

RITE LITE

Volume 62

No. 6

Nov. 2025

A 32° Masonic Publication of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

Valley of Akron / a newsletter / November - December 2025

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



VALLEY CALENDAR

COVER:

A.I. ARTWORK GENERATED BY BRO. CHRISTOPHER SCHILL, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM AI AND SANTA'S ELVES.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20: VALLEY OF AKRON STATED & TRUSTEE MEETINGS. 6:30 PM. YOUR VALLEY OF AKRON BOARD OF TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN ILLUSTRIOUS RICHARD LANDALS, 33° HAS ENCOURAGED THE LEADERSHIP TEAM TO BE PRESENT FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE FALLS MASONIC TEMPLE.

THE STATED MEETING FOR NOVEMBER WILL BE HELD IN THE LODGE ROOM OF THE FALLS MASONIC TEMPLE AT 7:30 P.M.

THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND OFFICERS OF ARRAS CHAPTER ROSE CROIX.

IN CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY ALL VETERANS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AND WILL BE ASKED TO PLEASE SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13: FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT. DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT VALLEYOFAKRON.COM.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16: SUPREME COUNCIL ONLINE LEADERSHIP WEBINAR, 7 PM.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18: VALLEY OF AKRON STATED & TRUSTEE MEETINGS. 6:30 PM.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20: MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ASSEMBLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF BASKETS. SEE PAGE 3.

VALLEYOFAKRONOHIO@GMAIL.COM • 234.900.5424

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL ARRIVE IN JANUARY. THIS ISSUE WILL COVER EVENTS THROUGH EARLY MARCH. IF YOU HAVE NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, THIS DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 11.

EMAIL THE EDITOR: 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.

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.

'TIS THE SEASON MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY IN A TIME OF NEED

Valley of Akron Masonic Assistance Program 2025

When: Saturday, 20 December, 10 a.m.

Where: Craftsmen Park Ballroom

How to Donate:

Online: valleyofakronohio.com/masonic-assistance-program-map

By Mail: Checks payable to The Valley of Akron, with MAP included on the memo line
Send to AASR Valley of Akron / 2307 Sackett Ave. / Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223.

Chair and Co-Chair: Steven Prentiss and Christopher Schill

Do you know someone in need? Send the person's name, number, and address, including the sponsor of that person to stevendpreniss@gmail.com or christopher.wr.schill@gmail.com

The Masonic Assistance Program (MAP) of the Valley of Akron AASR began 30 years ago this year as the Christmas Basket Program. It remains our most visible and most active service. Every December, our volunteers meet at Craftsmen Park to fill baskets (laundry baskets or storage totes) with groceries so that families in need across Summit County and the surrounding area can have a holiday meal.

It goes without saying that we can't do this alone. We continue to be very thankful for all of the support provided by the lodges of the 21st Masonic District and Masons throughout the Northeastern Ohio area. Through your generosity, more than 100 families have been assisted with baskets or vouchers at Christmas and beyond each year. Each basket or voucher is valued at \$100.

MAP remains a small operation. Maybe we're not going to change the world... but with your help we will make it a little better – and a little easier. You'd be surprised what a difference even that can make.

The individuals and families that we help are in difficult situations. It's not easy to ask for help. If you know of someone who is having trouble making ends meet this year, please let us know.

Names are needed by December 1st to guarantee a basket. If a basket is not available, a grocery gift card for the same value will be provided. No one will go away empty-handed.

All the best!!

Steven D. Prentiss, RSS #43

District Education Officer for the 21st Masonic District

The Spirit of Light: How the Season of Giving Is Illuminated by Scottish Rite Values by Christopher Schill

As the world begins to glitter with festive lights and familiar carols broadcast through the air, we are reminded that the true miracle of the holiday season is not found in what we receive but in what we give. For Scottish Rite Masons, this truth is not seasonal. It is sacred.

The Scottish Rite's teachings, embodied in our motto "Ordo ab Chao" Order from Chaos, invite us to bring light where there is darkness, harmony where there is confusion, and compassion where there is need. Holidays simply offer a brighter stage upon which to live those values.



Charity: The Gift That Reflects the Light

Every degree in the Scottish Rite calls us toward a higher expression of charity not merely as the act of giving, but as the art of understanding. True charity is not measured in dollars or donations, but in empathy: the quiet recognition that every human being carries both burdens and potential.

When we sponsor a child in a dyslexia center, visit an assisted living facility, or lend our time to a brother in need, we are not just giving we are rebuilding part of the temple within ourselves. As the poet Longfellow wrote, "Give what you have; to someone, it may be better than you dare to think." The world may see the holidays as a time for transactions. Being a Scottish Rite Mason, I see them as a time for transformation.

Brotherly Love: The Warmth From Within, in the Winter Cold

When we gather in lodge or around the family table, we are reminded that love is not a luxury it is a discipline. The 14° teaches us that duty to our fellow man is sacred; the 18° teaches us that love of truth and love of humanity are inseparable.

In a season that can often become chaotic with obligations, travel, and lists that never end, the Scottish Rite reminds us to pause to extend warmth not only to those we love, but also to those we find difficult to love. That is the core of brotherhood: turning human differences into understanding.

Concludes on the following page...

Faith and Light: Guiding Stars in a Darkened Sky

Light has always been the universal symbol of hope, from the glow of the menorah to the star above Bethlehem. Light is a symbol of truth, knowledge, and the Divine's presence in Freemasonry.

The Scottish Rite encourages us to be light bearers in a world that has become darker by extending that symbolism beyond ritual. We embody the very values that define Masonry and the spirit of the holidays when we choose honesty over expediency, empathy over criticism, and wisdom over reaction.

A Call to Reflect and Renew

As the year comes to an end, it invites reflection. Have we lived the obligations we swore to uphold? Have we been patient, not only in lodge but in life? Holidays are not merely a season, they are a reminder of our purpose. To take the working tools of the mind and heart and use them to build bridges instead of walls, peace instead of noise, and hope instead of haste.

If the world could see through a Mason's eyes for one winter's evening, it would see that every act of giving every spark of kindness is a stone in the interpersonal temple of humanity. As Scottish Rite Masons, we celebrate not just the holidays, but the light they represent. Let us give not out of obligation, but out of illumination. Let us not give out of abundance, but because we understand how much others are in need.

This season, may our actions whisper the same message our degrees proclaim:

"Love of God, love of truth, and love of our fellow man, these are the true gifts of the season."



Further Reflections: The Power of AI and Scottish Rite

In the Scottish Rite, we are taught to seek wisdom, illuminate truth, and use knowledge to lift each other up. Artificial Intelligence, in my opinion, is a modern reflection of that pursuit. It is a tool born from curiosity and shaped by our desire to understand, create, and improve. When guided by our moral compass that is encouraged by the Scottish Rite, AI becomes more than just technology; it becomes a means to serve, to enlighten, and to build a better world, one thoughtful decision at a time.

Your Active Member Says...

Brethren...

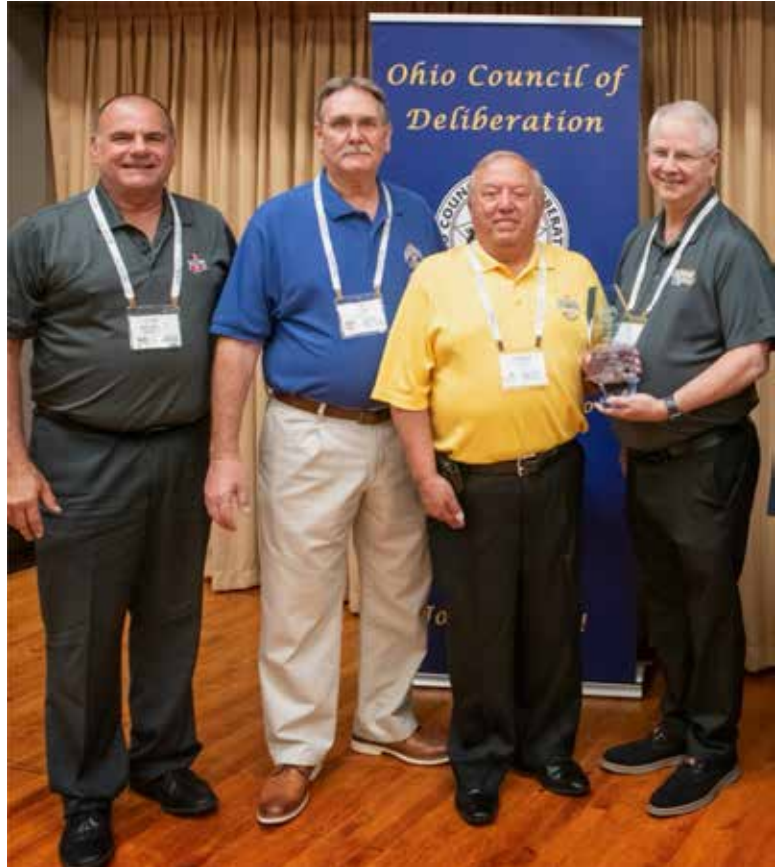
Congratulations! The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has officially recognized your Valley as an excellent one.

To the left, your humble representatives receive the prestigious award. Left to right: **Your Active Member, yours truly; Deputy for Ohio Dick Heldman; Valley Secretary George Tilden; and Sovereign Grand Commander Walter Wheeler.**

Brethren, I wish happy and safe holidays for you, your families and friends.

I look forward to seeing you during our travels in 2025, 2026, and the years beyond.

James F. Easterling, Jr.
Active Member
Supreme Council,
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction



Valley of Akron 2026

Chairman:

Illustrious Richard Landals, 33°

Vice-Chairman:

Illustrious Jason Kidd, 33°, MSA

Trustees:

AJ Nall, MSA

Jamie Leaaver

Joshua Prokop, MSA

Secretary:

Illustrious George E. Tilden, 33°

Treasurer:

Christopher Schill

Active Member, Supreme Council:

Ill. Brother James F. Easterling, Jr., 33°

Officers

Thrice Potent Master:

Christopher Titus, HGA

Sovereign Prince:

Mark Chancey, MSA

Most Wise Master:

Scott Taunt

Commander in Chief:

Rory Wolff



Rite Lite Newsletter

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Production & Distribution:

Illustrious George E. Tilden, 33°

Staff Photographers: Christopher Schill, Steven D.

Prentiss, Ill. Brother James F. Easterling, Jr., 33°

From the Thrice Potent Master

Greetings, Brethren:

We had our Worker's Breakfast on Saturday October 11, 2025.

After enjoying a satisfying breakfast provided by MWM Scott Taunt and the brethren of Wadsworth Lodge, Illustrious and RWB Marc Osborne, 33°, presented the Director's Award to Sublime Prince AJ Nall MSA.

Illustrious and MWB Jim Easterling, 33°, then presented the 33rd Degree caps and jewels to Illustrious Marc Osborne, 33°, and Illustrious Larry Wilson Jr., 33°. The event was well attended, and I would like to thank those who participated.

On Thursday October 16th, the Valley of Akron hosted a Rite on the Road event at the Cuyahoga Falls Masonic Temple. We kicked off the event with our new opening, then watched the Declaration of Principles, followed by the 7th Degree Provost and Judge and the 27th Degree Knight of Jerusalem. Afterwards, we enjoyed Italian sausage sandwiches provided by Sublime Prince Craig Jennings.

We have rescheduled the History of the Scottish Rite Presentation for after the February stated meeting. This will be a Zoom presentation given by the Scottish Rite Museum and Library in Lexington, MA. More information to follow on this event.

Our next stated meeting will be on Thursday November 20th. MWM Scott Taunt will preside.

I hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Chris Titus, HGA
Thrice Potent Master
Aroba Lodge of Perfection



Above: Newly coroneted Illustrious Brethren Larry Wilson Jr., 33° (left) and Marc Osborne, 33° (right).

WORKERS BREAKFAST 2025



TOP: National Lodge supporting the Valley. L to R: Mike Blum, Ian Osborne, Marc Osborne, Dave Hopkins, Mike Bailey, Steve Prentiss, Scott Weinstock, Chris Schill, Eric Muehlenbein, Jim Easterling Jr.

LEFT: AJ Nall receives the Reunion Director's Award from Ill. Marc Osborne, 33^o.

RIGHT: Grand Lodge of Ohio Senior Grand Marshal Eric Muehlenbein, and Valley Treasurer Christopher Schill.



WORKERS BREAKFAST 2025



The Wadsworth kitchen crew (top) cooked and served a great breakfast that nourished the crowd (bottom).

Secretary's Corner

by Ill. George Tilden, 33^o

ONLINE MEMBER CENTER

It has been recommended by our Supreme Council that the goal of 75 percent of our members be registered in the online Member Center. In compliance with this request we are providing to our members the link to sign up. By signing up this will provide you the opportunity to review your own progress of your journey in Scottish Rite. Also you are able to attend Educational Sessions provided by the Supreme Council such as Thursday Night at the Rite, Masters of the Rite, the Pathfinders Program and review your Profile.

In order to sign up, you will need your member number which is located on your dues card. Below are instructions on how to sign up on the NMJ Supreme Council website: ScottishRiteNMJ.org.

If you don't have an account, it's easy to create. Just use your email, birthday, and member number. To get started, visit <https://id.scottishritenmj.org/Account/Login>. Explore the programs below that enrich your Scottish Rite journey. Reconnect with your Valley. Let's Journey On—together.

BLUE ENVELOPE APPEAL

In the next coming weeks you will be receiving your Blue Envelope Appeal. We ask you to consider giving. Our Valley of Excellence goal is 56 members participating. This appeal provides funding for our Supreme Council Charities.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Thoughts for today are: We are one more day closer to Spring, only a few more days to Thanksgiving, and not many more until Christmas. But for the Valley of Akron, the day and time is now.

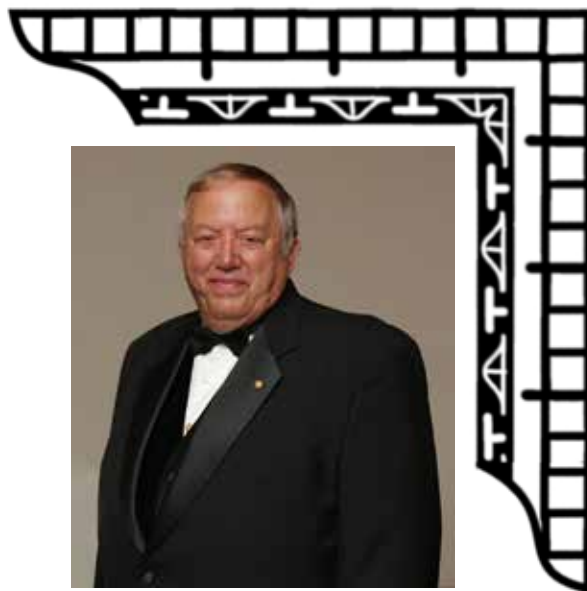
New officers, new programs, new activities, new membership development, new opening and closing, new enthusiasm, new beginning to a new year and around 240 more days when the Valley of Akron can proclaim a new Valley of Excellence accomplishment.

Come journey on with us. And always remember our forefathers have left us a legacy. We are that legacy. Let us also be legendary for our future members.

NEW HOSPITALER

Sublime Prince Joseph Rothbrust has been selected and approved to be the **Valley of Akron Hospitaler**. His address is **8123 Bainbridge Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023-4717**. His phone number is **440-487-8399**. His email **jrothbrust@aol.com**. Please inform him of any of our members who are hospitalized, in a nursing home or incapacitated in any way.

Concludes on the following page...



Secretary's Corner

by Ill. George Tilden, 33°

YOUR DUES ARE DUE

The Supreme Council NMJ sent you your 2026 Dues notice in August. Please forward your payment to the Valley of Akron / P.O. Box 468 / Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44222-0468.

Or for your convenience, visit valleyofakronohio.com. Look for the PAYMENT tab in the upper right corner, and follow the directions. Our new system allows you to pay your dues online, with a credit / debit card, and no additional fees!

SEASON 7 THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE RITE 2026 SCHEDULE

January 15, 2026 6° Master of the Brazen Serpent

January 29, 2026 9° Master of the Temple

February 12, 2026 11° Sublime Master Elected

February 26, 2026 15° Knight of the East

March 12, 2026 22° Prince of Libanus

March 26, 2026 29° Knight of Saint Andrew

These online programs will begin at 7:30 pm.

Your Presiding Officers will be organizing Watch Parties throughout the area.

We look forward to joining you.

Fraternally,

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

RITE LITE

A.A.S.R. Valley of Akron

2307 Sackett 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

Find us on Facebook

The Rite Lite is published
by The
Ancient Accepted
Scottish Rite
(A.A.S.R.)
Valley of Akron
P.O. Box 468
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44222 - 0468

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"Scottish Rite is the fraternity of choice."