



Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard



May-June 2006

ORIENT OF LOUISIANA

Volume 8 Issue 3

Scottish Rite

PERSISTENCE-PRESS ON

To Be Free or Not To Be Free

by Larry D. Wade, 32°



A serious question for you — which is better, autocracy (absolute government by one person) or democracy (government by the whole population)? Please do not give a “knee-jerk” answer.

It is arguable that when the population as a whole are ignorant, uneducated, immoral, and illiterate — that is, unenlightened — autocracy is a better form of government than democracy, especially if the autocrat, or ruler, is benevolent and, himself, enlightened.

As Montesquieu showed, in the case of the “Troglodytes”¹, democracy without the guiding principles of morality and ethics can be far worse, even, than a benevolent autocracy. More recently, *The Lord of the Flies*, a novel by William Golding, took a look at freedom gone mad — freedom not guided by proper morality and ethics. It was not a pretty picture.

Greek notions of democracy, developed in the sixth century BC, were lost to Europe for more than a thousand years — from about 70 AD until about 1685 AD. During that time, autocracy prevailed. The all-powerful “Holy Roman Empire” endorsed “the divine right of kings”, while reserving for itself the role of final arbiter of Truth, in all matters. Truth was “Truth” only when the Pope had said that it was “Truth”. And, “Truth” was to be found only in “The Ancient Books” — the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, of Boethius, of Galen, of Ptolemy, and (at the heart of it all) of Aristotle. Aristotle’s six treatises on the subject of “Logic” were known as “The Organon.” For about 1600 years, the Organon — as interpreted by Boethius and later by St. Thomas Aquinas — was “the last word” on “Truth”.

If Aristotle and Ptolemy said that the Earth was at the center of the universe (the point farthest removed from God) and that all the celestial bodies revolved around the Earth, in perfectly circular orbits, then there was no possibility that anything contradictory to this “Truth” could be anything other than heresy. There was no tolerance for questioning the “Truth” of “The Ancient Books”.

This state of affairs prevailed from 70 AD. until 1685 AD. Galen was “the last word” on human anatomy, as was Ptolemy on astronomy.

In one year, 1543, Vesalius showed that Galen was wrong about human anatomy, and Copernicus showed that Ptolemy was wrong on the subject of astronomy. Vesalius and Copernicus were largely ignored.

Ignorance was the rule; knowledge was limited to a few church clerics and a very limited number of aristocrats. Ignorance prevailed because books were scarce. Prior to 1450, books could only be written by hand, with quills, letter by letter, word by word, laboriously copied, usually by monks and other clerics of the church. Gutenberg’s 1450 invention, the printing press, made it possible to mass-produce books, so that knowledge became available to a broader audience — but only if they could read. And of course, very few people could read.

In 1606, the telescope was invented. In 1609, without the telescope, Kepler made the case that Copernicus was right and Ptolemy wrong, but he was ignored. In that same year, working with the newly-invented telescope, Galileo showed the same thing, but he, too, was ignored.

In 1620, Sir Francis Bacon published, “The New Organon”, in which he stated quite directly that Truth can only be found by the careful and methodical direct study of Nature, itself — not in any “Ancient Books”. Bacon was largely ignored.

In 1633, Galileo was arrested, charged with heresy, convicted, and placed on house arrest, because he had dared — with the Pope’s permission, mind you — to publish a comparison of Ptolemy’s ideas on astronomy with those of Copernicus. Galileo remained on house arrest from 1633 until his death in 1642. The Holy Roman Empire was quite serious in prohibiting any “Truth” other than its own — the “Truth” of “The Ancient Books”.

But the long-lost Greek notions of democracy were, in fact, re-discovered, when the European world came into contact with Persia. This occurred during the 17th century. For the preceding 16 centuries, the Persians has preserved and studied the wisdom of the ancient Greeks.

With the re-discovery by European peoples of the Greek notions of democracy, there emerged an inexorable movement toward individual liberty and away from “the divine right of kings” — away from the rule of church and state.

Thomas Hobbes, though, did not believe in democracy. He held that absolute rule by a king was entirely necessary, in order to avoid chaos, destruction, and collapse of the social order.

John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Baron de Montesquieu, and others too numerous to name believed in democracy, but they rightly recognized that ignorant and unenlightened free men will destroy themselves and their social order like bulls in china shops. They recognized that free men and women

continued on page 12

Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

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- John L. Atkinson, 33°
Valley of Lake Charles:
- John C. Butterick, 32°
Valley of Monroe:
- Beryl C. Franklin, Ph.D., 33°

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 House of the Temple, Washington, D.C., of which

III. Ronald A. Seale, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander
and

III. William J. Mollere, 33°,

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Orient of Louisiana

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Personal Representative for Valley of Baton Rouge

III. Woody J. Bilyeu, 33°

Personal Representative for Valley of Monroe

M.W. Clayton J. Borne, III 32° KCCH

Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana

Masonic Trivia

At one time, Golden Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada occupied a lodge room, which straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border.

Washington Chapter #3 of Portsmouth, New Hampshire announced its meetings via the town crier, who received from 6 to 25 cents for his work.

In 1872 the commissioner of Patents held that the Masonic emblem could not be used in a trademark or trade name for commercial purposes.

In *Hammer v. State*, 173 Indiana, 199 (1909), the Supreme Court ruled that it was a criminal offense to wear the emblem of any society or organization of which one is not a member. The court based its decision on the fact that the membership in such societies is the result of fitness and selection and that the wearing of such emblems by non-members is a deceit and false pretense.

In *Robinson v. Yates City Lodge*, 86 Illinois, 598 (1877), a court ruled that an expelled Mason was not entitled to the return of his degree fees. The court held that the plaintiff voluntarily paid the fees and the expulsion under the provisions of the rules of the organization does not constitute the rescission of a contract under which the fees were paid.

Frederick A Bartholdi, a freemason, designed the statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Grand Lodge of New York laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.

Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshall of France and Senator was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This is unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon III.

The letters of the English word GOD are the first three letters of Hebrew words for beauty, strength, and wisdom. G in Gomez, O in Oz, D in Dabar.

In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there as found a stone in a small chapel, dated

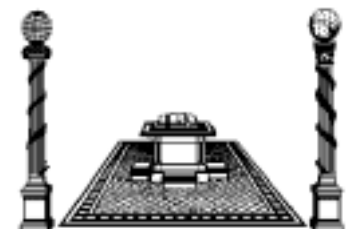
1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."

Francis Stephens, the Duke of Lorraine, received the first two Masonic degrees in 1731 in a special lodge convened at The Hague, Holland, becoming the first known royal freemason. Later he received the third degree in England. In 1735 he renounced his title.

Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternelle Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He obviously invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.

The Rev. William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on June 2nd, 1777.

In 1839 the Mormons left Missouri and settled in the area of Nauvoo, Illinois. On October 15, 1841, the Illinois Grand Master issued a dispensation to form a lodge at Nauvoo. On March 15th, 1842, Joseph Smith received his first degree and the others shortly after. Certain irregularities were reported - in five months the lodge initiated 256 candidates and 243 were raised. After investigation, the Grand Master revoked the dispensation, but the lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844, the Mormon masons dedicated a Masonic Temple. Illinois Masons got in trouble for taking part in the ceremony. Opposition to the group and internal dissension led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and the removal of the Mormons from Illinois.



Calendar of Events

Reunions

New Orleans

May 20

The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation

Foundation News

Smith Pugh And Company, LLP have completed the Audit for the period ending June 30th 2005 and copies of the report have been distributed to each valley.

Following is a list of expenses and revenues for the period July 1, 2004 thru June 30, 2005:

Total revenues, gains and other support:

Per capita contributions	\$	3,519
Contributions		24,028
Investments return		115,260
Oth		3,280
Total revenues:		146,087

Expenses:

Speech Centers		61,738
Scholarships		25,502
Management and General		33,696
Total expenses		120,936

Change in net assets		25,151
Net assets, July 1 st		2,866,838
Net Assets, June 30 th		2,891,989

The Cross Roads Scottish Rite Club was formed in 2000 in Marksville for the Benefit of members of the five valleys to have a Scottish Rite Club to attend without having to drive long distances. The Club meets on the first Wednesday at Gordy Lodge No. 133, LeCompte. Every third meeting is a Dinning out meeting for members and families. All Scottish Rite members are welcome and urged to attend.



William J. Mollere 33° Deputy with Nolen R. Gamble 32° KCCH & President of Crossroads Scottish Rite Club and John L. Atkinson 33° President of the Foundation

Someone is waiting for you



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

Envelope Insert

Last year, in the July/August issue of the Trestleboard, an envelope was included for donations to the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation. The purpose was, of course, to solicit funds but also to begin a program of recognizing those providing these gifts. Many of the families, of our departed Brethren or our friends, request donations be made to the charity of our choice. These envelopes will provide a means for those donations. The Foundation is beginning a category, *In Honor Of* contributors list, so that our living members may be recognized by family or friends. This insert will be repeated in the next issue.

Please, do not discard the envelope with the issue of the Trestleboard. If you are unable to use it for yourself then pass it along to a nonmember. Explain to them the Foundation's mission and the Speech Centers supported through generous donations.

Give the envelope to your sons and daughters. With Father's Day approaching, what an excellent gift they could make to the Foundation, in honor of you, instead of another necktie or dozen golf balls.



Foundation Scholarships

The following Speech Language scholarships have been awarded to Graduate students working toward a master's degree in Speech Pathology:

Baton Rouge Speech and Language Center

*Sharon Lynn Breard
Elizabeth Thuy Tran*



Gifts

During the annual Foundation meeting, Brother Nolan R. Gamble, 32° KCCH Lake Charles Scottish Rite Bodies, and President of the Cross Roads Scottish Rite Club presented a check of \$1,000.00 to Ill. William J. Moller, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council for the Orient of Louisiana for the Foundation's Speech Centers.



Fundraising

The Monroe Scottish Rite Valley sponsored the 11th Louisiana Jubilee Charity Tennessee Walking and Racking Horse Show on March 3rd and 4th. The event was held at the Ike Hamilton Exposition Center in West Monroe.

Over the years the members of the Monroe Valley have raised over \$70,000 through their fund raising efforts. The Supreme Council has sent matching funds. These funds are used to operate our five Speech Centers in Louisiana. Valley members buy and or sell five tickets. Members of the KCCH Club and the Council of Thrity Thirds purchase additional tickets that add to the total effort.

The continuing fund raising program by the members of the Valley of Monroe are greatly appreciated by the Foundation. Thank you for your continuing support and tireless work.



**Reflections On The Degree
of
The Intendant Of The Building**



*Ricks Martin Bowles, 32° KCCH
Valley of Baton Rouge*

***Believe as I believe no more no less;
That I am right (and no one else) confess.
Feel as I feel, think only as I think;
Eat what I eat and drink what I drink,
Look as I look, do always as I do;
And then and only then will I accept you.***

Years ago, while listening to a preacher on the radio, I heard him recite the little verse above during a discussion about the judgmental attitudes of some of his church members. I don't remember his name and, since I was jotting it down at about 70 miles per hour on I-95 between Norfolk and Richmond, I probably have somewhat misquoted him, but the idea is there. So, how does this fit into an essay on a degree that is concerned, primarily, with the virtues of honest labor? Well, stick with me on this one. As you may have noticed, I have approached these reflections on the Degrees of the Scottish Rite by trying to use the symbols of the Degrees to see past the obvious lesson of the particular degree.

The character, Satolkin has always interested me. As he approaches the throne of King Solomon he introduces himself as the Chief of the Carpenters and then adds that he has achieved the highest honors. This announcement is not made with bravado or self-aggrandizement. He does not see himself as better than others. He simply is the Chief of the Carpenters and has received the highest honors. That's just the way it is. It's a fact.

Satolkin knows that for all his authority and recognition he still must work with his peers Gareb, Zelac, Yehu-Aber, and Adoniram along with all who report to him and to them. I find no reference in the degree that tells me that Satolkin sought to learn the religion (there were, and are, more than a few sects

or philosophies within the Hebraic tradition) or politics of his peers and workers. He had to seek to know their integrity and diligence as these qualities were applied to their labor. He had to know their competence. He had to know that they could work as a team. He did not need to segregate his people according to their philosophy or culture. He only had to evaluate and direct their work together.

It is so easy to live in the past, which obviously, has no future. It is so easy to confine our intellect inside dogmas allowing us to never grow and expand. It requires very little effort to unite and inspire people *against* ideas or concepts. It requires much more of us to unite and inspire *for* ideas or concepts. This was Satolkin's great task; To unite his king, his coworkers, and subordinates in one great effort without petty bickering.

Many years ago my uncle, who was a farmer and also my Brother, told me, "If you want to move a wagon you have to hitch all your mules to the same end of it. If you hitch 'em all to different sides you not only will not move your wagon but you will most likely tear it up."

Our Brother Rudyard Kipling, in "Something of Myself," had this to say of his Masonic experience. "In '85 I was made a Freemason by dispensation (Lodge Hope and Perseverance 782 E.C.), being under age, because the Lodge hoped for a good Secretary. They did not get him, but I helped, and got the Father to advise, in decorating the bare walls of the Masonic Hall with hangings after the prescription of Solomon's Temple. Here I met Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, members of the Arya and Brahma Samaj, and a Jew tyler, who was priest and butcher to his little community in the city. So yet another world opened to me which I needed."

Oh, that all Freemasons of all cultures, religions, and philosophies could rediscover an enlightened spirit and come together to build that "Temple not made with hands" and embrace one another in true Brotherly love. There are so many "worlds" that can be opened to us that we need if we seriously apply the lessons of Freemasonry. If we could, and we can if we are truly determined to do so, our Masonic wagon would never be overloaded and we could carry the world in it.

We must labor long. We must labor hard. We must labor with positive purpose. We must labor together. If not, we lose not only Freemasonry. We will surely lose the world.



To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.

Theodore Roosevelt

Valley of New Orleans News

The Oldest Scottish Rite Valley in the World - Chartered April 7, 1811
 Albert Pike was Grand Commander of Grand Consistory of Louisiana
 From April 1857-January 1859
 Meets on the first Wednesday of every month



New Orleans Scottish Rite Temple

619-621 Carondelet Street
 New Orleans, LA 70130-3503
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 Tel: 504-522-3789 Fax: 504-527-5892
 Email: nosrt@bellsouth.net
 WebSite: www.nolascottishrite.com

Spring Reunion
May 20th

Calendar of Events-2006

Wednesday, May 3rd

All Bodies to Open
 Cajun Meal-Bayou Fellowship Lodge

Spring Reunion May 20

Wednesday, June 7th

All Bodies Open-Pot Luck Supper

Wednesday, July 5th

Annual 4th of July Music-Hots Dogs

Wednesday, August 2nd

Guest Chef

Wednesday, September 6th

Feast of Tishri-Reobligation Night

Wednesday, October 4th

Guest Cajun Chef

Wednesday, November 1st

New Guest Chef

Wednesday, December 6th

Annual Christmas Music Program

Knights of St. Andrew

Meeting the 3rd Monday of each Month



From the Secretary's Desk
 The New Orleans Valley invites all wives or ladies to come to the Scottish Rite Ladies meeting. They are held on the First Wednesday of each month. They meet in the dining area while the men attend their meeting. The meetings are not structured, more social with programs for crafts, games, getting to know each other and generally a fun time.

Our ladies are invited to attend our speaker programs and become a vital part of our Fraternity. For more information, contact Bonnie Wall (504) 367-7657 or Connie Hebert (504) 361-3975.

Fraternally
Lloyd A. Hebert, 33° Secretary



Valley News

On March 1, 2006, the Valley of New Orleans held a Red Beans & Rice cook-off. As most locals already know, New Orleans is famous for its traditional Red Beans & Rice dish which eaten every Monday of the year in our great City. Five contestants worked hard to prepare their finest versions of this culinary treat. One chef included peeled shrimp in his version of the dish—a “secret Cajun ingredient.” Other chefs opted for the traditional pickled pork, ham, and sausage seasonings. Different varieties of Rice from local Louisiana growers accompanied the Red Beans entries. The following chefs are to be thanked for contributing to the event and preparing enough Red Beans & Rice to feed an army (or a few Scottish Rite Masons): Bro. Ralph Rabalais, 32°, KSA, Bro. Cleve Bruce, 32°, KCCH & his wife Rose Bruce, Bro. Junior LeBeouf, 32°, KCCH, Bro. Russell LeBeouf, 32°, and Connie Hebert, wife of Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33°. All of the chefs were declared winners! After the meal, the Valley listened to a lecture by Heather Bellanger, CPA, on the tax implications created by Hurricane Katrina. Our Venerable Master, Ill. Bro. Paul O.

Langenbeck, 33°, thanked our guest speaker and chefs. He ended the night by announcing his goal to raise funds to purchase new dining room tables and chairs to create greater fellowship in our historical dining hall.

On April 5, 2006, the Valley of New Orleans administered and held its Maundy Thursday Service and celebrated the Feast of the Pascal Lamb. The Rose Croix Chapter and other volunteers from the Knights of St. Andrew performed the service with distinction and dignity—all were dressed in black tie and incorporated Rose Croix regalia. In observance of the solemnity of this occasion and respecting the ancient tradition of “fasting” for the event, only simple refreshments were prepared and available for the guests attending the ceremony.

Knightsly News

The Knights of St. Andrew for the New Orleans Valley completed their first 2006 fundraiser with the greatest of thanks going to Sir Knights Ralph Rabalais & Lee Roberts for donating their time and services to the event. The Knights presented a \$300 dollar contribution to the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation. The Knights have also been honored with the task of acting as ushers and administering refreshments for our Valley's signature fundraising event

continued on page 11

In Memoriam

- John A. M. Bennett, 33°
- Joseph W. Davis, Jr
- Wilton O. Harman
- Henry W. Helmer
- Charles H. James
- David P. Kloete
- Bruce W. Leslie
- Leon C. Lips, Sr.
- Arthur R. Muench
- John J. Sullivan
- William B. Welch, Sr. 33°
- Daniel W. Whitfield
- Bryan P. Wilson
- Jack D. Ziblich

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: John L. Atkinson, 33°

Tel: 318-221-9713 Fax: 318-226-0843

Email: sratkinson@bellsouth.net

Web: www.shreveportscottishrite.com

**2006 Membership Fees are now
past due**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Dinner with Ladies: 6:00 PM
Open Meeting & Program 6:30 PM

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Dinner with Ladies: 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting 6:30 PM

Note: Advisory Conference meets at 5:00 P.M. before each meeting.

Knights of St. Andrew

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month.



Valley News

Our two open meetings in March and April had excellent attendance. The dinner meals, prepared by Lisa Hollier, were one of the highlights as we have come to expect.

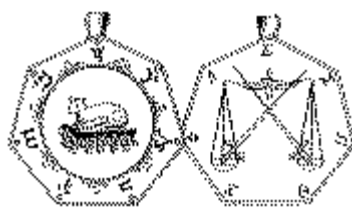
The April Service of Remembrance had the largest number (129) of members, family and friends in attendance in recent years. Ill. Bro Robert E. Bazzell, 33° was our featured speaker. The extinguishing and relighting of the lights was di-

rected by Ill. Bro Ballard E. Smith, PGM-33° Personal Representative.

Thank you to everyone for attending and supporting the event.

As this issue goes to press, we are anticipating a successful Spring Reunion. This reunion will be the initial participation by our newly constituted chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew. This group of Scottish Rite Masons has demonstrated leadership and willingness to participate in the Valley's activities. They are a great asset and deserve recognition.

*John L. Atkinson, 33°
General Secretary*



Special Recognition and Wishes

On March 30th, one of our 'chief strengths and support' celebrated his 93rd birthday. Ill. Bro Melvin M. Regan, 33° was honored with a surprise party, hosted by W. H. Booth Lodge #380. Bro Keith Tindell, 32°, under the direction of Worshipful Master Donald L. Huguley, pulled the surprise together with over 50 brethren in attendance.

There isn't enough space available to be able to mention all of the continuing work that Bro Mel provides for the Shreveport-Bossier area. A Charter Member and Past Master of Temple Lodge #448, he is an active esoteric coach, participates in conferring all three degrees at several lodges in the 1st District, holds parts in several of the Scottish Rite Degrees and is a very active member in our Valley.

Bro Regan is always quick to share a kind word, a firm handshake and lend support to any Masonic endeavor. Bro Mel was coronated 33° Inspector General Honorary in 1993 and he hasn't rested on his laurels. A finer man, friend and brother can not be found.



Bro B. Keith Tindell, Lumen Tindell, Bro Mel Regan, his lady Lois and R: W: S. Bruce Easterly-DGM 32° KCCH



W: Don Huguley-WM, W: Bro Mel Regan, PM and Bro Keith Tindell, Junior Warden



IN MEMORIAM

- Robert Edward Adams, 32°
Shreveport
- Aubrey Hollian Launius, 32°
Bossier City
- Harry Hamm Creech, 32°
Bossier City
- Guy Leonard Stroud, 32°
Hurst, Texas
- Billy Joe Whitaker, 32° KCCH
Shreveport

Valley of Lake Charles News

Chartered October 16, 1923

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month

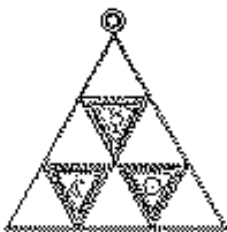


Lake Charles Masonic Temple
 717 Hodges Street
 Lake Charles, LA 70601
 Secretary: Charles G. Callahan, 33°
 Tel: 337-436-1676 Fax: 337-436-1673
 Email: lcscotti@structurex.net

*The Door is always Open and the
 Coffee is always Hot and Ready!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-2006

- Wednesday, May 17th**
Lacon Lagros-Private Investigations
 - Wednesday, June 21st**
Cajun Music Program
 - Wednesday, July 19th**
Louis Ackal-Story Telling
 - Wednesday, August 16th**
Open Meeting with Program
 - Wednesday, September 20th**
Past Venerable Masters Night
 - Wednesday, October 18th**
Open Meeting with Program
 - Wednesday, November 15th**
Eastern Star and Birthdays
 - Wednesday, December 20th**
Christmas Program
- Note: The last Friday of every month, through October, is Back Door Lunch.**



2006 Officers

Lodge of Perfection:

Venerable Master: Herrin J. Ducote, 33°
Senior Warden: Harold Young
Junior Warden: Jimmy Leger

Chapter Rose Croix:

Wise Master: R. D. Verret
Senior Warden: Daryl Johnson
Junior Warden: Ken Michel

Council of Kadosh:

Commander: Bill Bailey
1st Lt. Commander: Allen Fruge
2nd Lt. Commander: Archie Hickman

Consistory:

Master of Kadosh: Al Bianchi
Prior: John Butterick
Preceptor: Cliff Heath

Treasurer to All Bodies:

Clarence Callahan



Ill. Herrin J. Ducote, 33° Venerable Master

Valley News

The Valley has been very active recently. Beginning with our March 15th meeting, which was well attended by our Members, their Ladies, Widows and guests, our dinner hour was a huge success. Bros.. Allen Fruge, 33° and Jerry Manuel, 32° KCCCH and Ray Moses, 33° prepared baked chicken. Then evening continued with Ronnie Breaux, our guest speaker, talking about local football and new equipment.

Our Valley was well represented at the Houston Leadership Conference.

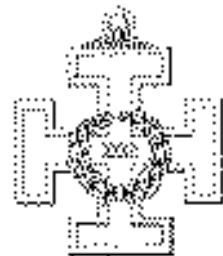
Bros. Richard B. Smith, 33° Personal Representative, Charles G. Callahan, 33° General Secretary and Jimmy Leger, 32° KCCCH and Membership Chairman were in attendance. The Rite Course weekend was the best conference to date. Look for the information garnered there to be presented to the membership during a regular meeting.

Our March and April Back-Door Lunch had great attendance. Venerable Master Ducote asked Bro. Joke Kyle, 32° to speak on the Medicare Part D program in March.

The American Patriotism Award letters have been mailed to over 90 schools in our Valley. The response has been overwhelming. Bro. John Butterick, 32° Chairman of the Patriotism Awards has done another excellent job.

Bro. Harold Young, 33° is slowly recovering from the fire that destroyed his home in Westlake. Bro. Young was traveling to Shreveport for the Leadership Conference when the tragedy occurred.

If you have any news or tidbits to publish in the Trestleboard, please contact Charlie Callahan at 436-1676, fax 436-1673 or email at lcscotti@structurex.net



IN MEMORIAM

- Bennie F Frazier, 32°
- Walter W Followay, 32°
- Donald L Hebert, 32°
- T L "Jack" Kemp, 32°
- Eugene C Todd, 32°

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: Lloyd G. Pence, 33°
 Tel: 225-275-0668 Fax: 225-273-0750
 Email: BRSR@bellsouth.net

2006 Fees are now past due

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday May 8, 2006

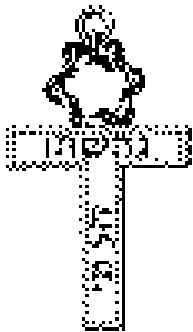
Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Regular Stated Meeting 7:30 PM
Honoring 50-Year Members
M: W: Clayton J Borne III, Grand Master Speaker

Monday June 12, 2006

Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:30 PM
Report on the Houston Leadership Conference

Knights of St. Andrew

Meets the 4th Monday of every month.
 Refreshment: 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:00 PM



Venerable Master's Message

Brethren, it does not seem like one third of our year is over. It has been an event filled year with more events to follow. In addition to Masonic information, speakers have informed us on hurricanes and how to deal with the problems our increasing population brings. In May our Grand Master will speak and in June we will report on the Leadership Conference in Houston.

We hope you will join us at our regular meetings held on the 2nd Monday of each month. We also hope you will let us know what you want done in our valley and how we can better serve you.

We again have a kitchen staff that is doing great work and we are as thankful for our ladies as they truly lighten and brighten our meetings.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

*James E Grady, 32° KCCH
 Venerable Master*



Knightly News

The KStA members held a welcoming party for the new Scottish Rite members of Valley of Baton Rouge. The party was held down the street at the Al Azar Grotto building and included a festive board, bar-b-que and entertainment. The Pelican Chapter of DeMolay was onsite to assist in the preparation.

Also, the revised Constitution and Code Manual for the KStA has been reviewed and approved by William J. Mollere, Deputy of Louisiana for use at all Louisiana Valleys. This edition includes: The History of the Order (Past and Present), Dress Codes and Chapter Settings, Squire/Knighting and Officers Ceremonies, Opening and Closing of a Chapter Ceremony as well as the Constitution and By-Laws for the Baton Rouge Chapter. This book is to serve only as a guide for all Valleys and was created by the Book Committee of the Baton Rouge Chapter. If any other Louisiana Chapters need a

copy of the book, contact Sir Keith Duncan at 225-791-6140

*Sir Keith Duncan
 Knight Commander*



Personal Representative Message

For most of my 65 years I have been a very competitive person. My mother taught me when I was very young that there is no shame in playing or competing to win, but by the same token, there is also no shame in loosing if you give your just effort. I tried to instill in my children, and now in my grandchildren, that same determination. "Determination is born out of purpose...knowing that you are gifted for something and this something must be attained. It is never enough to rely on luck or natural talent. You must, above all, believe in yourself, face your goals, and then fight as if your life depended on it." With this determination, the Baton Rouge Valley has set goals for this year, goals of 30 new members, not loosing any members to NPD, holding joint meetings with Shrine, Eastern Star and other fraternal organizations, setting up clubs in outlying areas. Is it possible? Regardless of your answer, if we give it our just effort and fail, there will be no shame. **If we resolve to succeed, we just might discover that nothing is impossible.**

On May 5th & 6th there will be a Conference of the Orient in Monroe where
continued on page 10

In Memoriam
 Merlin Anthony Dover, 32°
 Richard Adonald Smith, 32°
 Wilfred James Whitehead, 32°

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: Robert Joyner, 33°
 Tel: 318-343-6388 Fax: 318-343-5492
 Email: msrb33@bellsouth.net

2006 Fees are now past due

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 4th	
Dinner with Ladies	6:00 PM
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM
Thursday, June 1st	
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM
Thursday, July 6th	
Dinner with Ladies	6:00 PM
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM



Endowed Membership

Have you ever thought, "Oh well", it is time to pay dues again? You can avoid ever having to pay dues again, even if the dues continue to go up from year to year, by buying an Endowed Membership! Since the dues are going up next year, why not look into the Endowed Membership Now! It costs \$1000.00 and can be paid off in four (4) installments, if so desired. Check with the Secretary, Ill: Robert C. Joyner, 33°, and get the details. A younger Scottish Rite Mason can save a lot of money during his remaining years and even some of the older Brethren have bought the Endowed Membership to ensure the continuation of their Beloved Scottish Rite in Monroe.

The Scottish Rite

Remember when you heard that receiving the Scottish Rite Degrees could be compared to academics? If we consider our "search for light" and remember the Blue Lodge Degrees, they can be considered as comparable to a college degree and the progress in the Scottish Rite Degrees to being a 32° Scottish Rite Mason or a Master of the Royal Secret could be likened to a graduate or university degree.

One of the things we must remember is that when we secure a petition from a Brother Master Mason, we should recall some of the teachings of the Scottish Rite regarding Brotherly Love and demonstrate these teachings by being a Brother to the new member. Don't just let him sit or wander around on his own - - - visit with him, find out where he is from, what he does, does he have family - - - let him know you are interested in him and are glad he is a New Master of the Royal Secret so you could welcome him and together you could discuss the teachings of Scottish Rite.



Rose Upon the Altar

The cast of the Carl Claudy Masonic play, A Rose upon the Altar has had a busy schedule this Spring and can certainly be called a "traveling group of Actors." They presented their production at Michael Dempsey Lodge #327 in Jena on March 27th, R. F. McGuire Lodge #209 in Rayville on April 21st, followed the next night at Choudrant #339 in Choudrant. This play, which teaches an important Masonic Tenet, is well-worth seeing and whenever it is produced in your area, you should make every effort to attend and support these Brethren who freely give of their time and thespian ability in support of the old adage, "Don't Hide Your Light Under a Bushel." Attend, you will enjoy it!!



I Am A New Member

I see you at meetings but you never say "Hello."

You're busy all the time, you're there with the ones you already know.

I sit among the people, I'm only lonesome, not shy.

I want to be your friend, you see, but you old members just pass me by.

You have all invited me in and you talk of good fellowship.

You need only step across the room, but never bothered to make the trip.

Why can't you nod and say "Hello" or stop and shake my hand?

Then go and sit with your friends, that's something I'd understand.

I'll be at your next meeting, this message I want to send.

Please introduce yourself to me, I really want to be your friend.

*From the National Sojourner
 Author Unknown*



The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal

On April 13th, the Monroe Bodies presented the traditional Maundy Thursday Service, as the program was previously known, and it was well received. As you may remember from previous presentations, this is the time when we call the roll of the Brethren who have advanced to that Celestial Lodge above "in that house not built with hands, eternal in the Heavens." Scottish Rite Masons are obligated (in 18th degree) to at-

continued on page 14

IN MEMORIAM
 Denver Lavalla Copeland, 32°
 John L Sullivan, 32°

Baton Rouge Valley News—Personal Rep.
continued from page 8

the leaders of the five valleys will meet to discuss the state and condition of the Orient. Ideas are thrown on the table for discussion as to where the Scottish Rite has been, where we now are and where we are going. We need to know what you want so make your feelings known to your leaders so they can voice your opinion.

It has been decided to change the June meeting. We were originally going to move the charter to Hammond for a meeting with the Eastern Star, but we could not work out the details. After returning from the Leadership Conference in Houston, we decided to give the membership a presentation on this conference and how it will affect each of us. Since it affects all masons, we will invite Blue Lodge Masons, Eastern Star, Shrine, Grotto & York Rite to attend this meeting.

For the future we are planning a “Declaration of Independence” presentation and what a great program that will be. Our cast of George Washington (Jim Galloway), Benjamin Franklin (Danny Smith) and Thomas Hancock (Tim Hutchinson) in full colonial dress will do much to show our pride in our ancestors and founders of this country.

Brethren, the adrenalin is flowing and mistakes will be made, but I ask you to overlook my mistakes, dismiss them and work with me. I will do my best not to make the same mistake twice. We need your help, all of you to join us, as **you** are our **Valley**. The Leadership Conference in Houston showed me how ill prepared I am for the job as Personal Representative, but with your help and of brethren from other Valleys, I will do my best to make you proud.

Ill. Robert J. Hutchinson, 33°
Personal Representative

New Orleans Valley News
continued: Knightly News

planned for 2006: an October concert of notable entertainers from Branson, Missouri. The Knights are still raising money for their 29th degree regalia and the Valley. Any contributions would be most appreciated. If you have any kilts or other Scottish highlander regalia that you would like to donate, the Knights would be glad to receive it.

New Orleans Valley News
continued:

Upcoming Events

Our stated May 3, 2006 meeting is sure to create some excitement. The good Cajuns from Bayou Fellowship Lodge will prepare a Cajun meal for the New Orleans Valley. If the meal is anything like it was last year, then you had better arrive early before their gourmet meal runs out. Last year’s menu included delicious seafood fritters—everyone demanded a second portion. Please let the Valley know if you intend to bring guests so we can give the good brothers of Bayou Fellowship Lodge advance notice of the estimated numbers of diners so they can make sure to prepare enough for everyone.

On Saturday, May 20, 2007, the New Orleans Valley will celebrate its Spring Reunion. All Scottish Rite Brethren are invited to attend. A breakfast will be available for our guests, petitioning brothers, and degree team members. Please arrive early. If you’re already a Scottish Rite mason and haven’t seen the degrees in awhile, then now is the time to again experience the beautiful esoteric work, moral lessons, and philosophical truths that each degree has to offer. Come out and renew your zeal for the craft—it’s now more important than ever [we’ll also make sure to put you to work!].

On, Wednesday, June 7, 2006, the New Orleans Valley will open all Scottish Rite Bodies. The brethren are invited to bring their best appetizer, salad, casserole, dinner dish, or dessert for a “Potluck Supper.” The chef who brings the best dish will receive an award and the admiration of the Valley. If you would like to bring a dish then please contact Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33° to R.S.V.P. and let him know what type of dish you intend to prepare. A children’s choir may also attend the event to share their zeal for music and to entertain the brethren.

The Valley will shortly announce its major fundraising event for 2006. Discussions and plans are underway to hold an October 2006 musical concert in our historical auditorium. Your correspondent looks forward to providing you with more information when it is available. Rumors suggest that the night’s entertainment will include famous entertainers from Branson, Missouri.

New Orleans Valley News
continued:

From Your Correspondent

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, SJ and Freemasonry offer the next generation of young men something of true worth and value. While our modern world has advanced in science and technology, little attention has been paid to individual spiritual growth, character building, and communal fellowship. Our fast paced world has created an environment of isolation where we often do not even know who are neighbors are in the very communities in which we live. The Internet, while a tool of great possibility, also can create an impersonal isolation and loneliness. Ancient man did not have such disconnects or experience this type of isolation—he was a communal and spiritual creature. In today’s world, men are seeking an environment that makes up for the isolation that they have experienced—they long for spiritual growth, community, and true fellowship.

The lessons and truths of the Scottish Rite Degrees offer this new generation hope. With hard work and a study of the Scottish Rite Degrees and participation in Valley meetings, a new Scottish Rite brother can achieve greater spiritual growth, communal fellowship, and build true and lasting bonds. He can reinvigorate his own personal religious beliefs. He can enhance his own spiritual growth by studying comparative religion and the ancient mysteries. He can study the philosophical questions posited by the degree rituals that have puzzled man from the beginning. He can surround himself with men of good character and worth who believe in these same truths. He can benefit from the collective wisdom of our elder brethren. He can gain lasting companions who will travel with him on life’s journey.

Finally, he can study and learn the esoteric truths contained in *Morals & Dogma*. Such a study takes time and dedication, but the core lessons from Ill. Bro. Albert Pike’s *Morals & Dogma* are evident: *walk a spiritual path with others, knowledge is power, question everything that fails to seek justice, pursue the greater good, oppose tyranny, do good in your community, and keep everything in your life in balance*. These are the lasting truths that will guide the next generation of Scottish Rite masons—they have guided previous generations and the ancients of old. These core values are

continued on page 14

CENTER NEWS

New Learning Center at ULL

The Lake Charles Scottish Rite Bodies are please to announce the opening of the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation (LSRF) - Rite Care Childhood Language Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL). The opening of this learning center makes the fifth in the Orient of Louisiana and is the first to serve primarily children in the Valley of Lake Charles.

Dr. Martin Ball, Department Head for Communications Disorders, and Ms. Holly Damico, Clinic Director, from ULL provide the professional oversight of the learning center operations. Brother Wilbert Stelly, 32° KCCH, serves as our learning center administrator and Brother Richard Arnaud, 32°, assists Brother Stelly with the day-to-day operations. Ms. Amy Ballard is the recipient of the LSRF scholarship to pursue graduate work and obtain the Masters Degree in Communications Disorders. Amy also serves as the clinician for the children enrolled in the program. The clinic is located on the ULL campus on the second floor of Burke-Hawthorne Hall.

If you know of a child in the Lafayette area that might benefit by the services of our learning center, please contact the Lake Charles Scottish Rite Bodies at (337) 436-1676 voice or (337) 436-1673 (fax) or email: lcscotti@structurex.net

*Richard B Smith, 33°
Personal Representative*



**Admiral E. A. Barham 33°
Speech and Hearing Center**

On Friday, March 10, 2006 the Department of Communicative Disorders of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, hosted a statewide Spring Conference for Speech Pathologists and asked the Monroe Bodies to help. We were glad to assist them because ULM's Department of Communicative Disorders (CODI) furnishes graduate clinicians for the Admiral E. A. Barham Scottish Rite Speech and Hearing Center. The Kitchen Crew did themselves proud by serving breakfast for approximately 100 people and over 170 for lunch. Those in attendance were very complimentary and appreciative of the meals and the fellowship enjoyed during the repasts. Several of the Speech

continued next column

continued: Monroe Center

Pathologists who had received Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarships and had given therapy to clients at the Monroe Rite-Care Center attended the Conference and expressed their gratitude for the start they had received here in our facility.

*Beryl C Franklin, 33°
Center Administrator*



Ill. Dr. Beryl Franklin, 33° presenting Christine Lagarde with her scholarship award



Ill. Robert Joyner presenting Rachel Book with her Foundation Scholarship award.



Monroe's 3 Clinicians: Christine Lagarde, Rachel Book and Monique Sterling



From the Conference at ULM



Note: Dad if you look closely, the young lady third from the right on back wall is Courtney.



To Be Free Or Not To Be Free

continued from page 1:

should be “enlightened” on moral and ethical issues, so that they will govern themselves properly. Enlightenment philosopher David Hume wrote, “Morality is a subject that interests us above all others. We imagine the peace of society to be at stake in every decision concerning it.”

The need to temper one’s freedom with ethical and moral concessions to the equal rights of others was called “The Social Contract”. Locke and Rousseau, for example, had much to say on the subject of “The Social Contract”.

Careful and deliberate efforts were made to “enlighten” men and women so as to make the emerging democratic civil societies successful. These efforts included “moral weeklies” — small tabloid-like weekly papers that were devoted to the discussion of specific moral and ethical issues. Also, “coffee houses” — new to Europe and growing out of its interaction with Turkey — served as a venue for open discussion of “enlightenment” issues, as did seminar-like gatherings in the salons of “the bourgeoisie”.

Very prominent among the modalities for the spread of Enlightenment ideals were the Lodges of Freemasonry. The Craft was crucially instrumental in preparing people for democracy, by spreading “enlightenment” on issues of morality and ethics. At a pivotal time in the history of Europe, Freemasonry was ready, willing, and able, to provide free men with the moral and ethical tools necessary to make the most of their new freedom.

The next time you hear someone say that “freedom” is what makes America great, you may want to count the spoons, before he gets too far down the road. What has made America great is enlightened freedom — freedom tempered by ethics and morality. Without ethics and morality, freedom is a destructive thing that weakens democracy, rather than strengthening it. Without ethics and morality, we would be better off (as Hobbes argued) governed by a monarch, with absolute power to make us behave properly.

Surely, though, enlightened democracy is the state of affairs that is to be desired above all others.

And Freemasonry remains, still, the principal repository of Enlightenment ideals. Let us do all that is in our power to assure that such will always be the case.

¹ (See “The Louisiana Freemason”, vol. 34, No. 2, August, 2005, pages 34 and 35.)

Dr. Wade is a Past Master of St. James Lodge #47 in Baton Rouge, member of the Baton Rouge Valley and is a regular contributor to the Trestleboard.



Where It All Begins

I am certain that everyone has one or more copies of the Petition For Degrees In Masonry at their immediate disposal. In the rare instance that you may have given your last petition to a prospect and haven’t secured another copy, there is one on the right hand page so that you might follow along.

Our Louisiana petition is similar in format to many Grand Lodge jurisdictions. The elementary information provided on the applicant’s petition is *where it all begins*. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the data is correct and the questions asked be answered in their entirety. The Brother(s) that sign the petition should be the first proof reader before turning it into the Lodge. A most common mistake is on Question 3, what is your full name. Many times the petition only has a middle initial, instead of his middle name. Also, Billy Bob Jones could be in reality William Robert Jones. Although, I know a guy whose given name is Billy Bob. He filled out his petition as *Thursday* being his date of birth and place of birth was *Emergency Room*. He also checked all 4 lines on Question 5. I heard he is currently serving in the Grand Line of another jurisdiction.

The sparse information that is asked of the petitioner leaves a terrible void as far as personal information. He may indicate he is married, but isn’t asked for his wife’s name. He may have children, however the petition doesn’t request that information. He may belong to many civic and/or social organizations, but again, that isn’t revealed. At the Secretary’s desk, during the Entered Apprentice Degree, I use a *form* asking for spouse and children’s names with their dates of birth, anniversary date, cell phone numbers, E-mail addresses, civic organizations, schools attended and hobbies. Although this form serves a two-fold purpose, the information is invaluable and allows me the opportunity to introduce the new member to a mentoring brother with similar background and interests.

The petition asks for Social Security and Driver’s License numbers. Since September 11, 2001 it is increasingly difficult to secure background checks through our local law enforcement agencies. I have a firm belief that a new petition should include a release to have a check performed and the cost for the service be borne by petitioner. The fee would be attached to the release, forwarded to a company contracted to perform such services and the results provided to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge could check their data base to see if the candidate had ever applied to a lodge in Louisiana in addition to adding the new petitioner to their base. I can already hear the groans and mutter of a few readers. “*Why I’ve known lil Jack since he was born*”... “*This is my nephew, you don’t need to check him.*” I truly appreciate those opinions. Before anyone goes postal, please read the disclaimer on page 2. I won’t draw your attention to being granted free reign.

Those active in our Rite have lamented our declining membership rolls. The Blue Lodges and their new petitioners are our strength and support. It all begins with the form on page 13. Without doubt, there is a friend or family member, that we each know, who would become a better husband, father, employer/employee and neighbor if he was provided a copy. Take a moment to discuss our Fraternity with these men. Replenish your supply of petitions and have them readily available.

The Ed



The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana
PETITION FOR DEGREES IN MASONRY
(Lodge Secretaries Order From Service Committee)



20

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____

Having read the statement on the reverse of this petition, I respectfully represent that unbiased by the solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry. I am prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish to be serviceable to my fellow creatures, to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry. I promise, if I am elected, that I will yield obedience to the ancient customs and laws of the fraternity. I pledge on my honor that no unworthy motive, selfish consideration, persuasion or influence has induced me to make this application.

1. Do you believe in God? _____ 2. Are you a citizen of the United States? _____

3. What is your full name? (Please Print) _____

4. What is the date of your birth? _____ Birthplace? _____

5. Are you Married? _____ Single? _____ Widower? _____ Divorced? _____

6. What is your residence address? _____ Phone No. ? _____

7. Where have you reside during the past five years? (Give dates and locations) _____

8. What is your occupation? _____ Name of Employer? _____

9. What is your business address? _____ Phone No. ? _____

10. By whom and where have you been employed during the past five years? _____

11. Do you speak, read and write the English Language? _____

12. Do you have any infirmities, disabilities or physical defects? _____

If "yes" explain _____

13. Have you ever been given a citation, arrested and/or been a defendant in a criminal case? Yes No. if yes, make full disclosure as to the place, date, nature of the offense and the disposition of the case. _____

14. Have you ever applied to any Lodge of Masons? _____ If "Yes" state name, number, location of Lodge and date: _____

15. Have you ever been rejected by any Lodge of Masons? _____ If "Yes" state name, number, location of Lodge and date: _____

16. Give names, addresses and phone numbers of three references who personally know you _____

17. a. What is your Social Security No.? _____ b. What is your Drivers License No.? _____

18. Will this present a hardship to you or your family? Yes No

I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing.

Signature _____ Mailing Address _____

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that we know, or we have received Masonic information, relative to the above named petitioner, and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro. _____ Bro. _____

Referred _____ Elected _____ Rejected _____

NOTE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

"INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE"

FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE

Signature _____ Name _____

Table with 4 columns: Record (S.A., F.C., M.M.), Elected, Degree Conferred, Examination

Valley of Monroe - Service of Remembrance
continued from page 9

tend this solemn and soul-searching ceremony.

The Extinguishing of the Lights' is followed by the Paschal Feast and then the ceremony of Relighting the Lights is presented to encourage all our Brethren to re-dedicate themselves to the Light achieved in the Scottish Rite. The tenets taught in the several degrees should be remembered and observed so that the public may recognize the higher morality of a Mason and especially that of a Scottish Rite Mason. This is always an open meeting and would be a very good future time to bring a friend or a Brother who is not a Scottish Rite Mason as well as your family. We feel that they will be favorably impressed!

Fraternally,
Beryl C. Franklin, Ph.D., 33°

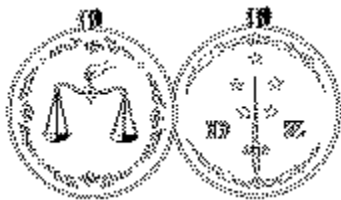
Views from the Horse Show



Ill. Roy McDuffie, PGM 33° with Rachel Book, Monique Sterling and Christine Lagarde



Ill. John Atkinson, 33° flanked by Monique and Christine



Valley of New Orleans News
continued from page 11:

priceless in the 21st Century and in great demand. We must continue to light the beacon of truth, tend the ancient fires, and guide the next generation onto our noble path.

Fiat Lux,
Marc Conrad, 32°-KSA.



Post Script From the Secretary

One of the most important tasks that I have as your Secretary is to make the brethren and their families feel welcome in our Valley. Please feel free to stop by and visit me if you have any special needs, requirements, or require assistance. I will see to it that your needs are met to the best of my abilities. We do not have any strangers in our Valley and all are welcome! If you would like to renew your interest in the Scottish Rite, become active in the Valley, or if you require any assistance, then please feel free to drop by for a chat. *Fiat Lux, Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33°.*

[Lloyd will provide you with something else via email if he wants something special.]



Spring Reunion

The Spring Reunion is planned for **May 20, 2006**. Please mark your calendar. We look forward to welcoming those brothers who have petitioned the Scottish Rite. We continue to receive more petitioners each day. This Scottish Rite reunion will certainly be special because it is the first to be held since Hurricane Katrina. If you know of any brothers who might be interested in receiving more light in freemasonry, then please do them a favor and give them a Petition. All Scottish Rite brethren are invited to attend and help with the reunion. For more information or if you need a Petition, please contact Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33°.



continued next column

Valley of New Orleans News
continued:

2006 Officers

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection:

Venerable Master: Paul O. Langenbeck, 33°
Senior Warden: Henry F. Thibodaux, Jr., KCCH
Junior Warden: Ion Lazar, 32°, KSA

Pelican Chapter Rose Croix:

Wise Master: William C. Gray, 33°
Senior Warden: Clayton A. Wolfe, 32°, KSA
Junior Warden: Edward J. Branley, 32°, KSA

Eagle Council of Kadosh:

Commander: Frank DuTreil, 33°
1st Lt. Commander: Warren A. Hintz, Jr., KCCH
2nd Lt. Commander: Daryl G. Glorioso, 32°, KSA

New Orleans Consistory:

Master of Kadosh: Jay W. Owensby, KCCH, KSA
Prior: Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA
Preceptor: Guy T. Wilson, 32°, KSA

Treasurer to All Bodies:

John Z. Zollinger, III, 33°

Knights of St. Andrew:

Venerable Master: Ion Lazar, 32°, KSA
Senior Warden: Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA
Junior Warden: Guy T. Wilson, 32°, KSA



Perpetual Membership

The time is right now, why wait?! Our Valley offers a great way to support the mission and legacy of the Scottish Rite while at the same time providing a benefit to its members. Any brother with a current dues card may obtain a perpetual membership in our Valley. The cost is one lump sum of \$1,250.00. However, those desiring perpetual membership may also choose to participate in a payment plan while continuing to pay their dues. Please see Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33° for more information and details. This would make a great gift for a Scottish Rite Brother.



Update Your Records

Update your personal information through the Supreme Council computer data base. Just use the following link/web address. You might want to bookmark it.

<https://secure.srmason-sj.org/OnlineMemberUpdate/MemberUpdate1.asp>

This will help us better serve our membership state wide. It will aid in keeping your address and information current, in case of relocation and like circumstances.

THE LAST WORD



**Ill. William J. Mollere, 33°
Deputy in Louisiana**

Are We Snobs?

Not too long ago someone told me that I was a snob for belonging to Masonry. The person said that all of us were snobs. I asked why and the person told me that we all set ourselves apart and thought ourselves better than others, when we really were just regular people. Well, being a person who really doesn't like to be "put down" for little or no reason, I went to my handy-dandy *Merriam Webster* and looked up SNOB. A snob is defined as – 1. a member of the lower classes, such as a cobbler; 2. one who blatantly imitates, fawningly admires, or vulgarly seeks association with those he regards as his superiors; 3. one who tends to rebuff, avoid, or ignore those he regards as his inferiors; 4. one who has an offensive air of superiority in matters of knowledge or taste. That took me down a few steps too. Hum-m-m? A snob? Well looking at each one of the defined areas, it seemed to me that none of the fine people who have crossed my path down the journey of Freemasonry were lower class, vulgarly seeking those who were considered superiors, ignoring those who might be considered inferiors, or being offensive by acting superior. Quite the contrary! Masonry welcomed me into its mysteries and gave to me men who became friends and Brothers, and who offered me mentoring, taught me generosity, helped me over obstacles in my life's journey, and impressed upon me the trait of service to others – always helping others. No; not a snob. However, I was drawn to another term – Elite. *Webster* again – 1. the choice part; 2. a socially superior group; 3. a powerful minority; 4. displaying leadership to others; 5. consciousness of being or belonging to such a group. YES - I am an elitist! All of those defined areas did represent much of my Masonry – being drawn to a choice group, belonging to a social (read – caring) group of great people, belonging to a powerful minority, always working toward the goal of being and displaying leadership, and being very conscience of being a Freemason – being aware every day. Not having run into *that* person since that original discussion has mellowed my enthusiasm for telling them to go look in their dictionary and see themselves somewhere between snivel and SNO-BOL. Then again, that would place me in a position of lower class activity, and I am a member of the elite. Just forgive and forget and move forward. So be careful when you call someone something that you may have thought was a "back-handed compliment" when in fact it was a back-handed slap. Masonry has taught me and offered me so much more of which to be thankful.

Words have always fascinated me and using them can be fun, yet challenging. Our words in Masonry have deep meaning and offer great lessons. But we don't do much to teach the words and their meanings – the true meanings. That made me realize that we as Masons, especially Scottish Rite Masons, are usually intellectually starving for more Light. A good and dear friend and Brother told me recently that our Scottish Rite meetings were trying to become entertainment for our members. He said that those people wanting to be entertained should stay home and watch

television. Coming to a Masonic meeting or event should be stimulating. He rightfully stated that we need to educate ourselves about Masonry – from the Lodge level and onward. Each month, our Grand Lodge Education Committee sends a one page education quiz to every Lodge in the monthly Grand Lodge mailing. I have often wondered how many Lodges actually use that quiz during a meeting to help educate the members present and stimulate them intellectually? It takes all of five minutes and usual provokes discussion on the questions in the quiz. What a wonderful tool, and how often is it used? Scottish Rite meetings should always be an educational and stimulating experience, as should the Degrees during a Reunion, as should our sitting and visiting before and after any Masonic activity. We tell everyone that Scottish Rite is the "University of Freemasonry", yet we are not offering any classes. Scottish Rite 101 should be offered to every new Master of the Royal Secret and then each man should move on to advanced courses. But who in your Valleys teach these courses? Who is the person selected by the Venerable Master at each meeting to give More Light? We must never fail to offer courses to our "university students". Today, more than ever, men are searching for something beyond their daily lives and recreational moments – Masonry has the answer, and Scottish Rite Masonry really has the answer – stimulating words set in Degrees that offer something of life's lessons, character building, honesty and integrity in dealing with others, respect for one another, cherishing values that have been protected and handed down through the ages – it is all there for the taking. Please ask for and require that each meeting offer the stimulation and education needed and sought after today. Do not settle for a meeting that only entertains and leaves us starving intellectually when we leave and head for home. Be an active member of our elite organization. Thank you for continuing to be an elitist and an active Scottish Rite Mason.

Bill Mollere

Thanks and Appreciation

As Deputy for Louisiana, it is a great pleasure to represent each of you to our Supreme Council. During the middle of March, most of our Leadership Team and several "Fellows" journeyed to Houston for the biennial Leadership Workshop. Every two years a special conference is held to offer new information to members. Our little Orient (state) had eighteen Scottish Rite members attend and additionally eight of our Ladies were present. If we count our Grand Commander Seale and his Lady and their son, we had a total of twenty-nine Louisiana people present. Not too shabby! The Workshop was outstanding and the Brethren who presented the five sessions offered did an wonderful job. The opening and closing was handled by Grand Commander Seale, so you know that it was something special. Every Valley was well represented, and I thank each who attended for taking a long weekend at their own expense to attend and learn more. I have asked that each Valley get those who attended together and review all of the material and then present it to all of the membership at a regular meeting – hopefully in May or June. Please be in attendance to learn about our latest plans for Scottish Rite.

By now we have had most of our Spring Reunions – Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Monroe and Shreveport. We have new Masters of the Royal Secret, Thirty-Second Degree Masons in each of these Valleys. Don't let them get away without welcoming them and getting them to be a part of our organization. Make these new members feel a part of us – they are now a part of us. Keep them involved, keep them active.

Bill Mollere, Deputy



Did You Know?

32° Master of the Royal Secret:

The cap for a Master of the Royal Secret shall be circular style, 3-1/8 inches high, made of heavy black grosgrain silk. Band of 18 ligne No. 2180 black silk braid 1-1/4 inches wide finished, a cord welt above and below the band. One row of 3 ligne No. 1062 gilt vellum wire lace at top and bottom of band, leaving an interval 9/16 inch on band between the lace. On center in front a double-headed eagle 1-3/4 inches high with a red equilateral triangle 3/4 inch high, including rays, above the eagle. The total height of the eagle and rayed equilateral triangle to be 2-1/2 inches. The eagle of Nos. 29, 30 and 31 gilt bullion. The equilateral triangle to be of red cloth outlined with No. 3 gilt jaceron with figure 32 in center and rays outside of Nos. 25 and 26 gilt bullion embroidery. A regulation gilt bullion double overcord, fastened at lower edge of cap on each side with a gold-plated metal button, the latter embossed with a double-headed eagle emblem. Cap lined with black satin and interlined with muslin, the inner rim of buckram, with a leather sweat band.



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

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Lake Charles Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

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Lake Charles Masonic Temple
717 Hodges Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Telephone: (337) 436-1676

And there was...Lite

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way when you criticize them, you are a mile away and you have their shoes.



Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty bell in Independence Hall of July 8, 1776 to call the people together to hearing the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung for the death of Chief Justice Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia.



Lyndon Johnson took the first degree of October 30, 1937 but never progressed any further. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House took his first degree on August 7, 1922. He died in 1961 without receiving the second. Warren G. Harding was initiated on June 28, 1901 and it took him 19 years to complete the other two.



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