



Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard



August - September 2019

ORIENT OF LOUISIANA

Volume 21 Issue 4

Scottish Rite *FULFILL-BUILD-PROVIDE*

A Glimpse into Kabbalah Part III

by

J. Quincy Gotte, 32° KCCH
Valley of Lake Charles

The Twenty-Two Branches of the Tree of Life

There are many fascinating creation stories that come from many different cultures, and each contains unique and valuable perspectives. In the Judeo-Christian version found in Genesis chapters 1 - 3, there is a significant emphasis placed upon the roles of speech, sight, and numbers throughout the process of creation. It teaches that the Creator spoke creation into existence in seven days, and after each day the Creator looked upon the Work and saw that it was good. The system of Kabbalah captures the importance of this process by utilizing the Hebrew alphabet system and applying it to the symbol of the Tree of Life.

Generally speaking, the alphabet system is the visual representation of speech and is mostly associated with phonetics and grammar. But in the ancient world, the Greek, Babylonian, and Hebrew alphabet systems – to mention only a few – also had a numerical value applied to each alphabet. This gives those alphabet systems an added mathematical element. According to Scholem, the Greeks and Babylonians often used an alphanumeric code for encryption purposes. This involved applying a numerical value to names and words. In Kabbalah, this is known as “gematria.” Scholem mentions that this style of coding was used by both the Magi and Gnostics alike for calculating the mystical interpretations of names, words, and Holy passages. It was also used for interpreting dreams in the Hellenistic world and had likely influenced Jewish mysticism during that time. The earliest use of gematria, however, was recorded in an inscription of King Sargon II (727 B.C.E. -707 B.C.E.) concerning the wall of Khorsabad being built with dimensions that reflected the numerical value of the King’s name¹.

Although gematria was likely introduced in Israel during the Second Temple period (516 B.C.E. – 70 C.E.), its first appearance in rabbinic literature was during the Mishnaic period (10 C.E. – 220 C.E.)². During this time, it was used to aid in the interpretation and study of the Torah, mostly as a mnemonic device. As time progressed, gematria became more and more complex developing into a variety of different mystical styles. Scholem’s research reveals that there are about 72 different forms of gematriot³. Considering its general use in Kabbalah, gematria is commonly applied to the Holy names of Deity or to Angels’ names. But during its first inception into Kabbalah, the amount of value given to gematria was debated amongst Kabbalists, and the degree of its application was then and

is now generally determined by the style of Kabbalah that is being used. In short, the different styles of Kabbalah that were being developed during that time could be categorized into two types of practices, with one using gematria considerably more than the other⁴.

Upon recognizing these mystical applications of the Hebrew alphabet system, we can understand how it became an essential part of the symbolism of Kabbalah and its creation theory. In the Judeo-Christian faiths, the Creator is portrayed as omnipotent and omnipresent⁵. So before we contend with the creation process, we need a theory to explain how space became available to allow anything to be spoken into existence to begin with. Kabbalah incorporates a theory known as “*Tzimtzum*.” The Kabbalah of Isaac Luria explains *tzimtzum* as a contraction of the Infinite light. Here is one explanation: “*You should know that before the emanations were emanated and the creations created, a most supreme, simple light filled the whole of existence. There was no vacant place, no aspect of empty space or void, but everything was filled by that simple, infinite light. It had no aspect of beginning or end, but was all one pure, completely uniform light, and this is what is called the light of the Infinite (‘or Eyn Sof). When it arose in His pure will to create worlds and to emit emanations, to bring out the perfection of His actions, His names, and His attributes – for this was the reason that the worlds were created, as we explained in the first inquiry of the first branch – then the Infinite contracted itself at its midpoint, in the exact center of its light. And after He contracted that light and withdrew away from that mid-point to the sides surrounding it, it left a vacant space – an empty, hollow void.*”⁶

With the void now providing room for creation, the three primary elements of air, water, and fire are introduced by the three Hebrew mother letters which form the three horizontal branches on the Tree of Life.

The 3 Horizontal Branches

The three Hebrew mother letters are Aleph (א), Mem (מ), and Shin (ש). According to Sefer Yetzirah 3:2, א represents the element of air, מ represents water, and ש represents fire. Aryeh Kaplan’s commentary says that they represent thesis, antithesis, and syn-

1 See Gershom Scholem’s “Kabbalah” page 337.

2 See Gershom Scholem’s “Kabbalah” page 337.

3 For different forms of gematria used in Kabbalah, see Gershom Scholem’s “Kabbalah” pages 339 & 340.

4 Gershom Scholem – “Kabbalah” page 340.

5 the concept of the Deity’s omnipotence, see Job 24:1-2; Genesis 18:14; Isaiah 14:27; Luke 1:37. For the Deity’s omnipresence see Psalm 113:4-6 & 139:7-10; Isaiah 66:1; Colossians 1:17.

6 “*The Tree of Life*” – Chayyim Vital’s Introduction to the Kabbalah of Isaac Luria Volume I – The Palace of Adam Kadmon by Donald Wilder Menzi and Zwe Padeh pages 12 & 13. Also, see Aryeh Kaplan’s “*Inner Space*” pages 26 & 27 for a brief explanation referencing Isaiah 45:7 around the formation of light and creation of darkness.

continued page 4

Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

Published bimonthly by the
Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation
P. O. Box 64 Shreveport, LA 71161

Editor

Steve Pence
105 Bay Hills Drive
Benton, LA 71006
Tel: (318) 965-9977

E-mail: storm52@bellsouth.net

Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard is published bimonthly by the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation. Any article or views expressed in this publication are those only of the writer and do not reflect the official position of the Louisiana Scottish Rite. The editorial policy of this publication grants free reign to the Editor, within the lines of Masonic principles and teachings. Articles and pictures submitted become the property of this publication.

Permission is granted to use contents of this Trestleboard for Masonic purposes, as long as credit is given to the source.

Editorial Staff

Editor:

Steven S. A. Pence, 33°

Valley of Baton Rouge:

James E. Wingate, 33°

Valley of New Orleans:

Martin J. Reinschmidt, 33° PGM

Valley of Shreveport:

Troy J. Jones, 32° KCCH

Valley of Lake Charles:

Gerald H. Houston, 33°

Valley of Monroe:

Wilson O. "Will" Cook, 32° KCCH

Webmaster:

Robert W. Hagen, Jr., 32° KCCH

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. Richard B. Smith, 33° G.C.

Deputy of the Supreme Council

III. Clayton J. "Chip" Borne, III, 33° PGM

Personal Representative for Valley of New Orleans

III. Warren A. Hintz, Jr. 33°

Assistant Personal Representative for New Orleans

III. Ballard L. Smith, 33° G.C. PGM

Personal Representative for Valley of Shreveport

J. Briggs Becton, 32° KCCH

Personal Representative for Valley of Lake Charles

James E. "Buddy" Pearce, Sr., 32° KCCH

Personal Representative for Valley of Baton Rouge

III. Will P. Gray, 33° PGM

Personal Representative for Valley of Monroe

III. Steven S. A. Pence, 33°

Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana

Master Craftsman Program



Program I: The Symbolic Lodge will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism.

Program II: Scottish Rite History & Ritual consists of six lessons, utilizing the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* and *A Bridge to Light (4th ed.)*.

Program III: Scottish Rite Philosophy uses Albert Pike's *Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition*. The course consists of 33 quizzes, grouped into 10 sections.

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.

Lake Charles

Jason Keith Rigby - Level 1



www.louisiana-sr.org

Jurisdiction Supreme Council

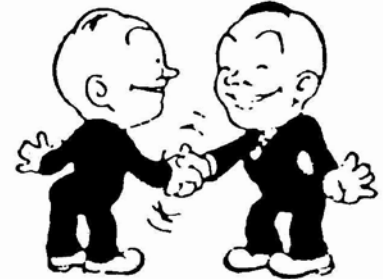
The jurisdiction of this Supreme Council includes all the territory over which the United States of America exercises domain of powers of government, except the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, 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.

Rite Care Eligibility

As a rule, the five Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Clinics accept preschool children who have difficulty speaking or understanding the spoken word or school-age children who have difficulty learning to read.

Inquiries on age groups and program offerings in specific areas should be addressed to the director of the local Scottish Rite facility. Equally important, all services are available regardless of race, creed, or the family's inability to pay.

Someone is waiting for you



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



Calendar of Events

Supreme Council

2019 Biennial Session August 18-20
Washington, D.C.

Orient

Honors Day November 9
Shreveport

Reunions

New Orleans TBA
Shreveport August 10-11
Lake Charles September 14-15
Baton Rouge October 26
Monroe November 2-3

Grand Lodge

Southeast Conference of Grand Masters
Charleston, SC August 1-3

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

Southeastern Louisiana University

Caroline Starr
 Sarah Quintana

Louisiana State University-Shreveport

Samantha Ardoin
 Haley Krumpelbeck

Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge

Erin Mann
 Alexandra Lowe
 Amber Burks

2019-2020 Officers

Foundation

President: S. Bruce Easterly, 33°
 Vice President: William V. King, 33°
 Secretary: James E. Wingate, 33°
 Treasurer: E. Louis McGee, 33°
 Assistant Treasurer: John F. Knox, Jr.

Ex-Officio Officers

Chairman of the Board: Richard B. Smith, 33° G.C.
 Board Member: Ralph H. Owens, 33°
 Board Member: I. C. Turnley, Jr., 33° Emeritus

Elected Members

James H. Morgan, III J. F. "Jeff" Webb
 Harry C. Northrop, III Woody D. Bilyeu
 Clayton J. Borne, III Martin J. Reinschmidt
 Samuel B. Owens J. David Maxey, Sr.

Appointed Members

Jason K. Rigsby James L. Pearce
 J. Quincy Gotte J. Briggs Becton
 Charles H. Penn, III Lloyd E. Hennigan, Jr.
 Jay W. Owensby Ion Lazar
 Gary L. Gribble Christopher E. Cannon
 Roy B. Tuck, Jr.-Emeritus

Investment Committee

Jason K. Rigsby - Chairman
 J. Quincy Gotte Charles H. Penn, III
 Ion Lazar Martin J. Reinschmidt
 Ballard L. Smith H. Edward Durham

Speech Scholarship Committee

Howard L. Dalton, Jr. Leroy George Stenzel
 Max P. Adame Gregory L. Bruce
 John C. Miller Edward A. Reine, Sr.
 Gary L. Gribble John D. Autry, Sr.

Engineering Scholarship Committee

Ralph H. Owens E. Louis McGee
 Anthony Radosti David R. Frohn

Wills and Legacies

Travis M. Holley W. James Hill, III
 J. Bradley Dill Ralph T. Rabalais
 Patrick C. Kelly-Emeritus

Nominating Committee

J. Briggs Becton Clayton J. Borne, III
 I. C. Turnley-Emeritus

2019 Honors

Although their names appear in their respective Valley's pages, additional recognition is warranted. These honorees work tirelessly in their communities, churches, appendent bodies and their lodges promoting brotherly love, relief and truth. Congratulations!

Inspector General Honorary-33°

Baton Rouge – James Edward Pearce
 Baton Rouge – Brian Lawrence Watson
 Lake Charles – William Keith Powell
 Monroe – Wilson Otho Cook
 Monroe – Bruce Dean Osbon
 New Orleans – Klaus Joseph Kueck
 New Orleans – Cullen Samuel Peel
 New Orleans – Charles Ray Smith
 Shreveport – James Earl Gott
 Shreveport – John Frank Knox, Jr.

Knight Commander

Court of Honour

Baton Rouge – Christopher John Adams
 Baton Rouge – Stuart Rowan Averitt
 Baton Rouge – Vernon Eugene Dawson, Jr.
 Baton Rouge – Richard Lowell Fox
 Baton Rouge – James Herbert McMorris Sr.
 Lake Charles – Michael Lee Cline
 Lake Charles – Steven Lynn Jennings
 Lake Charles – Kirby Odell Vinson
 Monroe – Buddy Glen Barnett
 Monroe – Alan Clark Bean
 Monroe – William Sherman Blake
 Monroe – Gary Lynn Foster
 Monroe – Marcus Scott Goss
 New Orleans – Charles Regan Bertrand
 New Orleans – Nelson Joseph Ardoin, Jr.
 New Orleans – Stephen Monroe Bryant
 New Orleans – Camile Joseph Guidry, Jr.
 New Orleans – Patrick Lee Nichols
 Shreveport – Christopher Ephraim Cannon
 Shreveport – John Robert Cunningham
 Shreveport – Chad C. Driskell
 Shreveport – Frederick George Gregory
 Shreveport – Richard Dallas Pullig
 Shreveport – Brad Eric Williams



continued from front page

A Glimpse into Kaballah Part III:

thesis⁷. Sefer Yetzirah 3:1 says this: “Three Mothers: Aleph Mem Shin (אמש) – Their foundation is a pan of merit, a pan of liability, and the tongue of decree deciding between them.” Kaplan also informs us that these three mother letters form the root letters הוה of the Tetragrammaton – the ineffable name of Deity – יהוה (“Yud” ה “Heh” ו “Vav” ה “Heh”). The ו is derived from the מ, ה from the ש, and the ה from the א. Therefore, the ו denotes water, the ה denotes fire, and the ה denotes air.

The three mother letters form the three horizontal branches of the Tree of Life, and by them the Tree of Life symbol is divided into four levels. The top level is where the Divine Will resides and is unattainable by man in our fallen state; therefore, only the three lower levels will be discussed here. Fundamentally, these three branches identify the faculties of the human intellect, spirit, and emotions that help us identify and express who we are. These are connected with the qualities of thought, speech, and action within the soul of man.

The highest faculty of the soul is the intellect. This faculty is the receptacle for the Word and the awareness of the Deity, and it nourishes the quality of thought. In Hebrew, this would be the “Neshamah” – the portion of the soul that lives on.⁸ The two lower faculties of spirit and emotion, however, are subject to the passage of time; therefore, the past, present, and future are altering factors – both good and bad, depending on how they are interpreted or if they are ever considered at all. The faculty of spirit nurtures the quality of speech, and the faculty of emotion nurtures the quality of action. In Hebrew, the “Ruach” is associated with the spirit and pertains to speech, while the “Nefesh” is associated with the blood and pertains to our actions which are driven by our passions and emotions.

If the lower faculties disregard the higher faculty that is able to receive the Word, they fall into irregularity and the balance center is lost. Soon after, confusion and anxiety ensues causing a positive feedback loop perpetuating the decay of our true identity. As we degrade further, no amount of logic will be able to explain the emptiness we might feel, and no amount of emotion will be able to soothe the sorrow we might experience. The three are designed to work in unison, empowering us to navigate through life properly with balance and forward movement. Every thought or scenario we encounter should weigh in at these three faculties. Adequately utilizing them affords us a greater chance of finding sustainable meaning to our life, and in displaying the qualities of noble and benevolent actions.

The 7 Vertical Branches

The seven doubles of the Hebrew alphabet make up the seven vertical branches on the Tree of Life symbol. Sefer Yetzirah 4:1 lists them as Bet (ב), Gimel (ג), Dalet (ד), Kaf (כ), Peh (פ), Resh (ר), and Tav (ת). These seven letters are said to have a soft and hard pronunciation depending on the location of the letter in a word or if a Dagesh (dot) is placed in the middle of the letter signifying

⁷ “Sefer Yetzirah – The Book of Creation – In Theory and Practice – Revised Edition” – Aryeh Kaplan page 231

⁸ See “Shaar HaGilgulim” (The Gates of Reincarnation) – the Teachings of Isaac Luria 1534-1575 published by Thirty Seven Books Publishing, pages 1 & 236-257. The 5 portions of man’s soul are associated by a connection to the Divine Name יהוה. A description of the 5 levels of soul, along with its relation to יהוה, can be found in “Inner Space” by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan pages 18-20. “Nefesh HaTzimzum” – Volume I, Rabbi Chaim Volozhin’s ‘Nefesh HaChaim’ with Translation and Commentary by Avinoam Fraenkel page 224.

a hard pronunciation. Because they possess duality, they are the formative letters.

Out of the seven days of creation, the Sabbath day is unique; out of the seven doubles of the Hebrew alphabet, the letter ו is unique as well. Kaplan mentions that most post-Talmudic grammarians do not consider the ו as a double, and that it never has a Dagesh. It is also noted that Modern Hebrew grammar does not recognize a verbal distinction between a soft and hard ו, but rather it is always pronounced with a soft distinction. Kaplan mentions, however, that there were instances in the Bible where a Dagesh was placed with a ו, so he concludes that its hard pronunciation had either been lost or hidden away throughout the centuries. Regardless, it is included as the unique letter of the seven doubles.

The dual aspect of the letters reflects the extreme polarities that are needed to form the physical world. According to Sefer Yetzirah chapter 4:4, the seven doubles are associated with the directions of up, down, east, west, north, and south with the Holy Palace at the center represented by the Sabbath Day. As was previously mentioned, the Sabbath day of creation exists for the purpose of all creation to live and act in harmony with the laws that are set to govern it. This is the soft pronunciation – so to speak. Perhaps the polarity of this day is its hard pronunciation contending with the imbalances of duality as a result of man’s rebellion against the laws that are set to govern him; hence, the Day of Judgment awaiting its future arrival – or pronunciation.

According to Aryeh Kaplan’s commentary on *Sefer Yetzirah chapter 4*, these seven letters are manifest as the seven days of creation, the seven ancient planets, the seven openings of the head, the seven days of the week, as well as the seven primary traits of Wisdom, Wealth, Seed, Life, Dominance, Peace, and Grace. These seven branches give structure and maturity to our character.

The 12 Diagonal Branches

The remaining twelve letters of the Hebrew alphabet are known as the twelve elementals. These are the Heh (ה), Vav (ו), Zayin (ז), Chet (ח), Tet (ט), Yud (י), Lamed (ל), Nun (נ), Samekh (ס), Eyin (ע), Tzadi (צ), and the Kuf (ק). These twelve letters are placed within the twelve diagonal branches of the Tree of Life. According to *Sefer Yetzirah chapter 5*, the foundations of these twelve elementals are speech, thought, motion, sight, hearing, action, coition, smell, sleep, anger, taste, and laughter. Our existence is bound, or held together, by these navigational and communicative elements, which are the expressive workings of our inner being.

Kaplan notes in his commentary that these attributes have no polarity associated with them and that the absence of any of these attributes are not to be considered their polarities⁹; therefore, the twelve elementals have a single pronunciation. We also find in chapter 5 of *Sefer Yetzirah* that these twelve elementals parallel the twelve months of the year, the twelve signs of the zodiac, and the twelve diagonal boundaries of the universe. Therefore, as a cube is bound by twelve edges, so too is the universe bound by the twelve elementals.

In conclusion of these three types of letters, we have the three mothers that birth creation, the seven doubles that form it, and the twelve elementals that bind it. Thus, we have the purpose of the twenty-two paths or branches of the Tree of Life. The 32 Paths of Wisdom, however, are not complete nor brought to life without the ten Divine attributes. These will be discussed in the next series.

⁹ “Sefer Yetzirah – The Book of Creation – In Theory and Practice – Revised Edition” – Aryeh Kaplan page 197.

Valley of New Orleans News

Chartered April 7, 1811

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month

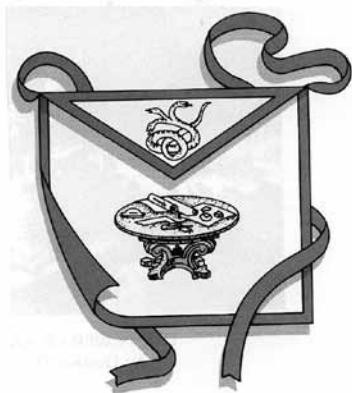


New Orleans Scottish Rite Temple
 433 Metairie Road - Suite 206
 Metairie, LA 70005
 Sect'y: Martin J. Reinschmidt, 33° PGM
 Tel: (504) 835-3780
 Email: nosrt@bellsouth.net
 WebSite: www.nolascottishrite.com

2019 Dues are past due!

Calendar of Events

Stated Communications 7:30 PM
 6209 3rd Street Harahan, LA 70123
 (Louisiana Lodge #102)
Wednesday, August 7th
Guest Speaker
Wednesday, September 4th
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 2nd
Feast of Tishri
Tuesday, October 22nd
Advisory Conference
Wednesday, November 6th
Nomination & Election of 2020 Officers
Wednesday, December 4th
Holiday Celebration



2019 Officers

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Kenneth K. Bell, Jr., 32° KCCH
Senior Warden: Freddie J. Touchet, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: Eddie A. Lebouef, III, 32° KCCH

Pelican Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: Martin J. Reinschmidt, 33°
Senior Warden: Charles R. Smith, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: Stephen M. Bryant, 32°

Eagle Council of Kadosh

Commander: Ion Lazar, 33°
1st Lt. Commander: Adam, G. Krolikowski, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander: Larry J. Plaisance, 33°

New Orleans Consistory

Master of Kadosh: John C. Miller, 32° KCCH
Prior: Charles R. Bertrand, 32°
Preceptor: Kenneth M. Mayer, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies

Ion Lazar, 33°

Secretary All Bodies

Martin J. Reinschmidt, 33° PGM



From The Secretary's Desk

Welcome to the middle of summer. I don't know about you, but for me as I get more into my senior years, I find that time flies a lot quicker and the days of summer are getting hotter. For those of you that still must work out in the heat, please make sure that you drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Especially those of you that must work in attics, HVAC techs, dehydration can sneak up on you quickly and before you know it you are suffering from heat exhaustion or even worse heat stroke.

As you are reading this article all the preparations have been made for our visit to the 2019 Biennial Supreme Council Session in Washington, DC. This will be the beginning of a new era in the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, as we will have a new Sovereign Commander preside over the events. Yes, Illustrious Brother Ronald A. Seale will have stepped down as our Sovereign Grand Commander, and the members of the Supreme Council will have elected and installed our new leader. I would like to take a moment and thank our own "Ronnie" as he likes to be called by his friends, and his friends are his brothers in Louisiana, for the many years that he has led our fraternity. We can only hope that one day soon, when he is back in the area and

we are holding our monthly meeting that he comes walking thru our doors with that big smile on his face and we can say welcome home, sit down and break bread with us. Well Done Illustrious Brother Seale.

By now, those members who have been selected to receive Scottish Rite Honours should have received a letter from Illustrious Brother Richard B. "RB" Smith, 33° G.C., the Deputy to the Supreme Council in Louisiana. Congratulation to all of those who have been selected and remember that you were nominated by your brothers to receive those honors. Be sure to set aside the weekend of November 8th and 9th to be in Shreveport, LA to receive your honors. I will get you more information on times, dates, places and hotel accommodations as soon as I receive them. Keep checking your mailbox and emails.

I know it is still a few months away, but if you are interested in serving in one of the four bodies of our Valley as an elected officer, start working on your resume as I must have them in hand by October 18th. Election of officers will take place at our November meeting.

My brothers your valley has been enrolled in the VMAP program of the Supreme Council and one of the items this program addresses is communications with you our members. I you are not receiving the numerous email that I send out or if you are not receiving a phone call on your birthday of Scottish Rite Anniversary, it is due to me not having your current contact information. This can be remedied quite easily. You can send you the telephone number you wish me to use to contact you to be in an email or you can call me at the office and I can quickly pull up your member's record and update it while we are on the telephone. The office number is 504-835-3780.

Speaking of phone calls on your birthday or Scottish Rite anniversary, with the passing of Brother Leon T. "Lee" Roberts, I have a vacancy on the telephone committee. If you might be interested in filling the

continued page 10

In Memoriam

Leon T. "Lee" Roberts

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: brosecsr@gmail.com
 Web: www.shreveportscottishrite.com

Donate to the Shreveport Scottish Rite Foundation

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinner 6:00pm Meeting 7:00pm
 Advisory Conference begins at 5:30
Summer Reunion August 10-11
Tuesday, August 13th
 Candidate Appreciation Dinner
Tuesday, September 10th
 Feast of Tishri
Tuesday, October 8th
 Degree Presentation
Tuesday, November 12th
 50 Year Milestone - Veterans Day Program
Tuesday, December 10th
 Election and Installation of Officers
 The KCCH Club meets during the January, April, July & October meetings.



From The Secretary' Desk

Our Summer Reunion is scheduled for the second weekend in August (10-11). Petitions are readily available. The constituent lodges have been actively raising new Master Masons. What better opportunity is there for these new brothers to receive "more light" than that found at the reunion and joining the Scottish Rite?

Beginning on Sunday, August 18th, the third weekend in August, the Supreme Council will begin the biennial session in Washington, D.C. Many of the Louisiana Scottish Rite members will be in attendance, some for the first time and still others possibly for the last time. This will be Ill. Seales' final biennial session, so the Louisiana delegation will have a greater than usual number in our nation's Capitol. The Supreme Council was called into Special Executive Session to consider electing those Brothers across our Southern Jurisdiction to receive honors. Ill. Richard B. Smith, 33° G.C. Deputy has notified the Louisiana men who will receive their respective honors during Honors Day November 9th at our Shreveport Scottish Rite Temple.

Our Valley's honor men are: Inspector General, 33° Honorary Members of the Supreme Council - **James Earl Gott and John Frank Knox, Jr.** Knights Commander, Court of Honour, KCCH Investiture - **Christopher Ephraim Cannon, John Robert Cunningham, Chad C. Driskell, Frederick George Gregory, Richard Dallas Pullig and Brad Eric Williams.** I hope you will join me in congratulating these well deserving Scottish Rite brothers.

Although our editor may have a differing opinion, the Shreveport Valley must take this time to congratulate our newly elected and installed Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana Free and Accepted Masons. Most Worshipful Ill. Steven S. A. Pence, 33° was elected at the Grand Lodge Session on June 29th and was duly installed on June 30th. M: W: Brother Ill. Ballard L. Smith, 33° G.C. served as his Installing Master, M: W:

2019 Officers

Shreveport Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: John F. Knox, Jr., 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: John C. Sharlow, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: J. David Maxey, Sr., 32°

Shreveport Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: Albert G. Simms, Jr., 32°
 Senior Warden: Troy J. Jones, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: W. Glen Girard, 32°

Shreveport Council of Kadosh

Commander: Bradley T. Smith, 32°
 1st Lt. Commander: John R. Cunningham, 32°
 2nd Lt. Commander: Robert L. Rowe, II, 32° KCCH

Shreveport Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Stephen C. Caskey, 32°
 Prior: Charles R. Smith, 32° KCCH
 Preceptor: Adrian K. Winham, 32° KCCH

Treasurer All Bodies:

E. Louis McGee, 33°

Secretary All Bodies:

Gary L. Gribble, 33°

2019 Knights of St. Andrew

Knight Commander: J. David Maxey, Sr.
 Knight Warden: Bradley T. Smith
 Knight Captain: Billy E. Barnes
 Knight Recorder: Christopher E. Cannon

Brother H. Edward Durham, 33° was his Installing Chaplain and M: W: Brother Ill. S. Bruce Easterly, 33° was his Installing Marshal. We are proud to call him editor, friend and now Most Worshipful. Steve and his lady, Becky, plan to join us in Washington, D.C. for the biennial session in August.

Your Scottish Rite Temple served as the location for the 1st Masonic District Lodge meeting in July. Hosted by Caddo Lodge, this was the first time in recent history for the District to hold a meeting in our magnificent building. A great deal of preparation and time was exerted to make the theater into a lodge room. The members from the 18 lodges in attendance were appreciative of the efforts and enjoyed the experience.

Fraternally,
 Gary L. Gribble, 33°
 General Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

Terry Bromell
 Warren Cockerham
 Carl Pampe
 Alex White

Valley of Lake Charles News

Chartered October 16, 1923

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month

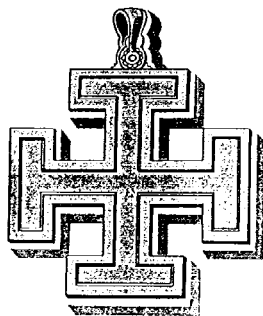


Lake Charles Masonic Temple
 717 Hodges Street
 Lake Charles, LA 70601
 Secretary: Frank M. Bult, Jr., 32° KCCH
 Tel: 337-436-1676 Fax: 337-436-1673
 Email: lcscttishritebodies@yahoo.com

2019 Membership Fees are past due!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:00**
- Wednesday, August 21st**
Gueydan Road Trip
- Fall Reunion September 14-15**
Wednesday, September 18th
Feast of Tishri
- Wednesday, October 16th**
Micro-brewery program
- Wednesday, October 30th**
KCCH Dinner
- Wednesday, November 20th**
ULL RiteCare Program
- Wednesday, December 18th**
Election of Officers
- Back Door Lunch: Last Friday of every month. Except in November & December**



Personally Speaking

It is time once again for us to prepare an update on the great advancements of the Order in the Lake Charles Valley. With the first half of 2019 behind us, we are preparing for our Valley's annual bus trip. The moving of our charter to Gueydon Lodge has been approved and we will be traveling there in July followed by our General Secretary, Fellow and other brethren traveling to Washington DC to the 2019 Biennial session in August. There we will fellowship with brethren from around not just our orient but the entire Southern Jurisdiction. I am looking forward to the trip as I have not been able to visit the House of the Temple since 2008 when I was given the opportunity to serve as one of the Grand Masters Fellows. With the Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. Ronald A Seal 33 moving on from his position this year I am eager to meet our incoming Sovereign Grand Commander. I would like to extend congratulations to those who were selected to be Coronated and Invested as 33 Inspector General Honorary (IGH) and Knights Commander Court of Honor (KCCH). Our Honors Day will be hosted in Shreveport on November 9, 2019 for this event.

This month's notes have been short as we all have busy times in our lives. I encourage everyone to find that balance in their lives that supports both their personal lives, as well as, the advancement of Masonry. Attend your home lodges and bring brother masons with you who could use a ride or encouragement to attend. As we help to strengthen our lodges the memberships in our valleys can begin to reap the benefits of good men and masons fellowshiping together.

The Lake Charles Valley would like to invite all Masons to come eat with us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and attend the open programs that our Venerable Master, Elton Blanchard, has prepared. I hope to see you there.

If any brother would like to talk, I can be reached by email at:

BECTONWLPD@YAHOO.COM or by phone at 337-853-9099 (TEXT or CALL).

Fraternally,
J. Briggs Becton, 32° KCCH
 Personal Representative

Honors

The following Lake Charles Valley members have been elected to receive Honors in Shreveport on Saturday, November 9th.

Inspector General, 33° Honorary Members of the Supreme Council - **William Keith Powell.**

Knights Commander, Court of Honour, KCCH Investiture - **Michael Lee Cline, Steven Lynn Jennings and Kirby Odell Vinson.**

I hope that you will join in congratulating each of these Brothers on attaining recognition through these Honours. They live the lessons of Scottish Rite Freemasonry everyday.



2019 Officers

Lake Charles Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Elton J. Blanchard, 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: Oscar Abshire, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden: W. Keith Powell, Sr., 32° KCCH

Lake Charles Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: John W. Derby, 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden: Joseph E. Thibodeaux, 32°
 Junior Warden: Kirby O. Vinson, 32°

Lake Charles Council of Kadosh

Commander: George A. Wilkinson, 32° KCCH
 1st Lt. Commander: William W. Bailey, 32° KCCH
 2nd Lt. Commander: James E. Josker, 32°

Lake Charles Consistory

Master of Kadosh: John E. McDaniel, III, 32°
 Prior: Errol B. Cheramie, 32°
 Preceptor: David R. Frohn, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies:

J. Quincy Gotte, 32° KCCH

Secretary All Bodies:

Frank M. "Dickie" Bult, Jr., 32° KCCH

IN MEMORIAM

Calvin Fontenot
 Brian Ezell
 Harold Young

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: W. O. "Will" Cook, 32° KCCH
Tel: 318-343-6388 Fax: 318-343-5492
Email: monroescottishrite@icloud.com

2019 Membership Fees are past due!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dinner with Ladies 6:00 PM
Program 7:00 PM

Thursday, August 1st

Knights of St. Andrew squiring ceremony

Summer Reunion August 3-4

Thursday, September 5th

Historical Preservation program

Erica Gullede - guest speaker

Thursday, October 3rd

Feast of Tishri

Fall Reunion November 2-3

Thursday, November 7th

Homeland Security program

Thursday, December 5th

Election and Installation of 2020 Officers



Personally Speaking

It is good to have Ill. Brother Wingate keeping us all informed of the need to feed the Trestleboard fresh information to our members out there just waiting for the next issue to learn who has died and such. There is much to write about, but being advised in

the Navy to "Don't sugar coat it, Will" on many occasions, I will try to be a good sailor and support the Trestleboard with good ideas and information. Now for the News...

The schedule forced us to hold the Council of the Orient in the afternoon in Alexandria, instead of a two-day event hosted by each Valley in turn. I hope that continues, as a two-hour meeting is far more productive and less expensive than a two-day event with meals along the way. Even better would be a COTO via GotoMeeting or other systems via the WEB.

We attempted to plan a statewide reunion for this fall, but got no feedback from the other valleys so our reunion will be November 2nd and 3rd, as planned with possible support from Arkansas. We also asked one of our Valleys to allow us to video their full costume degrees so we might use that as part of our program but they declined. I asked if our headquarters at the House of the Temple had videos for use by degree teams and was advised that they do not have any support for the conduct of degrees. Texas has a full set of such but they will not share. So much for teamwork and advancing the art.

We have hired our part time archivist to work six hours/three days a week to support any daytime events (meals/sales/contract use of the building). We hope this will generate activity that may lead to income and hopefully more new members.

At the end of my current term as Personal Representative, I will retreat to engraving and kitchen duties. We are hoping to expand our engraving business to serve the York Rite. With office support, we may now be able to serve a low cost breakfast to university students on a schedule to be implemented soon.

Cutting cost and increasing membership through education are key steps we must take. I believe my idea to have all Valleys pool their assets in support of the Shreveport temple would be a great step toward the long term survival of Scottish Rite in Louisiana. The response to the idea has been no argument, nothing, just classic Louisiana silence. "That's all folks!"

*Fraternally yours,
Will P. Gray, 33° PGM
Personal Representative*

From The Secretary's Desk

The "dog days of summer" are upon us and what can we look forward to? Hurricanes. It's what we do here in Louisiana. Stay safe and stay dry my brothers.

First, I would like to note that I have not received the any notice of a brother joining the Celestial Lodge #1, so that is good news.

We are preparing to send out dues notices for 2020 and we still have a number of brothers that have yet to pay their dues for 2019. Please submit your dues at your earliest convenience. If you would like, contact me and I can set your dues payments up on a monthly basis thereby alleviating the need for dues notices.

We are also preparing for our 100th Reunion which will be named in memory of our dearly beloved brother, Ill. Bro. Robert C. Joyner, 33°. This will take place on November 2 & 3, 2019. The cost to join this time will be only \$100. Contact your brothers that have yet to join the Scottish Rite and invite them to become a brother among us. This will be the last time initiation cost will be this low. Contact me for a petition and I will be happy to email you one or place it in your hands. The future of Monroe Scottish Rite is dependent upon our members; all of our

continued page 10

2019 Officers

Monroe Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master: Michael A. Watts, 33°
Senior Warden: Mitchell A. Reynolds, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden: Wilson O. Cook, 32° KCCH

Monroe Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master: William S. Blake, 32°
Senior Warden: W. Bradley Evans, III, 32°
Junior Warden: Matthew P. Tessier, 32°

Monroe Council of Kadosh

Commander: Troy L. Lord, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander: John W. Barnett, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander: Gary L. Foster, 32°

Monroe Consistory

Master of Kadosh: Buddy G. Barnett, 32°
Prior: Allan K. Bean, 32°
Preceptor: David R. Marine, 32°

Treasurer All Bodies:

Roy McDuffie, 33° PGM

Secretary All Bodies:

Wilson O. "Will" Cook, 32° KCCH

IN MEMORIAM
God Is Great!

Scottish Rite FULFILL-BUILD-PROVIDE

continued from page 5

New Orleans Valley-From The Secretary's Desk: vacancy, here is what the duties are. Each month I will send you a list of brothers who are celebrating either their birthday or Scottish Rite Anniversary along with their telephone number(s). You then call them on that day and wish them a happy birthday or anniversary. Now the number of calls varies from month to month, but sometimes this is the only contact some of our older brothers have with their brothers. So, if this sounds like something you might be interested in doing, call me at the office and we can talk about it. There is a small incentive in it for you if you choose to do so.

I had hoped that I would have a date for the reunion to announce by the time I wrote this article but, with everything that has been going on, that just hasn't been done yet. But stay tune and watch your emails.

In closing my brothers, there is one thing that I must bring up, unpaid dues. As we enter the last quarter of 2019, we still have several members who have not paid their dues. We are still carrying some members who have not paid their 2018 dues as well. My brothers remember if you break down our dues structure it works out as follows: \$120 annually equals \$10 per month which equals about \$0.33 per day. If you are having financial difficulties and cannot afford to pay your dues in one lump sum, call me we can work out a payment plan to help you remaining good standing in the Scottish Rite. A dues reminder will be mailed out shortly.

Don't forget we meet one first Wednesday of each month at Louisiana Lodge #102 6209 3rd St. That is near the intersection of Hickory and Jefferson Highway in Harahan. Come on out and see what you are missing, if you haven't been to a meeting in a while come out and see what has changed.

Fraternally,
Martin J. Reinschmidt, 33° PGM
General Secretary

continued from page 9

Monroe Valley - From The Secretary's Desk: members. It is your responsibility to make sure that the light of Scottish Rite Masonry continues to shine in Northeast Louisiana.

The following Monroe Scottish Rite brethren have been elected to receive Honours in Shreveport on Saturday, November 9th at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Our Valley's honor men are: Inspector General,

33° Honorary Members of the Supreme Council - **Wilson Otho Cook and Bruce Dean Osbon.** Knights Commander, Court of Honour, KCCH Investiture - **Buddy Glen Barnett, Allan Klark Bean, William Sherman Blake, Gary Lynn Foster and Marcus Scott Goss.** Congratulations to these most deserving brothers!

A hearty congratulations to our 2019 Master Mason of the Year, Gary Lynn Foster. Gary was honored on Saturday, July 20th during a reception and dinner.

Fiat Lux!,
Wilson O. "Will" Cook, 32° KCCH
General Secretary



Louisiana Presentation

In a ceremony held in the Temple Room of the House of the Temple on Thursday, May 23, 2019, and presided over by Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, the "Presentation Sword" of Albert Pike was accepted for inclusion in the Albert Pike Museum. This sword was originally made for and given to Albert Pike by Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of the Grand

Encampment of the Knights Templar, in token of the friendship and brotherly love they shared as Freemasons even though they would have been enemies during the Civil War. The sword was donated by a group of Louisiana Masons representing the Louisiana Scottish Rite and the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. Making the presentation was Ill Brother R.B. Smith, Deputy in Louisiana, and M:W: Martin Reinschmidt, Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana. M:W: Brother Woody Bilyeu, Grand Secretary of the Louisiana Grand Lodge, and Ill Brother Clayton Borne, Personal Rep in New Orleans, also represented Louisiana Masonry at the ceremony.

Also present were M:W: Brother Charbel T. Fahed, Grand Master of the District of Columbia Grand Lodge; Ill Brother Leonard Proden, SGIG of the Orient of the District of Columbia; W.M. Kasra Mojtahedi of Benjamin French Lodge #15; as well as Ill Brother Matt Szramoski, Director of Development for the Southern Jurisdiction. Brother Szramoski introduced members of the Development staff who were instrumental in researching the history of the sword.



Dignitaries at presentation of Albert Pike's Presentation Sword



L:R - Ronnie Seale-SGC, Richard Smith-Deputy and Martin Reinschmidt-Grand Master with Albert Pike's Presentation sword.

THE FINAL WORD



**Ill. Richard B. Smith, 33° G. C.
Deputy of the Supreme Council**

Honor

Architecture, engineering, medicine, science, technology, psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, education, art, music, law, astronomy, language, mathematics, theology, literature, government, and history are examples of but a few fields in which an individual may distinguish themselves by study, practice and discovery. Each of these fields of study affords many opportunities to broaden one's knowledge and explore new, untried theories.

Human history records the names of those individuals who have distinguished themselves among their peers and contemporaries. These individuals left their marks in the collective mind of society. Perhaps it was for one significant event, or a series of events, that brought on significant change in their own lives and the lives of others.

In most cases, there is no exact formula for when they become recognized for their accomplishments and how their names enter the history books. This notoriety may come early in their lives or long after they are dead. To be recognized for positive accomplishments in life is considered an honor.

The English language is complex in that words can have many meanings. When one "Googles" it, the word "Honor" can be either a noun or a verb. As a noun, honor can mean high respect, great esteem, adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct. As a verb, it could mean regard with great respect, fulfill an obligation or keep an agreement. Nouns identify people, places and things. Verbs identify actions, states or occurrences.

In Scottish Rite Masonry, we use the word "Honor" when referring to those brethren elected by the Supreme Council to be invested with the 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, the 33° Inspector General Honorary, or the 33° Grand Cross of Honour. Each of these designations is highly coveted among Scottish Rite Masons, yet they cannot be solicited, (as so do so will mean that they must be denied.)

Every two years, the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Southern Jurisdiction accepts nominations for qualified Scottish Rite Masons to receive these Honors. To qualify for the 32° Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, you must be a 32° Knight of the Royal Secret in

good standing for at least 44 months and have distinguished yourself in your community, government, or Masonry.

The Knight Commander of the Court of Honour is not a degree or half a degree, but an investiture that designates the recipient as one who is accomplished and respected among his peers. As an investiture, the ceremony for conferring this honor on those elected may be done at an open meeting, where family and friends may attend, witness, and take part in the ceremony.

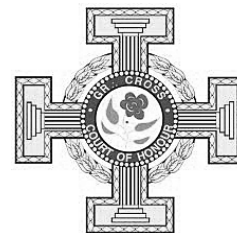
The 33° Inspector General Honorary is the final degree in the Scottish Rite. Only 32° Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour in good standing for a minimum of 44 months may be elected to receive this honorary degree. Unlike the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, the Inspector General Honorary is a degree. Only 33° Scottish Rite Masons may attend the conferral of this degree. It is the culmination of all the lessons contained in the Scottish Rite and provides the candidates with additional Masonic light, obligation, and duty.

The number of honors given each biennium is determined by the number of 32° Knights of the Royal Secret created in the previous biennium and the total number of 32° Knights of the Royal Secret in an Orient. About twice as many 32° Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour are awarded as 33° Inspector General Honorary each biennium. Hence there are, and always will be, more deserving Masons than honors to bestow.

The Scottish Rite does not confer an honor on anyone to excuse them from further labor in Masonry. Investitures are not intended to be retirement parties, but rededication ceremonies. In fact, these honors require the recipients to continue their contributions and seek more ways to serve their fellow human beings. That is why you see many "Honor Men" actively involved in their Valleys. The worthy recipients realize everyone must do their share of the work for the Scottish Rite to sustain and grow.

The 2019 Class of Louisiana Scottish Rite Honors Men is composed of twenty-four 32° Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour elect and ten 33° Inspectors General Honorary elect. The Honors will be conferred on Saturday, November 9, 2019 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The names of the recipients are published in this edition of the Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard. Please join me in congratulating these Brothers on receiving the high respect and esteem represented by their respective honor. Now, go to work!

*Fraternally and Sincerely,
Richard Smith, 33° G. C.
Deputy*



Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

Post Office Box 64
Shreveport, LA 71161
Tel: 318-221-9713

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1031
SHREVEPORT, LA.

August - September 2019
2019 04



Scottish Rite *FULFILL-BUILD-PROVIDE*

Did You Know?

In the early 1950s the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States initiated a program to help children with speech and language disorders. The results obtained from this program led to the establishment of RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program clinics to provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities.

Today, there are SRCLP clinics, centers, and special programs operating or planned for children and therapists located throughout the United States. Each facility is staffed by speech-language pathologists or other trained personnel. Through the support of Scottish Rite members, these clinics, centers, and programs continue to increase. The value of this philanthropy has long been apparent. Tens of thousands of youngsters across the United States have been helped significantly. With the good work of dedicated clinicians and parents, the Scottish Rite has achieved successes that could only be imagined a few years back. Children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read, and lead productive lives.



Louisiana Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Centers

C. Lenton Sartian, 33° RiteCare 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.

