



VALLEY NOTICE

NOTICE AND NEWSLETTER



VALLEY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

March, 2008

Deadlines for Valley Notice in 2008:

Issue	Deadline
May	March 30
July	June 1

Please deliver your submissions to the Scottish Rite Office, or email directly to the editor:
pm1989@comcast.net

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VALLEY NOTICE

Is a publication of the four bodies of the Valley of Reading, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and is the official notice of meetings, events and activities of the Valley.

Editor- Ill. Jon J. DeHart, 33°

Associate Editor-

Ill. Blaine F. Fabian, 33°

The Valley of Reading, A.A.S.R.
P.O. Box 6013
West Reading, PA 19610

Phone: 610-373-0722

Fax: 610-373-0795

Email:

valley.of.reading@comcast.net

SUPREME COUNCIL TO RAISE ASSESSMENT

Extract of the

**2007 CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°
ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Art. 702 — Each Lodge of Perfection shall pay to the Supreme Council with its annual return made to the Supreme Council as of June 30 of each year, an assessment in the sum of eight dollars and fifty cents for 2007, payable 2008; twelve dollars for 2008, payable 2009; fifteen dollars for 2009, payable 2010; eighteen dollars for 2010, payable 2011; twenty-one dollars for 2011, payable 2012; twenty-four dollars for 2012, payable 2013; and twenty-seven dollars for 2013, payable 2014, and thereafter for each 14th Degree member of such Lodge of Perfection, based on its membership as of June 30 of each year, such amount being required for the expenses of the Supreme Council, including such expenses as shall be incurred in the publication of a Northern Masonic Jurisdiction magazine to be distributed without additional charge to each Lodge of Perfection 4th Degree member in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Supreme Council assessment, shall be billed as a separate item to a dues paying or non-dues paying member, shall have the same status as dues, and failure on the part of the member to pay the assessment, unless it is remitted by the Body, shall subject such member to the same penalties as are provided by these Constitutions for non-payment of dues.

The amount of such assessment shall be collected by each Valley from its paying members by including on its annual dues statement a separate item, "Supreme Council Assessment" and specifying the amount as set herein, and from its other members by a special assessment in like amount; provided, however, that in lieu of collecting said assessment from its members, any Lodge of Perfection may pay an amount equal to such assessment from its treasury and remit such amount to the Supreme Council annually, as above provided.

Each Lodge of Perfection shall forward to the Grand Secretary General with its annual return the amount to be paid by such Body in accordance with the provisions of this Article. (Complete letter on page 4)

NO VALLEY DUES INCREASE THIS YEAR

The Executive Committee has ordered that the action on the dues increase advertised in the January *Valley Notice* is to be suspended. One of the reasons for suspending the Valley's dues increase is the anticipated increase in the Supreme Council Dues. When you receive your dues notice in March you will notice that the Supreme Council raised their dues from \$8.50 to \$12.00. Failure to pay the Supreme Council Dues shall subject such member to the same penalties as for non-payment of dues. The Executive Committee will use the time to reevaluate the financial position of the Valley and consider additional financial options.



Notes From

The Commander-in-Chief

Ill. L. Donald Loos, Jr., 33°

After the cold days of winter, spring is finally approaching. Spring is the time we celebrate the renewal of life after a long period of dormancy. Spring is also a time for us to renew our commitments to our fraternal organizations, especially to our Scottish Rite. Make a promise to yourself to attend your Blue Lodge and your Scottish Rite Valley.

Our next meeting will be on March 25. Come out and share in the fellowship of our meeting and get acquainted with our new members and renew your acquaintances with your Scottish Rite Brethren. That's the way it was at our Stated Meeting on Jan. 22, when almost half of our new members from the last Reunion and most of their ladies dined with us and experienced the Stated and Ladies Auxiliary Meetings.

Scottish Rite is a family orientated fraternity. Bring your lady along and treat her to a dinner prior to our meeting. While we are in session, the ladies meet as The Ladies Auxiliary of the Scottish Rite Valley of Reading. In addition to the business meeting, they have interesting programs and lots of social times.

Brethren, membership is paramount to our future and to our ultimate survival. You are all members of our newly formed Membership Committee. Your duty is to invite your Blue Lodge brothers to petition our Valley and join in our numerous activities. Your duty is also to attend your County Club meetings and dinners. You will get so much more out of your Scottish Rite membership if you participate in our many programs. Be sure to read your *VALLEY NOTICE*. You will see what activities are available to you and your family.

Our next Reunion will be on May 17. Make an effort to find a new candidate for this reunion. Accompany him to the reunion and both of you get involved in our activities. We have openings for parts in our degrees as well as many behind the scenes positions. This is a great way to meet new brethren and to become a part of our Valley's activities. Contact one of our officers or the Scottish Rite Office if you are interested in helping at the reunion.

Coming events include the Easter Egg Hunt for the kiddies, The Feast of the Paschal Lamb for the family and many County Club activities for your fun and fellowship.

Have a great spring. I hope to meet you at our next stated meeting. Happy Easter to you and your family.



Sovereign Prince Speaks

William L. Loos

Greetings to everyone. Best wishes that 2008 has been going well for each of you. It is hard to believe that March is approaching. As I write this column, our January Stated Meeting has just passed and our Spring County Club meetings are beginning. Hopefully everyone is aware of their County Club and the activities that they have to offer for the Brethren and their families. These clubs allow our members an opportunity to fellowship with other Brethren in their local area, which often is much closer than traveling to our beautiful Cathedral in West Reading. I strongly encourage everyone to attend these dinners/picnics and get involved.

As mentioned in previous columns, please come out to our next reunion on Saturday, May 17, and join in on the fun. Please consider either taking part in the degrees on-stage or helping out in one of our behind-the-scenes departments. These groups include Wardrobe, Make-Up/Wigs, Electrical/Lighting, Sound, Property, Stage Crew, Choir, Marshalls, Tylers, Registrars, Stewarts, Casting, and Reception. If you are interested in helping out, please fill out the form located in the Valley News or contact one of the department heads. If you are not sure what area(s) interest you, please come to the May reunion and take some time to walk around backstage between the degrees and visit the various departments. It is a real eye opener to see all of the different groups in action to make our reunions successful. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work", and I guarantee you will meet new friends and have a lot of fun helping out.

Best wishes to everyone in the upcoming months. I hope to see a large turnout to our Stated Meeting on March 25, as well as our next Reunion on May 17. Please read the *Valley Notice* in its entirety to keep abreast of all of the events held throughout the year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our Valley as your Sovereign Prince. Best wishes to all the Brethren on a great spring season, and I hope to see a great turnout at our Stated Meeting in March. Please come early and enjoy a good meal for only \$4.00 per person. Happy Easter to you and your families and God Bless You!

Authorized Ritual Changes to Affect Seven Degrees

The Supreme Council authorized changes to seven degree rituals at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Additional modules have been put into the 4°. Stylistic changes were made to the 5°. Minor changes were made to the 16°, 18°, and 20°. In the 17°, a ceremonial section was removed and minor changes were made to the prologue and allegory. The 22° was rewritten with a 19th century setting using similar ritual. If you are a Director or cast member, check the changes with the office.



Most Wise Master's Moment

Robert J. Hoyes



Thrice Potent Master's Corner

Robert C. Engleman

BRETHREN TAKE NOTICE; THE FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB IS COMING!

**Scottish Rite Cathedral,
Sunday, April 27, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

Join us in remembering and honoring all Scottish Rite Members who have gone before us.

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb is a ceremony in which the Knights of Rose Croix are joined by the Knights Templar and the Knights of Columbus in honoring the Brethren who have passed out the west gate in the preceding year. All the Widows and family members of those Brethren will be invited to witness the ceremony along with everyone else who would like to attend.

We must remember these Brethren and realize they have faced, and have overcome, the same problems we are facing in our lives today. Whether we know it or not, they have influenced our lives with their knowledge and experience, sometimes in a most subtle way, without us even being aware of what happened. Through their guidance, our Fraternity has grown to become a leader in the community.

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb teaches us that no one truly dies, we live on in the hearts of those we have called friends and the manner in which we treat them. Every Brother has contributed his time in some manner to our Fraternity and influenced the direction we have taken, whether taking part in the degrees, helping out behind the scenes, or by just paying his dues and being a respected member of his community.

I am asking everyone to attend this ceremony and honor these Brethren who have gone before us.

As I write this note, the January Stated Meeting is just over. The County Clubs are in full force and I urge every member to attend at least one of the other club functions besides their own club. Attendance is falling off and they work very hard to organize and host these functions which are open to all members. In fact certain functions are open to friends, blue ledge brothers and ladies.

Please make a commitment to attend the upcoming Chester County Club His & Hers Seafood Night or the Pagoda Club Polish Night and bring your lady as well. You will surely see some familiar faces and make some new friends.

Additionally, I would encourage you to support the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. Bring your family and friends. It is a nice memorial service for our departed brethren and is open to the public.

Spring is almost here which means it is time to gather petitions for the May Reunion. Please invite a blue lodge brother to join us and experience Scottish Rite. Attendance and participation can be very rewarding.

Jerry Sandusky to Speak at John Gay Banquet

Long time Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky will be the featured speaker at the Chester County Club's Annual John Gay Sports Banquet. The event will be held on Tues. June 10 at the Revere Tavern in Paradise, Pa. Social hour is from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a family style dinner. Ticket cost is \$30.00 and may be ordered after April 1 by contacting Club Secretary Paul Swank at 610-384-7951 or email at pasnuf@aol.com.

The Easter Bunny's Coming!

Bring the family to the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday, March 22. Beginning at 11:30 a.m., the EGG HUNT for children ages 1 to 8 begins, followed by lunch with the Easter Bunny. The cost is just \$3 per person. Reservations are required. Deadline is March 15.

EASTER EGG HUNT RESERVATION

Member Name: _____

Number attending at \$3 each: _____

Child 's Name: _____ Age: _____

Child 's Name: _____ Age: _____

Fill in, clip and send to:

Faye Baker, 440 Ford Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Please include your check payable to: Scottish Rite Volunteer Committee

Any questions? 717-361-5582





ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE ■ NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION ■ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°

P.O. Box 519, Lexington, Massachusetts 02420-0519
Tel: 781-862-4410 • Fax: 781-863-1833
Website: supremecouncil.org

John Wm. McNaughton, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Gardner C. Sconyers Jr., 33°
Grand Secretary General

William E. Holland, 33°
Executive Secretary

December 28, 2007

To: Valley Secretaries

Re: Supreme Council Assessment

Dear Bro. Secretary,

At the 195th Annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., the Executive Board voted to increase the annual assessment used to support the operations of the Supreme Council. The assessment will be increased gradually over a period of years commencing in fiscal 2009.

The Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction presently operates and supports its Valleys, members and charities on a budget of over \$7,500,000 per year. With the present dues paying membership just under 200,000, that budget reflects a cost of over \$40 per member for the overall services and programs currently provided. The present \$8.50 assessment, however, is supporting less than 20% of the total budget.

As stated in the Constitutions, "Each Lodge of Perfection shall pay to the Supreme Council with its annual return made to the Supreme Council as of July 31st of each year, an assessment in the sum, based upon the Supreme Council fiscal year of August 1 to July 31st, of eight-dollars and fifty cents for 2007 and thereafter for each 4th Degree member of such Lodge of Perfection, based on its membership as of June 15th of each year, such amount being required for the expenses of the Supreme Council." This amount, payable in July of 2008 will be increased by \$3.50 per member in 2009 and by \$3.00 each year of the following five years until the year 2014.

Another key change is that the assessment is to be formally identified as "**Supreme Council Dues**" and listed as a separate item to a dues paying (billable) member on their dues invoice or statement. It shall have the same status as Valley member dues, and failure on the part of the member to pay the Supreme Council Dues, unless it is remitted by the Body, shall subject such member to the same penalties as are provided by the Constitutions for non-payment of dues. This will assist in making every member aware of his responsibilities in supporting Supreme Council.

Valleys should take into consideration their present dues structure and their by-laws prior to establishing their dues rate for fiscal 2008 and beyond.

William E. Holland

cc: SGC, Deputies

IN MEMORIAM

The Valley of Reading remembers with respect the following Brethren whose deaths have been reported since the last publication of *VALLEY NOTICE*:

Ill. William R. Lessig, Jr., 33°
December 19, 2007

Earl M. Seidel
December 5, 2007

Russell C. Gehringer
January 4, 2008

A. Nelson Brackbill
December 18, 2007

Harold E. Sweitzer
January 8, 2008

Melvin S. Gaul
December 22, 2007

Earl W. Brumbach
January 9, 2008

Jere V. Glatfelter
December 22, 2007

Ronald W. Noll
January 15, 2008

Robert G. Witman
December 23, 2007

Herbert H. Schaeffer
January 20, 2008

LeRoy K. Seip
December 27, 2007

Earl Y. Potts
January 20, 2008

Clarence L. Withers, Jr.
December 30, 2007

Harold L. Wolfe
January 24, 2008

Lloyd S. Gerhart
January 1, 2008

Paul W. Foster
January 24, 2008

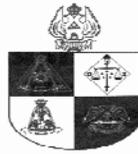
A. Calvin Lieb
January 24, 2008

Oversight Advisory Committee

The stated meetings of the Oversight Advisory Committee are held in the Scottish Rite Cathedral Office at 7:30 pm on the second Monday of each month, except July and August.

To Contact Committee Members

Larry A. Buzzard	610-286-6579
Clarence J. Echternacht	717-336-5936
Victor M. Frederick, III	610-678-9874
Mark A. Haines, Chairman	610-678-9874
Thomas C. Keen	610-369-7972
L. Donald Loos	610-678-1063
Blaine F. Fabian, Admin. Sec.	610-678-4347
Carl F. Berger, Recording Sec.	570-385-2567



T.T.G.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Stated meetings of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of Freemasonry sitting in the Valley of Reading, Pennsylvania will be held in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 310 S. Seventh Avenue, West Reading, Pa. on the 18th day of the Hebrew month Adar II, 5768 corresponding to the above date, for the transaction of such business as may be regularly presented:

Business will be transacted in Reading Lodge of Perfection, 14°, C. Gilbert Steffe Council, 16°, Princes of Jerusalem; Francis Marion Highley Chapter, 18°, Knight of the Rose Croix; and Reading Consistory, 32° Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. A cordial and fraternal invitation is extended to all members of the Rite duly accredited.

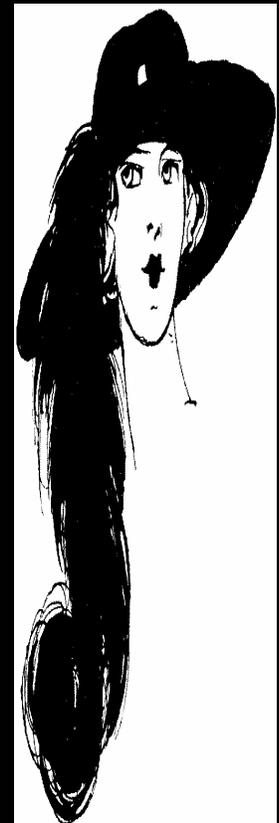
By order of:

Robert C. Engleman, 32°
Thrice Potent Master
William L. Loos, 32°
Sovereign Prince

Robert J. Hoyes, 32°
Most Wise Master
L. Donald Loos, Jr., 33°
Commander-in-Chief

ATTEST: Christopher H. Tecklenburg, 33° MSA, Secretary

DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING
6 TO 6:45 P.M. - \$4.00



GOODFELLOWSHIP CLUB

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 23, 2008 – ANNUAL BANQUET AT KEYSTONE FIRE COMPANY – CHECK UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXCITING, INTERESTING & INFORMATIVE SPEAKER WE HAVE COMING!

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 25, 2008 – ANNUAL PICNIC AT RINGING ROCKS PARK - NEW THIS YEAR – STEAK FRY WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S! SOCIAL HOUR – 4 PM – 5 PM DINNER – 5 PM – 7 PM BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR PARTNER FOR THE HORSESHOE COMPETITION! PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE! 4 PM TO 7 PM

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER FOR FUTHER DETAILS ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS BROUGHT TO YOU BY "THE R.A.T. PACK" OF THE GOODFELLOWSHIP CLUB

Schuylkill County Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seafood Night

Date: Wednesday, April 9
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Lodge #138
Orwigsburg, PA

Steak Fry

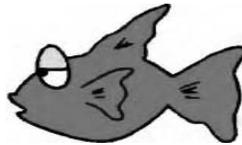
Date: Wednesday, June 11
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Auburn Park
Auburn, PA

Ladies Picnic

Date: Wednesday, August 13
Time: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Auburn Park
Auburn, PA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**JUST \$17.00
per person**



**DEADLINE:
June 9**

Ontelaunee Club

His & Her Clam Bake & Fish Fry

Monday, June 16, 2008

Hamburg Game Assn. Pavilion, Mountain Road & North 5th St., Hamburg, Pa.

All masons, their ladies and guests are invited.

Sausage sandwiches, bean soup, snacks & drinks begin at 3 p.m.

Clam and Fish Bakes served at 6 p.m.

*****PAN FRIED FISH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE*****

Fill out form below & return to: Irvin D. Herring, 2028 Old 22, Lenhartsville, PA 19534

Use a separate sheet of paper if more space is required. Make checks payable to Ontelaunee Club, Valley of Reading

Ontelaunee Club His & Her Clam Bake & Fish Fry

NAME	CLAMS	AYCE FISH	#of PER	x \$17 =	AMT. DUE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	x \$17 =	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE :					_____

Valley's Annual Family Life Program: A Successful Holiday Tradition

The Valley of Reading's Family Life Program, has been a fixture on the Scottish Rite calendar for the past 10 years. The annual program takes place during the first two weekends of December. Since the inception of the Family Life Program, the Valley won many awards for the program among Valleys of comparable membership size. These awards adorn the wall of the Scottish Rite office as a testament to its continual success. In 2007, this festive program was held on the weekends of December 8, 9, 15 and 16 and was once again considered a huge success.

The Sovereign Prince is typically the point person for the program, but he relies heavily on other groups within the Valley such as the Scottish Rite Volunteer Committee (SRVC), who are the backbone of the activities. Planning began at the September meeting of the SRVC. Over the succeeding few months, Sovereign Prince Bill Loos enlisted the Train Club, Hiram's Scottish Riders, the Clowns from Schuylkill Forrest of Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Sound Department, Demolay, Job's Daughters, the 7th Masonic District, and the officers and Past Sovereign Princes of Council to help. The program has no official sponsors, but donations of Kunzler Hot Dogs were procured, advertising in the Reading Eagle Weekend section was placed, and other talents of our members and their wives were solicited.



Allison Marie Hoch, 6, shares her Christmas list with Santa

two weekends. The program featured train displays, refreshments, clowns, temporary tattoos, photo with Santa, fish pond, and the CHIP program (Saturdays only). The sound system was tweaked to have music in both the lobby and outside at the Live Nativity scene. Additionally, signage was posted to direct the public to the myriad activities. Members were enlisted to serve as greeters each evening to welcome visitors and direct them to the various displays and activities. New this year were layouts by the Train Club and a new fish pond constructed by one of our members and the rear of the theater was opened for the first time, where the clowns stationed themselves. This alleviated congestion in the main lobby and exposed the beautiful theater and stage with its back-lit Double Eagles to new visitors.



One of the many train layouts on display

One of the most important displays was the Live Nativity scene. As in the past, each body was responsible for staffing the Nativity on one of the four evenings. Lodge of Perfection staffed it on the 8th, Council on the 9th, Chapter on the 15th, and Consistory with a big assist from Hiram's Scottish Riders on the 16th. The wardrobe and make-up departments were chiefly responsible for outfitting the members, wives, and children who put the "Live" in Live Nativity.

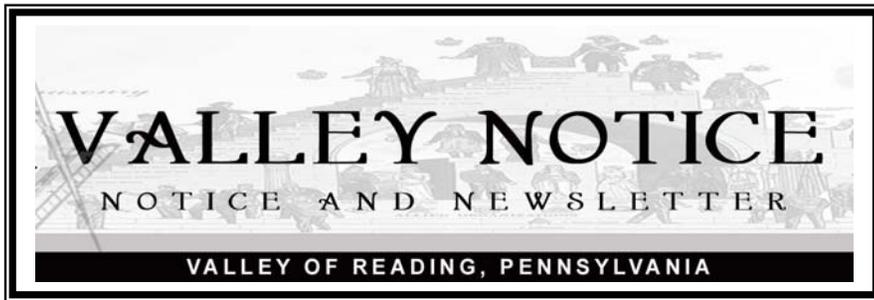


Members participate in Live Nativity

While no actual attendance figures were recorded, the program succeeded in filling the cathedral with families from the fraternity (including many of our newest members) and the surrounding communities. The two "Dinner with Santa" events overflowed with families. The greeters received many kind sentiments and appreciative comments from departing visitors. The holiday spirit was very much alive in the building each weekend. As Sovereign Prince Bill Loos noted, "Our Family Life Program was a tremendous success, due to the efforts of all our groups and clubs, their individual members and families. From the set-up, staffing, greeting, cooking, and serving, to other behind the scenes functions and ultimately clean-up, I wish to thank everyone for their assistance in making the 2007 Family Life Program another success. This just reinforces the value of the Scottish Rite and our Family Life Program in the local community."



Schuylkill Forest clowns entertain all ages in the rear of the theater



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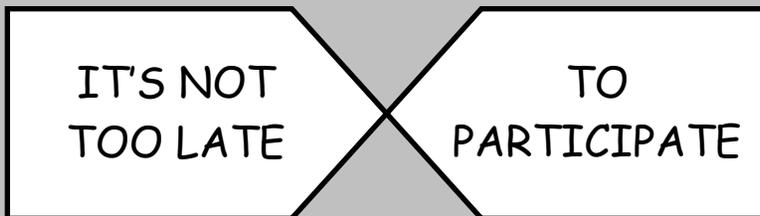
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In Our Next Issue:

THE SPRING REUNION ISSUE



READING CONSISTORY
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