

VALLEY OF BLOOMINGTON
CATHEDRAL NEWS

■ ANCIENT ■ ACCEPTED ■ SCOTTISH ■ RITE ■



JUNE, 2001

VOL. LXV, No. 5

COMMANDER'S CORNER

It's an exciting time for the Valley of Bloomington! On May 9, 2001, we celebrated the contributions of the presiding officers who completed their current term of service. Jim L. Grimm, Jim Beveridge, Marvin Hays, and Danny Leifel gave of their time and talent to lead our Valley. We owe them much.

We also saw new officers advance in their respective lines. Each of these brothers has accepted the challenge of leadership. It will be their energy and vision, which will set the foundation for future generations of Scottish Rite Masons.

We have three goals for the Valley: to increase participation, to increase membership, and to establish an enduring financial strength. Increased participation will require a renewal of the program we offer to our members. Mike Fowler, 1st Lieutenant Commander, has accepted the chairmanship of the Program Committee. Mike and his committee will establish a full calendar of events. Some of these events will carry on previous traditions, but many will be new. If you have any ideas for new activities, please contact Mike.

Membership has two elements. We need to create new Scottish Rite Masons and we need to retain our current members. Jim Grimm past Thrice Potent Master, has agreed to meet the challenge of increasing membership. It is a task which will require many people to become involved. If you would like to participate in this important activity, please contact Jim. We have a goal of a net increase in membership within three years. This means we will create at least one more Scottish Rite Mason than we lose to deaths, demits, and suspensions. We can do this and Jim is the right person to lead the charge.

Our financial stability relies heavily on the Permanent Fund. Each year, the proceeds of this fund are used to pay the dues of fully qualified 600 Club Members. Barry Weer, on behalf of the Permanent Fund Trustees, is leading a committee to examine how this money is invested and to see what changes can be made to maximize the return for the Valley. A stable stream of income will be the key to improving the program offerings of the Valley. This committee will also review means for increasing the Permanent Fund.

Each of these goals will take a great deal of effort and energy. A discussion group, open to all members of the Valley, meets on the third Tuesday of each month. We will not meet in July. If you have time and would like to participate, please feel free to join in. The meetings are held in the Darrah room and begin at 6:30 P.M.

Change will happen if we make it so. The golf outing, co-sponsored with the McLean County Shrine club, was a huge success. 80 golfers joined the fellowship. We also have a brand new web page - WWW.AASRBLOOMINGTON.ORG, which will be a great source of information and news related to the Valley of Bloomington. If you browse the Internet, check out the site, and send Dave Young your email address so you can receive information in the future.

The Valley of Bloomington has a great tradition. This tradition is the strong foundation, which will help us build for tomorrow. Masonry builds for the future by building better men today.

Until next time...

Fraternally,
Mike

**SCOTTISH RITE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINALIZES
AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TO SELL THE SCOTTISH
RITE TEMPLE BUILDING AND LAND AT 110 E. MULBERRY TO THE CITY
OF BLOOMINGTON CULTURAL DISTRICT**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. The City of Bloomington will take possession of the facility on July 31, 2001.
2. The Scottish Rite will receive \$150,000.00 for moving expenses.
3. The Scottish Rite debt of \$210,000.00 to the American Passion Play will be paid and the Valley will be debt free.
4. The Scottish Rite will have our business office, hold monthly board meetings, store personal property and the Illinois Lodge of Research Library will remain on site until May 15, 2002.
5. The Learning Center will continue to operate on site.
6. We will continue to store our costumes and degree paraphernalia on site and have a Reunion in the Spring and Fall without paying rent to the City.
7. The American Passion Play will continue to rehearse and have performances through the 2008 season, maintain a business office on site and store equipment and properties used in the production of the Play without paying rent to the City of Bloomington. Beginning with the 2009 season, the Play will negotiate with the City, terms of an agreement which will provide for the continuance of performances on terms and rental fees consistent with other users.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

One of the last responsibilities of the Commander-in-chief each year is to present to the membership an annual report, a State of the Rite, so to speak. It is with pleasure that I report to you that, in my opinion, the State of the Rite is solid and improving.

For at least ten years, my predecessors have warned the membership about the twin problems of financial and membership decline. In fact, the last year has seen typical developments showing the trend continues.

Last year, the Board of Trustees adopted a budget truly in balance and which allowed for spending on programs for our members for the first time in several years. Then almost immediately the Rite was shocked to find that a change in electric rate classification indicated an increase in electric bills of almost \$10,000 and later increase in costs further added unanticipated increased cost to the budget. A similar almost doubling of natural gas prices added more than \$10,000 to the cost of that utility and in September, the Supreme Council announced a per capita increase that, next year, will add an additional \$10,000 in cost. All these expenses must be confronted with reduced income.

As to membership, Valley membership has again declined, with initiations not matching losses. The only good thing about this is that our increasing per capita will be lower. A poor silver lining indeed.

But, unlike my predecessors, I can report concrete steps to change these trends. First, with responsibility for the Scottish Rite Temple, the Rite could exist in our Valley for a year or two but the end was in sight. Because of an arrangement, approved by the membership, responsibility for the building will be transferred to the City of Bloomington at the end of this fiscal year. We will change but, financially we will be in a much better position, and we have bought time to strike again at our membership problems.

It is on membership that I am most optimistic. Once again, there is activity in the Blue Lodges. This activity is the greatest I can remember in the last 15 years. Whether this increase is attributable to cyclical forces or to the innovative changes of recent Grand Masters (especially MW P.G.M.s Loudon, Gresham. Burr and current MWGM Durbin) is hard to tell but the activity is there. It is up to the members of the Valley of Bloomington to do something about it.

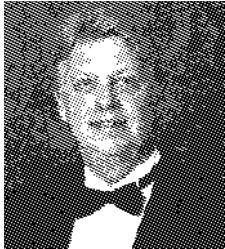
In the last two years, we have had an active membership recruitment effort. Illustrious Ron Blue, Thrice Potent Masters Jim Grimm, Billy Burden and Steve Nicholson are and will remain membership producers who should be commended. But others must, and fortunately have, gotten involved in the process. I remember Ken Carruth bringing in a petition to a Finance Committee Meeting and along with Ken Pfeifer bringing in members from an area not heard from in a long time. We are beginning to make inroads, again, to the Monticello and Gibson City areas while Marseilles, Minier, El Paso, Heyworth, Bloomington and Normal remain strong. We must continue to develop these areas and expand our efforts in Ottawa, LaSalle, Pontiac and areas in between.

I personally look forward to working with the new officers of the Valley. They are energetic, talented, committed and have a plan. They will be the builders of the Scottish Rite. For the first time in ten years, I believe we can look at a brighter future.

I thank each and every member of the Valley for the opportunity afforded me to serve but I must single out Dave Young for his outstanding service. Without Dave's hard work, dedication and fanatical devotion to our Rite, there would be no Valley of Bloomington. In addition, I cannot adequately express my sense of gratitude for the moral support, sage advice and, most of all, understanding, of the Past Commanders in Chief who were always there when I needed help and are still a quiet and effective force in making the Valley of Bloomington what we know and love.

VALLEY OF BLOOMINGTON OFFICERS 2001-2002

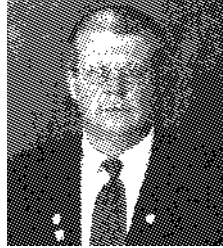
Bloomington Lodge of Perfection, 14^o



Gerald L. Lott

Thrice Potent MasterGerald L. Lott
 Deputy MasterRussell A. McCulley
 Senior WardenHugh A. Evans
 Junior WardenEric C. Anders
 OratorOren D. Pomeroy III
 Master of CeremoniesSteven L. Barr
 HospitalerJay A. Keeran
 Captain of the GuardK. Randall Wilson
 TylerTheron F. Noth
 TrusteeForrest L. DeVore, M.S.A.

Mt. Calvary Chapter Rose Croix, 18^o



Joseph A. Ward

Most Wise Master Joseph A. Ward
 Senior WardenWarren D. Darnall
 Junior WardenAlvin E. House
 OratorBarry G. Carney
 Master of CeremoniesCraig B. Russell
 HospitalerBill E. Tanner
 Master of EntranceKenneth Caruth
 TylerJozef R. Szadowski
 TrusteeRichard L. Carman

Zerubbabel Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16^o



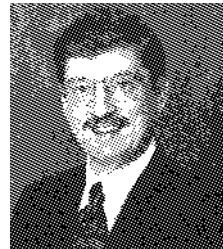
F. Sherwood Smith

Sovereign PrinceF. Sherwood Smith
 High PriestRichard M. Erickson
 Senior WardenDonald G. Anderson
 Junior WardenKenneth R. Pfeifer
 Master of CeremoniesRichard C. Miller, Jr.
 HospitalerMichael J. Bergelin
 Master of EntranceJohn R. Barringer
 TylerJohn E. Barringer
 TrusteeStephen L. Sigler

ALL BODIES

TreasurerGregory L. Clark, , 33^o
 SecretaryDavid Young, 33^o
 Director of WorkLarry E. LaBounty, , 33^o

Bloomington Consistory, 32^o



Michael S. Weer

Commander-In-ChiefMichael S. Weer, 33^o
 First Lieutenant Commander ..Michael R. Fowler, 33^o
 Second Lieutenant Commander ...Ronald K. Blue, 33^o
 OratorBarry D. Weer, 33^o
 ChancellorAndy H. Reining, 33^o
 Master of CeremoniesLarry E. LaBounty, 33^o
 HospitalerNorman L. Meade, 33^o
 Engineer and SeneschalD. Hodge Fuller, 33^o
 Color BearerEdwin B. Smiley, M.S.A.
 Standard BearerRobin L. Carr, 33^o
 Captain of the GuardC. Walden Crouch, 33^o
 SentinelDanny J. Leifel, 33^o
 TrusteeDanny J. Leifel, 33^o
 Sentinel EmeritusWilliam C. Roseboom, 33^o
 Aide to the Commander ...Orville E. Haning, Jr., 33^o

SUPREME COUNCIL NOTES

Indianapolis will be the site of this year's annual meeting of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. More than 2,500 Thirty-third Degree Masons and their ladies from 15 north-eastern states are expected at the meeting on Sept. 23-26. The Supreme Council last met in Indianapolis in 1991.

The 2001 Session will be highlighted by the conferral of the organization's Thirty-third Degree upon 122 Scottish Rite Masons who were elected for this high honor at last year's meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Thirty-third Degree is awarded for outstanding achievement in the fraternity or for significant contributions to others, reflecting credit on Freemasonry. The impressive ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 25, in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center.

Introductory luncheons honoring the Thirty-third Degree candidates and their ladies will be on the schedule for Sunday noon.

Earlier business conferences attended by the officers of the Supreme Council will be held on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21-22.

The larger-scale events will begin on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 23, when the Sagamore Ballroom will be the scene of the traditional Supreme Council Vesper Service. The Rev. Roger L. Dean, 33°, will deliver the Vesper message. He is a Retired Senior Pastor, John Knox Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and Part-time Pastor, Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship in Nashville, Indiana. Assisting will be Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°; Grand Prior Kenneth V. Kettlewell, 33°, Interim Pastor, the Presbyterian Church in Monroe, Ohio; and Rev. George R. Jackson, 33°, Part time Endowment Steward, Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Grand Commander Ralston will preside over the General Sessions of the Supreme Council on Monday, Sept. 24. In the course of these sessions, prominent leaders from other Masonic organizations in the United States and throughout the world are expected to be in attendance.

A number of other events have been scheduled, including a Monday luncheon in the new Marriott Downtown Ballroom for all ladies attending the Indianapolis meeting. Mrs. Susann Ralston, wife of the Grand Commander, will preside over the luncheon and program. At the same time, another luncheon will be served for all Supreme Council members, distinguished guests, and members of the class.

That evening, the Purdue Glee Club will feature a program in the Sagamore Ballroom. During the week, special sightseeing tours will be available for those attending the meetings.

In addition to the major events sponsored by the Supreme Council, a Masonic Marketplace will allow vendors to display Masonic-related items.

A series of seminars on Tuesday will cover topics of interest for those attending the session. Throughout the week, there will be many smaller social functions occurring under the auspices of the 15 participating states and the 104 Valleys comprising the Northern Jurisdiction.

The 2001 meeting will end with the announcement of the names of those elected to receive the Thirty-third Degree at Boston, Massachusetts, in September 2002.

OFFICER AND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

AUGUST 21, 2001

6:30 P.M.

SCOTTISH RITE RECREATION Area

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The Valley Board of Trustees at its May 2, 2000 meeting took action to create a new membership reward program. This program will reward those individuals who are successful in attracting new members for the Valley of Bloomington.

Any member who top lines 7 petitions and the candidates complete their work will earn a membership in the 800 Club for themselves or their designee. Petitions must be dated May 3, 2000 or later.

This program is a win—win situation. The Valley wins by continuing its positive growth trend. The Scottish Rite member wins by earning an 800 Club membership. The 800 Club will pay the dues to the Valley of Bloomington for the qualifying member until they reach their 50th anniversary in Scottish

Rite after which time, dues are considered 'paid in full' and are no longer charged.

If you already have an 800 Club membership, you can designate another brother to receive this benefit. This is a great 'gift' for a son, grandson, brother, or friend.

The program is quite simple, Top line 7 petitions. As soon as the candidates complete their work, the 800 Club membership begins.

The membership committee has set a goal of 6 petitions per month beginning August 1, 2000 and ending July 31, 2001. Carry an information brochure and a Scottish Rite petition to your Blue Lodge and encourage a brother to seek additional light in Masonry.

COMING SOON!



**Excess Valley Property
Disposition Sale**

Saturday, June 30, 2001

8 am to 3 pm

**In the Dining Room of the
Bloomington Scottish Rite Temple**

POSTPONED

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

The Secretary is required each year to provide the Valley membership with a report covering statistical data concerning the Valley. A report of the Valley's activities will be covered in the report of the Commander-In-Chief.

This unaudited report covers membership data on a fiscal year of May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001. As of our closing date of April 30, 2001, the Valley of Bloomington has a dues paying membership of 1,916. We have 96 Brethren on Remission, 44 Brethren on Senior Status and 161 "fifty-year" members for a grand total of 2,217 on the membership roll. We gained 30 members by Initiation, 0 by Affiliation and 11 through Restoration, showing an increase of 41 members. Conversely, we lost 33 members by Suspension, 2 members by Discharge, 30 by Demit and 90 have gone to their eternal reward. This is a net loss of 114 members in the last year.

We have 40 members who are two years in arrears on their dues for a total of \$5,200.00, and 83 members who owe current dues of \$65.00 for a total of \$5,395.00 which is a grand total of \$10,595.00 in uncollected dues payable during this past fiscal year.

Our delegation for the 2000 Illinois Council of Deliberation was comprised of 41 brethren and 25 ladies for a total of 66 at Decatur, Illinois to witness M. Merle Murray receive the Meritorious Service Award.

The 2000 Supreme Council session held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was attended by a delegation of 18 Brethren and 9 ladies for a total of 27 who witnessed the coronation of Richard D. Barclay and Michael R. Fowler.

The Valley has been in good financial condition during the past year due to the work of the Permanent Fund Trustees in the spring of 2000. The Board of Trustees received a copy of the 990 report which was sent to the Supreme Council office but did not receive an audited report of the finances for the 1999 -2000 year. Hopefully, the Board will receive a detailed audited report on our fiscal activities for this past year since we will be disposing of our physical building and some of our personal property assets. It is my recommendation that the Valley hire a Certified Public Accounting firm to do all they can so everything is properly accounted for and reported.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our members and staff who have dedicated their time and talents during the past fourteen years to serving those who rent and use our facility. The Valley will forever be deeply indebted to you. It has truly been a labor of love for me to direct and participate in the physical improvements over the years. These improvements do attest to the willingness and dedication of all those staff members who have contributed towards providing a better environment for our members and patrons. Their efforts will long be remembered and appreciated.

The tough but needed decision making during the past year has laid the groundwork for the new directions our Valley will be going. No longer will we have to spend the majority of our labors and money on the physical plant. Rather, we can now venture outside the box to seek further light in providing new services to our membership. The membership will have to support the programs and activities which the officers of the Valley have planned. The officers cannot execute the planned programs without the participation and involvement of the membership. Remember, time for a Prince of the Royal Secret is always NOW and now is the time for all members to start making this Valley grow and become vibrant again.

It is my sincere desire and hope, that the members of the Valley of Bloomington will be pleased and proud of the future improvements and use of their building. We should always be proud to say our donation of the building to the City of Bloomington is this Fraternity's contribution to the quality of life for the citizens of our great city, surrounding area and for all those patrons who attend functions in this facility.

Finally, my sincere congratulations on a job well done to our newest Past Presiding Officers, Brothers Jim L. Grimm, James M. Beveridge, Marvin W. Hays and Danny J. Leifel. I know the membership feels as I do, that you have truly served the Valley to your best abilities. Please join me in congratulating these good and faithful servants.

Respectfully submitted,



David Young, 33°
Executive Secretary

CATHEDRAL NEWS

VOL LXV, NO. 5

BLOOMINGTON CONSISTORY, A.A.S.R
POST OFFICE BOX 3695
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2001 Scottish Rite Masonic Family Life Program

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Bloomington, Illinois
Permit No. 37

INFORMATION TO THE FAMILY

In the event that the Scottish Rite Mason whose name appears on the mailing list goes to the hospital, a nursing home, or is incapacitated in any way, please notify the Secretary of the Scottish Rite, P.O. Box 3695, Bloomington, IL 61702 or you may call (309) 828-6077 with this information.

We Need New Members!!

Baseball Season—Cubs Start Strong

Ball trips have gotten a little more expensive. Bus went way up and tickets went up also. White Fence Farm a little. Go for the combo . . . STILL-WHAT A DEAL!!

10 SEATS LEFT

CUBS/METS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27th

Game Time 1:20 p.m.

\$50.00

Bus, game ticket and meal at White Fence Farm

CUBS/CARDINALS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th

Game Time 12:15 p.m.

\$60.00

(We do not receive Senior Citizens on Saturday games.)

Bus, game ticket and meal at White Fence Farm

SOLD OUT-TAKING STANDBY

Nashville Country Christmas

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2 — 3 Days

INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE TRIP:

- * Round trip motorcoach transportation (Peoria Charter Coach)
- * Accommodations for two nights at the Opryland Hotel

Cost of the tour:

\$440 per person, two to a room

\$590 single accommodations

\$400 per person, three or four to a room

If we have 40 passengers minimum; 44 passengers maximum

Cancellation insurance is available at \$4.25 per hundred dollars of coverage.

No deposit refunds after that date. Final payment due September 15th.

- Admissions and attractions as listed in the itinerary
- * One supper and one breakfast
- * Luggage Handling

\$475 per person, two to a room

\$620 single accommodations

\$430 per person, three or four to a room

If we have 30 passengers minimum

*Prices subject to reconfirmation

Jim Beveridge,
Escort/Chairman G.U.G. Club