



AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

ORIENT OF TEXAS · VALLEY OF AUSTIN

The Messenger

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The annual reunion will be the first and third weekends in May (just before and after Mother's Day weekend.) The initiation fees remains \$275.
- Reminder that when you come to the Temple, please park in the spaces not marked for the news channel. Also, please remember on the southside of the Hampton Inn Suites hotel (next to the Temple) is a state parking garage that is open for our use after 5 p.m.
- Bro. Oscar Orum, 33° IGH, reminds all brethren that the cost of providing the meals has increased so please donate at least \$7 to the Garde Manger meal kitty.
- Please feel free to have your wives, girlfriends or significant others join us for dinner and the open program.

From the Personal Rep...

Scottish Rite Versus The Dow Jones Industrials

I have been dispensing financial advice for nearly 35 years now. During that time the Dow has advanced from the neighborhood of 1200 to, as of this writing, over 24000 after a pretty bad year; a 20-fold increase. During this same period Masonic membership has declined by over 50%. By any stretch, the performance of the two seems momentarily different. Yet, some of the lessons are similar.

If you spend any time watching the 24-hour news cycle financial news you would think investment assets are in a perpetual tailspin. This purported tailspin is due to the antics of our politicians, the policies our governments, the immorality of our business leaders, the weather, the press, interest rates, commodities prices, and on and on.

This is not unlike the reasons we all hear for the membership woes of our fraternity. While certainly less public than the daily valuations of the stock market, our own pronouncements are no less diverse. Explanations ranging from the erosion of the ritual and traditions, the overemphasis of the ritual, the time demands of today's life, the political incorrectness of a fraternity, conflicts with organized religion, to the distastefulness of a "secret society" and more are reasons given for our decrease in membership.

Both sets of explanations are little more than interesting exercises that offer their respective participants and prospects nothing useful. At the end of the day, focusing on these explanations discourages our active participation. This is not to say we should not learn from our mistakes. But that is different than being paralyzed by them.

After a brief examination of the reasons for the past performance, perhaps the most important step is to evaluate the relevancy of the activity. Does it offer enhancement to my life or that of my family and community? Do I seek those things?

If the answer to these questions is "yes," then the way to seek those things is to invest, and I am no longer talking about the Dow. The risk is very different and far more valuable than a stock investment. It is your time, talent, and psychic energy. You commit to risking things that are irreplaceable to you.

But the rewards, oh, the rewards, are so much greater. Fellowship is priceless. Personal improvement as a man, father, husband, and citizen is priceless. And, with your help, it can be fun!



Brian Vance 33° IGH
Personal Representative
Valley of Austin

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From General Secretary George Moxley...



Brethren,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wishing all of the Brethren a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

We are looking to have several events in the coming year. We are planning to have a Candidate Information dinner on Wednesday, February 13th to invite prospective members to find out about the Scottish Rite. Brother Albornoz will have more to say about this in his comments.

We will be having our Spring Reunion on May 3rd and 4th and May 17th and 18th. We have petitions in the Secretary's office or they are available on our website, www.austinscottishrite.org. The Spring Reunion will be named after Brother Barry Lewis who passed away earlier this year. We are also planning another fundraiser in late summer. We will be getting more information later.

We still have Texas flags and a new shipment of United States flags, thanks to Illustrious Brother Northcutt, in the secretary's office for lodges to present to schools in their area. Show the schools in the area that Masons support our public school systems which we helped to establish. (con't on the back page)

New Scottish Rite event for Master Masons!

**Feast of Foundation Invitational Welcome Gala,
Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

Newly-raised Master Masons, as well as seasoned Master Masons who have not yet joined the Rite, are cordially invited to the 2019 Austin Valley of the Scottish Rite Feast of Foundation Invitational Welcome Gala. The Feast of Foundation is an informational Dinner showcasing what the Scottish Rite Appendant Bodies have to offer the newly made Master Mason on his continuing Masonic journey. The Gala is being hosted by the Austin Valley of the Scottish Rite and will be held at the Austin Scottish Rite Temple, 207 W 18th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 on February 13th, 2019 from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. This annual Gala is by invitation only and has been established for introducing New Brethren to the opportunities and continuing educa-



“The ASRT continues to carry out its mission of providing quality programs for children while tending to the much needed care and maintenance of our historic building”

An update from the Scottish Rite Community and Children’s Theater Board

by Fernando Albornoz, 32° KCCCH and President of the Theater Board.

Supported by a very talented, hard-working staff and a committed Board of Directors, the Austin Scottish Rite Theater has completed another successful year. Bucking the conventional wisdom that producing plays is seldom a profitable venture, this year our Theater rolled out a string of block-buster productions, filling the auditorium with school kids by the busload, while showing a healthy bottom line! Our Artistic Producing Director, Susan Gayle Todd, deserves our gratitude and praise, as do her able assistants,

Deanna Belardinelli and June Podlech. Brethren, please thank them when you see them and let them know we value their work.

On the brick-and-mortar side of the ledger, the building renovations continue at a steady clip. On the heels of the starlight auditorium restoration, and on top of refinishing the lobby floors, we are currently finishing the modernization of the aging elevator, having replaced the old clunker with a brand new, custom-built, state-of-the-art traction elevator. It is getting ready for inspection and will be in action very soon. The next big project on the horizon is the replacement of the

building’s worn out HVAC system. The Board has signed a contract with an engineering firm to develop the specifications for a new, energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning system and boiler. This massive project is scheduled to being late next year or in early 2020.

Step by step, we are ensuring that our historic building will continue to be an iconic and valued part of the City of Austin for many years to come. Needless to say, these accomplishments would not be possible without the encouragement of the Scottish Rite Masons of the Austin Valley. Thank you very much for your support, Brethren!

An update from the Scottish Rite Learning Center of Austin

by Richard Smith, 32°, President of the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation Board

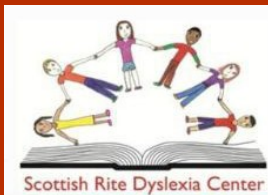
The Scottish Rite Learning Center, now doing business as the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Foundation, is continuing to make its transition from a brick-and-mortar Learning Center to an active and effective Foundation, providing funding to support the training needs of Teachers and, potentially and supporting those who need assistance with evaluations.

While we provided funds for training two teachers in 2018, we also launched a new website (www.srdyslexia.org) that will provide a platform to share information with the brethren and the general public. We encourage you to visit our new webpage and give us your feedback.

We also are in the process of developing the rules and forms needed for those interested in

receiving financial/or informational services (teachers, schools, and school districts). While we continue the development of the website, we are also in the process of building an annual fund raising plan. In addition, we are in need of additional Board members to continue growing our work from a monthly planning effort to one focused on weekly business execution.

Your continuing interest and support are, as always, very much appreciated.



An Update from the Scottish Rite Dormitory



From Ralph Wayne, 33° IGH

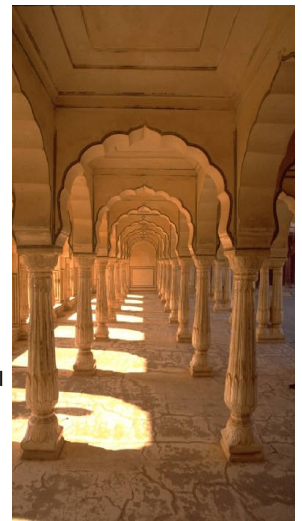
As is the case with every year, the Scottish Rite dorm was full at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. There are 315

girls housed at the dorm with more on a waiting list. Every year now the dormitory fills up within the first two days applications are accepted.

The east and west wings of the dormitory have been remodeled and work will begin next summer on the center section that contains 65 rooms.

The endowment for the dorm has reached \$3,099,902 with operating budget of \$340,000 a month! This year there will be an audit conducted on the books to insure that all is well with our processes.

If you haven't had a chance to go by the dormitory, please do so and see what fine work is being done there. Please also let both Ill. Pete Laney 33° IGH, President of the Dormitory Board and Mary Mazurek, Dormitory Director, know that you appreciate all of the good work they are doing at the dorm.



The elective and appointive officers for 2019

FIDELITY LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master: Philip Bates, 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: Jim Wells, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: James Baker, 32° KCCH
 Orator: Ben Ryon, 33° IGH
 Almoner: James Baker, 32° KCCH
 General Secretary: George Moxley, 32° KCCH
 Treasurer: Keye E. Perry, Sr., 32° KCCH
 Prelate: Arthur Vanderbilt, 32°
 Master of Ceremonies: Richard Garrett, 32°
 Expert: Danut Prisacaru, 32°
 Assistant Expert: David Hill, 32°
 Captain of the Guard: Irakli Mirzashvili, 32°
 Tiler: John "Andy" Barclay IV, 32°

PHILIP C. TUCKER CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

Wise Master: Justin Yancy, 32°
 Senior Warden: Donnie Barron, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: Craig Hammons, 32° KCCH
 Orator: James Baker, 32° KCCH
 Master of Ceremonies: Richard Garrett, 32°
 Expert: James Baker, 32° KCCH
 Assistant Expert: David Hill, 32°
 Standard Bearer: David Bourland, 32°
 Guardian of the Temple: Ron Robertson, 32°

JAMES D. RICHARDSON COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS KADOSH

Commander of Kadosh: Craig Hammons, 32° KCCH
 1st Lieutenant: Jose Velez, 32°
 2nd Lieutenant: John Brengle, 33° IGH
 Chancellor: Fernando Albornoz, 32° KCCH
 Orator: Raul Scully, 32°
 Master of Ceremonies: Garrett Moxley, 32°
 Turcopilier: Eduardo Contreras, 32°
 Draper: Scott Conn, 32°
 1st Deacon: Rick Smith, 32°
 2nd Deacon: Mohammed Ali, 32°
 Bearer of the Beauceant: Alex Ortiz, 32°
 Bearer of the White Standard: Matthew Whitaker, 32°
 Bearer of the Black Standard: Byron Webster, 32°
 Lieutenant of the Guard: John Wallace, 32° KCCH

AUSTIN CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh: Carl Sizemore, 32° KCCH
 Prior: Alex Ortiz, 32°
 Preceptor: Jonathan Felger, 32° KCCH
 Chancellor: Garth Weaver, 32° KCCH
 Minister of State: Philip Bates, 32° KCCH
 Master of Ceremonies: David Hill, 32°
 Expert: Matt Whitaker, 32°
 Assistant Expert: Raul Scully, 32°
 Captain of the Guard: Brad French, 32° KCCH



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Continued from the General Secretary's Comments on Page 1~

Finally, when you can come to the stated meetings the first Wednesday of every month and see what is going on in the Valley. Dinner is served at 6:30pm and the stated meeting at 7:30pm.

Also, Brother Craig Hammons has educational programs at 5:30pm in the lodge room on the 2nd floor for anyone interested in gaining more knowledge about the Craft.

There is free parking in the State parking lot located behind the Spectrum building at the corner of 17th and Colorado after 5:00pm.

Look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Come check out the food, the fellowship and what is going on in your Valley.

George Moxley, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

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
Attn: General Secretary
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