



# AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

ORIENT OF TEXAS · VALLEY OF AUSTIN

## The Messenger

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dues notices will be in the mail soon so be on the lookout! The dues for 2020 are \$150 per year so please send them in as soon as you can.
- On October 2nd, we will have the Feast of Tishri in lieu of our regular stated meeting. This will be a coat and tie event; tickets will be \$45 per person. Please see the General Secretary for more details.
- Please remember to donate when attending dinner at our Stated Meeting. The Garde Manger respectfully asks for a contribution of at least \$7. These donations help pay for the costs of the meals that are served.
- Please feel free to have your wives, girlfriends or significant others join us for dinner and the open program.

### From the Personal Rep...

Brethren;

There have been some changes in the Valley of Austin that if you haven't heard, you'll hear about it in this newsletter.

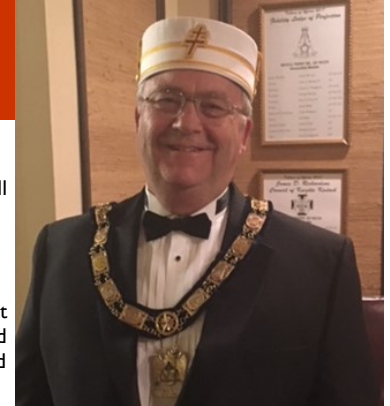
First, our SGIG, Mike Wiggins, appointed a new General Secretary for the Valley, Don Eames, 32°KCCH. If you are not familiar with Don, here is some background information for you. Don is a Past Master of Round Rock Lodge No. 227 and Robert Burns Lodge No. 127. His Mother Lodge is Round Rock No. 227 where he was raised in 2003. He has received the Golden Trowel from Round Rock Lodge and has served as Lodge Secretary and Treasurer. He currently serves as Treasurer for Robert Burns Lodge No. 127. Brother Eames has served as DDGM for District No. 47 in 2008 and has served as president of the MWSA for the same district. He served as chairman of the Education Committee for area M for the Grand Lodge of Texas conducting Briscoe workshops throughout Central Texas.

He has served as a member and chairman of the advisory board to Austin Assembly No. 5 International Order of Rainbow for Girls and as a state adult officer for Grand Assembly of Texas I.O.R.G. and received the Grand Cross of Color for his service. He has also served as Associate Patron for Round Rock O.E.S chapter #316.

While associated with the Austin Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, he has Served as Venerable Master of the Masonic Knights of Saint Andrew, Order of the Thistle. He is a member of the Sanhedrin and served as Master of Kadosh in the Consistory. Brother Eames was invested with the honor of Knight Commander Court of Honor in 2009 and has also served on the advisory board of the Austin Scottish Rite Children's Theater.

And we have new honormen! This year Keye E. Perry, Sr. was coroneted as a 33° Inspector General Honorary while Craig Hammons, Britt Kauffman, Garrett Moxley, and James Smith were invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour. Please join me in congratulating them on their well deserved recognition!

There are some other changes in and about the Valley that I want you to be aware of and are covered in this newsletter. ~Brian



**Brian Vance 33° IGH**  
**Personal Representative**  
**Valley of Austin**

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### From General Secretary Don Eames...



Brethren,

It is quite an honor to have been asked to serve as the General Secretary of the Austin Valley! There has been quite a lot to learn and I want to thank our immediate past General Secretary, George Moxley, for his time,

patience and invaluable assistance through this transition. I will lean on him, and others, while I get a handle on things.

One of the more important items coming up will be the mailing of the dues notices. Please remember that these notices are not sent out by the Valley but by the Supreme Council. Also please remember that even endowed members will receive a dues notice...it will just not have an amount. So, if you receive a notice and there is no amount attributed to you there is nothing that you have to do. However, if you would like to donate to one of the Valley's ongoing missions, then you can send in that card with the donation and I will make sure that it is delivered to the right place.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2020 Spring Scottish Rite Reunion. The Two week-end reunion has been changed to **May 15/16 and 22/23**. These dates are both scheduled on Friday evenings and all day on Saturday. I encourage you to attend one, or all days of the Reunion as we welcome new candidates into our Fraternity. The Valley welcomes your help with the reunion if you are able to assist but we always appreciate your visit as a spectator or just to visit with the initiates. We look forward to seeing you in May. ~ Don

## Austin Scottish Rite Valley's newest Honormen

Here are some images taken during the investiture ceremony held at the Dallas Scottish Rite Temple on Saturday, September 14th. Regretfully, we didn't get a picture of Keye E. Perry, Sr. with his new white hat but we will make sure to get that taken care of by the next issue. Bro. Kauffman received his red hat during the September stated meeting.

Bro. Craig Hammons,  
32° KCCH



Bro. Garrett Moxley,  
32° KCCH



Bro. James Smith,  
32° KCCH



## The "Main Thing" ~ PR Brian Vance, 33° IGH

I am reminded, at least annually, of a motto on collegiate t-shirts worn by a certain team at the NCAA national swimming championship meet. It says, "THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING." This team won four of the last five national championships and a total of 14 over the years. From these results one would think this simple motto has served them well. But if you knew the program, it's coaches and athletes you would find that the Main Thing is the personal growth of young men. They learn the first day at the pool that taking care of each other is paramount, that good citizenship is fomented by good leadership, that the behaviors they learn over their four years on campus reflect well on the school, their family, their country. The character of man that graduates is The Main Thing.

While most of us are not 18-years old, six foot five, and spend hours a day honing our physical skills, our journeys might be more analogous than one would think. We voluntarily show up to improve ourselves and teach others how to do the same. We make express commitments to each other and expect exemplary behavior of ourselves. We learn that falling short of our goals is tolerable but is a lesson to be learned and corrected. Their coaching is our whispered council; Both group's self-improvements are attained by diligent, routine effort without which our progress halts. We are lifted by the accomplishments of those around us and purport to lift those around us through our own individual effort. And, finally, while the time it takes to get from the starting blocks to the end of the race is definitely more measurable than making a good man better, the character of the man is still The Main Thing.

Please join me in expressing our sincere thanks to the following Brethren for their years of service in their respective positions. Included below are the names of their successors. Please help their successors in any way that you can:

Dr. Robert Northcutt- Valley Representative to the Scottish Rite Dorm - Jim Wells, Successor;

George Moxley – General Secretary of the Austin Valley - Don Eames, Successor;

James Mercier- Governor, Sanhedrin - John Brengle, Successor;

Rafael Rivas – Chairman, Membership Committee - Marc Siemes, Successor.

Finally, Welcome to our Class of 2019, 21 new 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Masons. I encourage you each to find a place in the Valley that will help us KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.

# Austin Scottish Rite Theatre Update...

As *Speculative* Masons, we mostly occupy ourselves building our Moral and Masonic edifice, so it's nice when we get the chance to connect with our *Operative* side and actually get to build or restore a temporal building. Such is the exhilarating experience we are enjoying in the Austin Valley, as we observe how our Scottish Rite Temple is being restored and beautified by the collective efforts of our Brethren. The progress has been steady and we can take inventory: starlight auditorium, check; restoration of the parquet floors, check; replacement of the ancient elevator with a brand new system, check.

And now comes our most ambitious project thus far, the modernization of our antiquated and often failing HVAC system, which will get underway in the coming months and is scheduled for completion in early February of 2020. While we're at it, we'll replace the acoustical ceiling in the lobbies with a drywall recessed ceiling that will be adorned with crown molding and medallions, which will be grand! At the same time, we'll install communication lines for a state-of-the art Wi-Fi network, which will enable over 300 users to gain simultaneous Internet access on their hand-held devices or laptops.

Outside the Temple—due to the amazing efforts of our dedicated Producing Artistic Director, Susan Gayle Todd, who has won a \$223,700 City of Austin Heritage Grant—we will be sealing and refinishing the building's deteriorating exterior walls, replacing the leaky gutters, repairing the crumbling retaining walls around the parking lot, and sprucing up the landscaping. Please thank Susan and her staff, Deanna Belardinelli, June Podlech and Vicky Yoder when you see them; we are truly blessed to have them on our team. Also thank the Brethren on the Board of Directors—Troy Shugart, Britt Kauffman, Dennis Hill, Ron Roberts, Andrew Gray, Raúl Scully, our Chairman Brian Vance, outgoing GS George Moxley and incoming GS Don Eames—all of whom generously give their time and talent as good stewards of the Temple.

~Fernando Albornoz 32° KCCH, President



Outgoing GS George Moxley and incoming GS Don Eames—all of whom generously give their time and talent as good stewards of the Temple.

## Other changes in and around the Austin Valley...

### New Roles in the Austin Valley.

Brother John Brengle 33°IGH was voted in as Governor of the Sanhedrin at a called meeting on September 4, 2019. Brother Brengle brings his considerable talents to the "backstage" arena of the Scottish Rite reunions and stated meetings. Over the years, Brother Brengle has successfully served the Valley and Masonry in countless roles. We look forward to a successful tenure from Bro. Brengle as the Valley looks to assist him in his new role.



At the same meeting, Brother Matthew Whitaker 32° was elected to serve as Vice-Governor for the Sanhedrin. Brother Whitaker has proven his leadership ability in serving the Valley and is well deserved of his new position. We look forward to great things from the Sanhedrin under Brother Whitaker's and Brother Brengle's guidance.



Brother Rick Smith 32° has graciously accepted the role of Recorder in the Masonic Knights of St. Andrew, Order of the Thistle. Bro. Smith, who is also serving as president of the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation has agreed to take on the role as Recorder (Secretary) for the Order. The Valley appreciates Brother Smith's generous service and wishes him success in his new role.

## New Flags in the Office

The flags are here!!!

We have received another batch of U.S. and Texas flags for donation to local area schools. Bro. Dr. Robert Northcutt has continued his tradition of donating regulation flags that have been flown over



the nation's capital on auspicious dates from our history. The flags can be picked up at the General Secretary's office during



office hours or call to arrange for them to be picked up. Many Lodges make presentations to local area schools during Public Education Week in March. Flags can be donated at any time and are a great opportunity for the staff and students to

become familiar with Freemasonry in their community. Please talk to your Lodges about making these donations in your areas. There are plenty of flags to go around and our goal is to distribute to as many schools as possible.



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A reminder about parking at and near the Temple:

- ⇒ PLEASE do not park in the spaces that are reserved for the news channel. Those are contractually obligated as they do pay rent for them!
- ⇒ PLEASE remember our brethren who have mobility issues and leave those spaces available for them to park; there will be new designated parking for them next to the building soon.
- ⇒ There is also FREE parking available after 5 p.m. in the state parking lot located behind the Spectrum building at the corner of 17th and Colorado.

*The Cause of Human Progress is our cause, the enfranchisement of human thought our supreme wish, the freedom of human conscience our mission, and the guarantee of human rights to all people everywhere, the end of our contention.*

Austin Scottish Rite  
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