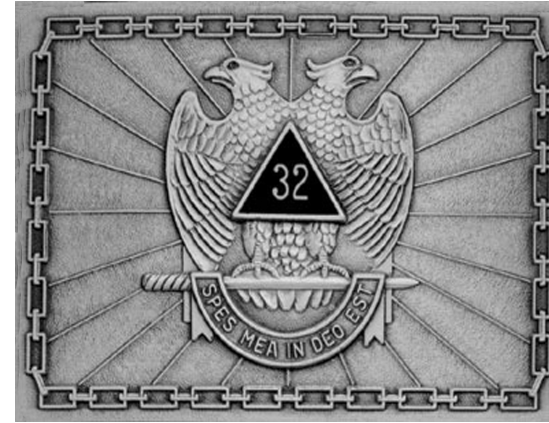


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The Valley Voice

200 Years of Scottish Rite Masonry

JAN. - FEB. - MARCH 2015

VALLEY OF SPRINGFIELD

VOLUME 2 - NUMBER 1

Find us on the web!!
www.aasr-spi.org

Greetings Bretheren!

I hope this finds all of you well rested from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season and duly and truly prepared for the upcoming year.

As the new editor of the Scottish Rite newsletter, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the changes that you will see in our newsletter as we strive to keep you as informed of our activities as early as we possibly can.

On page two you will find a three month calendar of known activities of the Valley. The calendar is designed for you to cut it out and put on your fridge...or your calendar...or what ever you use to remind yourself of all the activities that we have going on.

I am designating one of our pages to the Dyslexic Learning Center to hear about their successes and find what needs they have which we can help out with, either as a group or individually. It truly has become such a successful program and we should be proud of what the Center has accomplished on our behalf. I have also included the email addresses for all the officers so if you have any questions, you have a means to contact them.

If you have something that you would like to see in the newsletter, please email it to us at:
valleyeditor@hotmail.com

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments regarding the newsletter at the email address listed above. Deadlines for information for the newsletter will always be listed on page 2 of the last newsletter. It is my hope that each newsletter will also be available on the Valley website, located on the web at :

www.aasr-spi.org

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Paul MacDonna, Editor

Scottish Rite Scholarships Applications Now Being Accepted

On January 1, 2015 the Valley of Springfield will begin accepting applications for Scottish Rite scholarships. There are six different scholarships for which students may apply. Two of these scholarships (Health Care and Kresin) are open to all students, while the remaining four (Grand Lodge of Illinois, Perkins, Williams, and Abbott) require the applicant to have a Masonic relative. The eligibility details for each program are described in the application. Applicants who wish to be considered for more than one scholarship program only need to submit one form, and designate those programs for which he or she would like to be considered.

The minimum award amount for the current school year is a little over \$1300, and some scholarships, such as the Abbott and Grand Lodge scholarships carry higher award amounts.

Scholarships are renewable for up to four years, provided the recipient maintains a "B" average.

For the current school year, the Valley of Springfield awarded over \$53,000 in scholarships.

If you know of a high school senior or college student who needs financial assistance, please encourage them to visit our Valley website and download an application. The application will be available on Jan. 1, 2015.

The application submittal deadline is April 1, 2015.

Awards will be announced by May 1, 2015. If you have any questions, please call Steve Scaife at 217- 787-8496.



The Valley Voice

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Devoted to promoting interests of the Valley of Springfield
in particular and of Masonry in general.
Deadline for next issue: February 15, 2015

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Gerry L. Williams, MSA, 33°

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Most Wise Master
Merle T. Fox

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Council of Princes of Jerusalem
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Sangamo Lodge of Perfection
Thrice Potent Master
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Valley Officers

Springfield Consistory S.P.R.S.

19-32 - Conferred in a "Consistory" of the Royal Secret
1st Lt. Commander: Kenneth L. Morey, 33°
2nd Lt. Commander: Craig A. Kennedy

Springfield Chapter of Rose Croix

17-18 - Conferred in a "Chapter of Rose Croix"
Senior Wardern: Steven L. Scaife
Junior Warden: David A. Kelm

Council of Princes of Jerusalem

15-16 - Conferred in a "Council of Princes of Jerusalem"
High Priest: Paul D. MacDonna
Senior Warden: Wayne Clark

Sangamo Lodge of Perfection

4-14 - Conferred in a "Lodge of Perfection"
Deputy Master: Matthew D. Erley
Senior Warden: Matthew R Stolz
Junior Warden: Richard J. Smith

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Newsletter Editor: Paul MacDonna
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email: valleyeditor@hotmail.com
217-891-2301

DYSLEXIA CENTER NEWS!

Children's Dyslexia Center of Springfield
www.dyslexialearningcenter.com



Graduation Ceremony was Newsworthy!

September 18th, 2014 was a special occasion for six students who received certificates of graduation from our program. The children were able to speak about how much their reading has improved, and show thankfulness to their tutor and parents. Six tutors were also celebrated for their completion of the training program and their efforts to help children learn to read. Both Channel 20 and 17 were present to film news segments about the graduation ceremony. A wonderful night!

Did You Know?

The Children's Dyslexia Center of Springfield is now a member agency of the **United Way of Central Illinois**. It is now easier than ever to make a donation and have it come directly to the Center. We hope that this relationship will help the Center connect to people and resources in the area along with giving potential students and tutors easier access to our program services and training. Please help us spread the word about this accomplishment.

Mark Your Calendar: We need your help to make our **Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser** the best ever! Join us on **Feb. 22nd** for food, fun and the most amazing smells ever!

About Dyslexia... (<http://www.ld.org>)

- Dyslexia is the name for specific learning disabilities in reading.
- Dyslexia is often characterized by difficulties with accurate word recognition, decoding and spelling.
- Dyslexia may cause problems with reading comprehension and slow down vocabulary growth.
- Dyslexia may result in poor reading fluency and reading out loud.
- Dyslexia is neurological and often genetic.
- Dyslexia is not the result of poor instruction.
- With the proper support, almost all people with dyslexia can become good readers and writers.

Thank YOU! Thank YOU!

We have received several donations of copy paper, and appreciate your help with this ongoing need.

The Center was also given \$400 to purchase items on our wish list: "Hands-On Linking Blocks" (2 sets) and "Words"

Wish list Item

Four Drawer File Cabinet

Mark Your Calendars!!

Valentine's Day Dinner

Saturday, February 7

Social Hour begins at 5pm, Dinner served at 6pm

Dinner provided by Fulgenzi's

Newly Wed Game immediately following dinner

\$30 per couple (includes meal and open bar)

Reserve your seats NO LATER than February 3rd

Call 793-7728 for information and reservations

Ansar Shrine Patrol and the Springfield Scottish Rite presents

12th Annual Mister Chilli Man Chili Joe Debrates Memorial Regional Chili Cook Off

Sunday, February 22nd

America Center (1501 E. Griffiths, Springfield, IL)

Doors Open at 11am - Daytona Race at Noon - Chili Judging at 3pm

\$10 per person includes:

All-U-Can-Eat Chilli Man Chili, Hot Dogs & Competition Samples

Raffle Prizes, Silent Auction, 50-50 Drawings

Proceeds benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center of Springfield and

The Shriner's Hospital for Children

For Information or Tickets call: 217-414-0551 or 217-414-2704

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm.

Springfield Masonic Center



This solemn service recognizes the Judeo-Christian traditions of the Passover Feast and the Lord's Supper. Additionally, it is a time of remembering those of our number who have completed this earthly journey. The surviving family members of all who have passed away during the past year will receive an invitation to this service.

The service is open to the general public, as well as all members of the Valley. If you have never witnessed this service, you should put it on your calendar immediately.

IN HONOR OF ALL OF OUR VETERANS, WE PRESENT THE **ODE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

*Original Author Unknown
Edited by Gene Gyure, Jr., MSA, 33°*

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.

I have flown atop some of the
world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's
halls of justice.

I fly majestically over
institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.

Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident.

I am arrogant.

I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners,
my head is a little higher,
my colors a little truer.

I bow to no one!

I am recognized all over the world.

I am worshiped, I am saluted.

I am loved,

I am revered.

I am respected,

and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for
more than 200 years.

I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh
and Appomattox.

I was there at San Juan Hill,
the trenches of France,

in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome
and the beaches of Normandy,

Guam and Okinawa.

The people of Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait
know me as a banner of freedom.

I was there.

I led my troops.

I was dirty, battleworn and tired,
but my soldiers cheered me
and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled
on the streets of countries
I have helped set free.

I have been burned, torn and trampled
by the citizens of my own country
who do not understand.

It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth
and stood watch over the vast uncharted
frontiers of space from my vantage point
on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of
America's finest hours.

But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am flown at half-staff to
honor my countrymen.

When I am draped across the coffin
of one of my defenders.

When I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent
at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,
or in the arms of a child or spouse
who will have to go on
without one who gave their life
in the line of duty,
or to save the life of another.

I am the flag of the United States of America.
My name...

My name is Old Glory!

Long may I wave.



Valley of Springfield Brotherhood Outreach Program

The next time you pick up your phone, it just might be a brother from the Valley of Springfield calling you as part of our Brotherhood Outreach Program.

The Brotherhood Outreach program is a new effort to improve communication with our members and to fulfill our obligation to support one another. This program is for the sole purpose of reaching out to our membership, and does not involve any solicitation of donations or sales. We just want to chat with you, extend our greetings and see how you're doing.

Every month, members meet one evening to have supper and place calls. To date, we've called over 1,000 members of the Valley of Springfield and the results have been very positive.

We've renewed interest in Scottish Rite, re-connected with old friends, received new ideas and provided assistance and comfort to brethren in distress.

As an on-going program for the nearly 1600 members in our Valley, we need to make a lot of calls. If you're interested in helping with this program as a caller, please contact **Steve Scaife at 217-787-8496.**



Knights of St. Andrew Chartered by The Valley of Springfield AASR



The Knights of St. Andrew, a unique service organization dedicated to the betterment of The Valley of Springfield, was granted a Charter by the Board of Directors on October 30, 2014. All 32nd "Black Cap" masons are eligible to vote and hold office, joining with other like-minded Scottish Rite Masons in providing valuable services to The Valley of Springfield.

The Knights of St. Andrew greet members at registration, escort ladies in the Masonic Center, perform in degree presentations, conduct candidates during Reunions, and prepare and serve meals. The KSA Charter members will be easy to recognize as they have chosen a predominately Scottish theme for their attire; wearing traditional Black Glengarry hat with a red feather hackle and a Universal Freemasonry Clan Tartan sash pinned by an antique nickel-plated St. Andrew Brooch.

If you wish to strengthen your ties to The Valley of Springfield while continuing your travels in The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, join The Knights of St. Andrew for Fellowship, Fraternity and Fun. KSA Petitions are available at the Scottish Rite Office or Contact Woody Logsdon, Venerable Master @ 217-257-8606 or email: glogsdon48@gmail.com



January, 2015

- Jan. 1** *Happy New Year!!!*
- Jan. 6 6 pm Stated Meeting
- Jan 20 6 pm BOD Meeting
- Jan 20 7 pm SMC, Inc. Meeting

February

- Feb. 3 6 pm Stated Meeting
- Feb. 7 5 pm *Valentines Dinner*
- Feb. 17 6 pm BOD Meeting
- Feb. 17 7 pm SMC, Inc. Meeting
- Feb. 17 8 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- Feb. 22 11am *Chili Cook Off*

March

- Mar. 1** *Newsletter Deadline*
- Mar. 3 6pm Stated Meeting
- Mar. 17 6 pm BOD Meeting
- Mar. 17 7 pm SMC, Inc. Meeting
- Mar. 21 Spring Reunion

April

- April 1 7 pm *Feast of Paschal Lamb*
- April 5 *Happy Easter!!*
- April 7 6 pm Stated Meeting
- April 21 6 pm BOD Meeting
- April 21 7 pm SMC, Inc. Meeting

A Message From Your Commander-In-Chief



Greetings Bretheren,

I hope all have enjoyed the Holidays and are ready to begin the New Year. I want to thank all who have worked on our Holiday activities. It is always enjoyable to share the brotherhood of putting together a successful venture. I especially wish to thank all

brothers who sent in the over 40 name suggestions for the Valley Publication. I speak for all of your Presiding Officers when I say how pleased we were with the interest. However, only one can be chosen. The officers will be recognizing this member in the near future.

My fellow Presiding Officers have received feedback on the current format of bringing the degree presentations to you. This is always greatly appreciated because it opens up communication with you. Nothing is perfect and although we have been extremely successful with Stated Meeting presentations we see the need to make adjustments. Our Directors and Officers will be meeting to address this and hope to emerge from these sessions with a working compromise. We will keep you informed.

I personally want to thank our High Priest of the Council Line Paul MacDonna and Gene Gyure, MSA, 33° for the brotherhood they have shown in recognizing the Valley's eye to the future in volunteering their time to work on the Valley Publication.

We hope to see you soon at the upcoming events. Please get reservations in and if you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the Presiding Officers or the Office. Again bring any potential members to the upcoming activities and if you have a member he can be initiated at any Stated Meeting.

Fraternally yours,
Gerry L. Williams, MSA, 33°

