

The Latest News

From the Communications Team at the Valley of Savannah

VOL 8, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2016

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 MASTERAs Venerable Master I would like to ask you, have you looked around at the last few meetings? Are there any Brothers that you missed seeing? Call that Brother. Let him know that you missed seeing him. Enquire about his health. Let him know that you are thinking about him. If he is sick, console him and pass on to the membership about his condition so we can add him to our prayer list.

As fall approaches, we need to address our Scottish Rite membership in our Blue Lodges. Let them know that our Fall Reunion is fast approaching. It will be on October 8. Let them also know how easy it is to get back into the Scottish Rite. Let them know that we miss them at our meetings.

My Brothers, I hope you have a safe summer and I look forward to seeing you on September 6.

Fraternally yours. Joseph R. Oliver, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVEAs summer winds down, we find that there is plenty of activity coming up for the Valley and for Masonry in general, especially during the month of October. Some of our number will attend the retirement dinner honoring our SGIG, Ill. Leonard E. Buffington, 33° on October 1. Our Feast of Tishri on October 4 will feature an outstanding program as always and we look forward to what insights our guest speaker will bring regarding this occasion that we celebrate each year at our regular scheduled meeting on the first Tuesday in October. Reservations are in order for this as it is very difficult to prepare if we don't know.

Our fall Reunion will follow on October 8 and we expect another large class thanks to our membership chairman and committee. The combined Scottish Rite Associations will meet on the second Tuesday, October 11, hosted by the East Georgia Association this year at a place to be announced by Representative Wayne Barnes, 33°. Grand Lodge will be held on October 25 and 26 with many of our dedicated and interested Brothers attending to further Masonry in Georgia.

At our November 1 meeting we will honor those who have earned awards. Twenty-five and Fifty year awards will be presented to those who attend, hopefully with family members and friends to witness. Other awards include First Line Signers, Double Eagle recipients, Master Craftsman course completion recipients. Again, reservations are requested as it is impossible to prepare when we don't know how many will come. Courtesy counts!

December will be here before we know it and we will be busy planning for the 2017 year, but we will have our annual Christmas Social to close out the 2016 year and award our annual contribution to RiteCare. That event will be December 16.

Some of you may have noticed some strange goings on at our SRC lately. We are in the midst of a movie/tv series shoot that will take place about the time you read this article. The Scottish Rite stands to benefit very well as a result of this venture. Thanks to the efforts of our General Secretary, Jim Hood, 33° and a few others who have contributed their time and talents, we view this as a positive step towards enhancement of our building. Although it is causing some inconvenience for now, it will be worth it later. The inconvenience will only last a short while, everything should be back in order in just a few days.

It is a high honor to serve you and the number one Valley as your Personal Representative. Thank you for all you do as we work together to accomplish our goals. Clyde E. Griffin, 33°, PR to SGIG in GA

SECRETARY'S VIEWSSummer is here and it is hot. The kids are back in school and have multiple function which we must attend with them. Let's not forget the Scottish Rite meetings. Even more let's not forget our other Masonic meetings. Be proud to be a Mason. Wear your ring, hat, belt buckle and your favorite shirt with the Masonic emblem. Let other people know you are a Mason but remember your actions should reflect that you are a Mason. RiteCare is our cause and we should support it. Join us at our meetings and take part every time you can. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by the movie being shot at the building. Things should be back together in September. Jim Hood 33°, General Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....We had an outstanding Spring Reunion. Congratulations to our thirty one new Brothers and thanks to all who helped make it a success. You are what makes the Scottish Rite flourish and prosper when you participate and do your part. To our new members, now is the time to pick your job with the Scottish Rite. In regards to future Reunions, there is something for everyone to do: Stage Crew; Degree participant; Culinary Committee; Maintenance on props and paraphernalia; Photography; Music, Lighting and Sound; Robing. As far as other helpful jobs within the operation of our Scottish Rite, we need help with Membership – new and reinstatements; Website; Newsletter; Property improvements, both interior and exterior. The list is unending. This is YOUR Scottish Rite. Become a valuable part of it by being involved and ENGAGED.

James Darrell Reese 33°, Chairman of Executive Committee

ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS FYI Did you know? All Associations meet quarterly and enjoy great fellowship, interesting programs, and you get to select your own food because it is "dutch treat." Ladies and guests are welcome. The next Association meeting is a joint meeting of all the associations and will be held on Oct 20,2016 at Capt .Joe's in Midway, GA. Hope to see you there.

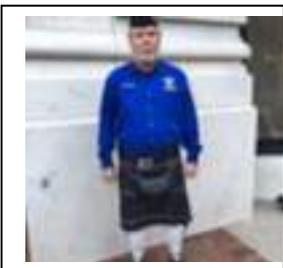
MEMBERSHIP..... Brother JJ Johns, 32° and his committee are planning for another large class for the Fall Reunion and need your help. The rally call is 1110. One Member, one petition, on 10 (Oct) Reunion. Petitions are needed for new members and reinstatements are a must. Ask a new brother to join but also ask a Brother who has not been regular to rejoin and be active.

Click for a petition: <http://www.savannahscottishrite.org/Portals/0/SRPetition.pdf>

FUNDRAISING.....A new raffle is in the process. It is Merry Christmas Credit Card Raffle. The first prize is a \$500-dollar Card and the second prize is \$100-dollar card. The cost is only \$5 dollars. The winners will be drawn at our Holiday Social on 16 December. Everyone needs to buy a chance to win. This will be a great prize to win for Christmas time. The more tickets you purchase the better your chances are at winning

H. Jay Robbins, 33°, Fundraising Chairman

KNIGHTS OF ST ANDREW..... Sir Knights Mike Nichols and Michael Burke attended the 2016 Gathering of the



Knights of St. Andrew in Omaha, NE on May 20-21. They attended sessions on leadership, fundraising, VMAP, membership engagement, motivating volunteers, recruiting and retention of members. They appreciate and thank all those who helped them make the trip.

Brethren, The Knights of Saint Andrew would like to invite all 32 degree Scottish Rite black hat members to join our Clan. We meet for fellowship and act as a social and service group for the purpose of assisting in various stated meetings of the Scottish Rite Valley of Savannah. We currently need to increase our membership as one of our goals is to be able to put on the 29th degree at our Reunions. We need the support of our fellow brethren. Our dues for membership are \$25 and a one-time fee of \$5 for a Knights of Saint Andrew coin. We also solicit the help of any of our 32 degree KCCH or 33rd degree Scottish Rite brethren to help aid and assist in our preparation and performing of the 29th degree. Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and are at 6:30pm in the lodge room on the fourth floor of the Scottish Rite building located at 341 Bull St., Savannah, Ga.

Michael K. Nichols, 32°, KSA Chieftain

VMAP.....The VMAP Conference was an awesome time to learn more about the program, and to connect, and in some cases reconnect with Brothers from other Valleys. The break-out rooms were always buzzing with ideas and topics that just seemed to flow from one to another. Charlotte, NC was a beautiful location for the conference. One of The biggest take always I received from the weekend was that Valley members are energetic, and committed to the Craft. Everyone had great ideas and really cared about making a difference. The second thing I took away was the information gleaned on Valley Membership programs, how to grow the membership and how to keep the newer members involved in the Scottish Rite. Robert A. Brooks. 32°, Chairman

BUILDING CHAIRMAN.... As you may have noticed, there has been a lot of activity on and around our Scottish Rite building. Well, we are having a Scottish Rite fund raiser, which consists of a movie being filmed on the third floor Lodge room.

A lot of work had to be done to get ready for the filming and a lot more after it is finished. We have to put the Lodge back as it was before. This will take place after they have finished filming. We will be getting a new carpet along with some fresh paint. So bear with us in this adventure, we know there is a little inconvenience, but we will do well in the end.

The air conditioning is in the hands of the Historic Board; we are waiting for their decision.

Keep all those who are ill and in need in your prayers.

Bruce Mc Nall 32° KCCH, Chairman

SECTION 2 SPOTLIGHT



**RING CEREMONY
Honoring
SPRING CLASS OF 2016**



The Ring Ceremony for the Eli A. Stafford Memorial Spring Reunion Class was held July 5, 2016 and a great time was enjoyed by all. The food was delicious and the program was outstanding. New members received their patents, ring and caps plus other packaged items. Scholarship recipients in attendance received their checks and everyone enjoyed the program about our Scottish Rite. Thanks to all who participated! More pictures may be viewed on PHOTO GALLERY at www.savannahscottishrite.org.



SPRING CLASS 2016 HONORING ILLUSTRIOUS ELI AUSTIN STAFFORD, 33° P.G.M.

Listed alphabetically are members of Spring Class: Richard Duane Bartlels; David Edwin Beard, Jr.; Michael Edward Braver; Jon Mark Braun; Matthew Ray Butler; Thomas Joseph Chapman; William Earl Collins, Sr.; Ryan Charles Constantino; Brian Joseph Cullinan; Mathew Charles Darden; David Allen Foley, Jr.; Thomas Danny Fries, Jr.; David Lee Gilliam; Peabody Vernon Harrell; William Lamar Herndon; Timothy Michael Hocking; Kaloyd Dalph McVey; Robert Wade Miller; Jason Carl Moore; Robert Paul Moore; Gary Ray Mountjoy, II; James Ray Mountjoy; James Trenton Nabb, Jr.; Justin Kyle Patrick; Wendell Ray Patrick; Dean Todd Peterson; David R. Pylant, Sr.; Timothy Robert Rowland; Don Allen Scheuerle; John Dewayne Turner; Brent Anthony Whitaker.

SECTION 3 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep	6	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION (Exec. Mtg. 5:30pm)
Oct	4	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding FEAST of TISHRI (Exec. Mtg. 5:30 pm)
Oct	8	7:00	AM	Fall Reunion (One Day) Honoring Ill Leander Powers, 33°
Oct	20	6:30	PM	Joint Meeting of Associations (Capt. Joe's, Midway, GA)
Oct	25-26			Grand Lodge of Georgia
Nov	1	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION (Awards Night) (Exec Mtg. 5:30pm)
Dec	6	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION (Exec. Mtg. 5:30pm)
Dec	16	6:30	PM	Holiday Social

NOW HEAR THIS!



SECTION 4 RESERVED FOR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT : <http://savannahscottishrite.org>

Unless you read this entire newsletter you will most likely miss a Scottish Rite membership number printed within. It could be yours. Numbers are embedded without leading zeroes. Match it to the number on your membership card and win 3 free dinners



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

2016 dues were due on or before January 1, 2016. Thanks to those members who have paid for 2016. If you are one of those who have not paid your 2016 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.



What does being a Scottish Rite Mason mean to you, and ME? Does it make you proud to be one? Do you look forward to the meetings? Do you enjoy making new friends? Do you become involved and participate in fundraisers, and special events? Do you bring your family to these events and watch them having fun? Do you see the Rite as having a positive influence in the community and making changes in the lives of others through our RiteCare Center? Well if you do, as I do myself, then these are good reasons to ask our brothers to become members in this Honorable Fraternity. Ask, Ask, ASK!

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 three free dinners. Your member number is printed on your dues card. The Scottish Rite serves dinner prior to each meeting for a nominal charge.
 P.S. Ladies are always invited to join us for dinner!

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.

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, II and III are available.

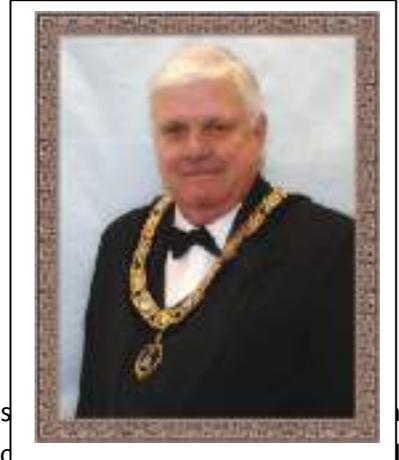
PETITIONS

To obtain a petition online go to our website <http://www.savannahscottishrite.org>, click 'RESOURCES'
We also have them in the SR Office for those unable to use a computer.

Retirement Celebration

Illustrious Leonard E. Buffington, 33°

The statutes of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction mandate the retirement of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General at the end of the year of his 80th birthday. To celebrate his many years of Service, a Banquet will be held in his honor, October 1st 2016. When asked about his plans after retirement, he is raising funds for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia for the benefit of both RiteCare. To that end, the celebration will also serve as a fund raising event.



Time: Reception 5:30 – Dinner 6:00

Location: Petite Auberge

Toco Hills Shopping Plaza

2935 N Druid Hills Rd NE

Atlanta, GA 30329

Dinner: \$100 per person

Each Ticket Holder will receive a Commemorative Coin

For federal income tax purposes, you can deduct as a charitable contribution the amount of your contribution less the fair market value of goods and services you receive in return for your contribution. We estimate such fair market value to be \$50 per attendee.

Attire: Tie and Jacket

Benefitting Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc.

Keynote Speaker: Ill. Bro. Ronald A. Seale, 33°

How About **Buying** a Raffle ticket on a chance to win &500 Dollars or even
\$100 Dollars?

Now is your chance.

We are selling chances on a \$500 and a \$100 gift card that will be given 16 Dec
2016 at the Holiday Social. There are only \$5 per chance.

Make someone happy in time for the Christmas Holiday.

That someone could be you.

October 8, 2016, 7:00 AM Fall Reunion (One Day) Honoring Ill Leander Powers, 33°

To obtain a petition online go to our website <http://www.savannahscottishrite.org>, click
'RESOURCES'

We also have them in the SR Office for those unable to use a computer.

SECTION 5 RITECARE

DONATIONS TO RITECARE CENTER

(since last issue of Newsletter)

Tommy L. Crum

Gregory (Isa) Holloway

Roy G. Oliver

Jack Streicher (in memory of
Eileen Wilson's Brother)

Services Available:

Hearing Screenings; Evaluations of: Speech, Language, Voice, Fluency; Treatment of: Speech, Language, Voice, Fluency; Accent Reduction. For more information contact: April W. Garrity, PhD CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and Clinic Coordinator

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Armstrong State University

11935 Abercorn Street

Savannah Georgia 31419

april.garrity@armstrong.edu

OFFICE: 912 344 2864 FAX: 912 344 3439



RITECARE CENTER LOCATION

Suite 20 of the Armstrong Center

13040 Abercorn St. Savannah GA 31419

PHONE (912) 344-2735

Scottish Rite Article

The summer of 2016 was full of fun and adventure at the RiteCare Center at Armstrong! In addition to our regular clinical services, we held our 2nd annual Compass Communication Camp which was held during the months of June and July. The Compass Communication Camp served children from 4 to 8 years old with a variety of communication impairments. The campers joined us on campus twice a week for three-hour sessions that included themed activities with an emphasis on improving their skills in speech, language, literacy, and overall communication.

The photos below show a day of camp in which the theme was Superheroes and Fairy Tales. The RiteCare Center student clinicians transformed an ordinary classroom into a magical land! Storybooks, decorations, as well as speech, language, and literacy activities focused on a theme each week. Our RiteCare Center clinicians were incredibly creative and skilled in their work with these children. We were fortunate this year to have an interprofessional camp! The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students joined us to implement some movement activities with the campers.



The Compass Communication Camp is just one way that we strive to be good stewards of the financial support we receive from the Scottish Rite. While we charge a nominal fee for those who can afford it (\$150 per 4-week camp session), we waive all fees for families who request this because of financial hardship. We can do this because of the generous support from the gentlemen of the Scottish Rite.

Now that the summer is over, we are in high gear once again as we head into the new academic year. We have welcomed twenty more top-notch graduate students from all over Georgia and beyond. These twenty new students started serving clients in the RiteCare Center in August 2016 under the direction of our experienced clinical instructors. We look forward to another great year in the RiteCare Center!

SECTION 6 ENDOWMENT & PRESERVATION FUND AND MEMORIAL

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



**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.

THE SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

This Historic Landmark has stood in downtown Savannah for more than 85 years as a monument to Masonry. In the late 1800's a group of Masons decided that an effort should be made to erect a Masonic Building that would accommodate the various Blue Lodges and appendant bodies which for over a hundred years had not had a permanent home. On May 2, 1896, The Masonic Temple Association was incorporated and immediately began to accumulate funds which would eventually reach a quarter of a million dollars. This was done through donations and the sale of stock to individuals and the various Masonic organizations in the area. The land upon which the Masonic Center stands was purchased in November 1895 for the sum of \$22,500, before the Masonic Center Foundation was chartered. In 1903 a general appeal was made to all the Masonic organizations for additional support and the response was very encouraging to the leaders of the Association. In 1912 the fund had grown to the extent that the Dreamers who saw in their visions a new and handsome home for Savannah Masonry were ready to proceed with what would be a source of pride for the fraternity and an ornament for the city of Savannah. In the fall of 1912 the contract was awarded for the building and the corner stone was laid June 30, 1913, by Most Worshipful Robert L Colding, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, with several thousand people in attendance.

As time wore on and support waned, the rising cost of completing the construction of the Masonic Center became more than the Association could meet. In 1917, it became apparent that the Association would not be able to meet its responsibilities and the contractor received a judgment against it. After a time of legal maneuvering three Scottish Rite Masons obtained a loan and proceeded to complete the construction. The Building was completed in 1923 and deeded to the Scottish Rite. Even though it has been known as The Scottish Rite Temple for these many years it has been home to all Masonry and is now rightfully known as THE SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER.

For these many years the maintenance and upkeep of the Center has been supported through the general fund of the Savannah Scottish Rite. In 1999 The Scottish Rite Masonic Center Preservation Foundation, Inc. was chartered and granted tax exempt status by the IRS. The Masonic Center Endowment Fund has been established under this Foundation to support the maintenance and upkeep of this beautiful historic Masonic Landmark. Tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to the address below and additional information may be obtained by calling or writing the Savannah Scottish Rite.

PHONE (912) 232-5132 341 BULL STREET P.O. BOX 9782 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31412-9782 email: srmason_savqa@hellsouth.net

DONATIONS TO MASONIC CENTER PRESERVATION & ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Dwight D. Campbell.	Eli Stafford Spring Class	David E. Beard	William Collins Sr.
David A. Foley	Thomas D. Fries Jr.	David L. Gilliam	William Herndon
Timothy M. Hocking	Robert P. Moore	James Nabb Jr.	Dean Peterson

(Donations In Honor or Memory)

Roger W. Coursey (in memory of Joe Westbrook)	Roger W. Coursey (in honor of Douglas E. Harman)
Charles R. Rogers (in memory of Joe Westbrook)	Charles G. White (in memory of Eli Stafford)
Nellie H. Nelson (in memory of Albert Nelson)	Nellie H. Nelson (in memory of Eli Stafford)

(Other Groups and individuals)

Frieze- Robert Ricard	HLC Hotels, Inc.	Hogans- Lynne Flanary
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IN MEMORIAM

(Reported since last issue of Newsletter)

Daniel J. Renfroe, 32°	11/01/14	Douglas E. Harman, 32°	06/07/16	Robert R. Johnson, 32°
	07/18/16		Harold D. Goss, 32°	
	08/19/16			

"The fruits of their labors live after them"

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SR FOUNDATION OF GA

(since last issue of newsletter)

Dwight D. Campbell

EMAIL ADDRESS

Are you receiving the information you deserve from the Scottish Rite? If not, ask yourself why not? In order to receive all the news and information sent out by Supreme Council, the Valley of Savannah's website and quarterly newsletter, you must provide us with a good email address. This is your responsibility!

If you have not done so, update your profile (member information) at srmason-sj.org or call the SR office at 912-232-5132 and give us the current information and we will update your profile for you. You may also update your 9248220 member information on our website at savannahscottishrite.org

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.



TEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION
OF OUR MAGNIFICENT LODGE
ROOM.

But, it will be restored to original
in a short time.

More to come on the details of
this venture. Stay tuned!

Valley of Savannah is enrolled in the Supreme Council, 33°, SJ's Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) for 2016.

We are committed to improve the fraternal experience of our members through enhanced recruitment, new member engagement, degree proficiency, education, philanthropy, and administration.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....Many times in life we contribute when someone dies. We also contribute to graduations, promotions and accomplishments. It may be in the form of flowers or cards, but is that the only way we can express our love or appreciation for that someone? Some of our members have faithfully donated to our Scottish Rite Building Endowment Fund over the years and that fund has continued to grow. Eventually our endowment should reach a level whereby our building will be completely maintained by that fund. If everyone would contribute in memory or in honor of loved ones, our endowment could grow much faster and we could upgrade our building in so many needed ways. So, next time you have occasion to make a contribution, think about our Scottish Rite Building Endowment Fund.



SCOTTISH RITE
MASTER CRAFTSMAN

Master Craftsman Program

Overview

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman (SRMC) program is an exciting, by-mail correspondence course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Upon completion of each program listed below, the participant will be rewarded with a medal or pins to denote multiple completions. Currently, there are three programs that are meant to be taken in the following order:

Program I: The Symbolic Lodge will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the “High Degrees” began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike’s book, *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*, along with Arturo de Hoyos’s *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* (3d ed.) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

Program II: Scottish Rite Ritual and History consists of six lessons, utilizing the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, and *A Bridge to Light* (4th ed.) by Rex Hutchens, 33°, Grand Cross, as its textbooks.

Program III: Scottish Rite Philosophy uses Albert Pike’s *Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition*, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross and returns to the ritual of the Scottish Rite to re-explore it on a deeper level, by looking for the moral lesson imparted in each degree and then applying that lesson to one’s everyday life. The course consists of 33 quizzes, grouped into 10 sections.

Suggested Order of Programs and Their Associated Texts

1. Master Craftsman: The Symbolic Lodge
(1º, 2º, 3º, using Albert Pike’s *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*)
2. Master Craftsman: Scottish Rite History and Ritual
(4º–32º, using the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* and *A Bridge to Light*)
3. Master Craftsman: Scottish Rite Philosophy
(1º–32º, using *Morals and Dogma* and *A Bridge to Light*)

Master Craftsman Group Study

A group setting is far and away the best way to learn and experience all that these programs have to offer. This is simply because Freemasonry is not a solitary pursuit, but rather a social experience — we gather in Lodges together for a reason! In fact, social engagement while finding more light in Masonry can be (and often is) more rewarding than simply answering some questions about a reading assignment. This is because you are learning not only about yourself through the ritual and its symbolism, but about others and their unique relationship to the deep philosophies and mysteries that are contained in the material, too.

A group can be as big or as small as you like. There are no minimum requirements to start a study group, and anyone can be the catalyst that starts one up. You also set the pace. Go as fast, or as slow as you would like. You can meet once a week or once a month. Your schedules will dictate the best calendar.

It can also be as formal or as casual as you’d like. Does there need to be set meeting dates, or will you meet whenever everyone has finished the next reading assignment/quiz? Your meeting place can be someone’s house, a conference room, or a comfortable booth in the neighborhood diner or tavern.

The key with all of this is to have fun, and to engage each other about the meanings of Freemasonry and life itself. In fact, using that goal, finishing the programs becomes a distant second to connecting with other people who have similar interests and learning more about each other through the shared experience of conversation and fellowship.

To help the interested group seeker or leader, we have put together a short Group Leader Guide that helps navigate the logistics and details of forming a study group. If you are interested in this, please contact us and we will be happy to share it with you free of charge, and to assist you in any way we can with the formation and operation of your own study group.

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



