



Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard



April - May 2016

ORIENT OF LOUISIANA

Volume 18 Issue 2

Scottish Rite *FULFILL-BUILD-PROVIDE*

Perspectives of Good & Evil, and Our Hope of Discernment

by
J. Quincy Gotte, 32°

“Sometimes the power of creation gains strength and endures for a long period, sometimes the opposite is the case, and the power of destruction attacks and destroys what exists. But when the time comes for complete perfection to emerge and for the giving of this law that will cause what exists to attain complete perfection, this will totally negate evil. The creation themselves will then also include components that are revealing this perfection.” 138 *Openings of Wisdom* – Luzzatto, translated by Greenbaum

Life is Grand, and is uniquely filled with charm, wonder, inertia, and affliction. One of the greatest and most controversial questions to ponder in life is the purpose of evil. The answer to this question remains elusive. There are multiple opinions on the subject; but even more so, the definition of good & evil is what truly plagues mankind as a whole. Once something can be identified and defined, it becomes much easier to contend with or accept; but each culture has its own views and opinions.

There are countless instances when terrible tragedies have fallen upon “good” people in every culture since the beginning of time; and will continue until time ceases to exist. One of the most famous in our culture is the crucifixion of Jesus as recorded in the Holy Gospels. It may seem unfortunate that the majority of souls that have fallen victim to tragedies may not have been made victims while performing memorable “heroic” or “saintly acts”; and they may not have their names written down in books to be recorded and listed among other victims that may have earned or been given the title of “Martyr” or “Hero” in this world below.

I remember many years ago reading about the story of Job’s calamities as recorded in Holy Scripture. It seemed senseless to me at that time to read how a man, whose days are numbered as a fraction in time, would be at such a disposal to his Creator; and that his short lived life would be disturbed by such tragedies that were beyond his control - all for the purpose of a Heavenly challenge. Then at second thought, it troubled me further to contemplate the losses each of his family members experienced. At the end of the story Job was blessed more abundantly after the trials were completed; but there were other family members that ultimately died young and impoverished by the dilemmas. They seemed to be mentioned casually as if they were extras in a movie scene; as if their lives were for the purpose of dramatizing the setting for the climax of the main character’s life.

As Job’s friends had speculated, we sometimes conclude that people get what they deserve; but that’s just not the case with the

forementioned stories. Jesus did not deserve crucifixion and Job didn’t deserve his calamities, and I think it is just as well to say that maybe Job’s family members didn’t deserve their losses either – or perhaps they did; who truly knows?

Today, we experience tragedies within the time cloak of our own century, yet many of life’s woes are timeless. The explanation of the still-born child or the untimely death of a young person or the justification of war is not within the answers of science and logic, and seems unfair and “evil.” Both “good” & “bad” people experience the glory of gain and the suffering of loss, so use of logic can be pointless in this regard. We are perplexed when attempting to rationalize every individual’s calamity within a single compounded scenario without passing some type of judgment that may credit or discredit each individual involved. We only have at our disposal the experiences and teachings that have been given us based on the rationale and values of our culture. When we attempt to make sense of things considering the here, the now, and our immediate only, it results in much confusion and frustration.

Many of us today have grown up around the television and were influenced by many TV shows and big screen movies. Most of us, in our youth, were able to relate to the main character in the show, and foolishly imagined ourselves to be the main character in our lives while others around us were seen as extras or supporting actors. As we grow older, we may start to feel like extras rather than feeling like the main character. We gradually downgrade from star to supporting actor to sometimes the adversary and then the extra - and sometimes we feel as though we are not part of the movie at all. As we mature and grow wiser, we realize that life is about so much more than ourselves, our family, our community, and our country. It is about us as a global society from our beginnings to our present and beyond. It is about the Collective Soul seeking adherence to the Creator, rather than the individual soul seeking redemption –which is also completely relevant and needed. With this in view, our “self” becomes much smaller than previously thought, and harmony or balance becomes more attainable and manageable when it is scaled down.

If we were to imagine a bar that runs eternally North & South, and let’s say that North from the Center represents Harshness and South from the Center represents Mildness. Let’s also imagine that each individual can only see 3 miles out both ways from their center, and the individual is always at the center. Now let’s also imagine that it is extremely difficult to see any logic or reasoning past our 3 mile range. This concludes that an individual’s scope of what he or she measures good and evil with only consists of 6 miles of an eternal measure. Those closest to you will find common ground with your views of good and evil, but those 6 miles out will find conflict with your views; they may see you as too mild, but to you they would be seen as too harsh – or vice versa. Now let’s imagine that the True Center is actually 50 miles North from where you and

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Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

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Allegiance

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Orient of Louisiana, acknowledge and yield allegiance to The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America (Mother Supreme Council of the World) whose See is at Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and the House of the Temple, Washington, D.C., of which

III. Ronald A. Seale, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander
and

III. William J. Mollere, 33° PGM

Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Louisiana

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Personal Representative for Valley of Baton Rouge

III. Travis M. Holley, 33°

Personal Representative for Valley of Monroe

III. Will P. Gray, 33°

Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana

Master Craftsman Program



The following members have recently completed Master Craftsman Course I, II or III and have received or should shortly receive their certificates and lapel pins.

Baton Rouge

A. Nicholas Auck- Level II

Lake Charles

Thomas E. Boggan - Level III

Michael B. Ford - Level III

Shreveport

Samuel B. Owens - New Level III



www.louisiana-sr.org

Jurisdiction Supreme Council

The jurisdiction of this Supreme Council includes all the territory over which the United States of America exercises domain of powers of government, except the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, which were apportioned by this Supreme Council to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. The jurisdiction of this Supreme Council also includes those countries where it has established, or may hereafter establish, Bodies of the Rite, and over which countries no regular Supreme Council has acquired jurisdiction.

Red River Scottish Rite Club



Brother Gar Pickering has started the formation of a Scottish Rite Club in Alexandria. Called "Red River Scottish Rite Club at Alexandria", it will serve as a recruitment tool for the Orient when fully developed. It has started as an informal study group until there are members who want to develop it further. It is open to all Masters of the Royal Secret who live in and around Alexandria; who want to study together; hold obligatory meetings together and fellowship together.

In time, after the development of by-laws and meeting any statutory requirements, membership will be restricted to Shreveport members who join after a certain future date. No dues are required at present, as they are looking for people who are just ready to start meeting. A new Facebook page is available and everyone is encouraged to visit:

www.facebook.com/RedRiverSRClubAlexandria

Someone is waiting for you



to invite him to become
a Scottish Rite Mason . . .
Don't disappoint him.

Calendar of Events

Supreme Council

Celebrating The Craft May 21

Grand Lodge

Quarterly Meetings April 16
Wardens Retreat August 13

Orient

Conference of the Orient April 22
Lake Charles
Orient Homecoming April 23
Lake Charles

Reunions

Shreveport August 20-21
Monroe TBA
Lake Charles April 9-10
Baton Rouge August 27 & September 10
New Orleans at Baton Rouge

The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation

Scholarship Awards

The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation is proud to announce that the following Scholarships have been awarded:
Speech and Language Scholarships

University of Louisiana - Lafayette

Mariena Bracey
 Madelyn Lanza

Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge

Jailey Guillot
 Camille Steiden

Louisiana State University - Shreveport

Rebecca Peeples
 Amy Fontenot

University of Louisiana - Monroe

Kailey Newsom
 Emily Redding
 Emily Roberts

Southeastern Louisiana University

Hammond

Christa Duschinsky
 Amy Murphy



Shreveport Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

The Shreveport Scottish Rite Center was undergoing major renovation and repair during the last quarter of 2015. While this work was underway, therapy for our children continued at the Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Clinic operated by LSU Science School of Allied Health Professions. We are now back to full operation at our Temple and welcomed two new clinicians who are pursuing graduate degrees in speech language pathology. Rebecca Peeples (L) and Amy Fontenot (R) are shown below receiving their scholarship awards.

*John D. Autry, Sr., 32° KCCH
 Center Administrator*



2016 Officers Foundation

President: S. Bruce Easterly, 33°
Vice President: William V. King, 33°
Secretary: Oma Frank Lee, 32° KCCH
Treasurer: E. Louis McGee, 33°

Ex-Officio Officers

Chairman of the Board : William J. Mollere, 33°
Board Member: Ralph H. Owens, 33°
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Board Member: Charles K. Watts, 32°
Board Member: Neil R. Crain, 33°

Elected Members

James H. Morgan, III Jimmie Dean Dunkin
Harry C. Northrop, III J. F. "Jeff" Webb
Woody D. Bilyeu Robert C. Joyner
Clayton J. Borne, III Martin J. Reinschmidt
Samuel B. Owens D. Randall Terrell

Appointed Members

C. Lenton Sartain-Chairman Emeritus
Richard B. Smith Charles H. Penn, III
Lloyd E. Hennigan, Jr. Joseph S. Monaghan, Jr.
Jay W. Owensby Gary L. Gribble
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Jason K. Riggsby Richard B. Smith
J. F. "Jeff" Webb Charles H. Penn, III
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Gary L. Gribble John D. Autry, Sr.

Engineering Scholarship Committee

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E. Louis McGee Bernard L. Gould, Jr.

Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center



Lucas and Ms. Deirdre at our graduation. Lucas had speech problems when he came to us; but now his mother wishes he would be a bit more on the quiet side. Good luck Lucas while attending your *Big Boy School!!!*

Southwestern Regional Scottish Rite

Childhood Learning Center

Julie Andries, RiteCare® Clinic Administrator at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette was the featured speaker the a stated communication of Lake Charles Scottish Rite Bodies. Ms. Andries gave a wonderful presentation on the work that our clinic does in helping children with speech, language, and hearing disabilities.

In spite of several years of funding cuts from the State of Louisiana, the graduate program in communications disorders at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette continues to grow in both quantity and quality. The financial support that the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation provides each year helps two clinicians pursuing their Master's degree in communications disorders with scholarships.

These students gain live hands-on experience working in the clinic with disadvantaged children. This creates a win-win program where the graduate student learns the theory and techniques necessary to certify as a professional clinician and the child receives treatment and training that addresses their disability and improves their ability to communicate. Your support of the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation goes toward funding this and other programs around the state, in creating better prepared teachers, and assisting children at an early age overcome their communications barriers.



continued from front page
Perspectives of Good and Evil...:

your conflicting neighbors are; which would conclude that we are all weighing in on the Mild Pole in the Grand View of things. So even though our neighbors 6 miles out may seem to be too “harsh” or looking 6 miles out the other way seems to be too “weak”, we are ultimately all “good” – but far from Complete or Perfect.

The Principle of Polarity states that the balance is found between the two extremes (*“The Kybalion” - The Three Initiates*). Each culture determines where the middle bar is placed based on the morals, values, and experiences of the community. Too often, we draw conclusions about what is right, wrong, fair, good, and evil based on how our blinders are set; what we conclude as balanced in our culture may be completely off balance in another. Each society sets its own markers within the eternal bar that measures the extremes of good and evil, and finds its balance within the scope of the gauge that it has drawn out. With this consideration, balance may appear lost when seen from a different perspective or when one culture measures their norm by the standards of a different culture or time. Also, there is nothing within reason that proves that a society is good or deserves good more than any other society when placed on that eternal bar that extends far beyond the comprehension of any society; or that a society is better or worse as a result of the provisions it is receiving or giving. This is left open to interpretation, which is driven by the interpreter’s morals, values, and experiences. Much like the speculation that was mentioned in the story of Job, we tend to judge using a very small measure. What one finds hot, another finds warm; what one sees as a calamity, another sees as a discomforting scenario. We find that science and logic alone can produce no balance - Faith must be employed.

The Hermetists teach that *“before one is able to enjoy a certain degree of pleasure, he must have swung as far, proportionately, toward the other pole of feeling. They hold, however, that the Negative is precedent to the Positive in this matter, that is to say that in experiencing a certain degree of pleasure it does not follow that he will have to ‘pay up for it’ with a corresponding degree of pain; on the contrary, the pleasure is the Rhythmic swing, according to the Law of Compensation, for a degree of pain previously experienced either in the present life, or in a previous incarnation.”* (*“The Kybalion” - The Three Initiates*)

Life is complicated, and the answers are as much alive and mysterious as are the questions and they can only be found when darkness meets light. The same sun and moon has shined upon every soul that has ever breathed in life, but not every soul has had the fortune of experiencing the wonder of taking in that first breath on their own, seeing the color yellow for the first time, or feeling drops of rain splashing on the cheek. And some souls may be fortunate enough to realize that the moon isn’t that far away after all.

In the 23°, one of the lessons we must learn is that *“simple faith is wiser than vain philosophy”* and that *“a society’s concept of the Deity and the universe are consistent with its development”* (*“A Bridge to Light” - Rex R. Hutchens*). In this Degree, a small feeble light is introduced to the candidate in his cell. It is men-

tioned that *“God is one and eternal, and does not change, and there is no darkness in Him.”* We are taught that *“By the rays of His divine light, we become conscious of His being”* (*“Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide” -DeHoyos*). The duties taught to us in this Degree are *“to be devoted to the service of God, and to constantly endeavor to promote the welfare of man, and to act with proper subordination to your superiors.”* (*“A Bridge to Light”-Rex R Hutchens*). God, Blessed be He, and His Devine Will is where our measure of balance should be placed, and it is the still small voice that proclaims this balance.

Just because we can’t see Light doesn’t mean that Darkness rules; yet we will not be exposed to that Light unless we sanctify our hearts, minds, and actions. We must come to the realization that reality consists of much more than what we alone experience and that our faith must carry us through where science and logic fails.



“The harmony of the Universe, said the Pagan Heracius, like the harmony of a harp, is made up of concords and discord, a mixture of Good and Evil. And Good and Evil, said Euripides, cannot be separated from each other, though they are so tempered as to produce Beauty and Order. To reconcile these with each other, and the liberty and free will of man with the Omnipotence and Foreknowledge of God, are the great problems to be solved.” -*The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*- Arturo DeHoyos 33° Grand Cross

Fraternally yours,
J. Quincy Gotte, 32°
Valley of Lake Charles



Valley of New Orleans News

Chartered April 7, 1811

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month



New Orleans Scottish Rite Temple
 433 Metairie Road - Suite 206
 Metairie, LA 70005
 Sect'y: Martin J. Reinschmidt, 32° KCCH
 Tel: (504) 835-3780
 Email: nosrt@bellsouth.net
 WebSite: www.nolascottishrite.com

2016 Membership Fees are past due!

Calendar of Events

Stated Communications 7:30 PM
 6209 3rd Street Harahan, LA 70123
 (Louisiana Lodge #102)

Wednesday, April 6th
 Regular Business Meeting

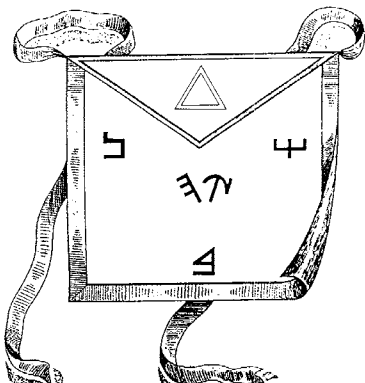
Tuesday, April 26th
 Advisory Conference - Office 5:00 PM

Wednesday, May 4th
 Regular Business Meeting

Wednesday, June 1st
 Regular Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 6th
 Independence Day Program

Tuesday, July 26th
 Advisory Conference - Office 5:00 PM



2016 Officers

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Clayton A. Wolfe, 33°
 Senior Warden: Bernard L. Gould, Jr., 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: K. Joseph Kueck, 32° KCCH

Pelican Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: Kenneth K. Bell, Jr., 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: Michael W. Nastasi, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: Dave H. Krasner, 32°

Eagle Council of Kadosh

Commander: Garland M. Gisclair, 32°
 1st Lt. Commander: John C. Miller, 32°
 2nd Lt. Commander: Freddie J. Touchet, 32° KCCH

New Orleans Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Lee Sands, 32° KCCH
 Prior: Eddie A. LeBoeuf, 32° KCCH
 Preceptor: Adam G. Krolkowski, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies

Ion Lazar, 33°

Secretary All Bodies

Martin J. Reinschmidt, 32° KCCH

have direct access to the building from Hickory Ave. Allow me to say thank you to the brothers who have attended our meetings on a monthly basis since we moved to our new location, and to the brothers that have attended one or two. Whether you make every meeting or only attend occasionally we are always glad to see your smiling face. And, a special thanks to the ladies who come with our brothers to enjoy dinner with us and then get a chance to visit while we hold our short but productive business meetings. See you at a meeting soon.

Fraternally,
Martin J. Reinschmidt, 32° KCCH
 General Secretary

Venerable Master's Message

As we are settling down from the celebration of Mardi Gras and St Patrick's Day, I hope everyone made it thru the parades safely and has come up with a plan as to what you are going to do with all the beads and stuffed animals you acquired.

At our February meeting we unveiled the plans for our 2016 Valley of New Orleans 7 day cruise. One of the questions or statements that kept coming up was, "I can go on-line and book the same cruise at a lesser price". Yes, you can do that, however if you book it directly thru Carnival Cruise line or another travel agency you will not be included in the special and private functions that are planned on the ship on during some of the excursions on shore! Remember this was planned as a function with two purposes. First, as a fund raiser for the Valley and second, as chance to have fun with our brothers and their ladies and to RELAX!!!

Now, on to an item of concern, I have been advised by our General Secretary that slowly but surely we are losing our ability to communicate with you, the members of the Valley, via email and the telephone. My brothers, if you have changed your phone number (home, cell, or work) or if

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From The Secretary's Desk

Brothers, I hate to keep beating a dead horse, but if you have not paid you 2016 Scottish Rite dues, please do so as soon as you can. According to the Statues of the Supreme Council your dues are due on January 1 of the current year. If you are facing a situation that may affect your ability to pay your dues, please give me a call at the Valley office, and we can attempt to work out a plan to keep you in good status.

I have heard of some valleys are going to a dues payment plan whereby your credit card is automatically charged either monthly or quarterly in small equal amounts, and once the full amount is collected your dues card sticker is then mailed to you. I will investigate this further and hopefully present this as an viable option for you to pay your dues in the near future.

Speaking of dues card stickers, if you have "misplaced" the plastic dues card that was sent to you in 2014, please contact the office either by phone (504) 835-3780 or email nosrt@bellsouth.net and let me know. I can order you a replacement card at the cost of \$5.00.

Remember that if you are coming to our meetings at Louisiana Lodge #102, the detours are still in place. If you need directions call the Valley Office. Hopefully it will not be too much longer and we will

In Memoriam

Alfred Smith
James Tomlinson

Valley of Shreveport News

Chartered October 26, 1913

Meets on the second Tuesday of every month



Shreveport Scottish Rite Temple

725 Cotton Street
 Shreveport, LA 71101-9713
 Secretary: Gary L. Gribble, 33°
 Tel: 318-221-9713 Fax: 318-226-0843
 Email: brosecssr@gmail.com
 Web: www.shreveportscottishrite.com

**Donate to the Shreveport Scottish Rite Foundation
 accepts MC & Visa!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 12th

Regular Business Meeting 6:00 PM

Tuesday, May 10th

Feast of Consistory 6:00 PM

Tuesday, June 14th

Regular Business Meeting 6:00 PM

Note: The Advisory Conference meets at 5 pm before each meeting.

The KCCH Club meets during the same months as the 1st District Lodge (January, April, July & October) at 5:30 pm.

we are in good hands!

When I look at what we have done thus far this year, and what still lies ahead I am encouraged by the members we have within the Scottish Rite. The “tenured” membership is providing direction, leadership and guidance that are second to none, and the “younger” members are truly taking this advice to heart and are “hungry” to accept more responsibility.

We are still hard at work on the VMAP program, completing our Passports, attending Leadership Conferences, providing educational programs, getting to know each other’s families through open events, and constantly working to better our Reunions and the experience of our candidates. All of this work is being completed by dedicated, hard working brethren and I would like to thank each of you for your continued efforts.

We have many more upcoming events in the remainder of the year, all of which, will no doubt be both educational and entertaining. I look forward to these events, and to the interactions of the brethren involved with making them happen.

Brethren, you are what makes our Valley & our brotherhood special, and with your continued support I know we will continue to excel!

*Fraternally yours,
 M. Darin West, 32°
 Venerable Master*

2016 Officers

Shreveport Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: M. Darin West, 32°
 Senior Warden: Stephen C. McLellan, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: Stephen C. McLellan, 32° KCCH

Shreveport Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: Samuel B. Owens, 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: M. Darin West, 32°
 Junior Warden: Kenneth M. Hamm, 32° KCCH

Shreveport Council of Kadosh

Commander: John T. Dark, 33°
 1st Lt. Commander: Robert E. Bazzell, 33°
 2nd Lt. Commander: E. Allen Kelly, 32° KCCH

Shreveport Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Kenneth R. Fuller, 33°
 Prior: Troy J. Jones, 32°
 Preceptor: J. David Maxey, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies:

E. Louis McGee, 33°

Secretary All Bodies:

Gary L. Gribble, 33°

continued from previous column

Knighly News:

ter, to our ladies and to Robert Burns. An “Address to Haggis” (Burns) was read and the dinning commenced. Sir Knight Joseph Patterson read the poem “The Master’s Apron”, then Robert Burns’ Masonic Life was immortalized by Knight Winham. The Dinner was concluded by the Poem “Auld Lang Syne”. All who attended enjoyed the evening as possibly Robert Burns wish mankind would do.

*Fraternally yours,
 Adrian K. Winham, 32°
 Knight Commander KStA*

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Knighly News

The Knights of St. Andrews Valley of Shreveport Chapter held its first annual Burns Night Dinner at the River City Grill in Bossier City. A group of 25 Knights, Knights Emeritus and their families were present. Commander Adrian Winham, Master of Ceremonies for the occasion and Venerable Master Darin West were dressed in kilts on this chilly evening and received many compliments. Since the dinner was informal, a traditional Burns Dinner itinerary was modified. A Robert Burns poem “A Grace Before Dinner” (prayer) was read before undertaking our festivities. Toasts were made to Darin West Venerable Mas-

Venerable Master’s Message

The Shreveport Valley has been extremely active in it’s affairs since the last publication of the Trestleboard. The Valley held it’s annual Service of Remembrance after having held its Spring Reunion. We were thrilled to have the Monroe Valley join us.

We were honored to have had two of our members elected and installed in the Grand Lodge. The editor of this publication was elected Grand Junior Warden and Charles Smith was elected as Grand Treasurer. We would like to sincerely congratulate these Brothers and have no doubt that



Valley of Lake Charles News

Chartered October 16, 1923

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month



Lake Charles Masonic Temple
 717 Hodges Street
 Lake Charles, LA 70601
 Secretary: D. Blake Ford, 33°
 Tel: 337-436-1676 Fax: 337-436-1673
 Email: lcscotti@structurex.net

2016 Membership Fees are past due!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinner 6:30 **Meeting 7:00**
Spring Reunion April 9-10
Wednesday, April 20th
 Charitable Giving
 Chuck Morgan guest speaker
Wednesday, May 18th
 Mothers Day Program
 Charles F. Buck Chapter Demolay
Wednesday, June 15th
 Guest Speaker
Wednesday, July 20th
 Flag Program
Back Door Lunch: Last Friday of every month. Except in November & December



Personally Speaking

Spring is a great season for renewal and growth. Several events are planned for April and May that will give you an opportunity to be renewed and grow.

First, our Spring Reunion will be April 9 and 10, 2016. This two day reunion will confer ten degrees that remind us of our mission and journey in the search of more Masonic Light. Make sure you have some blank petitions, sign-up a brother Master Mason and bring them to the Reunion.

Our April stated meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Brother "Chuck" Morgan, 33° will be our speaker. Brother Morgan is a director of development from the Supreme Council. He will update us on the work of our various Scottish Rite charities and philanthropic efforts.

April 23, 2016, the Valley of Lake Charles will host the statewide homecoming reunion. This will be a day where each Valley in Louisiana will confer one Scottish Rite degree that is not usually seen in other Valleys. These are known as the "passport degrees." The Passport Program is designed to help each member of the Rite learn more about Masonry in general and the Scottish Rite in particular.

The month of May will also be busy for the Valley of Lake Charles. The stated meeting will be Wednesday, May 18, 2016. The program for the evening will be Charles F. Buck Chapter Order of Demolay presenting the Flower Talk as a tribute to all mothers. This is an open program and want to make sure our ladies are encouraged to attend.

Saturday, May 21, 2016 will be the Annual Celebrating the Craft fundraiser. The Supreme Council will webcast a six hour program that evening to highlight the many ways the Scottish Rite is helping children through its Rite Care Clinics and also to promote the Rebuilding the Temple campaign. Gifts made during the webcast are publicized during the program and recognized in the publications including the Scottish Rite Journal. All donations are tax deductible and 50% of the money is returned to the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation for local Rite Care Clinics.

Our summer calendar appears to be as full as our spring. I look forward to seeing you at one, if not all of the meetings, soon.

Fraternally,
Richard B Smith, 33°
Personal Representative



Someone is waiting for you



**to invite him to become
 a Scottish Rite Mason . . .
 Don't disappoint him.**

2016 Officers

Lake Charles Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: James R. B. Golding, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden: Richard D. Morgan, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: J. Braxton Cole, 32° KCCH

Lake Charles Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: Mount W. Newby, 32°
Senior Warden: Donald G. Head, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: Jeffery S. Haley, 32°

Lake Charles Council of Kadosh

Commander: David W. Scritchfield, 32°
1st Lt. Commander: Kirby O. Vinson, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander: Charles G. Callahan, 33°

Lake Charles Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Terrell D. Fowler, 32° KCCH
Prior: Thomas E. Boggan, 32° KCCH
Preceptor: Harold H. Young, 33°

Treasurer All Bodies:
 J. Quincy Gotte, 32°

Secretary All Bodies:
 D. Blake Ford, 33°

IN MEMORIAM
 Jewell John Gillentine
 Forrest Sadler

Valley of Baton Rouge News

Chartered October 20, 1955

Meets on the second Monday of every month



Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Temple

14598 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70819

Secretary: Jimmie D. Dunkin, 33°
Tel: 225-275-0668 Fax: 225-273-0750
Email: BRSR1@bellsouth.net

**2016 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE
PAST DUE!!!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30

Summer Reunion Aug 27 & Sept 10

Monday, April 11th

Bring A Friend

Monday, May 9th

Recap of 2016 Workshop

Saturday, May 21st 5:00PM

Celebrate The Craft

Monday, June 13th

Feast of St. John

Advisory Conference meets at 6pm on regular meeting days.



2016 Officers

Baton Rouge Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Christopher J. Adams, 32°
Senior Warden: Chester L. Finley, 32°
Junior Warden: Gregory J. Avant, 32°

Baton Rouge Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: R. Shane Marchand, 32°
Senior Warden: James E. Pearce, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: J. Andrew Owen, 32°

Baton Rouge Council of Kadosh

Commander: Timothy P. Sibley, 32°
1st Lt. Commander: Timothy E. Ackermann, 32° KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander: Richard W. Black, 32°

Baton Rouge Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Frederic D. Denham, Jr., 32°
Prior: James E. Duncan, 32°
Preceptor: Ashley M. Hebert, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies:
Ben F. Melanson, 33°

Secretary All Bodies:
Jimmie D. Dunkin, 33°

From The Secretary's Desk

It has been a very busy start in 2016 with events and activities. Everyone at the Baton Rouge Valley would like to extend a special congratulations our 2016 Grand Master M:W: Will Gray and dedicate our support. Congratulations as well to our Editor on being elected to Grand Junior Warden.

Our April Stated Communication will be Bring a Friend Night and will be open to our members wives and guest. A special program will be presented to prospective members in an effort to educate someone who may be interested in petitioning Scottish Rite. Please reach out to the newly raised masons of your lodges and let them know there are opportunities available to explore additional Masonic knowledge. Someone may be waiting for that little nudge of encouragement. Always be ready to offer a petition.

On Saturday, April 23rd, a team from the Valley of Baton Rouge will meet in Lake Charles at the Scottish Rite Temple for the annual State Wide Homecoming Reunion. Baton Rouge will present the 20th degree and each Valley in the Orient will bring their teams for other presentations. Be sure and bring your passport to be stamped by a Scottish Rite representative at that event.

Saturday May the 21st, we will again assemble at the Scottish Rite Temple for an evening together with family and friends for the annual Celebrate the Craft Web-A-Thon. This year, in addition, a fun afternoon at the Temple Casino Night Fundraiser is planned during the Web-A-Thon. It should be an exciting event. So plan to come out and bring your lady and friends. Time for this event will be from 5 o'clock in the afternoon until 11 o'clock. Light refreshments will be available.

Brethren we are now selling commemorative coins and lapel pins celebrating The Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Diamond Jubilee. A beautiful coin on a red back ground with a white border and the Scottish Rite logo in the middle. The back is gold and is inscribed with logo and inscription recognizing The Childhood Learning Center.



All proceeds over cost of the coins will be donated to support the Childhood Learning Center. They can be obtained through the office are by mailing a check for \$35.00 to the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite requesting both the Coin and Lapel Pin. Please show your support for our philanthropy by purchasing a set of coins. The Valley of Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Masons are very proud of our center. The only way to keep it up and running is through member donations. Come by sometime and tour the school. Meet the Director, Ms. Veronica Walker, the children and their parents. It is heart warming and rewarding to see the success they have with children that otherwise would go through life suffering from speech, language and hearing deficiencies.

Remember your Stated Meetings are the second Monday of each month. Check your dues card and make sure you have the 2016 sticker attached. Hope to see you soon.

Fraternally yours,
Jimmie Dean Dunkin, 33°
General Secretary-Personal Representative



In Memoriam

*Lee Van Randell
Robert Eugene Welch
Joseph John Wade*

Valley of Monroe News

Chartered November 13, 1971

Meets on the first Thursday of every month



Monroe Scottish Rite Temple

205 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71203-3701

Secretary: Oma Frank Lee, 32° KCCH
Tel: 318-343-6388 Fax: 318-343-5492
Email: msrb33@bellsouth.net

2016 Membership Fees are past due!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinner with Ladies 6:00 PM

Program 7:00 PM

Barrel Race For The Kids April 1-3

Thursday, April 7th

Service of Remembrance

Thursday, May 5th

Regular Business Meeting

Thursday, June 2nd

Regular Business Meeting

The Advisory Conference meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm.

2016 Officers

Monroe Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Leroy G. Stenzel, Jr., 33°

Senior Warden: Richard L. James, 33°

Junior Warden: Will P. Gray, 33°

Monroe Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: J. D. Harper, 32°

Senior Warden: M. Cash Melville, 32°

Junior Warden: Bruce D. Osbon, 32° KCCH

Monroe Council of Kadosh

Commander: Mitchell A. Reynolds, 32° KCCH

1st Lt. Commander: Michael A. Watts, 32° KCCH

2nd Lt. Commander: E. Orum Young, 32°

Monroe Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Willis B. "Jake" Evans, 32°

Prior: John A. Howard, 32°

Preceptor: J. Keith Gates, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies:

Roy McDuffie, 33° PGM

Secretary All Bodies:

Oma Frank Lee, 32° KCCH

Personally Speaking

Brethren, I am happy to announce that the Monroe Scottish Rite held its annual Master Mason of the Year banquet with R:W: Guy A. Jenkins, Deputy Grand Master, delivering the principle address. R: W: Jenkins' message of seeing "what is in plain view" was simple, to the point, well received, and a guide for all Master Masons. Thanks and appreciation for an enlightening and excellently delivered speech are in order.

The recipient of this year's Master Mason of the Year Award was Bro. Michael Watts, 32° KCCH. He is well deserving of such a prestigious and singular distinction. Please wish him the best for the work that he has done and the work that he will do in the cause of Masonry.

Our Valley participated in a joint Spring Reunion held in Shreveport in mid-March. This was a first for the Monroe Scottish Rite. We learned and shared with our Shreveport brethren over a wonderful weekend together.

Our third annual fundraiser, the Barrel Race for the Kids, is scheduled for April 1st-3rd and is to be held at the Morehouse Activity Center (MAC) in Bastrop. We are using this event to spread the news of the work being done by our Valley in the Admiral E. A. Barham, 33° Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center. By spreading awareness of our charity to the broader community, we raise revenue to support the education and rehabilitation of children with debilitating speech and hearing disorders. If any of our Valley's many projects demands your time, effort, and generous donations, it is certainly this one, so please lend a helping hand to benefit these children in need.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that the Past Interim Conductor of the Work has successfully completed his first semester at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU and hopefully will be returning to his Masonic work in the near future.

Fraternally,
Travis M. Holley, 33°
Personal Representative

Master Mason Of The Year



L:R - Travis M. Holley-33° Personal Representative, Michael A. Watts-32° KCCH Master Mason of the Year and R: W: Guy A. Jenkins-Deputy Grand Master

The annual Master Mason Night at the Monroe Scottish Rite Bodies was held on the last Saturday in February. The purpose of the event is two-fold: to introduce our newly elected Grand Master of Masons for the State of Louisiana to the masons of Northeast Louisiana and to recognize the Master Mason of the Year for Northeast Louisiana.

Our new Grand Master, Will P. Gray-33° was attending Washington's Birthday Celebration held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and was unable to be with us. R: W: Guy A. Jenkins-Deputy Grand Master was able to attend and acted in the Grand Master's absence. Many members of the Official Family, as well as several Past Grand Masters, honored us with their presence.

Michael A. Watts-32° KCCH was recognized as Master Mason of the Year for 2016. Not only was he most deserving because he contributes so much to our fraternity in so many ways, but he is truly dedicated to the Craft. His Masonic resume' is lengthy and he truly represents the Fraternity in all aspects and in all appendant bodies. Congratulations Brother Michael!

IN MEMORIAM

James David Beaty
Paul Maxwell Benson
Jess Carr Gilbert
Billy Ray "Coot" Kinney
Oscar L. Miles, Jr.
Acie H. Murry, Jr.
Keith W. Robertson

continued from page 5

New Orleans - Venerable Master's Message:

you have changed your email provider or if you are not receiving emails from the Valley and a would like to, please send a short email to the office at nosrt@bellsouth.net and give Brother Reinschmidt all of your current information.

Plans are being finalized for our next Scottish Rite Reunion. Again we will hold a joint Reunion with the Valley of Baton Rouge at their Scottish Rite Temple. The current plans are for the reunion to be a two day event and the first session will be held on Saturday August 27th. Then, we will take a week end off due to the Labor Day Holiday and then the second session will be held on Saturday September 10th. If you know of anyone who is interested, please get a petition into their hand and have them submit it to the Secretary.

A big tip of the Venerable Master's hat to the 16th District's Traveling Degree Team, who recently visited our Brothers in the Valley of Des Moines, Iowa to exemplify the Scottish Rite Entered Apprentice Degree. Our brothers in Des Moines were able to view a short video on the history of the Scottish Rite in New Orleans prepared by Brother Michael Poll, 32° KCCH and a short talk on the History of Masonry in Louisiana that was present by Brother Martin Reinschmidt, 32° KCCH. This team is made up of members from the 16th Masonic District and on request brings the first Scottish Rite Degree to other Valleys and lodges.

If you did not know, the 16th District is made up of the 10 Lodges authorized to conduct their work and confer their degrees using the Scottish Rite Ritual. This is a very important part of our history in Louisiana as well as the Valley of New Orleans and the former Grand Consistory of Louisiana.



Members who traveled to Des Moine Front Row L: R - Larry Sauer, Patrick Nichols, Stuart Smith, Klaus "Joe" Kueck, Russell Norris, Adam Krolikowski and Kenneth Bell. Back Row L:R - Jay Platt, Elmo Barnes, Robert Brandstetter and Dave Krasner. Not shown: Martin Reinschmidt.

I am looking forward to see you at a meeting soon and hope to see you on our cruise in October 2016.

*Fraternally yours,
Clayton A. "Clay" Wolfe, 33°
Venerable Master*

continued from page 6

Shreveport Valley News:

What Did You Do In The War (Grand)Daddy?

If you think that's a strange name for an article in the Trestleboard, let me get you to withhold judgment on the title until you have considered the article itself. The AASR OF FREEMASONRY is in a sort of a war – at least a proverbial one – struggling alongside our Blue Lodges and the other appendant bodies of Masonry. We are in a war for membership, and indeed it is a literal struggle for survival. We can't "draft" soldiers in this war (members) – we must entice them to volunteer. The Blue Lodge, by long tradition, does not recruit members, but relies upon its membership being a positive example in the community – being "role models" who by demonstration by their actions, the restraint of their passions, and their good works will inspire other members of the community to inquire about and eventually petition for membership in the Fraternity. The Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and the Shrine do recruit, but they do so only from the potential pool of petitioners that we find within our Blue Lodges – those members who have been moved by their observations of the positive influence of Blue Lodge Masons to petition and to join a Lodge.

The Shreveport Valley is fortunate to have a number of "good soldiers and excellent recruiters" within our ranks, and by this article we want to recognize and congratulate their contributions our membership in the Valley. Over the past three years (six reunions) the Valley has added to its ranks fifty-two new Masters of the Royal Secret. These fifty-two new 32° Scottish Rite Masons have been brought to our chambers by 36 of our members who understand the struggle – the war, if you will – that is raging, and comprehend that upon such efforts does our long-term survival depend. Four of those members have been especially "productive", and one of the purposes of this article is to recognize those members who by their actions

(and presumably their lives and influence) have caused Blue Lodge Masons to decide to seek "further light in Masonry". These members are Robert L. Rowe, II, who has brought six new members, M. Darin West and Stephen C. McLellan, who have each influenced five Master Masons to petition and join the Shreveport Valley, and Kenneth A. Fuller who has by his example and influence has led four new members into our Valley. A hearty "Thank you." and a heart-felt "Well done." are extended to these brethren.

Having congratulated these brethren, we now move to the second purpose of this article. Is your reputation in your community and your example as seen by others such that you are a role model who causes other men to desire to get what they perceive that you have? While we cannot "recruit" to the Blue Lodge, we should certainly seek to be a positive influence that causes other men at least to inquire about the Fraternity. Since you are reading this article in the Trestleboard and are a Scottish Rite Mason, how many new Scottish Rite Masons have you "brought" to the Temple? How many newly raised Master Masons have you approached with a Scottish Rite petition, and a suitable description of the Scottish Rite? How many older Blue Lodge brothers, now with empty nests and more time than they had before, have you encouraged to come to one of our open meetings, see our magnificent cathedral, and enjoy a meal with us?

Brethren, we really are in figurative war for survival, against all of the other activities and attractions and distractions that the modern world lays out before men. I'm calling for active volunteers to fight that war! At some dolorous time in the future, especially if Masonry and all its bodies continue to shrink, your son or grandson may be sitting on your lap, and contemplating your Scottish Rite ring. He may ask you what happened to that organization that had lasted for so long, and then just withered away. He may even ask you what you did to sustain an organization that you claimed allegiance to – "what did you do in Masonry's war for survival?" You don't want to have to answer him with a paraphrase of that line from Gen. George S. Patton in the opening scene of the movie bearing his name – " 'Well, son, I shoveled xxxx' while it all died from apathy."

*Fraternally yours,
Carey A. Allison, 33°*

Shreveport Valley Membership Chairman

THE FINAL WORD



III. William J. Mollere, 33° PGM Sovereign Grand Inspector General *We Keep Going - When Do We Slow Down?*

By the time this issue of the TRESTLEBOARD reaches your home, Louisiana Scottish Rite Leadership will have ventured to Houston, Texas for the 2016 Regional Leadership Conference. The mid-March meeting began on Friday afternoon with our own Bro Jeff Maynor leading discussion on VMAP (Valley Membership Achievement Project) which has been adopted by all five of our Louisiana Scottish Rite Valleys. It is a “bottom-up” rather than a “top-down” program with members calling the shots. It has proven to be popular with our younger and newer members and our Knights of St Andrew members who have led the Projects in all five locations – Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport. Three Leadership Conferences are being held around the country this year with Houston being the closest - a full Saturday was enjoyed with two other young, energetic and talented Scottish Rite Masons leading discussions, Kirk Larson from Florida and Mike Miller from Minnesota. The entire focus of this year's Leadership Conference is VMAP and how it is working in your Valley and how can it be improved. How do we involve our members in our Valley? Give a man a job with a description of the job, set goals, and the job usually gets accomplished – that is how VMAP is really working.

Almost every newer Scottish Rite Mason asks when can he see the rest of the Degrees. Those of the “older” generation of Scottish Rite remember four-day Reunions when all twenty-nine, or close to twenty-nine, Degrees were performed with large Classes of Candidates and even larger attendance of Members assisting, helping, working during those four busy days. Why not get back to that? Well, VMAP has posed that as one of its goals to carefully and eventually get back to those days – it will not happen overnight, but with proper planning and leadership, it can happen – the younger generation of members are planning and they are developing that leadership. The need is for those older members to step back, perhaps offer to move aside, provide good advice and then pitch in and help when needed. Wisdom and advice are needed but not “we tried that once and it did not work” or “you will never get that to work here”. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we all pull together and in the same direction. VMAP can work in your Valley!

April will see a VMAP initiative, our 2016 Orient Homecoming, held this year in Lake Charles on April 23 – a full day when all five Valleys come together and each Valley exemplifies a Degree not normally presented in the other Valleys – it is a “Passport” event, and the Degrees help fill the Scottish Rite Passport. Fellowship and Brotherhood are the goals of the Homecoming and members getting to visit with each other and enjoy Scottish Rite in a different setting.

Many members have never visited another Valley other than

their own. The Valley of Lake Charles is unique in many ways – the beautiful old building is actually owned by a Lodge that Scottish Rite shares and has used and adapted over many years – a large stage with scenery, costume storage area, dining hall and kitchen – so that our third oldest Valley operates administratively from an Annex behind the main Lodge building. Lake Charles will be very prepared, if not somewhat tired, since the Homecoming will be one week after their regular Spring Reunion. A group of younger members and Knights have instilled new energy and enthusiasm in the Valley of Lake Charles, and the older Brothers have shown support and advice to help guide and mentor the revival that this Valley using VMAP has enjoyed.

As we get into Spring, many Reunions around the Orient are planned and Master Masons seeking More Light have an opportunity to join Scottish Rite. Hoping that each Valley recognizes the need to involve and include every new member, is yet another VMAP goal. Many members who have been around for years like to lean back and pontificate and tell, “well in my day, we had so many new members, we did not bother giving them anything because all of the jobs were already taken.” Those days are long over and Masonic Membership all over is the result of THAT attitude. Involve and include every member in Masonry so that the member really becomes a Mason, and not a man who joined Masonry and found that he was not needed or included.

Many times, most of you reading this article may remember me writing that the beginning of the end for Scottish Rite growing was the One-Day Reunion where five Degrees were presented, a plastic pyramid with a plastic 14th Degree ring was given and a Bridge to Light Book was handed out. Newer members were not valued. The end of that period really began when the Shrine no longer required Scottish Rite membership to join the Shrine – thus, Scottish Rite had to wake up, get up, and re-invent a program that involved members and offered the incredibly beautiful lessons of Scottish Rite Masonry. We all went back to working on Scottish Rite. We needed our members and began to value them again. VMAP is taking that “wake-up” a step further. Involve, include!

On May 21, beginning at 5:00 PM in Louisiana, the Annual “Celebrating The Craft” will be held over the internet. While many see it as a fund raising program for helping rebuild and renovate our Headquarters in Washington, DC, the House of the Temple, but it is much more than that. Talented Scottish Rite Masons from all over our nation perform for a six-hour period showcasing many areas of music and entertainment. It is an opportunity to gather family, friends and members who do not like attending a regular meeting and say, “come, enjoy and sit for a few hours watching, and eat and snack and visit.” It has been very enjoyable over the last several years attending my home Valley where we have projected the program on a big wall and had “on-line Skype” with the headquarters and shown each of us eating jambalaya to the Cajun-deprived Washington, DC crew. I hope that your Valley will set up a place – at the regular meeting place or maybe in a member's home – where members and family can gather to enjoy some quality time together and enjoy some very good entertainment. Whatever you do, enjoy being together as Scottish Rite Masons.

We have an incredible product that binds us as Brothers. Thank you for continuing to be my Scottish Rite Brother.



*Thankfully and fraternally – Bill Mollere
Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Louisiana*

**Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation
Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard**

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Scottish Rite FULFILL-BUILD-PROVIDE

Did You Know?

How George Washington came to use a Masonic bible to take his oath as President?

As the time came for Washington to step out on the balcony and take his oath of office before an estimated crowd of 10,000, it was realized that no one had brought a Bible! Chancellor Livingston was also Grand Master of Masons of New York and ordered Maj. Jacob Morton, parade Marshal, Grand Secretary, and Master of St. John's Lodge No. 1, to get the Bible from St. John's Lodge. The lodge met at the "Old Coffee House" at the corner of Water and Wall Streets, about three blocks away. Morton returned with the Bible, Chancellor Livingston administered the oath, and George Washington added the words "So help me God!" and kissed the Bible when he finished. Thus began the first term of the first President of the United States.



**Louisiana Scottish Rite
Childhood Learning Centers**

Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

14598 Florida Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70819
Telephone: (225) 275-0668

Admiral E. A. Barham, 33° Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

205 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71203-3701
Telephone: (318) 343-6388

Southeastern Louisiana Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

Southeastern Louisiana University
Campbell Hall - Room 102
Hammond, LA 70402
Telephone: (985) 549-2214

Shreveport Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

Scottish Rite Temple
725 Cotton Street
Shreveport, LA 71101
Telephone: (318) 221-9713

Southwestern Louisiana Regional Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

University of Louisiana-Lafayette
231 Hebrard Blvd Burk-Hawthorne Hall
Lafayette, LA 70504
Telephone: (337) 482-6490

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Fulfill the promise of additional Masonic knowledge through education and training.
- ◆ Build a Positive Public Image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.
- ◆ Support and expand our philanthropic activities.
- ◆ Provide a framework for effective leadership to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity.
- ◆ Provide a financial process to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity.

