

Around The Rite

"The Newsletter of the Valley of Ottawa AASR"



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From the Active Member

As we progress (and regress) through this pandemic I wanted to reach out to each of our Members and let them know that we remain strong and ready to offer the support of the Valley should any Brother feel he needs it.

We are all in this pandemic together, but each will handle it in his own way. Even though we have different approaches, we can still support each other through this with a phone call, an email, a text or a letter which may include a Christmas Card.

In speaking with the Sovereign Grand Commander, he informs me that there are 3 questions that are most commonly asked of him. I suspect you may have the same questions on your minds as well. The questions are:

1. What is the plan for the Candidates awaiting the 33rd degree?
2. When are we going to open?
3. How are we going to handle the crowning of new Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General and the installation of Officers?

For the first question, it is anticipated that when we are able to meet again, we will convene Regional Sessions where the waiting Candidates can receive the 33^o, and avoid any further delays.

The second question has become even more of a challenge to answer because of the second wave of the pandemic that is upon us and at the current time is demanding we resist any temptation to gather in groups so as to slow the spread of this nasty virus.

For the third item the installation of new Officers and SGIGs has been completed remotely.

The pandemic has put many challenges before us and one of the more important ones, in my mind, is that we stay in communication with one another. We are trying to keep the structure of our assemblies using phone calls and Zoom meetings to simulate the meeting nights that we might have had.

On Monday November 23rd we had 63 members of Scottish Rite on a Zoom call to hear Ill. Bro. Don Mumby educate us about Scottish Rite. It was a great success, we had participants from Ontario, Quebec and Alberta. These calls will be held every month from now on. I encourage you to keep an eye open for email notices from Ill. Bro. Exec. Sec. Jeff Christie as he announces the date and time of upcoming meetings.

In a normal year we see needs in our community around the Christmas season. In the face of this pandemic, I suspect that needs will be even greater as lost jobs and businesses closures cause families to be unable to pay for essentials. I ask you my Brethren, to please do what you can, if you can, to help alleviate the need and please be there in support of one another. If you know of any Brother in need of assistance please reach

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.

out to any of the men leading our Valley and let them know so we may take appropriate action. We are men, we are Masons, we are Scottish Rite Masons and their families. We set an example that the rest of the world needs so badly, especially in these very trying times. Demonstrate your pride in who and what you are to the world, especially now when the example is needed most.

I count myself fortunate that I can call myself a Mason today and that I am associated with a group of men such as yourselves – if you are reading these words ... YES, I am talking to you!

I extend to each of you and your families the warmest of greetings during this festive season. I wish for all of us, a quick end to this pandemic and a quick release of vaccines that will allow life to return to some semblance of normal. I look forward to a time when we are able to meet together and enjoy the comradery we share.

Merry Christmas, and may the New Year bring us all closer together as a Masonic Family, and bring each of you Peace, Prosperity and Love.

The Leaders of the Valley also provide messages to you our Membership as we move through this Festive Season, please see below.

Ron Taylor
Active Member 33°, Deputy for Ontario

III. Bro. Don Mumby

On behalf of the Honorary Inspectors General, 33 degrees of the Valley of Ottawa, I would like to wish you all good health and happiness as we enter upon this Festive Season. May you and your families benefit from the true meaning of your personal beliefs. Until we are able to meet again stay safe and remain strong.

Don Mumby
Education Chairman
President Ottawa Valley 33rds

III. Bro. Sam Kalinowsky

While we witness the cancellation or postponement of activities due to the pandemic, let us draw strength and hope from the healing spirit of the festive season.

Sam Kalinowsky
Past Active Member, Valley of Ottawa

III. Bro. John Forster

Scottish Rite Masonry has been severely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. With no meetings allowed, we are unable to conduct the beautiful ceremonies and dramas which are our main way of communicating the lessons we all need. Despite this we still exist! Communication for now is by remote pathways, mainly Zoom. Our Foundation has carried on as usual with the awarding of grants: the work of unlocking the "Puzzles of the Mind" continues unabated. We'll meet again. Stay well brethren.

John Forster.
Executive Chairman and SRCF Director

III. Bro. Mark Pogue

Just a thought from history, when Finland was conquered by Russia in the early 1800's the Czar banned Freemasonry, but the Finns kept the thought alive until they gained their independence after the communist revolution in 1917. Then they were once again able to be Freemasons... after a century of its absence.

Jean Sibelius the composer was one of the first to be initiated and wrote "Masonic music" for the occasion. We are now waiting for Masonry to return in the form we are accustomed to, we will not have to wait as long as the Finns did of course, but we can take this time to educate ourselves in the Masonry that is available to us, on line, in books and of course in music...we will meet again...

Mark Pogue
Most Wise Sovereign

Newsletter Team:

Newsletter Editor – Ill Bro. John Lark
Newsletter Photographer – Ill Bro. Evan Jameson
Newsletter Distributor – Ill Bro. Jeff Christie
Newsletter Layout & Design – Ill Bro. Ron Taylor

III. Bro. Jeff Christie

Greetings Illustrious Brethren! These have been quiet times in the Scottish Rite because of Covid-19, but we're still brothers! We'll continue with our Zoom get-togethers (watch for Education) and I'll get some mail-outs on the way as well. Please take care of each other and let someone know if help is needed. Keep safe / Wear a mask / Wash your hands ... and have the Merriest Christmas that you can.

III. Bro. Jeff Christie
Executive Secretary

III. Bro. Steve Thomson

Illustrious Brethren,
As I look back at last year's summons commemorating the Peter Harbert Class and the Ottawa Valley's unfinished year, I realize just how lucky the Lodge of Perfection was, to have completed our year.
We would, by now, have already completed the 4° & 5° of our new year, with a new slate of officers.
I sincerely hope that those candidates, and our membership in general have weathered the course of this lock-down and are still eager for our labours to resume, which in time will happen.
Until I can greet you in Lodge again, please stay safe.
As we reach the end of the year, this is a great time to consider making a charitable contribution to the SRCF. A most worthy cause, and because it is a Charity, they issue those much coveted tax receipts.
If anyone requires a "Blue Envelope", please contact myself or the Exec. Sec. And we will get one to you.

YITF
III. Bro. Stephen D. Thomson
TPGM
Chair of the SRCF Ottawa Valley.

III. Bro. Scott Howie

Illustrious Brethren,
As we move from fall to winter it is important to stay as active as possible. Get outside on a nice day to enjoy the fresh air, even to sit for a few minutes in the fall sun can renew your spirit. Unplug from the never-ending stream of digital information for a couple of days and read a book, write a letter or meditate on the past or what will come in the future. If you know of any Brethren in your area, call them to see how they are doing, more importantly if you need any assistance, reach out, we are here and we can help. Take care of your friends, family and neighbours, nurture the bonds that tie us together. For even if there is a Dark Winter ahead, Light will always triumph over Darkness.

Deus Vult.
III. Bro. Scott Howie
Commander in Chief, Ottawa Consistory

III. Bro John Lark

Renewal in the Scottish Rite has taken on a new significance. Renewal means new ways of connecting, Brothers who rarely (never) used computers are now connecting with one another using Zoom and quite enjoying seeing and chatting with friends. This is also an opportunity for renewal of friendships, checking in on one another and ensuring that the challenges of isolation are overcome with a friendly word and a caring phone call.

Please take the time to call other members of Scottish Rite. There is a tendency to stay in touch with friends, but I am asking that you reach out to our Candidates and recent initiates, as well as to friends in the "Blue Lodges" who have an interest in Scottish Rite. We need to recruit our next class of Candidates and now is the perfect time to reach out to men who can contribute to Scottish Rite and help it to grow

III. Bro. John Lark
Chair of the Renewal Committee



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