



Santa Ana Valley of the Scottish Rite

Scottish Rite News

Volume 34 Issue 2

Newsletter Date February 2012

Personal Representative's Message



Greetings to all, I hope this message finds you in good spirits.

Congratulations to the newly installed Line of Officers of your Valley for 2012! Let's support these Brothers by our attendance at our Stated Meetings and other Valley events. I am particularly appreciative to those of you who attended the Annual Installation of Officers on Sunday, January 8th.

I am very proud of our new members. The Spring Reunion Class has adopted a project. That project is to provide transportation to those members of our Valley who for a multitude of reasons are not able to attend as they can not drive at night. Now that my Brothers and Sisters, is what Masonry is about! If you know of a Brother who is in such a situation, please get hold of Frankie Rosario at (714) 600-6914 or Mike Selix at (714) 322-5950.

Attendance at our Stated Meetings is something each of you needs to consider. We are blessed to have a hearty core of members who attend regularly. Oh I know there are conflicts in calendars, I have them as well. But, please try to attend and support the Valley by your participation. This is critical with respect to the Officers Corps. If you as an Officer of the Valley find that you can not attend a meeting or other function, it is your responsibility to call your presiding officer. Your attendance is critical to the success of the Valley.

I extend my compliments to the Officers who served the Valley for 2011. A good year in many ways but particularly since we had 17 new members!

Get involved, my Brother; you can make a difference!

Fraternally,

Ray Godeke

Perspectives:

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

Be sure to visit our new Scottish Rite web site at [OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG!](http://OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG)

We need your email address so we can electronically send you the Scottish Rite News. Call the office at 714 543-7277 and give it to our Secretary or leave a message. Thanks!

Santa Ana Scottish Rite Officers for 2011

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Sovereign Grand Commander



Ill. William F. Stovall, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General



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Orator's Speech

Good evening ladies and gentlemen; brothers. On behalf of this year's class I'd like to say that it is an honor and a privilege to be accepted into this fine and noble institution; to receive our caps and rings; and to stand before you tonight.

Yet, I stand before you with a question; something that's been on my mind for a while now; one of such importance that it challenges my very presence here tonight. Fortunately, it is a question with an answer. Like you, I've received the degrees of the Blue Lodge, gone further and witnessed some of the degrees of the Scottish Rite. It has been an exciting, beautiful, and illuminating experience. However, there's that question. I find myself asking, **now what?** How does one move forward and continue the transformation that the secrets of Freemasonry promise to provide? Is Masonry now solely a procession of weekly dinners and stated meetings? Brotherhood is important, and these are enjoyable activities, to be sure; but are they all there is to Masonry? If one of Masonry's goals is to make a good man better, how does the individual go about doing so? How does one practice at being a Mason? That is the question I bring to you tonight.

Before I start, let me state the obvious by saying that I am no expert. I'm 41 years old: Old enough to know that what I've learned in life is absolutely dwarfed by the knowledge I do not possess. I've been a Mason for two short years, and I do not profess to have all the answers; nor do I claim the answers that I offer are correct. There are many here tonight possessing much greater wisdom and experience than I. I, like the rest of you, am a humble pilgrim making his way on the rough and rugged road of life. Having said that, I have spent considerable time working at this puzzle. How does one progress through Masonry? A similar question may be asked about faith. How does one practice at becoming a better Christian, Jew, or Buddhist? How, for that matter, does the artist – someone who similarly endeavors to find enlightenment through self-expression – practice? How does he progress? Perhaps we can find instruction and inspiration in the works of others who take up similar life-long endeavors. I'd like to offer that there are three necessary components in order to experience this type of growth. They are: Discovery, commitment, and reflection.

Discovery is investigation; the study of the theory, history, and fundamental principles of the endeavor being undertaken. It is seeking the advice and mentorship of those whose wisdom and experience are greater than your own. It is the lessons to be learned and knowledge to be gained. Just as a Christian would study the Bible or a painter would learn the principles of color theory, a Mason must explore the writings of the Craft. He must seek counsel and guidance from his brothers; particularly those whose experience and wisdom exceed his own.

Commitment is perfection of technique. It is the persistence and daily effort that is required to progress. It is the patience and confidence that, with effort and the passage of time, progress is inevitable. Commitment is the dedication to the cause. It is the Buddhist's daily meditations, the pianist's relentless practicing of scales. It is showing up every day and giving your best effort. And so must the Mason chip away, bit by bit, day by day, to smooth the rough stone of his own soul into the perfect ashlar that is his potential.

Reflection is the guiding compass that ensures that we stay on the path. It is the measurement of progress. Reflection is seeing the forest for the proverbial trees. Just as Judaism admonishes its faithful to reflect during Rosh Hashana, and the sculptor must occasionally step back to view the gestalt of his work, the Mason must regularly reflect on his own actions to ensure that he is on the right path, and to correct his course as necessary. Let me tell a quick story that exemplifies these three components and shows how they are the catalyst for transformation.

When I was younger, about 17 years old, I became interested in the guitar. Actually, "obsessed with it" is probably a more

Orator's Speech

accurate appraisal. So I saved up my money and bought one: a red electric guitar. It was incredible. But I quickly discovered that I couldn't play the thing at all. I was horrible. I could barely tune the thing, much less carry a tune. I remember taking it with me to spring break a couple of years later, and people actually leaving the room when I'd play. But I didn't care. I loved it. I played it every day, for hours at a time. I found some good teachers and took lessons. I read every book and magazine on the subject that I could find. I tried above all else to create my own vocabulary. To sound like myself, as it were. I practiced. And at times it was so frustrating, because I didn't feel like I was getting anywhere. In fact, that seemed to be the case most of the time. Ten-fingered futility, I called it. But there were breakthroughs as well. Then, one day a couple years ago, I attended one of those open-mic jam sessions. The kind where they put you up on a stage with a bunch of strangers and you play a few songs to a bunch of other strangers who are impatiently awaiting their turn to get up and play. Perhaps you've seen these things before. After I did my three songs and sat back down I was surprised that people came up and actually **complemented** me on my playing. Other players actually asked me for advice! It was shocking. It was at that point that I stopped and reflected. After roughly twenty years of playing, day-in and day-out. I had progressed; transformed into a capable musician. Incrementally. Imperceptibly, even. And so I ask again, my original question: How does one practice the transformation of being a Mason? Simple answers are the best, and I have one to offer. I'll lay it on you now.

It is, simply: **BE A MASON**

Every day. Bring the principles of masonry into your daily life. Just like that clumsy kid with the red guitar, **do the work**. **Study**. Seek the tutelage of your brothers.

Practice. Look for ways in your everyday life to employ the fundamental principles of Freemasonry: The principles of Brotherhood, Charity, Justice, Belief, Loyalty, Obedience, Morality, and so on. Be ever mindful of your Masonic obligations. Take time often to stop and reflect.

To my brothers in my class I would offer that admission into this honorable institution is not the final destination; not the end of the path. Indeed it is but the beginning.

To all my brothers I assert that this transformation – becoming a better man through Masonry – is indeed possible, if you endeavor to work at it. It is an incremental, often imperceptible process; a process that takes, not days or weeks, not years, but an entire lifetime.

Thank you.

Andrew Todd 32°

January Installation Ceremony



All pictures are courtesy of Jack Slagle 32° KCCH

2012 Language Center Donations With Dues

The Following Members submitted a donation to the Language Center along with their dues! The Language Center would like to thank these members!

Wayne L. Butterbaugh
 John W. Elwell
 Steven Frogue
 Ed Hilden
 David G. Hunter
 Franklin D. Kennedy
 Robert W. McNamara
 Carlos G. Monzon
 John S. Palazzo
 Charles Reeves
 David Robinson
 Dewey Rudolph
 Richard D. Sappington
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 Daniel Willerton
 Thomas H. Orbison
 Jarrold A. Petraborg
 Stanley J. Vitt
 Forrest K. Werner, Jr.

You Are Invited!

SUPER BREAKFAST IS COMING!

April 15th is the date and the place is the **El Bekal Shrine Center**. Time will be from 9 am to noon. Our tried and true menu will remain the same with made to order omelets and eggs, waffles, biscuits and gravy, bacon and fresh fruit, coffee and juice. The price will remain the same at ten dollars for adults and six dollars for kids twelve and under.

Commander Waine Richey 32⁰ and the Council of Kadosh will be preparing and serving this morning feast and can use help if you are so inclined, volunteer by calling the Scottish Rite office at 714 543-7277.

2012 Valley Century Club

The Century Club is a support group formed to help the Valley with operating expenses. Membership is available for a donation of \$100 per year. This year we have budgeted for 25 members. We now have pins for members that have joined not only in 2012, but in previous years. There are three different levels and colors for the pins: a bronze pin for a \$100 donation, a silver pin for a cumulative \$500 donation and a gold pin for a cumulative \$1000 donation. A list is being researched and all current members and previous members will be honored at the **February Stated Meeting**.

The membership for 2012 is off to a good start. Those joining are: Wade Faircloth, Jr., Ray Godeke, Rick Wood, Bob McNamara, Elwin Wolcott, David Kussman and Neil Simmons. We set a target of twenty-five members in 2012 and are well on our way towards reaching it.

Thank you, my Brothers, for supporting our Valley!

Bob McNamara, 32⁰ KCCH

Assistant Personal Representative for Administration



If any brother knows of another brother that is ailing, please let us know by calling our Almoner Illustrious Lloyd Clayton 33^o at 714-998-7773

Scottish Rite Calendar

2012 Calendar

February

6th—February Stated Meeting—Knights of St. Andrews Knighting Ceremony
Recognize Century Club Members

March

5th—March Stated Meeting—Shrine Night—El Bekal

April

2nd—April Stated Meeting
5th—Maundy Thursday—Deputy Grand Master
8th—Relighting the Lights and Continental Breakfast
14th—Advisory Council Meeting—El Bekal Oasis Room—9:00 am
15th—Super Breakfast at El Bekal 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

May

7th—May Stated Meeting

June

1st-2nd—Reunion Class
4th—Stated Meeting—Cap and Ring Ceremony

July

2nd—July Stated Meeting—SGIG visit—A Salute to America
14th—Advisory Council Meeting—El Bekal Oasis Room—9:00 am

August

6th—August Stated Meeting—Salute to the Santa Ana Language Center

From the Venerable Master



Looking ahead for the next few months, we are going to have a busy time. In February, the Stated Meeting will feature a Knighting Ceremony by the Knights of Saint Andrew. This is always an impressive ceremony. And secondly, our Personal Representative will award the new Century Club pins that are bronze, silver and gold depending on the cumulative level of contributions.

March's Stated Meeting will honor our El Bekal Brothers. This year's Potentate is our own William (Bill) F. Sizemore, 32^o KCCH. Many of the Shriners are also members of our Valley.

April will be a very busy month. Maundy Thursday will be observed on April 5th with the Deputy Grand Master in attendance. A dinner is planned for 6:30 followed by the ceremony of extinguishing the lights. Then on March 8th, Easter Sunday, we will serve a continental breakfast at 9 am followed by the ceremony of relighting the lights. On the 14th, our second Advisory Council Meeting will take place at the El Bekal Shrine Center at 9 am and the next day, April 15th, our first Super Breakfast of the year will be served at the Shrine Center. It will be under the supervision of Commander Wayne Richey and the Council of Kadosh.

May will be a relatively quiet month with nothing planned for our Stated Meeting on 7th.

June will feature our Spring Reunion Class. It will begin on Friday, the 1st at 7 pm and will continue at 7am Saturday the 2nd. All five mandatory degrees (4th, 14th, 18th, 30th and 32nd) will be presented and the rest communicated. We need candidates so start looking for some good Masons that you think would be good Scottish Rite Masons. Our Stated Meeting on the 4th will be the Cap and Ring Ceremony for our new 32^o Scottish Rite Masons.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bob McNamara, 32^o KCCH

Venerable Master

Language Center 365 Club

My Brothers, the 2012 Language Center "365" Club is off to a good start. We have five members that have joined. They are **Neil Simmons, Peter Jantz, Ray Godeke, Bob McNamara and Don Tapia**. This represents 20% of our goal of twenty-five members for 2012.

The work that the Center does with young children is extremely important in their development as they learn to communicate and speak properly. That is a skill that most of us take for granted, but think for a minute if you had trouble communicating and speaking. It would make your life a lot harder. These are the skills that the Center imparts to their clients.

This is our main Santa Ana Scottish Rite charity. **Let's support it!** And remember it is tax deductible. Membership is \$365 per year. Checks should be made out to California Scottish Rite Foundation (CSRF) with a memo Childhood Language Center of Santa Ana (CLC of SA). Thank you, my Brothers, for supporting this worthy cause.

Bob McNamara, 32^o KCCH

Treasurer, CLC of SA



Feb Menu: Roast Beef Au Jus, Peas and Mushrooms, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Spinach Salad, Roll & Butter, Cherry Pie Make your reservations now to insure you have a meal ready!

Call W.F " Bill " Sizemore General Secretary

1-714-543-7277



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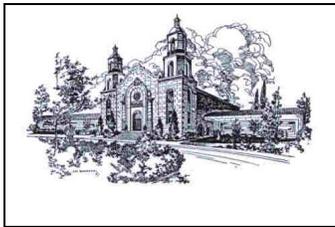
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Language Center News

Come over and lend a hand. Some help is badly needed at the Center. Answering phone calls, taking messages, and greeting parents who stop by for information would be a wonderful help and keep therapy from being interrupted. There are also those "courtesy/reminder calls" to be made each day. So, if you have a spare hour or so on Tues., Wed., or Thurs. - come by the Language Center anytime between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Thank you for your support for your community's children!

Your staff: Gina Nimmo, MA, CCC-SLP; Ruth Honer, SLPA; Fardowsa Mohamed, SLPA

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- *Want to get involved with our degree work contact Bob Hjorth 33° RDHJORTH@aol.com.*

Request to the Family of the Scottish Rite Member whose name appears on the label ABOVE: Please notify us (address above left) if our member is in a hospital or nursing home, or is incapacitated in any way - thank you