

Volume 63

No. 3

May 2026

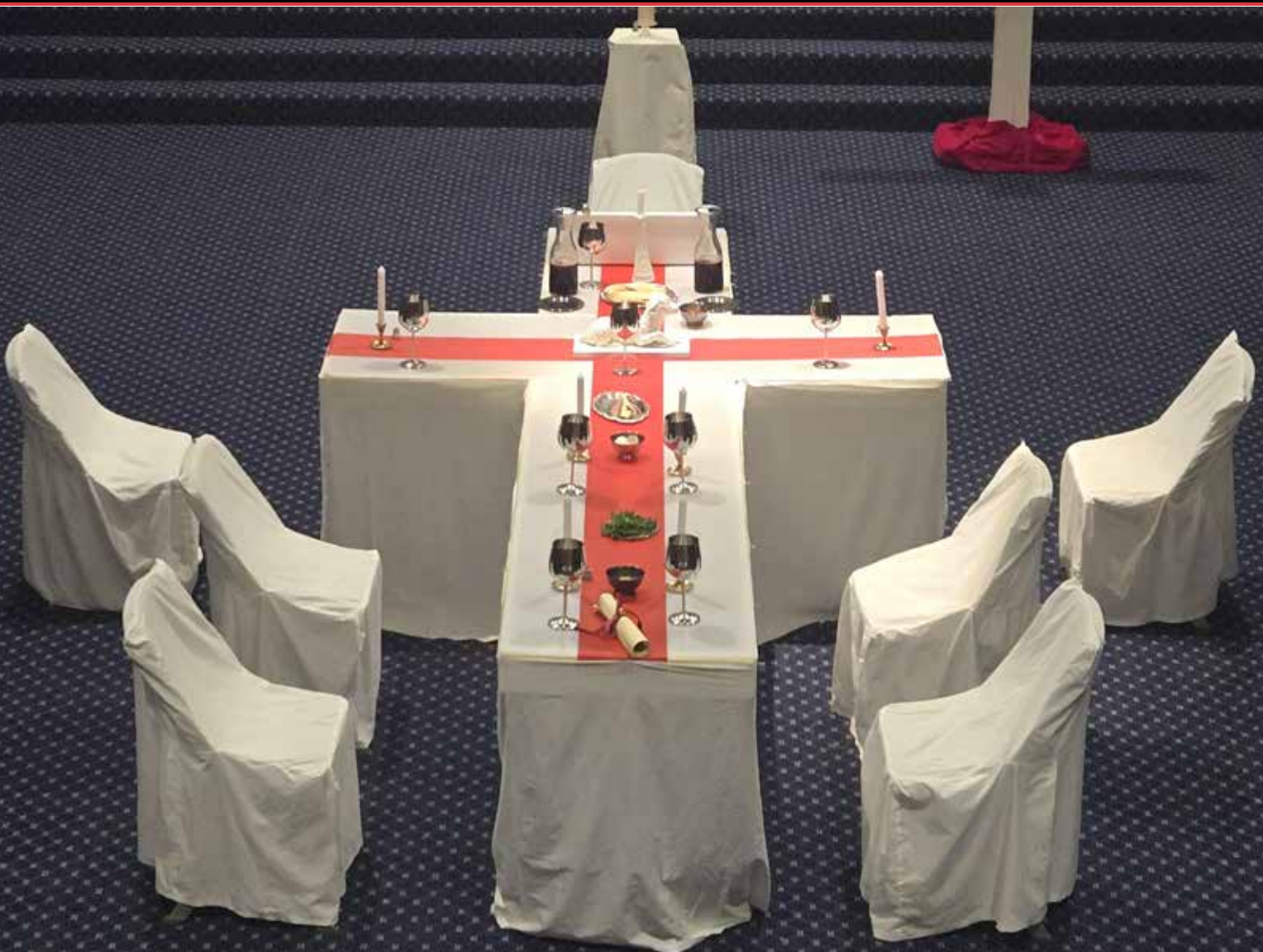
Rite Lite

Valley of Akron



A 32° Masonic Publication of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite • Akron, Ohio

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



The Feast of the Pascal Lamb

VALLEY CALENDAR



Our Vision

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

Core Values

- *Reverence for God*
- *Devotion to Country*
- *Justice*
- *Tolerance*
- *Integrity*
- *Service to Humanity*

THURSDAY, MAY 28: VALLEY OF AKRON INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

VALLEYOFAKRONOHIO@GMAIL.COM • 234.900.5424

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL ARRIVE IN JULY. THIS ISSUE WILL COVER EVENTS THROUGH EARLY SEPTEMBER. IF YOU HAVE NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, THIS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 12.

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.

21ST MASONIC DISTRICT GOLF OUTING



**Proceeds to benefit
GL2030**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

7:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM Shotgun Start

(4 man scramble / best ball)

**LYONS DEN GOLF COURSE
6347 MANCHESTER AVE. NW
CANAL FULTON, OH 44614**

\$90 per golfer includes 18 holes, 1/2
cart, box lunch & dinner

\$20 dinner only

\$25 lunch & dinner only

Teams of 4 required

\$10,000 Hole-in-One contest

**Proximity holes
Skins/ Mulligans**

50/50 on the course

Putting contest

Top 3 teams awarded prizes

Last place awarded prize



TEAM NAME:

PLAYER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE

Please make check payable to: **21st Masonic District of Ohio**

Mail Entry Form and Check to:

Eric Muehlenbein
5639 Patrick St SW
Canton, OH 44706

Or Email Form to

ewm21ddgm@gmail.com

Mail payment as directed or
Venmo to ewm21ddgm@gmail.com



Questions: Jim Easterling (330) 608-8891 or email jimjr1137@neo.rr.com

21ST MASONIC DISTRICT GOLF OUTING SPONSOR



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

7:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM Shotgun Start

(4 man scramble / best ball)

Proceeds to benefit

GL2030

**LYONS DEN GOLF COURSE
6347 MANCHESTER AVE. NW
CANAL FULTON, OH 44614**



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Canton, OH 44706

Or mail form as directed
and Venmo payment to
ewm21ddgm@gmail.com

Questions: Jim Easterling (330) 608-8891 or email—
jimjr1137@neo.rr.com

Reunion Address From the Honoree

April's Spring Reunion honored Andrew "A.J." Nall, MSA.

Nall was raised in 2014. He joined the Valley of Akron in 2014. Nall is a Past Master of Star Lodge #187 (2020). A.J. is Past Thrice Potent Master, Lodge of Perfection (2020-21). He was elected to receive the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) in 2022.

Nall provided more than one highlight from the reunion.

Following is his address to the gathered Brethren.



Brothers...

To borrow George Washington's first line in the 20th degree...

"I am deeply moved by this unique honor."

It is awfully humbling to be this year's class honoree.

When I joined Freemasonry a little over a decade ago, I had just lost my dad. and I was going to attempt to take over the family plumbing business. I knew that if I wished to be successful as a man and hopefully a business owner, I would need to surround myself with good people. I had always been intrigued by Masonry's landmarks and symbols, its laundry list of influential men, and the aura that surrounded the fraternity.

I called **Worshipful Brother Dave Korb** so I could meet with him to learn more about the fraternity and what I needed to do to become a Mason. After meeting with him, I called my best friend, now **WB Dan Gabriel**, and asked if he would be interested in joining me. Thank you both for helping me make a decision that would improve my life.

Before I say anything else tonight, I'd like you to take just a moment and look around this room.

Really look.

What you're seeing here is something that is becoming increasingly rare in the world today — a room full of men who still believe that character matters, that integrity matters, and that serving something greater than ourselves matters.

That is the foundation of Freemasonry.

And it is the reason this fraternity has endured for centuries.

Now, I know many of you have this weekend's program in front of you. And somewhere in there is a list of things I've been fortunate enough to be involved with in Masonry.

So rather than standing up here and talking about myself, I'm going to assume you all have looked at it, or will before you leave today.

Reunion Address Continues...

And instead I'd like to spend this time talking about something far more important.

The men in this room.

Because Freemasonry — and especially the Scottish Rite — has never really been about rank, title, or resumes.

It has always been about transformation.

It is about taking good men and helping them become better ones.

That happens through mentorship.

Through fellowship.

Through the brothers who always show up, do the work, and pass the lessons forward.

And I can tell you from my own experience that the Scottish Rite has changed me in ways I never expected.

Not because of any office I have held, but because of the brothers who invested their time in me.

The men who challenged me to grow.

The men who believed I could be better than I was yesterday.

That is the true power of this fraternity.

And it is something every man in this room has helped create.

This year also gives us a unique perspective.

Not only is it the Valley of Akron's 100th Reunion, but our country is approaching the 250th anniversary of its founding.

Two hundred and fifty years.

When you think about it, that is an extraordinary moment in history.

Many of the ideals that shaped this nation — liberty, equality, human dignity, and service to others — are the very same principles that Freemasonry has been teaching for centuries.

The men who helped build this country believed that a free society required men of character.

Men who would lead with integrity.

A.J. Nall, MSA's Reunion Address

Men who would stand for what is right.

Men who would put the welfare of others before themselves.

And those ideals did not end with the founding of America.

They continue in places like this.

In lodges.

In valleys.

In rooms filled with brothers who quietly carry those principles into their everyday lives.

Every time a Mason helps someone who can never repay him...

Every time a Mason chooses honesty over convenience...

Every time a Mason tries to leave the world a little better than he found it...

Freemasonry is alive.

This weekend, we also welcome brothers who are experiencing their first reunion.

To you I would simply say this:

You are not just witnessing degrees tonight.

You are stepping into a brotherhood that stretches across generations and across the world.

A brotherhood where men from every background meet on the level and leave inspired to become better fathers, better husbands, better leaders, and better men.

The Scottish Rite will challenge you.

It will ask you to think more deeply.

To reflect more honestly.

To grow more deliberately.

And if you embrace it, it will become one of the most meaningful experiences of your life.

But none of that happens without the brothers who make it possible.

The Stagecraft, Robing, the directors and the degree teams who dedicate countless hours.

The mentors who guide younger members.

The volunteers who quietly keep everything moving forward.

Reunion Honoree Remarks

To those brothers — the men who have carried this work for years — please know something.

What you do matters more than you may ever realize.

Because somewhere down the road, a man will make a better decision, help someone in need, or lead his family and community with greater integrity...

Because of something he learned here.

Because of something you helped preserve.

And that ripple effect spreads farther than any of us will ever see.

Brothers, Freemasonry has endured for centuries not because it was easy, but because good men believed it was worth preserving.

Now that responsibility belongs to us.

Not simply to maintain the traditions, but to live the values those traditions represent.

And if we do that — if we carry these lessons beyond these walls and into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities —

Then the next 250 years will be brighter than the last.

Brothers,

Thank you for your dedication.

Thank you for your example.

And thank you for reminding the world that when good men come together with a shared purpose...

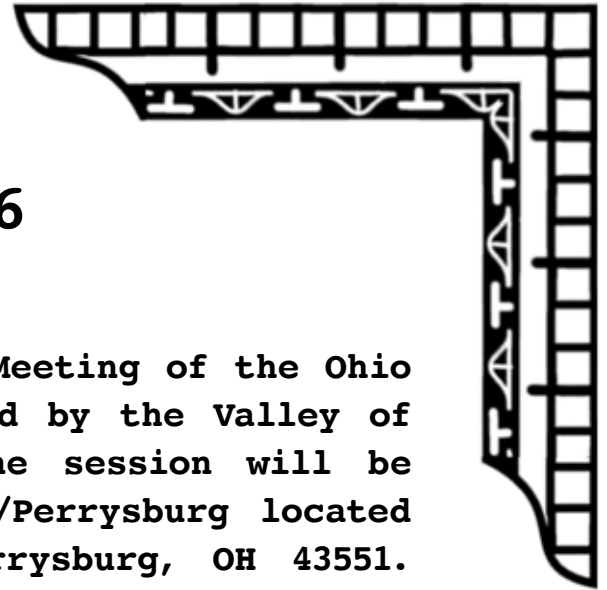
They can make humanity better.

Thank you.

Scenes from the Reunion



Secretary's Corner



OHIO OCD 2026

The One Hundred Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Ohio Council of Deliberation will be hosted by the Valley of Toledo on Saturday, June 6, 2026. The session will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Toledo/Perrysburg located at 6165 Levis Commons Boulevard, Perrysburg, OH 43551.

Registration (Step 1) for members is open, on the Ohio Council of Deliberation website (www.aasrohio.org/ocd). Please be sure to select submit when you have completed the required fields.

A link is also provided on the OCD website to make hotel reservations (Step 2). You must make your hotel reservations by Tuesday, May 5, 2026, to receive the discounted rate of \$154.00 per night. When you connect to the hotel link you will want to select "Visit the booking page" as seen below to connect to the calendar to reserve your stay.

DATE: Saturday June 6, 2026

WHERE: Hilton Garden Inn Toledo, Perrysburg

ADDRESS: 6165 Levis Commons Blvd, Perrysburg OH

Registration is open!

Don't forget to purchase your banquet and ladies program tickets (Step 3) by Wednesday, May 15.

Following the banquet will be the MSA Ceremony, in which Sublime Prince Craig Jennings will be invested with the Meritorious Service Award.

THE COMMANDER SAYS...

Greetings Brethren!

The reunion was super.

The 20th Degree was outstanding.

Attendance was around 45. We had five candidates. Some of us wanted to help Arnold, but then Washington stopped that.

Our reunion was named for A.J. Nall. He portrayed Washington.

Arnold was Joel Idle.

Friday, the 14th and 15th degrees were also super.

Saturday was 18th and 32nd degrees. The allegory was outstanding. It brought back memories of 33 years ago. Constance was great Florio was the character I remember most.

Our meeting last night was good as my being in charge of running the meeting. We had awards given out sure wish more of the candidates would have been there to get their cards and award.

Next meeting is elections.

If you would like to become an officer, please attend so you can get your name in the officer list for installation on May 28th.

May the brotherly feeling after all the practices and the reunion will last forever. I thank everyone for everything yhis year.

May the Great Architect be with you all.

Rory G. Wolff
Commander in Chief
Akron Consistory

BOOK SPOILER: IT ENDS WITH YOUR LODGE IN PRODUCTIVE HARMONY...

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.**

**MAKES A GREAT GIFT FOR
YOUR OFFICER LINE!**

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

Secretary's Corner by Ill. George Tilden, 33^o



FROM YOUR VALLEY'S 100TH REUNION

The Valley of Akron celebrated its **100th Reunion** and a yearly class in honor of **Sublime Prince A.J. Nall, MSA**.

There were many highlights to this year's reunion:

The organizational skills of **Sublime Prince Jon Richeson**, our Reunion Director for the first year, provided well planned degree rehearsals. He executed the Reunion and performance of the Degrees well.

The 20th Degree "Master ad Vitam" was performed by a new cast of degree members including George Washington, **A.J. Nall, MSA**; and **Marquis De Lafayette of France, Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother James F. Easterling, 33^o**. The cast would say in defense of their performance, "Oui, Oiu!"

The 14th, 15th, 18th and 32nd Degrees concluded the Friday and Saturday Spring Reunion.

Music was also used in the performance of the degrees and made an even more lasting impression for our candidates and members.

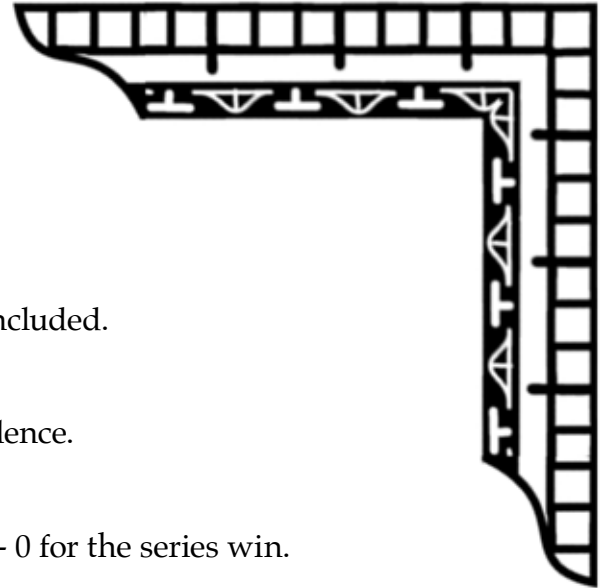
The registration staff was on duty to welcome all with a smile and shake hands.

Our **Robing Chairman, Illustrious Jason Kidd, 33^o, MSA**, added to the festivities throughout the Reunion.

The Main Attraction for the Reunion and this year was nine new members listed below, who joined the ranks as Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret:

Grant Cromeens
Miguel Cruz
Emmanuel Jones
Nathan Miller
Eduardo Piriz
Jeremy Smith
Alfred Wangenheim
Peter Zeigler

A GREAT END TO A NEW BEGINNING!



MEMBERSHIP

The 100th Reunion and The A.J. Nall, MSA Class has concluded.

But our Membership effort continues until June 15, 2026.

The time is NOW to finish Strong for the Valley of Excellence.

The Spring Reunion was a Grand Slam.

The Degree Teams finished Spring Training and were 3 - 0 for the series win.

Team Reunion Manager, Registration, Degree Directors, Stagecraft, Robing, Players and Fans all enjoyed the Season Opener.

More winning to come!

MEMBER CENTER REGISTRATION

Our Supreme Council this year has encouraged our entire membership to be registered on J365.

Our goal is to have 357 of our members registered.

Presently, we have 288.

By being registered our Supreme Council offers many opportunities for education program such as Thursday Night at the Rite and Masters of the Rite.

This program provides you the means of viewing your journey as a Scottish Rite member.

If you need assistance, please contact the Valley Office. Or attend a meeting; we have assistance set up in the conference room. The office will provide the assistance from 6 to 7:30 pm.

Have a good day and as always Journey On !

Fraternally,

George Tilden

Secretary

Valley of Akron, A.A.S.R.

The Valley of Excellence Scorecard

The Valley of Akron is striving for EXCELLENCE!

We have achieved 74.77% of our goal, and are on schedule to reach 100%.

But we still need YOUR help in these areas:

BLUE ENVELOPE APPEAL

We need eight additional members to submit donations to this fund.

This can be accomplished by submitting the form you received from NMJ Supreme Council via U.S. mail or go online to the NMJ Supreme Council at...

<https://scottishritenmj.org/charities/blue-envelope>

...and make your contribution.

MEMBER CENTER ACCESS

We still need to reach the goal of 356 members of the Valley of Akron to register on the NMJ Supreme Council Member Center Access.

There is no cost but it is to your advantage as you will receive additional educational seminars and materials, view Thursday Night at the Rite in the comforts of your home, and view your personal Scottish Rite journey as well as update your personal information.

All members who are not registered for Member Center Access were emailed detailed directions on how to go online and complete the process. Our office is available to assist any member to register. Just email or call the office to make an appointment.

MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is 28 new or restored members.

Our actual score is currently 12.

We have until June 15, 2026 to reach this goal. However, to ensure that we attain the goal, petitions and payment must be submitted by Thursday, May 21, 2026 which is our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Your Presiding Officers are considering Rite On the Road programs to promote membership and restoration.

Please consider joining us on this Journey towards PERFECTION!

It takes all of YOU to attain the Valley of Excellence for the fifth consecutive year!

George E. Tilden, 33°
Executive Secretary
Valley of Akron, A.A.S.R.
P.O. Box 468
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222-0468
(234) 900-5424

ACTIVE MEMBER

YOUR ACTIVE MEMBER SAYS...

Brethren...

I thank Everyone who made our 100th Spring Reunion such a success. Congratulations to all our candidates. I hope you will remain involved in your Valley.

A special thanks goes out to our **Registration, Robing & Stagecraft Committees**. To our directors and cast of each of the degrees, thank you for the many Sundays that you gave up for practices... and your commitment to your Valley. **Our Reunion Director along with George and Gloria Tilden** did a great job seeing the behind the scenes work was well done.

To **Craig Jennings**: Thank you for feeding everyone before and after all of the practices. The food was great.

Last but not least, a special congratulations to our "For Whom The Class Was Named," **Brother A.J. Nall, MSA**. Since you first joined Scottish Rite Masonry, you have never said no to anything that was asked of you. Your commitment and enthusiasm is superior and our new class members could learn a tremendous amount from you. Your comments to conclude the day were heartfelt and sincere. Those who missed them really missed out. May you and our Valley continue to advance every day.

My Brethren, our Annual Meeting will be in May. I hope you will be part of your Valley.

**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:

A.J. Nall, MSA

Jamie Leadirecver

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

Editor: David S. Ferris, MSA

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:

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Spring Reunion for the Valley of Akron last week.

It was nice to see the brethren come out to watch and participate in the degrees.

When you are standing in the lodge room under the spotlight and everyone is staring at you, it is a source of great relief to see the friendly faces of your brethren in the audience.

I would also like to thank our Class Honoree, Sublime Prince A.J. Nall, MSA, for an inspiring speech to close out the reunion.

It is a strange feeling for the reunion to be over, especially after spending months practicing our parts. We put months of work into our performances that, in most, cases last only for an hour or two. Now that the nervous tension and adrenaline have worn off, we can relax knowing that the results were worth the effort.

With our reunion being over, I hope to see you at the reunions for the other Valleys in the area.

Fraternally,

**Chris Titus, HGA
Thrice Potent Master
Aroba Lodge of Perfection**

AMERICANISM ROTC AND JROTC AWARDS

The Americanism Award (Junior ROTC and ROTC) Devotion to Country and Service to Humanity are two of Scottish Rite's six Core Values, which is why we are so pleased to recognize and honor youth who demonstrate leadership, academic achievement, and patriotism with our Americanism ROTC and JROTC Awards.

The Junior ROTC distinction recognizes high school youth enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) with an award for their scholastic excellence and demonstrated ideals of Americanism. The award consists of a medal and ribbon to be worn on the JROTC uniform and a certificate suitable for framing.

The ROTC initiative recognizes second- and third-year cadets enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) who are outstanding in their class academically and in character. Three recognitions are awarded: a certificate suitable for framing; a medal engraved with the Scottish Rite double-headed eagle, ROTC Education, and Americanism; and a ribbon to wear along with the medal when wearing the ROTC uniform.

Veterans Chairman, Sublime Prince David Korb, MSA presents the Scottish Rite NMJ the ROTC Americanism Award to **D2 Cadet Jose Oritz, Kent State University Army ROTC**.

The presentation was made April 22, at the Kent State Student Center. It was conducted during the Breakfast Awards Ceremony



HOSPITALER'S REPORT

Sublime Prince Joseph Rothbrust now serves as the Valley Hospitaler. His address is 8123 Bainbridge Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023. His phone number is 440-487-8399. His email jrothbrust@aol.com. If anyone knows of any Brother who needs assistance, please contact him.

Also, please notify him when you come home from the hospital or if you go to a nursing home. Your cooperation will help us to keep our records up to date. (Nursing homes will not give us any information.) Updated 16 April, 2026. Brother Hospitaler spoke or had contact with the following Brethren...

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened by the passing to the Celestial Lodge Above of Brother James E. Lowe on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Visitation was on April 6, 2026 at Schlup-Pucak-Wilson Funeral Home in Akron. A Masonic Service was held by Victory Lodge #649 with Illustrious George Tilden, 33° presiding. Please keep Brother Jim's family in your prayers.

PLEASE KEEP OUR BROTHERS IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Brother Robert (Bob) McMillian who is still dealing with some health issues. Brother McMillian is a 71 year member of the Valley of Akron. Brother McMillian is 101 years young and has a positive attitude for recovery!

Ill. Brother Joe Levy, 33°, is slowly recovering and getting better. He sends his regards to all his Brothers.

ARE WE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPER?

I named this category for those brothers who are seniors, no longer driving, who need a phone call, email or a Thinking of You card, and / or our prayers. Christmas cards were sent to all of these Brothers listed below:

Illustrious Richard McMasters, 33°. 1972 Kelsey Dr. Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. 330-928-5239.

Illustrious James Booth, 33°. 1140 Parklane Dr. N.W. New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663. jdbooth37@aol.com

Illustrious Harold Lundstrom, 33°. 675 N. Portage Path Akron, Ohio 44303-1223.

Illustrious Ron Nockengost, 33°. 1148 W. Market St. Apt. 108. Akron, Ohio 44313-7145

Illustrious David Snyder, Sr., 33°. 244 N. Pardee St. Wadsworth, Ohio 44281. 330-336-3672 dmsskych@yahoo.com

ILL AND CONFINED

Illustrious Richard McMasters, 33°. 1972 Kelsey Dr. Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. 330-928-5239.

Ill. William Jerome, 33°. 4541 Bliss Dr. Norton, Ohio 44203-6001. 330-825-5580. wjerome9998@att.net

Brother Scott Sampsel. 7769 McTaggart Rd. NW. Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614-8762. Williamssampsel@gmail.com 330-409-3411

Dan Serpico, 32°. 445 Mowbray Rd. Akron, Ohio 44333-3944 440-413-4395. Daniel.serpico@yahoo.com

Ill. Gary Williams, 33°. 967 Edgemere Ct. Unit 2. Copley, Ohio 44321-1781. 330-573-1057. gbwms@aol.com

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Exciting News! The Valley of Akron Merchandise Store Is Now Open!

The Valley of Akron is proud to announce the grand opening of our official online merchandise store — your new destination for exclusive Valley apparel, accessories, and more!

Show your pride and support while looking your best with high-quality gear designed for our members and friends.

Explore the collection and place your order today at:

ValleyOfAkronOhio.com

Click the store link in the OUR VALLEY menu at the top of the page!

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

Office Hours: 9:00-noon
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“Scottish Rite is the fraternity of choice.”