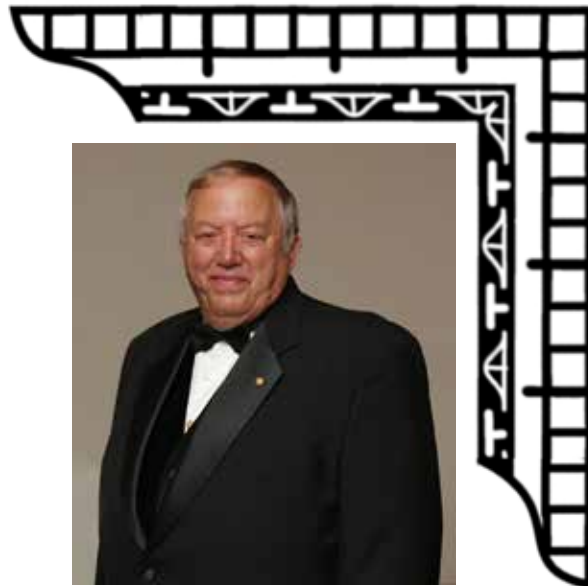
The 2025 Abbott Scholarship applications are now available online, at the Valley of Akron website: [ValleyOfAkron.com](http://ValleyOfAkron.com). For additional information, please contact the Valley office. All applications must be typed or printed legibly and submitted no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

## HELP WANTED

We are in need of 5 additional members to fill the positions for the 25th Degree to be presented on January 25, 2025 in Canton during the 6 Valley All Degree Day. These characters say 1 word each.

If you are interested in a part please contact Degree Director Rory Wolff at (330) 626-3015 or A.J. Nall at (330) 357-7989. Journey On!

Fraternally,  
George E. Tilden, 33°  
Executive Secretary, Valley of Akron, A.A.S.R.



# YOUR ACTIVE MEMBER SAYS...

## Brethren...



As always, the annual Masonic Assistance Program was a gigantic success. I thank everyone who helped assemble the food baskets and distribute the baskets.

I have had more than one person tell me the MAP Program is what they look forward to the most in Scottish Rite.

It always is a great morning, with many people involved.

Much thanks to **Dutch Chancey, Doug McIe, Chris Schill, and Steve Prentiss** for their additional work. They saw to it that the day went very well.

I also thank the cast, degree director, **Ill. Bro. George Tilden, 33°** and everyone who are helping make the 25th degree at the 6 Valley Degree Day go very well.

You have already put in a lot of effort and time. I am very proud. You will show Ohio what your Valley is made of.

As we move into the dead of winter, the Blue Lodge Inspection season will be starting soon.

This is a great to reconnect with Brothers you haven't seen in a while, or to meet a new brother and tell him what Scottish Rite has to offer.

Stay warm. I look forward to seeing you soon.

**Fraternally,**

**James F. Easterling, Jr.**

## Valley of Akron 2024

### Chairman:

Illustrious Richard Landals, 33°

### Vice-Chairman:

Illustrious William Murphy, 33°

### Trustees:

AJ Nall, MSA

Illustrious Jason Kidd, 33°, MSA

Joshua Prokop, MSA

### Hospitaler:

Michael Madden

### Secretary:

Illustrious George E. Tilden, 33°

### Treasurer:

Christopher Schill

## Officers

### Thrice Potent Master:

Steven Prentiss

### Sovereign Prince:

Richard Cole Jr.

### Most Wise Master:

Jamie Leaver

### Commander in Chief:

Jonathan Richeson



## Rite Lite Newsletter

**Editor:** David S. Ferris, MSA

### Production & Distribution:

Illustrious George E. Tilden, 33°

**Staff Photographers:** Larry P. Wilson, Jr.

Illustrious James F. Easterling, Jr., 33°



# FROM THE MOST WISE MASTER

## Brethren:

Greetings from your Most Wise (Guy) Master.

I hope Everyone has had a great holiday season. The Valley of Akron was very busy.

We had a very successful family outing at the **Akron Zoo** seeing the Christmas lights. See the next page for photos.

Your Valley was able to serve 97 families through the Masonic Assistance Program and the food baskets, which were made possible by so many generous donations.

Our Blue Envelope program is still going on. Please send in your Blue Envelope, with **The Valley of Akron in the memo on your check.**

**The Six Valley Degree Day** will be on Saturday January 25, in Canton.

We also have our **Ladies Dinner** on February 6, at the Spaghetti Warehouse on Main St. in Downtown Akron. With a special Guest speaker.

Rite on the Road will be at the Wadsworth Lodge Thursday, January 27, at 7 pm. Your Rose Croix officers will be hosting. Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendar for the Spring Reunion April 4 and 5.

Remember: It's YOUR Journey. Make it legendary!



**Jamie Leaver**  
**Most Wise Master**  
**Arras Chapter Rose Croix**  
**Valley of Akron**







# FROM THE THRICE POTENT MASTER...

**To the brethren of the valley:**

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and made wonderful memories with their loved ones.

The Lights at the Zoo night was a great event.

I want to thank all those who participated.

Talk about another great event: The MAP / Masonic Assistance Program went very well. Nearly 100 families were very grateful to get their baskets.

I really appreciate all of you who put forth effort in making this event a success year after year.

Coming any day now is the 6 Valley Degree Day. This is another one of the bigger days of the year for Brethren of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Come out and get those passports filled up. At this upcoming stated meeting, we may even be handing a couple of them out.

So come on out and help us congratulate your Brethren and other awardees. I hope to see everyone soon.

Until then, travel light!

All the best!



— **Steven D. Prentiss, RSS #43**  
**Thrice Potent Master, Aroba Lodge of Perfection**  
**District Education Officer, 21st Masonic District**





# AWARDS NIGHT

Scenes from Awards Night  
2025, at the Valley Temple.



# VALLEY OF EXCELLENCE UPDATE

## **Brethren:**

Following is an update on our progress regarding the Valley of Excellence Program.

We are currently at...

**MEMBERSHIP:** 11.90 points of a possible 50

**SERVICE & PHILANTHROPY:** 20.17 points of a possible 25

**LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENTS:** 10 points of a possible 15

**OPERATION:** 14.80 points of a possible 10

**BONUS POINTS:** We are ranked third in Ohio, 17th in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

As all can see, we are far behind of the needed points for Membership. This has been an area where we need the most help. And the good part is that every member can assist in meeting this goal.

Many members speak of the "Lessons of Masonry." We learn in the York Rite, that the Master Mason with out the York Rite Mason is a story half told, and a song half sung. I've been a York Rite Mason for over 35 years.

Unfortunately, I didn't learn of all that the Scottish Rite has to offer until 8 years ago. While the York Rite gives a much more complete view of Masonry; it tells the full story of Masonry and the building of King Solomon's Temple.

What makes the Scottish Rite so much more is that it not only talks about Masonry, but it also prepares and gives the path for the "Good Man" not only to be a "Better Man", but to be a Brother.

When we look at our 29 Degrees, how many not only talk about Masonry, but also have moral and ethical implications contained within the Degree as well. These moral and ethical implications are what makes a Mason a Brother!

In seeing new Master Masons, we find new Brothers looking for *MORE LIGHT*; let's not only look at new Master Masons, but at Brothers who may not have looked further than their Blue Lodge for this Light.

Let's also look at our Brother York Rite Masons who also are looking for *MORE LIGHT*. As I learned, the Scottish Rite has a great deal to teach a Brother who may already be an honored Mason.

These lessons are just as important today as when we were raised a Master Mason; possibly even more so. Our lessons also teach of being the Brother to our fellow man.

Are we neglecting our Brothers of this further important lesson? This is a question we each need to ask ourselves.

As for myself, I've neglected spreading this important lesson; I can't go back, but I can definitely go forward. Giving *MORE LIGHT* on being the true Brother is important; I plan on providing this light to Brothers as well as Companions; giving a short talk and a petition for the Scottish Rite is the first step in providing *MORE LIGHT* and helping the Brother be the true Mason and Brother.

Thanks for all each of you do for Scottish Rite Masonry and especially the Valley of Akron

**Fraternally,**

**Ron Hart, Valley of Excellence Coordinator**



# THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE RITE

Thursday, January 30, 2025

23°, Knight of Valor

Thursday, February 13, 2025

12°, Master of Mercy

Thursday, February 27, 2025

17°, Knight of the East and West

Thursday, March 13, 2025

24°, Brother of Tolerance

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Season 6 finale: 31°, My Brothers Keeper

Season 6. Spring 2025.

Every Thursday night at the Valley Temple.

The 4° will be presented at 7:30 p.m.

The featured degree will follow at 8:00 p.m.



# THE BLUE ENVELOPE APPEAL

## Greetings, Brethren:

The Blue Envelope Appeal is the NMJ's oldest Jurisdiction-wide fundraising appeal. For decades, Scottish Rite Masons have supported the charitable efforts of the fraternity by mailing their annual donations in a blue reply envelope, leading to the program's name.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been raised to support our Scottish Rite Charities, thanks to the generous support of our members. Donations to the Blue Envelope currently support:

- The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund
- The Children's Dyslexia Centers
- The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library
- The Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund

## How does the Blue Envelope help my Valley?

Your members' Blue Envelope donations can help your Valley receive Valley of Excellence credit. Obtaining credit requires at least 10% or more of your Valley's total members donating to the Blue Envelope, with the campaign running from October 1 to June 15. Valley of Excellence Blue Envelope donations from your Valley also help determine your annual Abbott Scholarship allocation.

Your Blue Envelope Appeal will be arrived in October. Please consider donating to this valuable charity.

Together we can wipe away a tear for a family that is in need, bring hope to a child who is struggling with Dyslexia, help our Scottish Rite Museum and Library preserve history for the next generation, and to financially assist and honor those students seeking higher education.

The goal set by our Supreme Council and the Valley of Excellence Program is to have 60 of our members donate to this cause.

Can we count on you?

Thank you, and JOURNEY ON WITH US.



**George E. Tilden, 33°**  
**Executive Secretary**

# 21st Masonic District Inspection Schedule

Lodge	Insp. Deg.	Day	Date	Din/RA	DDGM	DEO
Port Washington #202	FC	Mon.	1/20/2025	RA	Myers	Ryan
Tuscarawas #59	MM	Wed.	1/22/2025	RA	Osborne	Amlung
Summit #213	EA	Thu.	1/23/2025	RA	Osborne	Ryan
Cov-Akron #83	EA	Thu.	1/30/2025	RA	Myers	Prentiss
Star #187	EA	Mon.	2/3/2025	RA	Kidd	Prentiss
Clinton #47	MM	Tue.	2/4/2025	RA	Kidd	Amlung
Meridian Sun #69	FC	Sat.	2/8/2025	RA	Kidd	Prentiss
New Franklin #803	FC	Wed.	2/12/2025	RA	Osborne	Amlung
Wm McKinley #431	EA	Mon.	2/17/2025	DB	Osborne	Amlung
National #568	EA	Tue.	2/18/2025	DB	Myers	Ryan
Mt. Akra #680	FC	Mon.	2/24/2025	RA	Osborne	Ryan
Wm H. Hoover #770	MM	Tue.	2/25/2025	RA	Myers	Ryan
Trinity #710	FC	Thu.	2/27/2025	RA	Myers	Amlung
Hudson #510	MM - 9 AM	Sat.	3/1/2025	LA	Kidd	Prentiss
Canton #60	FC	Wed.	3/12/2025	DB	Osborne	Ryan
Victory #649	MM	Tue.	3/18/2025	RA	Kidd	Prentiss
Ashlar #639	FC	Wed.	3/19/2025	RA	Kidd	Prentiss

All inspections start at 7pm unless otherwise noted.

RA = Refreshments After

LA = Lunch After

DB = Dinner Before

# MASONBOOK

by Brethren you know

## The Successful Lodge:



Best Practices in Freemasonry,  
by 70 Well Traveled Brethren

Strategies in Nonprofit Leadership  
from Past Grand Master James F. Easterling, Jr.,  
with David Ferris

6623 Press Motivational ©

The book *The Successful Lodge: Best Practices in Freemasonry* collects battle-tested advice from 70 Brethren in Ohio's 21st District. This handy Mason's manual collects a diverse array of tips and techniques to keep your Lodge productive and harmonious.

196 pages • 5x8" • 31 images • \$14.95  
paperback • \$5.99 e-book

*The Successful Lodge* paperbacks and e-books are available **online exclusively at Amazon.com.**



## ADVERTISEMENT

Do you have a business or service that is available to the public? Do your Masonic brethren, their families and friends know about you, your company and the services that you provide? Why not place a tax deductible advertisement in the Rite Lite? Advertising in the Rite Lite would be a nice way to reach out to your brethren and friends. The Rite Lite can print your business card size advertisement, for a nominal fee.

The Rite Lite is published by the Valley of Akron at least four times per year with a circulation of approximately 1,000 members. There is an additional distribution of several hundred copies by email. All Rite Lite issues are presently being posted on the Valley of Akron's web site:

[www.ValleyOfAkronOhio.com](http://www.ValleyOfAkronOhio.com)

All advertisement must be of good taste and approved by the Rite Lite Editor. All fees paid for ads are utilized by the Valley of Akron to help underwrite the cost of publication and distribution of the Rite Lite. For an annual cost of \$100, you can promote your company in four quarterly publications. Other advertisement sizes and rates are available upon request. A photo ready copy of each advertisement is required. Anyone interested in placing an ad in the Rite Lite, should request a form. A form is attached to the email version of the Rite Lite.

Anyone who is interested in placing an ad in the Rite Lite should contact:

Valley of Akron Secretary  
Illustrious George E. Tilden, 33°  
Tel: 234.900.5424  
[ValleyOfAkronOhio@gmail.com](mailto:ValleyOfAkronOhio@gmail.com)

# "Dark is not the opposite of light. It is the absence of light."



**RITE LITE**  
**A.A.S.R. Valley of Akron**

**2307 Sacket Ave.**  
**Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223**



**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**WILL YOU  
BE MOVING?**

Your Valley wastes money every month by sending mail to bad addresses. Not only do we waste postage, but we are charged for the returned mail.

PLEASE, if you are moving, or if you have already moved, please send or call the Valley Office with your updated mailing address.

Please call the Valley of Akron Secretary at 234.900.5424 with all new information, updates or changes.

**YOUR VALLEY ON  
THE WEB**

[www.ValleyOfAkronOhio.com](http://www.ValleyOfAkronOhio.com)

Find us on Facebook

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by The  
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P.O. Box 468  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
44222 - 0468

Office Hours: 9:00-noon  
Monday-Friday  
or by appointment  
A.A.S.R. Tel.: 234.900.5424

ValleyOfAkronOhio  
@gmail.com

Editor / Committee  
David S. Ferris, MSA  
dxferis@gmail.com

**“Scottish Rite is the fraternity of choice.”**