

Around The Rite

"The Newsletter of the Valley of Ottawa AASR"



March 2016 Edition # 3

Produced 4 Times Annually

AASR Member Survey

Results of the membership survey taken last summer have now been released and those of us in the Valley of Ottawa have made it pretty clear what's working and what's not.

Out of a total membership of 488 warm bodies, 118 completed the full survey, an excellent rate of return. Here are some highlights:

- More than 70 per cent of us are aged 61 or older and more than 75 per cent have been Masons for more than 21 years.
- A solid majority, 65 per cent said Scottish Rite enhanced their ability to meet new people and just over 65 per cent said it was either important or very important to them to meet new people through AASR who would become lifelong friends.
- 70 per cent said Scottish Rite gave them a feeling of accomplishment and 82 per cent said they were proud to be members of the valley.
- When asked in several instances if they could devote more, less or about the same time to Scottish Rite, a strong majority said about the same.
- 65 per cent were satisfied with the valley's degree program, but only 51 per cent were

CRANKIEST WORKMAN:



Ill. Bro. John Guinn, Junior Grand Warden, may have found his true calling in the 13th degree, portrayed Jan. 11. He's the stooped over workman who complained loudest and longest while they were in search of the ancient temple built by Enoch. The others were Ill. Bro. Rob Clarke (Right) and Ill. Bro. Robert Booth (Center). The three successfully carried their sacred treasure to King Solomon. Sadly there were only seven 33rds and 12 32nds in the audience to see the degree.

satisfied with the social activities on offer and in terms of community programs half said they were only "okay".

Equally, the educational programs rated only an "okay" by almost half of respondents.

- In terms of the variety and quality of all programs offered by the Valley, again about half of respondents rated them only as "okay".
- A strong majority said the valley leadership communicated well and worked effectively with each other.
- More than 67 per cent said the leadership agreed on the valley's goals.
- Support was weaker when respondents were asked if leaders "clearly articulate member responsibilities"—50 per cent agreed but almost 37 per cent said only "partially".
- More than 70 per cent said they had been given the opportunity to use their talents to make a contribution.
- Asked how important Masonic education programs were, more than 46 per cent said they were either important or very important, but another 39 per cent responded with a lukewarm "okay"—yet 81 per cent said they would attend a presentation on Scottish Rite history.

Continued next page

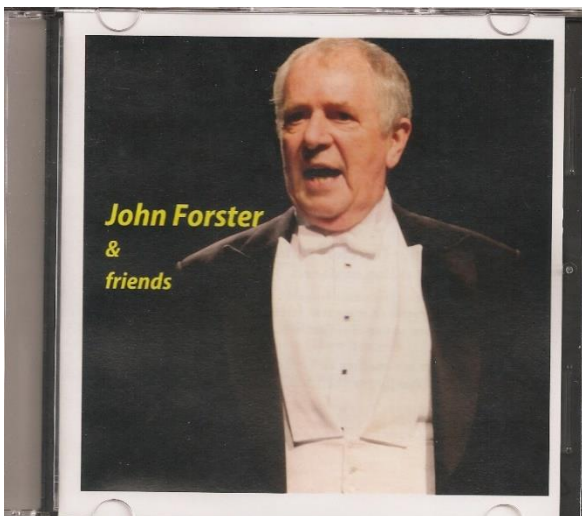
Mission Statement:

The "Around the Rite" Newsletter will provide information to members of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Ottawa to educate, inform and inspire them to become more actively involved.

- A whopping 97 per cent said they were getting valley communications in a timely way, most (64 per cent) by e-mail and regular mail (33 per cent)—only 2.6 per cent identified the web site.
- Almost 84 per cent said the level of communication was “just right”, only 13.5 per cent said it was too little. Similar replies were given for Supreme Council and Charitable Foundation communications.

Full survey results are available in a 116-page power point presentation from the Executive Secretary to members and have been given to the Executive Committee and the Renewal Committee to enable them to develop an action plan.

Forster and Friends



Ill Bro. John Forster, Commander-in-Chief of the Ottawa Consistory had a novel idea on how to raise funds for the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada. Being a singer with a great bass voice, why not assemble some similarly gifted friends and produce a CD?

John bore the initial cost of creating the CD himself and any additional copies would be sold for charity...maybe some of the many medical research appeals that he was

familiar with, but after some reflection, he decided that one of the most important areas of research today is to explain the workings of the human brain.

The brain is the most important organ which we possess, yet we know very little about its' structure and function, unlike many other organs which have been extensively studied by imaging, chemical analysis and post mortem analysis. In particular, mind disorders have never been fully explained.....so **“puzzles of the mind”** such as Alzheimers, Dementia, Depression, Dyslexia and many, many others are managed with well-meaning but empirical methods that are often complex and only partially successful.

Therefore, Ill Bro. Forster decided that any sales of this CD should be donated to the SRCF to support such research. While the \$1 Million Campaign of 2014-15 was brilliantly successful, unquestionably much more is needed.

The CD itself is a product of the efforts of John's musical friends; the chorus includes his sons and grandchildren. It is a collection of classical pieces followed by eminently well-known lighter numbers and some Gilbert & Sullivan classics.

To date, under the marketing of Ill Bro Sam Kalinowsky 33°, the CD is being sold for \$10, a veritable bargain for a future Platinum, at Valley of Ottawa MM Degree Team appearances and other Scottish Rite functions.....more copies are being made to meet the projected demand in 2016!

To date, \$510 has been raised for the SRCF...not a huge number but an expression of dedication to the cause of solving puzzles of the mind.

Newsletter Team:

Newsletter Editor – Ill Bro. Alan Arbuckle
 Newsletter Photographer – Ill Bro. Ivan Harris
 Newsletter Distributor – Ill Bro. Jeff Christie
 Newsletter Layout & Design – Ill Bro. Ron Taylor

Upcoming Events

Mon Mar 7 7:30 pm Chapter 18° + Social

Thur Mar 24 6:30 pm Chapter Banquet Maundy Thursday

Mon Mar 28 7:15 pm Easter Relighting Cer.

Are You Looking to Serve Your Valley

The valley of Ottawa has the following positions that are needing to be filled:

Marshall—Marshalling the Candidates to and from degrees.

Staging – This person would be responsible for keeping the area behind the stage clean and tidy and may be called upon for some repairs to the equipment if possible / needed

A WORTHY BROTHER

Now in its 15th year, the John Ross Matheson Award recognizes Scottish Rite Masons who are heroes of our fraternity. It is the most prestigious award our Supreme Council can bestow on a brother to honour merit and ability, community spirit and a continued commitment to distinguished service to our community, country and mankind. A maximum of two awards can be given each year. Active and Past Active members are generally not eligible.

The new deadline for nominations for the John Ross Matheson Award is March 31st. Nomination forms are available on the website www.scottishritecanada.ca.

There are many Scottish Rite Masons who lead lives of integrity and service that bring honour to our Order. If you know one, you are strongly urged to nominate them so they can receive the recognition that is their due. We need to be proud of these men and proud that they are our brethren

New Membership Video

There's a new AASR member recruiting video. Have a look at <https://vimeo.com/152188764>



INFORMAL CHAT: Ill. Bro. Gareth Taylor, 33°, Deputy for Ontario, (right) had a chance to meet informally with members of the Valley of Ottawa before the 14th degree. Here he chats with our Executive Secretary, Ill. Bro. Jeff Christie, 33°, about issues confronting our Valley, doubtless including the recently-approved bylaws. Ill. Bro. Taylor was the speaker at the banquet prior to the degree

ByLaws

After 'lo these many months our ByLaws have been approved by Supreme Council! Thanks to your crack team of drafters - Ill Bro's Sam Kalinowsky, Don Mumby and Jeff Christie - the draft submitted was approved with only minor revisions. The approved text will be distributed electronically in February with a few printed copies available at the 17th degree for those without email.

PRESENTERS WANTED

We keep hearing that our members want more Masonic education. If you are interested in making a brief presentation one evening when the degree work isn't too heavy, we would like to hear from you. Presentations should not run more than about 20 minutes.

Contact your Executive Secretary, your Active Member or the principle officer in Lodge, Chapter or Consistory

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MILESTONE: Members of the Robert Tate class completed the first leg of their Scottish Rite journey with the 14th degree. Shown (L to R) are Illustrious Brethren Don Smallman, TPGM, Vasile VanJurec, Sylvain Bouchard, who was the representative candidate, Edward Leibel, Steve Dieter and the class honouree, Robert Tate 33°.



ANNUAL VISIT FEB. 18: Each year Scottish Rite Masons from the Valley of Ottawa pay a fraternal visit to their brethren in the Valley of Kingston by journeying to Brockville to see the portrayal of the 12th degree. Ill. Bro. Giles Loshaw 33° organizes this trip for us, which always includes some social time to renew old friendships and make new ones

Do we have your email address?

If you have not already done so, **PLEASE** send an email to the Executive Secretary ottawaexecsec@gmail.com so that he may add you to our email list. This will also ensure you get future copies of this Newsletter ☺ and save the Valley Money on mail outs.



HOLDING COURT: King Cyrus (Ken Brinston) presides over his courtiers (Norm Allingham left, George Clausen and Harry Baker, right) in the 15th degree. Cyrus put Zerubabbel to the test and found him true to his Masonic vows. Ill. Bro. Clausen, as the Persian Minister of Finance, tried tempting the Israeli Prince with everything from gold to power to virgins, but all to no avail!



FRATERNAL VISIT: Ill. Bros. (L to R) Ron Taylor, Alan Arbuckle, Ivan Harris and Jeff Christie journeyed to Barrie Feb. 26-27 to see their Lodge of Perfection reunion. Along with a warm welcome, they were given some insights into the pros and cons of doing several degrees in a short time and some interesting approaches to introducing the class to each degree before it was portrayed. The Valley of Barrie has four times as many members as does the Valley of Ottawa, which explains why they now have two Active Members.

Have you Seen Your Valley Website?

A lot of hard work has gone into the AASR website and it is being maintained so members of our Valley may keep current with what is happening around the Valley. Please take the opportunity to visit the site at

<http://ottawavalleysscottishrite.com/>

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