



THE RITE LIGHT



Valley of Albany
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, N.M.J., U.S.A.
67 Corning Place
Albany, NY 12207
<http://valleyofalbany.aasmasonry.us/>

Vol. XL

FALL 2015

No.2

Steve Conant's Red Hat Testimonial Dinner



Presentation of Meritorious Service Award

Rusty LaGrange, Steve King, Steve Conant and Sheila Conant



Steve receiving his Red Hat with Gifts from the other Reds and Whites



And a Few Words to the Wise from the Commander in Chief

**NEW YORK STATE
COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION**

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are:

Ill.: John William McNaughton, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill.: Gail N. Kemp, 33°
Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill.: Robert F. Ogg, Jr., 33°
Grand Minister of State

Ill.: David P. Spencer, 33°
Deputy for New York State

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

Ill.: Peter J. Samiec, 33°
Grand Almoner

Past Deputy for New York
Ill.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°
Grand Master General of Ceremonies

Ill.: P. Michael Nielsen, 33°
Ill.: G. Michael Morris, 33°

ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS

Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33°
Ill.: Bruce Widger, 33°
Past Deputy for New York

Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°
Ill.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
Ill.: Frederick D. Greene, 33°
Ill.: Edward R. Trosin, 33°
Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°
Past Grand Minister of State
Past Deputy for New York

Editor: THE RITE LIGHT
S. Kelly
thekellys@nycap.rr.com
518-758-1778

“We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic Obligation to care for our Members.”

Communicate

Please communicate sickness and distress and/or glad tidings. Share your joy or get support in your sorrow. Harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of ours.

Please send all communications to: John W. Scott, Secretary, Albany Masonic Hall, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207 or scottydawg2000@aol.com or call (518) 283-1168

Editor’s Note:

Please send letters, articles, and pictures to the Editor at thekellys@nycap.rr.com. This is your publication and it cannot be printed without your news and pictures.



Called from Labor

Joseph Polito, died January, 4, 2015
Michael Palazzo, died January 5, 2015
Alexander Grone, died May 4, 2015
John Bought, died May 29, 2015
Ill.: Alan C. Lewis, 33°, August 17, 2015

Consistory



A Message from your Commander-in-Chief

Greetings Sublime Princes,

First, I wish to thank all for their support and confidence in having me installed as your Commander-in-Chief for the next two years. As always, whenever there is a change in officers, the newly installed officer tells the body what his goals are during his term of office. Because we belong to multiple Masonic bodies, I know you have heard the basic goals of membership, meeting attendance, degree participation, and gaining more Masonic knowledge.

With those areas in discussion, Eric Benson and Victor Stewart have agreed to serve as Membership Committee members. They will be able to answer your questions concerning bringing in new members from our surrounding Blue Lodges.

At our last Executive Board Meeting, we set the Trestle Board for this upcoming year. We will have a mix of business and degree nights with an intended return to the Slater for the 4 Chaplains Degree. We need assistance for these degree performances. Currently we have a Degree Director for each of our Lodges, but participation of members is at a low. I ask that you consider getting involved with one of our Lodges.

I ask that you attend as many meetings as possible. This will have 2 main benefits: one being aware of events and activities that are scheduled, the second in earning more points for your Double Eagle Award. The Trestle Board is printed on the back cover of this issue so you can better plan your Scottish Rite Year.

One last thing is our website. Steve Conant has been working very diligently on the website and it is

looking great! I ask that you take some time to visit it and check out the links available there. Updates to the Trestle Board will be posted as events change. The website is: <http://www.albanyscottishrite.org>.

I look forward to meeting with all of you at our next assembly.

Gary Smith, 32°
Commander-in-Chief

Council, Princes of Jerusalem



A Message from your Sovereign Prince

Greetings companion brothers;

Another year of fraternal activity will start soon, and I'm hoping to see some good attendance and participation at the meetings and degrees this year. It would be great to have enough to have both a degree cast AND an audience. The Scottish Rite has been called "The Theater of the Fraternity" and for good reason—it has used all the resources of the theater to put forth and enhance the messages of our degrees. Recent digging in the temple attic has brought to light unsuspected treasures: marble balustrades, temple entrances, forests, caves, palaces, dungeons. They are all rendered in paint and canvas. There are even two "Double Inferno" lighting fixtures which provide fire effects- and I have no idea what degree requires them.

If anyone feels they want to step into the spotlight, by all means, take the opportunity. We'll find a place for you. There is much to do. If you aren't a great speaker, there are plenty of characters in the degrees who just stand around and grumble. If you're on the shy side, there can be props and lights to manage and the thunder sheet to shake. For everyone, there are lessons to be learned and the pleasure of helping others. Let us put some life into the Valley of Albany this year and Show Them How It Is Done!!

Eric Stott, 32°
Sovereign Prince

Knights of the Double Eagle



A Message from your Knight Commander

My Brothers,

The following Valley of Albany sublime princes were knighted at the annual Knights of the Double Eagle knighting ceremony held at the regular joint body meeting on March 19: Keith Becker, Bruce Lock, Alan Lewis (in absentia), John Polydouris.

In addition, the following Knights were awarded service bars or ribbons in recognition of their ongoing service to the Valley: Steve Conant (red ribbon), Eric Benson (blue bar, gold bar), Ken White (gold bar), Gary Smith (white bar), Paul Rosenblatt (white bar), Richard Hundertmark (white bar), Vic Stewart (white bar), Jerry Dievendorf (blue bar), Bob Fickies (blue bar), Eric Stott (red bar), Anton Konev (red bar), Byron Moak (red bar), Karl Schlegel (red bar).

Congratulations to all who were honored at this year's ceremony in recognition for their service to the valley. Thank you to all who participated in the award ceremony, especially John Scott, who served as Knight Master of Ceremonies.

The next knighting ceremony will be held in the spring of 2016 and will be based on cumulative points earned through the end of 2015. Please participate in Valley reunions, meetings, and other activities as your circumstances allow and make sure you sign in at each event in order to receive credit for your participation.

On an unrelated note, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the MSA testimonial dinner that was held in my honor. Thank you to those who put the fantastic evening together, in particular John Scott and Eric Benson, and to all who attended on such a cold winter's night. I was

touched by all of the kind words spoken about me and humbled to have received the award. I will try to prove worthy of the MSA by continuing to do my part in making our Valley of the Scottish Rite a positive and enjoyable experience for our members.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the Knights of the Double Eagle program. I can be reached at 518-598-1388 or sconant2@nycap.rr.com.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Steve Conant, Knight Commander, KoDE

Webmaster's Note

My Brothers,

It is my pleasure to announce that a new version of the Valley of Albany website is now online at www.albanyscottishrite.org. To set up the initial website, I copied the previous site that was developed and maintained by Brother Bob Fickies, who now lives in Florida. Many thanks go out to Bob for all of his efforts on the previous site.

I have updated the Trestleboard, list of officers, and other information on the new site to bring it up-to-date. As time goes on, I plan to enhance the site and add additional items such as a list of Knights of the Double Eagle.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any suggestions for the site, and email me pictures and other items relevant to the Valley that you would like posted on the site. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations for the Valley website. I can be reached at sconant2@nycap.rr.com or 518-598-1388.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Steve Conant

Confetti Stage Schedule

Confetti Fest 11 Tech (9/25/15–10/1/15)

Performances: 10/2/15–10/11/15

Agnes of God Tech (2/19/16–2/25/16)

Performances: 2/26/16–3/6/16

Elephant's Graveyard Tech (4/22/16–4/28/16)

Performances: 4/29/16–5/8/16

Initiation Fee and Dues Increases

The Valley of Albany's initiation fees and dues have remained the same since at least 2003. As a result of the increased cost associated with remaining at the Albany Masonic Hall, and our decreasing membership, the Valley has had to annually withdraw more money from our investments to pay our fixed expenses and provide the services our membership expects. The Valley's Executive Board determined that withdrawals at the present levels are not sustainable and a dues increase was necessary. Therefore, last year an ad-hoc committee consisting of Jerry Dievendorf, Ken White and Steve Conant was formed to review the Valley of Albany's initiation fees and dues structure.

After a thorough review of Valley income and expenses, the committee concurred with the Executive Board that increases to the fees and dues were necessary. Specifically, the committee proposed a modest (\$5) increase to three of the bodies' initiation fees. This would provide a modest increase in annual revenue (based on 2013 initiate numbers), but would bring the total cost for initiates to join the four bodies to an even \$150. The committee also proposed raising the annual membership dues for each of the four bodies. Presently, our Valley dues are \$37.00, prorated: Lodge-\$11.00, Council-\$6.00, Chapter-\$7.00 and Consistory-\$13.00. The proposed new dues are: Valley dues of \$73.00, prorated: Lodge-\$16.00, Council- \$16.00, Chapter-\$16.00 and Consistory-\$25.00. Added together with the Supreme Council's current assessment of \$27 the total annual dues amount would be increased from \$64 to \$100. The annual increase in revenue from these increases would enable the Valley to substantially decrease the amount withdrawn from its investment account each year.

Pursuant to Article VII of the Valley By-Laws, the proposed amendment to Article IV-Dues was submitted to the Executive Board in writing and read once at the February 12, 2015 meeting. The amendment was held over until the April 9, 2015 meeting when it was read again and adopted. The amendment was then presented at a summoned meeting of the four bodies held on June 11, 2015, and was approved by a majority vote.

It is never an easy decision to increase the cost of being a member of an organization such as Scottish Rite, but it is our belief that doing so at this time will place the Valley on firm financial footing for the foreseeable future.

Lodge of Perfection



A Message from your Thrice Potent Master

My Brothers

I hope this finds you all well and that your summer activities with family and friends were all that you had hoped for. I want to say "welcome back," but we were never away from the collective hearts and minds our fellow companions.

In that vein, the officers of the Valley have been working hard to put together interesting and informative programs for the ensuing year. We have candidates in waiting. So to start off the year, on Sept. 17, we presented the Lodge of Perfection 4th and 9th degrees. I hope you were able to attend and welcome these brothers on their start through Scottish Rite Masonry.

Your attendance and participation in these events, no matter how small, is important and greatly appreciated. Not only are you recognized by the Knights of the Double Eagle, but you also make stronger the ties of the fraternity. A fraternity that helps in challenging times as well as shares in the joys and success of each brother. A fraternity in which every brother cares about each other. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Ken White, 32°, MSA
Thrice Potent Master

Secretary's Note

Sublime Princes, Brothers:

Great things are happening in the Valley of Albany. Our elected officers are planning their year and evidence of their enthusiasm and innovative leadership is reflected in the Valley Trestle Board. Please look at the Trestle Board for the year and plan to participate in as many Valley events as possible. This is your Valley and its success is directly related to the participation of the Brothers.

It is my pleasure to announce that Gerald R. Dievendorf was elected to receive the Meritorious Service Award at the Council of Deliberation session in 2016. This is a great honor for our Valley and so richly deserved by one of the most dedicated Sublime Princes in our Valley. We will honor Jerry at a Testimonial Dinner when he will receive his Red Hat. Details for this important event will be sent to you when they are arranged. Please mark your calendar accordingly and plan to attend.

Members of our Valley participated in educational seminars in Syracuse this spring and will participate in membership and leadership seminars this fall. Reports indicate social media outlets and current web sites are important tools to communicate with members and all Valleys are encouraged to explore these innovations as a method of supplementing existing methods of communication and education. Steve Conant is the Valley Webmaster and he is doing a wonderful job keeping our web site current. Please look at the web site and thank Steve for his good work. (www.albanyscottishrite.org)

Membership and member retention are issues of primary importance. It was reported that 26,000 members were lost to non-payment of dues or demits during the period of 2009 through 2012. We are all responsible for this startling statistic. Reach out to Brothers you have not seen in a while and see if there is anything we as a Valley or individually can do to renew their interest and enthusiasm in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Finally, you will receive your dues notices in the near future. As indicated in another article, the Valley dues will increase. The need for the increase is reduced membership resulting in reduced revenue and increased costs. Please know that the officers

studied this situation over the last year and determined that this increase is necessary to allow us to continue to offer programs that are interesting and affordable to the membership without continuing to rely on withdrawals from investments at an unsustainable level. If this increase will cause you financial hardship, please let the Valley Officers know and we will try to assist you in all ways possible. We are our Brothers' keepers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Secretary. I look forward to an exciting and successful year for all of us in the Valley of Albany.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
John W. Scott, 32° MSA, Secretary
Scottydawg2000@aol.com
(518) 283-1168

An Email to the Editor

My name is Joanne Williams. I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. My uncle is Delo A Calvin.

Delo was a member of the Shekomeko Lodge until he returned to Cincinnati. He now resides at The Lodge (Isn't that appropriate?) Retirement Community in assisted living. He just met two highlights in his life. He turned 96 AND he received his 60-year pin at the Amelia Masonic Lodge here in Cincinnati. I have enclosed a picture of him on his 96th birthday and on the day he received his 60 year pin. He is a 33rd degree Scottish Rite. His wife Joyce Calvin was Worthy Matron of Eastern Star.



You asked for letters, articles and pictures in the last "The Rite Lite". Del A. Calvin is legally blind and I read all correspondence to him. He lit up and was very interested in all the information in your newsletter. Thank you so much for keeping him in the loop.

Joanne
Fall 2015

2015-2016 AASR OFFICERS—VALLEY of ALBANY

Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection

Thrice Potent Master	Kenneth M. White	439-3749/527-1962	kmwhite02@verizon.net
Deputy Master	Michael P. Slattery	795-0946	michaelandabby@reagan.com
Senior Warden	Mel W. Lamphron	439-1839	melskicsm@gmail.com
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Orator	John N. Polydouris	783-6240	
Master of Ceremonies	Drew A. Millier	605-8084	drewmillier@me.com
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Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem

Sovereign Prince	Eric S. Stott	482-6080	estott@localnet.com
High Priest	Steven M. Conant	598-1388	sconant2@nycap.rr.com
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Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix

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Senior Warden	Keith D. Becker	331-9385	kdb73@aol.com
Junior Warden	Richard G. Ryther	459-2310	rickryther@aol.com
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Albany Sovereign Consistory

Commander-In-Chief	Gary E. Smith	482-6060/810-6440	step12@nycap.rr.com
1st Lt. Commander	Paul B. Rosenblatt, Sr.	943-6804/669-3460	pepy33@aol.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Anton A. Konev	330-5269	konevforcouncil@gmail.com
Trustee	Stephen S. King	489-1341	sking1@nycap.rr.com
Orator			
Chancellor	L Ridgewood Macdonald	813-2443/753-4500	kb2hwl@nycap.rr.com
Master of Ceremonies	Drew A. Millier	605-8084	drewmillier@me.com
Engineer & Seneschal	Wilfred C. Baumann	875-6753	dhblake@midtel.ne
Standard Bearer	Alan C. Garrison	452-8459	
Masonic Hall Assn. Rep.	Ronald Noll	783-1898	ronaldnoll1@yahoo.com

Officers of All Bodies

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Secretary	John W. Scott	283-1168/301-3264	scottydawg2000@aol.com
Hospitaler	Donald H. Blake	463-6536/768-7067	dhblake@gmail.com
Regalia & Wardrobe	Alfred Krueger, Jr	869-7873	
	John A. Minozzi	489-2657	
	Paul B. Rosenblatt, Sr.	943-6804/669-3460	pepy33@aol.com

VALLEY OF ALBANY
 John W. Scott, Secretary
 Albany Masonic Hall
 67 Corning Place
 Albany, NY 12207

Valley of Albany 2015–2016 Meeting Dates

September 17, 2015	Thurs.	Lodge* , Council, Chapter, Consistory	March 20, 2016	Sunday	Feast of the Paschal Lamb
November 5, 2015	Thurs.	Executive Board	April 7, 2016	Thurs.	Executive Board
November 7, 2015	Sat,	Reunion: 4°, 7°, 14°, 16°, 18°, 22°, Albany Masonic Hall followed by Cocktail Reception	April 21, 2016	Thurs.	Lodge, Council, Chapter, Consistory* –23° (Four Chaplains) USS Slater
November, 19, 2015	Thurs.	Lodge, Council* , Chapter, Consistory	May 14, 2016	Sat.	Reunion: 4°, 14°, 18°, 26°, 31°, 32° Albany Masonic Hall followed by Cocktail Reception
November, 30, 2015	Monday	St. Andrew’s Day Observance and 29°, followed by Dinner	May 15, 2016	Sun.	Valley of Albany Family Picnic
December 3, 2015	Thurs.	Executive Board	May 19, 2016	Thurs.	Annual Meeting —Election and Installation—All four bodies, Consistory*
January 30, 2016	Sat.	Robert Burns Celebration, Albany Masonic Hall	June 2, 2016	Thurs.	Executive Board
February 4, 2016	Thurs.	Executive Board	August 4, 2016	Thurs.	Executive Board
February 18, 2016	Thurs.	Lodge, Council, Chapter* , Consistory			
March 17, 2016	Thurs.	Lodge, Council, Chapter, Consistory*			

* Opens and Closes Meeting