

# The Latest News

*From the Communications Team at the Valley of Savannah*

VOL 4, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2012

This newsletter is brought to you by the Communications Team and is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information from around the organization.

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## SECTION 1 VALLEY LEADERSHIP

**FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER** ..... My brothers, I have been very busy visiting the Lodges in my District and telling them all about the Scottish Rite as per Brother Jay's instructions. I hope all of you are doing the same and maybe it will pay off. Hope to see you at the March, April and May meetings as we prepare to bring many new members into our Scottish Rite.

F. J. Shuman, 32° KCCH, V.M.

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**SECRETARY'S VIEWS**.... It's that time of the year when we start afresh. Pollen is in the air, flowers and leaves are beginning to bud out, and grass is turning green. After a short Winter, Spring is upon us and we have new life. Let's be alive and growing, too, in our Scottish Rite. Election of new officers takes place at our March meeting and installation of those elected will be held in April along with our meaningful ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal. If you are one of those elected to serve the Scottish Rite for the new term, be sure to make yourself available to be installed. To those who will be leaving after serving your term, we thank you and encourage you to seek out new ways to promote our great organization. There are many, many ways to serve. Just ask me and I will gladly guide you in the "Rite" direction.

As information and so you will know: Valley of Savannah has 1021 active members as of 12/31/11. We initiated 32 and reinstated 4 in 2011. We lost 35 due to death, 36 suspended for npd, 6 suspended for other reasons and 3 demits. Not much we can do about the deaths, but we certainly should curb the suspensions for npd. Our membership committee worked hard to get it down to 36, but we need to work even harder to get it down to "0."

Our Spaghetti Fundraiser was profitable to the tune of about \$4000, off from previous years mainly due to cost of food supplies and materials. Thankfully we do receive many donations from dedicated Brothers who live away from the city or who do not eat spaghetti. We certainly appreciate the support these Brothers give. Please keep the office informed of any sick or distressed Brethren. The Visitation Committee is functioning and will check on those we learn about.

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**FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**..... My Brothers, membership is a lot like the weather, everyone talks about it but few do anything about it. However unlike the weather each of us can do something about membership. As we are often reminded, if we carry a petition with us we are more likely to pull it out and offer it to a brother Master Mason with an invitation to pursue further Masonic education and to enjoy the fellowship offered by the Scottish Rite. Further, we can practice the brotherly love and relief as we have been taught since our first entrance into a Lodge of Entered Apprentice in our daily life and in association with our brothers of this great Fraternity. In living by the precepts of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we will no doubt be better men and Masons.

The Officers of the Executive Committee and all bodies of the Valley elected at the March meeting will be installed at the April meeting. Please make every effort to attend these meeting and to be a part of this



accomplished, but there is still a lot more to do.

Our leader in the library department has done a great job in getting the room ready for our spring reunion. The painting is nearly done. So now I know he could use some help on the floors, especially moving the chairs around so the floors can be cleaned. So if you are in the area, please get in touch with James, I know he would appreciate the help. Once again I would like to thank all of you that took part in the work day, you know who you are, maybe next time you can bring a friend, and we can get twice as much done.

Thanks again. Bruce Mc Nall, Building Chairman

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**LIBRARY PROGRESS** As the library renovation project nears its final stages, we need to begin focusing on filling the room with Masonic Light. Yes, there are a couple thousand books already in the collection, mostly of a Masonic nature, but by and large they are old, and in bad shape, and not suitable for handling. So we need to begin the process of rebuilding the collection, which is where we need your help. If you have books at home that you've bought in years past that are gathering dust, consider donating them to the library collection where they can be put to good use for those of us who wish to study about our craft.

In addition to books, we are also looking for items to be put on display in our soon to be built display cases. We are looking for items that help tell the story about Savannah's rich Masonic history, this could include anything from Past Masters aprons, initiation coins, post cards, pictures of notable Masons or buildings that no longer exist, really anything that can help portray the past 280 years of Freemasonry in this town. For book donations, we will be putting a donation box on the sixth floor, just outside the library and will check it regularly.

If you would like to donate or loan any items for display, please contact either James Divine at [james.divine@gmail.com](mailto:james.divine@gmail.com) or Clyde Griffin in the Scottish Rite office. We will be taking firm steps to ensure all items entrusted to us are cared for and protected. We truly appreciate all of the support we've had in this project and look forward to the day when we can walk into the library and get a sense of pride that we have a fantastic resource for the Masons of today and those of future generations.

## SECTION 2 SPOTLIGHT



**ROGER W. COURSEY**

**O**ur accomplished Brother Roger Warren Coursey, 32° KCCH deserves our utmost respect and recognition for his many achievements in civilian/professional, military and Masonic careers.

**B**orn 07/06/1949 in Millen GA, attended local schools, graduating Valedictorian at Robert W. Groves HS Class of 1967. Sworn into the US Coast Guard Academy in June of 1967. Attained BS with honors in Engineering from the US Coast Guard Academy Class of 1971. Attained "Wings of Gold", US Naval Flight Training (Coast Guard Aviator #1619) in 1973. Earned MBA from the University of West Florida in 1980. Retired as a CAPTAIN in 1994 after over

23 years commissioned service in the US Coast Guard. Taught Navy Junior ROTC in high school for 10 years at South Effingham HS; elected Teacher of the Year for the year 2003-2004 at South Effingham HS. Employed as Effingham County Probation Officer from September 2005 -- Nov 2007.

**B**rother Roger is married to Teresa and they are members of Marlow United Methodist Church where he serves as Lay leader. He is the father of four children; Roger David Coursey, Christopher Glen Coursey, Kimberly Denise (Coursey) Arnsdorff, and Benjamin Joseph Coursey. He is a life member and Past Master of Springfield Lodge No. 440 F&AM; MIP and Past President of Hunter Chapter No. 502 National Sojourners; Past Commander of Georgia Hussars Camp Heroes of '76; 32°KCCH Life Member of Valley of Savannah, AASR; Life Member of GA Chapter No. 3 RAM, GA Council No. 2 R&SM, Palestine Commander No. 7, KT and presently serving in all three bodies as a line officer; Member of Alee Shriners, Past President Ritualistic Divan, Past President Knights of Mecca, Member of Savannah Court No. 134 Royal Order of Jesters.

**O**ther memberships as listed: Life Member of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution & Past-President (2009) of Edward Telfair Chapter, Savannah, GA (Captain James Wilson, RS); Member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia (Captain James Wilson, RS); Life Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp Davis No. 2073 (Pvt Hiram Wheeler, Co I, 47<sup>th</sup> GA Vol Infantry); Life Member of the Military Order of Stars and Bars (Captain Stephen A. Wilson); Life Member of the First Families of Georgia (James Wilson); Member of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Georgia (James Wilson) Member of the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Georgia (Pvt James Coursey); Life Member of The Georgia Salzburger Society; Member of St. Andrew's Society of Savannah (Graham Clan); Life Member of the Historic Effingham Society; Member of the Civil War Preservation Trust; Member of the US Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association; Life Member of the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls; Life Member of the Foundation for Coast Guard History; Life Member of the American Legion Effingham Post 209, Springfield, GA; Life Member of the Military Officers Association of America; Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans; Life Member of the Naval Order of the United States; Life Member of the Military Order of the

World Wars (Savannah Chapter); Life Member of the Navy League of the United States; Life Member of the Savannah Volunteer Guards; Life Member of the American Quarter Horse Association; Member of the Forest Landowners Association.

We are pleased to have Brother Roger as a member of our Fraternity as he continues his service for many years yet to come.

### SECTION 3 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar	6	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION, Election of Officers	
Mar	20	10:00	AM	SR Foundation Meeting , Macon	
Apr	3	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding REMEMBRANCE & RENEWAL, Installation of Officers	
Apr	10	7:00	PM	E GA SR Association, Captain Joe's Midway	
Apr	17	7:00	PM	SE GA SR Association, Old Timey Buffet, Brunswick	<b>NOW HEAR THIS!</b>
Apr	24	7:00	PM	Four River SR Association, JR's Statesboro	
May	1	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION	
May	4, 5			SPRING REUNION honoring Murry M. Shipman, 32° KCCH	<b>READ YOUR MAIL!</b>

<http://www.savannahscottishrite.com>

**Famous Quotes:** \*\*\**"If there is another world, he lives in bliss..... If there is none, he made the best of this."* - **Robert Burns**

*"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life..... It goes on!"* - **Robert Frost**

*"You only live once - but if you work it right, once is enough."* - **Joe E. Lewis** \*\*\*

### SECTION 4 RITECARE

#### NEWS FROM ARMSTRONG

This is Mikah, the department secretary for the communication sciences and disorders program at Armstrong Atlantic State University. We wanted to send you some information on the status of our speech-language and hearing clinic per Dr. Neils-Strunjas request.

For the year of 2011, we have had a total of 28 clients in our clinic for treatment, 17 adults and 11 children. All 28 of these individuals range in their reasons for wanting or needing our services.

Our clients are receiving therapy for articulation and/or language, but there have been some recent cases of fluency and voice disorders, as well. The diversity of our clientele is wonderful. We have aphasia, apraxia of speech, cleft palate and lip repair, voice disorders, and accent reduction just to name a few. Our students have worked with these 28 clients for approximately 680 hours throughout 2011.

Our department has recently hired a new clinic supervisor. Her name is Ms. Julie Burch, MS, Ed, CCC-SLP. She received her Master's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1980 and has worked as a speech therapist in a variety of settings such as in pediatric rehabilitation departments and in the school system, as well. We are very excited to have her as a part of our team.

Things seem to be running quite smoothly here. We are really impressed with our young clinicians in-training, and the diversity of the clinic continues to grow.

Thank you so much, Mikah

**Services Available:** *Hearing Screenings; Evaluations of: Speech, Language, Voice, Fluency; Treatment of: Speech, Language, Voice, Fluency; Accent Reduction.* For more information contact *April Wimberly Garrity, Ph.D./CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Armstrong Atlantic State University.* The best number(s) to call for scheduling would be either 912-344-2969 OR 912-344-2585.

#### **DONATIONS TO RITECARE CENTER**

*(since last issue of Newsletter)*

Clinton L. Akins	Aaron Cohen	Howard S. Major
David W. Armstrong, Sr.	Roberto Cossio	Riley E. Martin
O. Thomas Anchors, Jr.	Edwin L. Duncan	Kevin L. Miller
Ronald E. Boatright	Rick D. Giovengo	Clayton F. Osbon
Vincent E. Bond	William F. Goldey	William H. Scheider
Morris L. Broussard	Ronald C. Hinely	Charles D. Sikes
Crawley A. Butler, Jr.	Donald E. Hopson	Kenneth J. Stafford
	Steven L. Kellam	



## **How the RiteCare Center is making a huge difference in Savannah**

By Kolby Harell

Maybe it was the replica Woody doll he carried and his bright red Buzz Light-year t-shirt. Or, perhaps, it was his wide smile and unwavering energy. When I first met 10-year-old Kevin Valente, he reminded me of Andy from Disney and Pixar's Toy Story. But don't call him Andy, or even Kevin for that matter, because he prefers to share a name with his favorite character.....Buzz.

His mother, Sharon Valente, tells me that it used to be Hercules, but now it's Buzz, and a couple weeks ago at school, when the secretary called him into the office over the PA at Hesse Elementary, Kevin didn't leave his desk because it's not Kevin anymore, and it's not Hercules anymore either, it's Buzz.

Kevin was born in Russia with bilateral cleft lip and palate. He received late corrective surgery and it wasn't until the Valentés adopted Kevin and brought him to the U.S. in 2003 that he received adequate medical care.

A large part of Kevin's uphill battle has been speech development. Cleft is known to cause problems within the entire ear, nose and throat cavity, and hearing is a critical part of learning to speak clearly. As if ongoing medical procedures and weekly speech therapy sessions weren't taxing enough, Kevin was diagnosed with autism when he was 7.

"Speech is just one part of everything going on with him," said his mother, Sharon. "But, by helping with his speech, it has accentuated his positive improvements in other areas."

Kevin -- excuse me, Buzz -- is one of many clients at Armstrong's RiteCare Center for Communication Disorders. In addition to providing diagnostic evaluations and therapy to children and adults with speech and language disorders, the RiteCare Center provides clinical experience to graduate students in Armstrong's communication sciences and disorders department.

Founded in 1998, the RiteCare Center is supported by annual donations from the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Savannah Valley. Their benefaction assists with faculty development, provides test and therapy materials, and helps the clinic expand its services.

Every year, speech-language pathologists and students from the RiteCare Center visit local elementary schools to provide free hearing assessments for children. This gives graduate students the clinical hours they need in audiology and also provides hearing screenings to as many as 1,600 kids from 10 different schools per academic year.

"The Scottish Rite has been incredibly generous," said Dr. Donna Brooks, Interim Dean of Armstrong's College of Health Professions. "Their charity is focused on supporting children, but, because we are an academic unit, they don't restrict us from purchasing materials that can also help with adults." In further support of the work of the RiteCare Center, Dr. Neils-Strunjas, Professor and Program Coordinator added, "the Scottish Rite should be proud of how their work helps clients in Savannah AND the valuable student training that the Center provides, which enables students to graduate and serve thousands of clients in the region and beyond."

Perhaps young Kevin Valente put it best as he sat in one of the four therapy rooms at the RiteCare Center, working with his clinician, Chelsea Shoop, who is also a grad student at Armstrong, when he started singing lines from Toy Story the Musical.

"To infinity and beyond! To infinity and beyond!"

Maybe he was referring to the many hurdles standing in his own way to better speech. Or, perhaps, he was referring to the hopes of everyone at the RiteCare Center, who want to have a bigger impact on the community and help people communicate effectively.

Either way, his voice was heard loud and clear.

"To infinity and beyond! To infinity and beyond!"

*If you are interested in giving to the RiteCare Center, please contact Armstrong's Office of Advancement at 912-344-2541.*

**Photo Caption:** Kevin Valente plays with a toy while in a therapy Session with RiteCare Center clinician Chelsea Shoop.

Photo by Vincent Haines.

Kolby Harell is a student at Armstrong Atlantic State University majoring in Public Relations.



## SECTION 5 RESERVED FOR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER:** The cookbooks have been distributed. We have a few left. Extras are available for \$10 each for those who did not place an order.
2. **DOUBLE EAGLE AWARD:** The Program officially started August 1, 2011. Points are awarded to those who promote and work in our Reunions. Any Brother is eligible to participate. When 500 points are accumulated the Brother receives the beautiful and prestigious Double Eagle Badge suspended on a black neck band ribbon which may be worn to meetings. See General Secretary for more details.

### 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.

## SECTION 6 ENDOWMENT & PRESERVATION FUND AND MEMORIALS

### PRINTS AVAILABLE

Prints of our beautiful Scottish Rite Center are available for purchase with the funds going to our Masonic Center Endowment Fund.

Un-framed prints \$35.00.

Matted & Framed \$125.00.

These make great gifts. Order yours today!

### TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
MASONIC CENTER ENDOWMENT  
FUND**

**MAIL TO:  
ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH  
RITE**

**P.O. BOX 9782  
SAVANNAH, GA 31412-9782**



### WHAT A DEAL!

Our Illustrious Brother Gordon B. Smith, 33° is offering a once in a lifetime deal for Scottish Rite Members. A fabulous offer to anyone who does not have a last will and testament and/or would like to have their current will up-dated. The only stipulation is that you state in your will that you agree to bequeath at least \$5000 to the Endowment and Preservation Fund of our Scottish Rite Building. This is not a frivolous offer and only serious inquirers should call Brother Smith. It is, however, a most generous offer and one we hope many of you will accept. For more details, call the Secretary at 912-232-5132.

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### IN MEMORIAM

(Reported since last issue of Newsletter)

C. Frederick Johnson, 32° KCCH	12/08/11
Thomas K. Boswell, 32°	01/25/12
John W. Lee, 32°	02/07/12

*“The fruits of their labors live after them”*

### Leave a Legacy that Matters (While you are still alive!)

Support the Masonic Center Endowment Fund with a gift during your lifetime or through your estate and receive:

- **income tax advantage;**
- **avoidance of capital gains taxes;**
- **reduction or elimination of estate taxes and probate costs;**
- **regular income or return of principal.**

For more information, call Clyde Griffin at the SR Office 912-232-5132.

### DONATIONS TO MASONIC CENTER PRESERVATION / ENDOWMENT FUND

( Individual donations since last newsletter).....

Clinton L. Akins, Jr.	Roberto Cossio	Larry D. Hughes, Sr.	William H. Scheider
O. Thomas Anchors, Jr.	D. Morgan Derst	Steven L. Kellam	Charles D. Sikes
David W. Armstrong, Sr.	Edwin L. Duncan, Sr.	Howard S. Major	Walter B. Smith
Ronald E. Boatright	Rick D. Giovengo	Riley E. Martin	Kenneth J. Stafford
Vincent E. Bond	William F. Goldey	Kevin L. Miller	Charles H. Stokes, Jr.
Morris L. Broussard	C. Mack Griffin	Clayton F. Osbon	Paul D. Troxler
Crawley A. Butler, Jr.	Steven R. Harless	William R. Overstreet	Jon I. Turner
Dwight D. Campbell	Stanley E. Harris, Jr.	Horace E. Porter	Robert L. Webster, Jr.
Aaron N. Cohen	Donald E. Hopson	James L. Rowell	Robert C. Whitlow

## SECTION 7 GOOD OF THE ORDER

### THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

### GIFT SHOP ITEMS FOR SALE

For all your Masonic jewelry needs, just let us know. If we don't have it in stock, we will be glad to order it for you. We have auto emblems and pocket badges. Master Craftsman I and II are available.

### Attention! Sojourning Scottish Rite Masons

If you now reside in our area, we cordially invite you to visit us here in the Savannah Valley. We extend our hand in Brotherly Love and Friendship!

### SOMETHING NEW

In each issue one member's ID number is printed somewhere in our newsletter.

**Note:** Leading zeroes are dropped. If that member spots his number and notifies the General Secretary, he will win four free dinners. Your member number is printed on your dues card. The Scottish Rite serves dinner prior to each meeting for a nominal charge.

Ladies are always invited to join us for dinner!



### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

2012 dues should be paid before January 1 or you are considered *delinquent!* Thanks to those members who have paid for 2011. If you are one of those who have not paid your 2011 dues or any prior year's dues, we remind you that you are in violation of your obligation. Please remit as soon as possible. Your promptness in this matter will enable us to meet our financial obligations as a Valley. We depend on you to do what is right for the Rite. If you are unable to meet your obligation, please contact the Secretary at once.



### AVAILABLE FROM SR OFFICE

Price of the course is \$35, which includes all 6 lessons and materials, the Ritual Monitor and Guide, and a personalized certificate and pin upon completion. The Valley has agreed to pay shipping charges, so call the Secretary today to order your course or go online and order it yourself at Supreme Council's website:

<http://www.scottishrite.org/7878044>

The Master Craftsman Course II is now available. It is a 9 section course and is designed for Master Craftsman I graduates. Returning to the same texts, The Ritual Guide and Monitor and A Bridge To Light, this course digs deeper into the ritual to find those moral lessons applicable in our daily lives.

**MOVING?** Please inform the Scottish Rite Office of your new address or any other pertinent information. Correct addresses save time, money and bother. Do your part by notifying us of any CHANGES in your status. (912-232-5132). Also, **let us know your email address.** Mailings are now sent electronically.



### FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

As we go about our involvement in Freemasonry we should keep in mind that there are certain things to consider which affect others, even though we enjoy gathering and interacting with our Brothers. Think about family and friends outside Masonry who do not belong and perhaps do not understand why we seem to leave them out at times. Can a Brother's wife and family be involved? You bet they can! How?

We simply open our doors and welcome them to the many functions we do here at the Scottish Rite: Ring Ceremony; Feast of Tishri; Remembrance and Renewal; Family Night; Awards Night; Flag Day; Scottish Rite Association Meetings; Installation of Officers; Special Occasions; Workdays; Tours; Outings; Spaghetti Fundraiser. The list can keep growing! A Ladies Auxiliary would be nice!

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO SR FOUNDATION OF GA

(since last issue of newsletter)

Clinton L. Akins, Jr.	Aaron N. Cohen	Howard S. Major
David W. Armstrong, Sr.	Roberto Cossio	Kevin L. Miller
Ronald E. Boatright	Edwin L. Duncan, Sr.	Clayton F. Osbon
Vincent E. Bond	Rick D. Giovengo	Horace E. Porter
Morris L. Broussard	William F. Goldey	William H. Scheider
Crawley A. Butler, Jr.	Steven L. Kellam	Charles D. Sikes
Dwight D. Cambell		Paul D. Troxler

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. You may also view this newsletter on the website: [www.savannahscottishrite.org](http://www.savannahscottishrite.org)
2. If you know of someone who does not have capability to view this newsletter electronically, please let us know and we will arrange to provide a hard copy.
3. Dues may be renewed online by visiting the website: [www.savannahscottishrite.org](http://www.savannahscottishrite.org) ***What a deal, don't even get up from where you're sitting. It's a secure webpage.***
4. If you do not have a current dues card in your possession you are considered ***delinquent*** which may be viewed negatively. If you fall into this category, call the General Secretary for guidance and assistance.
5. All members should **update their profile** on the Supreme Council website: <http://scottishrite.org>  
This is beneficial to all concerned. Correct and up-to-date information makes life easier and smoother.  
**At the top center of the page you'll find "Member's Programs" button, click on that and go to "Update your member information". Please fill in all the blocks you wish to fill in, but insure you fill in your email address as this is very important.**

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Post Office Box 9782  
Savannah, Georgia 31412-9782



