



Supreme Council to Meet in St. Louis

Highlighted by the conferral of the Honorary Thirty-third Degree, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, the annual meeting of the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction will take place in St. Louis, Missouri on September 21-24, 2003. One hundred forty three Masons who were elected to the honor at the annual meeting last year in Boston, Massachusetts, are

scheduled to receive the 33rd and last degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Earlier business conferences, attended by the officers of the Supreme Council, will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 19-20. The larger-scale events will begin on Sunday afternoon, September 21, when the traditional Supreme Council Vesper Service is held in the St. Louis

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Scottish Rite Camper's Club

There will be a garage sale and auction fund raiser on August 28, 29 & 30. This event is one of our biggest fund-raiser for the year. We take donations at the campground of anything in working condition and clean.

The Garage Sale is held under the shelter on Thursday, August

28th and Friday August 29th - 9 AM to 4 PM. On Saturday, August 30th we will be having a potluck at 12:00 noon. All are welcome. Following the potluck we will start registering at 1:00 PM for the auction at 1:30 PM. Dareyl Brown will be our auctioneer and will sell what is left from the

Garage Sale and usually we have some homemade goodies, jellies, garden veggies, etc that are not from the Garage Sale.

Please come out and help support the camp or just bring your lawn chairs and visit our beautiful grounds.

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Special points of interest:

- *Supreme Council Meeting Schedule*
- *Camper's Club Auction*
- *How many points do you have? — Can you earn the Bloomington Medal for Membership at the next Reunion?*
- *Call Mike Fowler to reserve your meal for the September Stated Meeting*
- *Plan to attend the Fall Reunion — Schedule is on Page 8*

Commander-in-Chief Corner — Membership is for All of Us



Recently at the Delmar D. Darrah 33° Club breakfast I was asked as Commander-in-Chief to comment on the State of the

Rite. At first I thought to myself, “Man? What a question to ask the new guy” or “It has to be alright, I haven’t been in office long enough to break anything.” Rather I spoke to the transition of the valley over the past four years to the present and our focus for the future.

And what is our focus for the future? Simply put it is going to be a focus on membership enhancement through proper programming that will promote recruitment, retention and restoration. Sounds like a textbook answer doesn’t it. I suspect it is or should have been. This is nothing new, Masonic leaders from grand lodges and every Masonic body are looking for the right program or combination thereof to turn the declining membership around.

The officers of the Valley of Bloomington have put together a calendar of programs that we hope will appeal to the current membership while promoting Scottish Rite Masonry to those who are not yet members. Sounds good, well here’s the fine print. It is going to take a little more effort than programming to make all this work. The key that is going to make mem-

bership enhancement work within our valley is not me, the officers or a planned program, although I wished it was that easy, but rather you the members.

Just what do you, the member, need to do? I would ask you to increase your activity, become an active member. Ask yourself, have I attended a Blue Lodge or a Scottish Rite meeting lately? No? Go then to the kitchen and get that calendar that you keep all the important appointments on. Write down 1st Tuesday’s for Scottish Rite and don’t forget your lodge meetings. While you’re at it, transfer the other Scottish Rite events of interest to you from the Cathedral News to your appointment calendar, after all, if it isn’t written down, it probably won’t happen.

Remember seeing the bumper stickers “To be one, Ask one?” Well, I would suggest we reverse this slogan to “Ask one to be one.” If each one of us asked just one person to join, thus replacing ourselves our membership would be doubled. Let’s each think of one person this next year and get them to join Lodge and Scottish Rite. I know for most including myself this is not the easiest thing to do but I do not believe this is impossible to do either.

The membership committee title has changed to Fraternal Awareness this year under the direction of John Dorner with a prime

mission of awareness not only for the Scottish Rite but the Blue Lodge and other appendant bodies as well. Fraternal Awareness (Membership) will have articles in every issue of the Cathedral News, please read them and be aware. Supporting this new committee will be a group replacing the old Rite Recruiters now called the Rite Ambassadors. These will be members of the Valley of Bloomington who are active within their respective lodges and will be the go-to person between our two organizations. Charles Ross Jr. is heading up this group. If you are interested in helping here, contact John or Charles.

Don Anderson, Sovereign Prince of the Council Line is heading up membership retention efforts for our Valley this year. He and his officers will be contacting those of our Valley who are at risk of suspension. We are not in the business of suspending members, but rather to provide a friendly and caring reminder, ascertain their current situation and determine any special needs. Volunteer to help the council line with these contacts.

As you can see from my ramblings, I’m asking each of you to help with membership. Let’s be proud of who and what we are and share it with someone new. “In Sight We Must Be Rite - Scottish Rite Masons”.
Fraternally,
Michael R. Fowler, 33°
Commander-in-Chief

Potatoes, Eggs and Coffee Beans – Author Unknown

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it.

She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter.

The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her he asked, "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hardboiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity – the boiling water.

However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, *but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.*

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior *until it was put into boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became very hard.*

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. *After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created*

something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

Which one are you?

A Matter of Honor



Remember when a man's word was his bond? When a handshake sealed the deal? When a man's honor meant more than words on a piece of paper? There are still men who believe in moral and ethical behavior. Men who know that character does matter.

Who are these men? **They are 32° Freemasons.**

Thought for this Month

Happiness Lies in the Joy of Achievement

You were built to conquer your environment, solve problems, and achieve goals. You'll find no real satisfaction or happiness

in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve.

True happiness lies in activity. It's a running river not a stagnant pond. Happiness is not in having or being, it's in doing some-

thing you love.

The secret of happiness is in having something to do. Happiness is a byproduct. You cannot pursue it by itself.

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| September 2003 | 2 | Stated Meeting - Lodge of Perfection Presides (Dinner before mtg, includes OES) |
| | 21-23 | Supreme Council - St. Louis |
| | 27 | Heart Walk - Council Line Chair |
| October 2003 | 7 | Stated Meeting - Zerubbabel Council Presides |
| | 5-8 | Grand Chapter - O.E.S. |
| | 10-11 | Grand Lodge |
| | TBD | Scholarship Recipient Dinner - Family Life Chair |
| November 2003 | 4 | Stated Meeting - Mt. Calvary Chapter Presides |
| | 21-22 | Fall Reunion |
| December 2003 | 2 | Stated Meeting - Bloomington Consistory Presides |
| | 7 | D.D.D. Club Christmas Dinner |
| | TBD | Bell Ringing - Chapter Line Chair |
| | 1-31 | Mobile Meals - Charitable Committee Chair |
| January 2004 | 6 | Stated Meeting - Lodge of Perfection Presides |
| | 10 | Blood Drive - Council Line Chair |
| February 2004 | 3 | Stated Meeting - Zerubbabel Council Presides |
| | 14 | Valentine's Day Dinner - Consistory Line Chair |
| March 2004 | 2 | Stated Meeting - Mt. Calvary Chapter Presides |
| April 2004 | 4 | Feast of the Paschal Lamb - Chapter Line Chair |
| | 6 | Stated Meeting - Bloomington Consistory Presides |
| | TBD | Consistory Line Dinner |
| | 11 | Easter Sunday |
| May 2004 | 14-15 | Spring Reunion |

September Stated Meeting

Summer is over and it is time to renew your commitment to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Our first meeting of the fall will be on September 2, 2003 starting with a dinner at 6:30. This dinner is especially significant because we are inviting members of the Bloomington Chapter #50 OES to be guests of the Valley.

The Stated Meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Trustees will meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the supper.

The menu for the evening includes:

Roasted Pork Loin
Mashed Potato with Gravy
Green Beans
Roll & Butter
Dessert
Ice Tea and Coffee

The cost for members is five dollars (\$5) and reservations are required by August 29th. Please call Mike & Tena Fowler at 454-5798.

Heart Walk

The Heart Walk, hosted by Zerubbabel Council will be **September 27, 2003** at the Shirk Center.

Contact Sovereign Prince Don Anderson, (309) 747-2005, for a pledge sheet and start getting your pledges from family and friends. Show your support for this event and come and enjoy the fellowship with your Scottish Rite friends. Plan on making this event successful and show the community that Masonry exists to help all mankind.

How Many Points Do You Have? — John Dorner

The Valley of Bloomington awards the Bloomington Medal to any personal who demonstrates "exceptional support of the Rite" through membership development.

A first line petitioner on a petition receives 10 points and the second line receives 5 points. Upon accumulating 100 points the medal is presented. Each 100 points after the first brings other awards for the medal.

If you have ever wondered how many points you have, and this how close you are to the medal, here is a listing of all the members currently over 30 points as of 7/21/03.

- Keith O. Houchin 90
- Bill Burden 85
- Steve Nicholson 85
- Ron Blue, 33° 80
- Thomas Grubb, 33° 80
- Danny Leifel, 33° 80

- Stanley Lancaster 75
- Gregory Clark, 33° 70
- Robin Carr, 33° 65
- O.V. Lancaster, 33° 65
- David Young, 33° 65
- Jim Grimm 60
- Jean Darnell 55
- Rich Logston 55
- Merle Murray, MSA 55
- George Perkins 55
- Bernard Schimanki, Jr 55
- Donald Anderson 50
- Garrett Graves 50
- Robert Trotter 50
- Robert Wright, 33° 50
- Forest DeVore, MSA 45
- Joe Ward 45
- Mike Weer, 33° 45
- Ken Aucutt, MSA 40
- D. Dareyl Brown, MSA 40
- Frank Emberton 40
- Walter Hamlin 40
- Robert Meade 40
- Carol Meyers 40
- Jeff Prochnow 40
- Richard Armstrong 35
- James DePew, 33° 35
- Wally Lamb 35

- Richard Olson 35
- Tom Powers 35
- Barry Weer, 33° 35
- Forrest Appleton 30
- John R. Barringer 30
- Mike Fowler, 33° 30
- Albert Geske, MSA 30
- Norm Madison, 33° 30
- Jack McCurdie 30
- Dale Mueller 30
- Edward Oehler 30
- Roland Schimanski 30
- William Sims 30
- Ronald Smith 30
- Thomas H. Smith 30

The lodge ambassadors are being appointed as lodge visits are completed, we will be coming to you soon. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

Remember, the only way we get men to join our Rite is to ask. Take the time today to ask at least one non-member to consider joining.

Supreme Council to Meet in St. Louis *(continued)*

Ballroom of the Adams Mark Hotel. On Monday, September 22, Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston will preside over the General Sessions of the Supreme Council. In the evening, the renowned St. Louis Theatre Musicians Orchestra will perform in concert, also in the St. Louis Ballroom.

In the course of the General Sessions, prominent leaders from other Masonic organizations in

the United States and throughout the world are expected to be in attendance.

The conferral of the Thirty-third Degree will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 in the St. Louis Convention Center. The impressive ceremony is open only to those holding the Thirtythird Degree and candidates.

A Masonic Marketplace will be

open During the three-day event, to allow vendors to display and sell Masonic items.

A number of other events are scheduled. An introductory luncheon honoring the Thirty-third Degree candidates and their ladies will take place at Sunday, noon. A ladies luncheon and program, with Mrs. Susann Ralston, wife of the Grand Commander presiding, is

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Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Often when asking a person to join Scottish Rite that person will respond with the question "What is Scottish Rite?" The following is a short answer that will help someone to respond to that question.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is one of two branches of Freemasonry to which a Master Mason may proceed after he has completed the first three degrees of the Symbolic or "Blue" Lodge. The Scottish Rite includes the degrees from the 4° through the 32°. Although there are many Scottish Rite members of Scottish ancestry, the Scottish Rite actually originated in France in the early 18th century. During the 18th century, lodges were organized in the United States with the first Scottish Rite Supreme Council founded in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1801.

The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction was formed in 1867 and includes the 15 states east of the Mississippi River and north of

the Mason-Dixon Line and the Ohio River, including Delaware. The Southern Jurisdiction encompasses the 35 remaining states, the District of Columbia and the United States territories and possessions. The Northern Jurisdiction officially recognizes and enjoys friendly relations with many other jurisdictions around the world.

Scottish Rite shares the same belief of all Masonic organizations that there is no higher degree than that of Master Mason. The Supreme Council and its subordinate bodies acknowledge the Masonic supremacy of the Symbolic Grand Lodges and Grand Masters within their jurisdictions. Scottish Rite degrees are in no way higher than the degrees of the Symbolic lodges. The work of the Scottish Rite serves to elaborate on and amplify that of the Symbolic lodge.

The Scottish Rite degrees are lessons taught through allegory in the form of plays. The lessons are taken from Biblical as well as more modern historical events.

Cast members use costumes and makeup to look like the characters who they represent. Candidates learn the lessons by observing the presentation. Memorization of material presented is not required. The Scottish Rite is open to all Master Masons in good standing.

The 33° is conferred annually, at the meeting of the Supreme Council, upon a select number of 32° Scottish Rite Masons who have contributed outstanding service to Freemasonry or Scottish Rite or who have exemplified, in their daily lives, the true meaning of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. A recipient must be at least 33 years of age and may not apply for the degree.

Scottish Rite members meet in local or regional "Valleys" and are organized into four parts; Lodge of Perfection, 4° - 14°; Council of Princes of Jerusalem, 15° - 16°; Chapter of Rose Croix, 17° - 18° and Consistory, 19° - 32°. Some individual Valleys do not contain all four parts.

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scheduled for Monday, noon.

Simultaneously, a luncheon for all Supreme Council members, distinguished guests and members of the class will take place in the Convention Center. Seminars scheduled for Tuesday, September 23 will provide opportunities for learning about

the St. Louis Arch, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., and estate planning. Sightseeing tours will be available throughout the week.

Many smaller social functions will occur during the week under the auspices of the 15 participating states and 101 Valleys that comprise the Northern

Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 2,000 Thirty-third Degree Masons and their ladies are expected to attend.

The 2003 annual meeting ends with the announcement of the names of those elected to receive the Thirty-third Degree at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in September, 2004.

The Beginning of Scottish Rite in Bloomington — Robin Carr

Freemasonry first came to Bloomington in October of 1847 when Bloomington Lodge 43 was formed. This was three years before the city of Bloomington was incorporated as a city. Wade Barney Lodge No. 512 was chartered in October of 1866, Mozart No. 656 in October of 1870 and Arts and Crafts No. 1017 in October of 1918. Arts and Crafts Lodge merged with Bloomington No. 43 just a few years ago. Two other Lodges have existed in the Twin Cities, Normal Lodge No. 673, which is still a very active Lodge and Ancient Landmarks Lodge No. 3579 formed by Louis L. Williams which worked briefly and then closed its doors.

The Scottish Rite came to Bloomington with the creation of a Lodge of Perfection on December 19, 1907. It with the Lodges of the time owned the Bloomington Masonic Temple which held meetings on the fourth floor of the Roland's building, where its Reunions were held. The creation of Scottish Rite in Bloomington was

pushed by Delmar Duane Darrah 33^o, a Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University who had become a Scottish Rite member in 1891 and had served as Grand Master of Masons in Illinois in 1911. It was Darrah who revised the three Symbolic Lodge Degrees as we know them in Illinois today.

The first class of Scottish Rite Masons consisted of 92 candidates. That class consisted of many important members of the community including Charles L. Capen, attorney; N.B. Carson, County Recorder; Howard H. Frank, an ice cream manufacturer; Frank Funk, of the of the pioneer Funks; Dr. Watson Gailey, eye surgeon and Alonzo Dolan, President of the Pantagraph Printing Company.

In 1909 Zerubbabel Council, Princes of Jerusalem and Mt. Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix were founded with their charters received on September 22, 1910. In September of 1910 the three Scottish Rite Bodies voted in conjunction with the Masonic

Lodges to build a new Masonic Temple in Bloomington at the corner of Jefferson and Prairie Streets where the present Temple stands today. A Charter for Bloomington Consistory was issued in September of 1913. By 1920 a class of 872 received their Degrees in the Valley of Bloomington. That year the City of Bloomington allowed Prairie Street to be closed and a large tent to be erected so that the Rite could hold an outdoor Reunion because the building was too small to accommodate all in attendance.

In March of 1917 the Rite decided to purchase land at the corner of East and Mulberry Streets. The building, which cost \$586,000 had a cornerstone ceremony on July 29, 1920 in which Grand Master Dan G. Fitgerrell, a member of Bloomington Lodge No. 43 officiating. From 1920 to 1922 over 1,900 new members were initiated. A good start to a long and honored history for our Valley

Reunion Perceptions — Jim Grimm

The Marketing Committee surveys each class of candidates to determine their opinions on the reunion. Highlights from the Spring 2003 class are:

- The six degrees presented at the Spring 2003 reunion were well received by the class, as measured by the criteria of ability to hear

clearly, no distractions, and well performed

- The reunion was perceived favorably
- The class found the greeters friendly and helpful
- Valley members were found to be friendly
- All degrees were well performed.

While all areas of the reunion were perceived as well done, crowds were small and candidates felt we needed more members there to make it worthwhile.

A complete copy of the report is available from Jim Grimm at jlgrimm@msn.com.

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Fall Reunion Information

Now is the time to begin to plan for the Fall Reunion. This is your time to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

The schedule for this reunion is:

Friday, November 21, 2003

| | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 5:30 pm | Dinner |
| 6:30 pm | 12° Grand Master Architect |
| 7:25 pm | 14° Grand Elect Mason |

Saturday, November 22, 2003

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am | 15° Knight of the East or Sword |
| 9:55 am | 18° Knight of Rose Croix |
| 11:30 am | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | 26° Prince of Mercy "Lincoln Degree" |
| 2:15 pm | 31° Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander |
| 3:45 pm | 32° Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret |
| 6:00 pm | Banquet |

Passport Program

The passport program of the Supreme Council is a way for each member to keep track of the degrees they have witnessed. When the passport has been completed, a certificate will be issued to the member. If you have not yet had your passport stamped for the degrees listed for this reunion, come out and enjoy the fellowship.

Petitions

If you know of any Master Mason who has not yet joined the Scottish Rite, take the time to get him involved this November. The beautiful lessons taught in our degrees are a wonderful way to further a Mason's understanding of what Freemasonry really means. Contact Dave Young, (309) 828-6077, if you need a petition. Introducing a Master Mason to Scottish Rite can become one of your most rewarding experiences.