

The Latest News

From the Communications Team at the Valley of Savannah

VOL 4, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 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 Scottish Rite Brothers, it is indeed a pleasure to serve you and write to you. We have so many events in the coming months and I hope that all may attend. From the Tournament of Champions and the Feast of Tishri to the October Reunion. With all the Masonic events happening, it can be hard to attend each and every one. Please make every effort to support our Scottish Rite in any way you see fit. As always, we hope for a great number to attend the October Reunion, whether as candidates or active participants in the Degree work. I pray to see all at Grand Lodge and I hope that all is well with you and yours. May GOD Bless.

Fraternally,

Huey Davis, Jr., 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

SECRETARY'S VIEWS.... Don't miss the upcoming activities of **your** Scottish Rite! September 8th is the Tournament of Champions event, the first time for Valley of Savannah. It has been held previously in Valley of Atlanta but our SGIG and our Grand Master are pushing for it to cover the State. Lots of folks are working to make it successful. Come and be a part of it by competing or just being a spectator. Either way you will get something good out of it. Our Feast of Tishri Celebration will be held on October 2nd and our speaker will be Reverend and former SR Brother Billy Miller. Billy and I go way back to Jr. High School. It will be most interesting to hear what he has to tell. Our Fall Reunion will be in memory of Illustrious William R. Warnock, 33° who served as Treasurer for many years. We hope to gather a large number of candidates to receive the Degrees in his honor. The meeting in November will be our Awards Night and we will present awards for all sorts of things: 25 and 50 year service, 1st line signers, Double Eagle, Master Craftsman and who knows what else.

Please keep the office informed of any sick or distressed Brethren. The Visitation Committee is functioning and will check on those we learn about.

Clyde E. Griffin, 33°, General Secretary

FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE..... Dues notices for 2013 will soon be received and members are urged to pay as promptly as possible. Dues are payable upon receipt and should be paid prior to the end of the year. When received please take a few moments to examine the notice, if more than the current year is owed and make an effort to catch up. If you can set aside \$20 per month for the rest of the year you will more than pay one year's dues. It should then be fairly easier to plan for a small monthly savings plan to get your dues current and keep them current. Your membership is valued by your brethren and I'm sure it is valuable to you. If you are having financial difficulties please contact myself, the General Secretary or any other Brother you are comfortable with and every effort will be made to assist.

You will also note that there is a place to record donations for the Masonic Center Endowment Fund, Scottish Rite Foundation and the Rite Care Center at AASU. Your support for these Charities is encouraged and all are tax deductible. A donation in honor of or memory of friends or relatives is possible for any of these. The recognition of anniversaries, birthdays, new arrivals, and gifts in lieu of flowers for funerals and other occasions are appropriate occasions. It is understandable that our families and church come first and that is as it should be. I would hope that the membership sees fit to place our Masonic fraternity charities somewhere closely after these.

I personally thank each of you for continuing to maintain your membership, for your wonderful support of the very important efforts of the Valley of Savannah and for your continued support of Masonry in general and Scottish Rite Masonry in particular. Remember, every day is Membership Day.

Jimmy P. Smith, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Just a note to say thanks for all the help we received during the Summer activities. If it was not for a number of dedicated Scottish Rite Masons we could not enjoy the success we achieved. Thanks for your attendance during our monthly meetings and for those who attend our Executive meetings. This shows you care about our Valley and the Scottish Rite. I would like to say welcome to all of our new Scottish Rite Brothers and our continued success will be dependent on YOU. Thanks for joining such a great Fraternity. Remember our upcoming events: on September 8th is TOC; on September 22nd the golf tournament; and the Feast of Tishri on October 2nd. Hope to see you there.

Jim Hood 33°, Chairman of Executive Committee

ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS

On October 9, 2012 all Associations will meet together at 7:00 pm at Captain Joe’s (US 341 and I-95) in Brunswick. Ladies and guests are always invited and encouraged to meet with us. In fact, that is what it is all about! We want our families and friends to know what we are about and what we do. Interesting programs are usually presented, updates of Valley happenings and events are made known by the Valley Secretary and Personal Rep, and we enjoy great food and fellowship. We hope to have our SGIG in attendance on October 9.

FYI Did you know? All Associations meet quarterly with great fellowship, programs and you get to select your own food because it is dutch treat. Ladies and guests are welcome. Check out the Association in your area and visit the others when you can. They will each welcome you! Check the calendar for meeting dates and times.

MEMBERSHIP

..... My brothers, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in this last reunion. The challenge that was issued by the SR Associations for the local Valley members to match their efforts in acquiring new members has been answered. There was a tie between the Southeast Ga. And 4 Rivers Associations. Way to go! Without your help we would not have been as successful as this class turned out to be. I would like to congratulate our newest members of the last class in taking this very important step in their Masonic careers. I only ask that you search your hearts, and find your own way to become involved by attending our next Reunion, which will be here before we know it on October 6th. Remember to always carry a petition in your pocket and a smile on your face, so we can give non-Scottish Rite Masons an opportunity to join us. That way they too can receive a higher with 32 degrees. In closing just remember, “ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK.”

H. Jay Robbins, 32° KCCH, Membership Chairman

FUNDRAISING

“SCOTTISH RITE EXTRAVAGANZA,” that’s right! Our supper club show that with all your help turned out to be an EXTRAVAGANZA like no other. I will take this time now to thank everyone for their help, which benefited our Rite Care Center. I would personally like to thank Rick Klenke for the delicious meal, and Bruce McNall, James Hood, and his daughter Laura for building the stage and taking it down. And a special thanks to Sharon Jacobs, Pelvia Woods, and Carole Kennedy, who without their involvement, and many hours of their time with the production, costumes, and scripts, we wouldn’t have had the great laughs that we enjoyed. Thank you so much. Our next fundraiser is the Rite Care Golf Classic, which will be held on September 22, 2012 at Sterling Links Golf Club in Richmond Hill. Also, it’s not too early to begin acquiring hole sponsors and prizes as well as putting teams together. Hope to see you there.

H. Jay Robbins, 32° KCCH, Fundraising Chairman

WILLIAM R. WARNOCK, 33° MEMORIAL FALL REUNION

October 6, 2012

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

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The statistics on sanity indicate that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.

Why do people keep running over a thread a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

SECTION 2 SPOTLIGHT



A Man of Many Hats

by KATELYN MOORE of Swainsboro News

Mack Griffin is one of Emanuel County's more recognizable citizens, and not just because he is the County President of Queensborough National Bank and Trust in Swainsboro. Griffin is continually out in the community working to better the lives of area children, either through his work with the Shrine Club, Sheriff's Youth Homes, or the Exchange Club.

The Past Potentate of the Alee Shrine Temple in Savannah (2008) and currently serving as treasurer of the Board of Governors for the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Greenville, S.C., Griffin has dedicated his life to helping children have the best life has to offer.

"I was very honored to be named to serve on that board," Griffin says. He was appointed to the Board of Governors by the Imperial Potentate in 2009, after his term as Potentate of the Alee Shrine Temple was over. He also will be Vice Chairman of the Board in 2013.

"It is very rewarding, and I get to see first-hand what we do for kids." The Shriner's Hospital is Griffin's biggest project. "I've seen a lot of kids that have rediscovered life as a child should. I can tell you story after story," he says. "I've seen incidents where a young child was told that they'd never walk, and, after the child was treated in Greenville, they are now walking and even running."

The first Shriner's Hospital was established in 1922 as a place to treat polio. The hospital system has evolved to deal with orthopedic needs, as well as burns. There are currently 20 Shriner's Hospitals in the United States, as well as one in Canada and one in Mexico, and all are run on donations. The funds come from Shriners fundraisers such as barbecues and ticket sales, as well as from wills and bequeaths from families and friends of Shriners who leave money as part of an endowment fund. "No matter what race, color or creed a child is or whether or not they have money for treatment, we'll see them," explains Griffin. "The hospitals treat orthopedic problems, skeletal problems, limb deficiencies, and even burns now in the burn center in Cincinnati, Ohio."

The mission of the Shriners is to support the Shriner's Hospitals, and the Swainsboro Shrine Club raised \$60,000 last year for the hospital in Greenville.

"The reason we're able to raise this amount of funds is because of the great support of Emanuel County citizens, as well as groups like the River Rats and Swainsboro Raceway, as well as many others," he explains. "There are no cash registers in the hospitals. We don't take money from families."

"Being involved in the leadership of [the hospital] as I am, I realize the importance of the work they do and the importance of fundraising to keep them going," he says. "If there's third party coverage [insurance], we'll take what it will pay, but if insurance won't pay it, it isn't a problem. We'll still treat the child. We treat children without reservation."

The Greenville hospital sees around 1400 children a month, and currently 242 of those children are from the Alee Temple area, which encompasses 32 counties, including ours. Greenville's first-class care facilities cover six states.

"I want to thank the citizens of Emanuel County for their continued support of the Shriner's Hospital for Children," he emphasizes. "The most rewarding part in this mission that we have is, for me, identifying kids that really have no chance to be normal kids--to run and walk and play like other kids. It is very rewarding to see results happen with our hospitals," he says. "It is not about the parades or the functions. It is about the kids."

Griffin admits that he gets rather intense about the project. "There are a lot of charities in this world, and they all have good purposes, but there are only so many dollars that people can put towards charities," he says. "I want [the Shriners] to be good stewards of the funds we get, and I want us to be worthy of what we get. We have very strict rules in our fraternity, and if a fundraiser is advertised for a purpose, that's where all the money goes. We don't take out costs or food or anything. It all goes to the purpose."

He explains that the Shriners raise just enough money to cover operating costs for the club, and the rest goes to

the hospital. "Every dollar counts," he says. The Shriner's Hospitals have been going for 90 years now, "and we hope to be doing this for 90 more years and beyond."

In addition to the Shriners and other local clubs, Griffin is also a member of the Scottish Rite in Savannah, which supports and raises funds for the Rite Care Center, located on the campus of Armstrong-Atlantic State College in Savannah. The mission of the Rite Care Center is to treat children with speech and hearing problems, and Griffin helps with fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the Center.

The Swainsboro Masonic Lodge also supports and raises money for the Masonic Home for Boys and Girls, located in Macon. Griffin also serves as chair of the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Sheriff Youth Home Herrington Homestead campus. "It is a smaller scale than the Shriner's Hospital, but it is just as important," he says. "We do fundraisers during the year for them and we have a lot of great support from the community as well."

"I wear a lot of hats, but it is all about the kids," Griffin emphasizes. "I don't have a lot of time for my hobbies, which include fishing and riding my motorcycle, but it is very rewarding to be involved in a community like Emanuel County."

In between all of his community service efforts, as well as his banking career and being the finance chairman of Calvary United Methodist Church, Griffin also has time for his family. His wife retired after 50 years of banking, and he has two sons, a stepson and a stepdaughter. One son is a partner in an accounting firm in Duluth and is married with three children, while the other recently moved with his wife and their three children to Hawaii from Portland, Oregon, as part of his job with Progressive. Griffin's stepson runs a local heating and air conditioning business, while his stepdaughter lives in Charleston, S.C.

Unless you read this entire newsletter you will most likely miss discovering 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 4 free dinners.

SECTION 3 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep	4	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION
Sep	8	10:00	AM	TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
Sep	18	10:00	AM	SR FOUNDATION MEETING (MACON)
Sep	22	9:00	AM	GOLF TOURNAMENT (Sterling Links, Richmond Hill)
Oct	2	6:30	PM	FEAST OF TISHRI (RESERVATIONS PLEASE)
Oct	9	7:00	PM	COMBINED SR ASSOCIATION MEETING (Capt. Joe's Brunswick)
Oct	16-17			GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
Nov	6	6:30	PM	Dinner preceding LODGE OF PERFECTION (AWARDS NIGHT)

NOW HEAR THIS!



READ YOUR MAIL!

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

SECTION 4 RITECARE

NEWS FROM ARMSTRONG

Greetings from the Ritecare Center at Armstrong Atlantic State University. We have recently opened our new office space in the Armstrong Center Suite 20. There is ample parking and easy access. Earlier this summer we received a donation from Mr. Clyde Griffin. The donation included over 20 Hallmark children's books, **My Grandpa & Me (Hallmark Recordable Book)** and **"I Love You - Grandma" Hallmark Recordable Book by Hallmark**. The children's books are unique in that they can be read out loud and recorded. One of the graduate student clinicians and I brainstormed an activity for our child clients with speech and language impairment. We decided to ask the younger children to record a short message summarizing the book and the older child client to attempt to read the book aloud using the techniques that they learned in therapy. The children will then present the books with the recorded message to a grandparent or significant other to showcase what they have accomplished in therapy at the RiteCare Center clinic during the holiday season. We feel that this activity will enable the clients to practice what they have learned and set a goal for themselves getting ready to record their book message. This is just one example of the many thoughtful and important contributions made by the Scottish Rite of Savannah Valley.

Sincerely,
Jean Neils-Strunjas, PhD
Professor and Program Coordinator

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.



THESE RECORDABLE CHILDREN’S STORY BOOKS WERE COURTESY OF AN ACQUISITION BY THE VALLEY OF ATLANTA FOR THE SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THE VALLEYS IN THE ORIENT OF GEORGIA TO BE GIVEN TO RITECARE CENTERS.

DONATIONS TO RITECARE CENTER
(since last issue of Newsletter)
Charles R. Rogers



The RiteCare Center at Armstrong Atlantic State University is seeking a **part-time volunteer**. The center provides speech, language, reading and hearing services for children and adults. The volunteer will be asked to take phone messages at a desk and greet clients when they arrive. A background check is required. The position will involve working on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 AM – 6 PM and Fridays from 9AM – 1 pm. Please contact Ms. Mikah Green at 912-344=2969.

SECTION 5 RESERVED FOR SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **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. Red, White and Blue Bars signifying additional 500 points earned are attached to the badge. So far the following have received the badge: Johnny Shuman, Jimmy Stevens. Several Brothers are fast approaching the magic number of points to earn their double Eagle Badge. 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**



**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.

IN MEMORIAM

(Reported since last issue of Newsletter)

Felton C. Andrews, 32°	12/14/11	Waring E. Stokes, 32°	06/22/12
William B. Clarke, Jr., 32°	06/07/12	Marcus D. Waters, 32°	07/08/12
Malberry Smith, Jr., 33°	06/11/12	Lewis A. Hazel, 32°	07/09/12
Clinton B. Hendly,		08/12/12	

“The fruits of their labors live after them”

DONATIONS TO MASONIC CENTER PRESERVATION / ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Roger W. Coursey	Horace F. Moss	W. Don Patterson
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(Non-member donations)

Lynne Fanary	HLC Hotels	Iocovozzi Fine Art
Small Pleasures		Alice E. Withrow

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/>

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)
Charles R. Rogers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. You may also view this newsletter on the website: 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 *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 10219020 as this is very important.

FRIENDLY ADVICE

- BECOME AN ENDOWED (LIFE) MEMBER FOR 10 TIMES THE ANNUAL DUES. SEE THE SECRETARY.
- TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DEGREE WORK. SEE THE DIRECTOR OF WORK.
- WORK IN THE KITCHEN DURING REUNIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. SEE THE SECRETARY.
- JOIN THE STAGE CREW AND SEE THE WORK FROM A GREAT PERSPECTIVE. SEE THE STAGE DIRECTOR.
- TAKE THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN COURSE AND LEARN, LEARN, LEARN. SEE THE SECRETARY

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



SAVANNAH

September 8, 2012

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND ONLINE REGISTRATION,

<http://www.savannahscottishrite.org/News/TournamentofChampions.aspx>

NINTH ANNUAL SCOTTISH RITE GOLF CLASSIC

SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

STERLING LINKS GOLF CLUB

RICHMOND HILL, GA

PROCEEDS BENEFIT RITECARE CENTER AT ARMSTRONG
ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY

FOR DETAILS:

<http://www.savannahscottishrite.org/Portals/0/Golf%20Tourney%20Flyer%20&%20Reg.pdf>

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

S.J. U.S.A.

Valley of Savannah Orient of Georgia

FEAST

of the

TABERNACLES

TUESDAY EVENING

OCTOBER 2, 2012

6:30 PM

Reservations suggested, call 912-232-5132

To preview program:

<http://www.savannahscottishrite.org/Portals/0/Program%20for%20Feast%20of%20Tishri.pdf>
