

The Double Eagle



ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
VALLEY OF INDIANAPOLIS

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2018

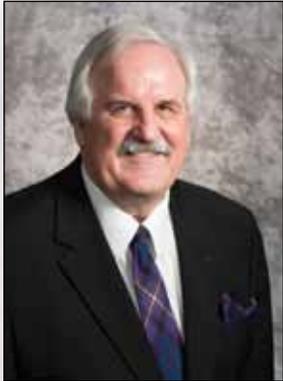


**A PERFECT STORM:
NEW LEADERSHIP SWORN IN**

From the Northeast Corner

Striving to Care for Our Members

I want to congratulate all the Brothers who have served the Valley of Indianapolis this past year. We are a member organization built on serving each other. The Valley of Indianapolis cannot exist without volunteers who serve. Some are officers, others are in our guilds, and others support the Valley in numerous ways. One of the BEST ways to serve the Valley is to recruit new members!



A lot of you tell me you cannot get a new member to join. My first response to that statement is always, “Who have you asked?”

The Valley of Indianapolis gets few new members who look at the website or Facebook page and join. The clear majority join because you as a member personally ask a good Master Mason to join. Do not get discouraged if they say NO the first time or second time or third time. Keep trying ... your Valley is worth the effort!

We have a special day planned for the November Convocation. The Valley of Indianapolis is hosting a statewide 32nd Degree during our convocation on November 17. The six Indiana valleys will have a joint degree and it will be an exciting day to fill the auditorium with 32nd Degree Freemasons to watch new Brothers receive the 32nd Degree.

Start today asking your Lodge Brothers to join our great Valley.

See you at the Rite.

Rodney A Mann
Executive Director



The
Double Eagle

The Double Eagle (USPS 015-686) is published four times each year in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter by the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Indianapolis at 650 N Meridian St, Indianapolis IN 46204-1294. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address.

Editor & Art Design	Jerry B Collins, 33°
Photos	Editor
Committee Members	Steven B Taylor, William S Munson, 33°, MSA, Don R Reynolds, Rodney A Mann, 33°, Richard D Purcell, 33°
Officers	
Thrice Potent Master	Cullen H McCarty
Sovereign Prince	Edward S Christy
Most Wise Master	Steven J Sonafank
Commander-in-Chief	D Andrew Clayton
Secretary	Rodney A Mann, 33°
Treasurer	Don R Reynolds
Tiler	Bradley C Wooten, MSA
Hospitaler	Randolph L Seipel, 33°, MSA
Trustees	
Jerry B Maple, 33° - Chairman	
Jerry B Collins, 33°	
Nathan C Brindle, 33°	
Gary D Brinley, 33°	
E-MAIL: DOUBLEEAGLE@AASR-INDY.ORG	
WEBSITE: WWW.AASR-INDY.ORG	

Hugh Burns Retires as the Valley's Dramatic Director of 12 Years

by Jerry B Collins, 33° - editor

Every year as spring rolls into Indiana, the Valley officers prepare to advance members in their progressive lines, appoint new men to their lines, and say goodbye to those who have completed their terms of office. This year, the Indianapolis Valley has the highest turnover in recent memory as the headline on the cover suggests: Our Perfect Storm. But after the dust settles, and a new day dawns following upheaval, many times the community is strengthened just by going through the process. And so it is in Indianapolis.

This year, we will lose our Trustee Chair, our Treasurer, and four Presiding Officers and replace them with men who have displayed potential to learn our Craft and help propel our Valley farther into the 21st century. However, we have one more loss and replacement this year: our Dramatic Director for the past dozen years is retiring.

Illustrious W Hugh Burns, 33°, has served the Valley in this role with distinction since 2006 after succeeding Illustrious Bill Woodruff, 33°. During the past 12 years, Hugh has served 36 Presiding Officers and two Executive Directors of the Valley. He has selected titles for 16 membership plays and eight murder mystery plays. He has coordinated the efforts to produce degrees for portrayal after 33 Stated Meetings. Hugh has helped identify members to fill many many roles on stage over the years like stage managers, degree directors, wardrobe and makeup departments, stage crew, and hundreds of individual roles for 24 convocations.

Hugh also was charged with coordinating our road shows over the years. It's not an easy task to load up all of our props, costumes, men, and sometimes food, and transport them across central Indiana on a Saturday morning, yet Hugh almost gives it a whimsical shrug while saying, "It's all of what the best Valley in the world does to get the job done." And yet he did it 21 times.

Hugh also worked closely with Supreme Council when the Valley was asked to cast and provide set locations for filming and producing six videos that are now shown regularly throughout the 101 Valleys and 15 states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. He brushes aside questions when asked how hard it was to coordinate with people outside of Indianapolis. "Just give me Paul Page producing and directing every video degree and it will be done on time, under budget, and with the least amount of problems."



Illustrious W Hugh Burns, 33°, and his wife Cathy were honored upon his retirement at the annual Officer Recognition Dinner held on May 4.

Hugh was recently recognized at the annual Officer Recognition Dinner and in his usual manner, he had little to say about his efforts except that he has found the job immensely rewarding and gratifying.

Past Presiding Officer Steve Taylor has been named to succeed Hugh and will immediately be thrown into the trial-by-fire nature of the job as he is tasked with casting the 32nd Degree that will be conferred in Indianapolis this November. What makes this degree challenging is that the Deputy for Indiana has determined that the only time the 32nd Degree will be conferred in Indiana this year for all five Valleys will be in Indianapolis and with an "all-star" cast assembled from all of the Valleys. Ponder those logistics, if you will.

In Hugh's usual manner, both men shrug it off knowing that their Brothers will step up and find a way to make this happen and pull it off in great form -- to the enjoyment of the candidates and the amazement of those of us who have performed in and directed a few of these ourselves. But that is another chapter to be written. There have been a few of us who, when the caller ID announced that Hugh was calling, knew that an opportunity was about to be offered by this dedicated and humble man that couldn't be turned down.

Senior Valley Leadership Positions Change Hands

St Pierre Steps Down as Trustee

by Jerry B Maple, 33° - Chairman, Board of Trustees

Leader, friend, mentor, brother ... these are just some of the words that I would use to describe Illustrious Paul C St Pierre, 33°. Paul finished his second term as a Trustee for the Valley of Indianapolis at the May Stated Meeting and was honored at a dinner on May 4. Paul left his mark on the Valley through his leadership and stewardship of our building and our foundations.

During Paul's tenure, the Trustees were able to accomplish major projects such as beautiful new rest room facilities for our Grand Hall, a complete parking lot overhaul, and wireless internet access throughout the entire building. Through Paul's stewardship we were able to complete these and many other major tasks over the past three years to the tune of well over \$1,000,000 spent while at the same time keeping an eye on our fiscal health to ensure the preservation of our wonderful Cathedral for generations to come. Paul's greatest attribute, however, is his unique ability to know how to treat people. He always has just the right words of encouragement or, if needed, the right words of counsel whispered in a Brother's ear.



Trustee Chairman Jerry Maple, 33° (left), congratulated Paul St Pierre, 33°, and his wife Kristen at the annual Officer Recognition Dinner held last month. Paul served on the Board for four years -- three as Chairman.

Paul was raised in Mystic Tie Lodge 398 and served the Valley as Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Consistory in 2012–2013. He resides in Greenwood with his lovely wife, Kristen, and their two boys, Ryan and Avery.

As a youth, Paul attained the rank of Eagle Scout and, at one time, was one of the most decorated Scouts in the state of Indiana. He is quite active in the community and serves on the boards of several organizations throughout Johnson County. Paul also serves his profession by sitting on the Board of Directors for Selected Independent Funeral Homes, a worldwide trade organization. This is a position that Paul is particularly connected to and proud of as his great grandfather, Frank Flanner, was a founding member of the organization in 1917.

During our lifetimes we encounter very few "giants" who have the talent, know-how, and attitude to effectively get things done. Paul is definitely one of those men and we are very fortunate to have had him at the helm of the

Board of Trustees these past few years. We will no doubt miss his leadership, quick wit, and calm demeanor. We use the term “retire” when someone has served their time as a Trustee but I don’t believe that word is appropriate here because I know that Paul is not retiring from being an active member of the Scottish Rite. We will still see him lending a hand wherever and whenever he can.

When you see Paul around the Cathedral, please thank him for the countless hours of service and congratulate him on a job WELL done.

Brinley Completes Six Years as Treasurer

by Rodney A Mann, 33° - Executive Director

A real financial talent is one way to describe our Brother Illustrious Gary E Brinley, 33°. Brother Gary has completed three 2-year terms as Treasurer, the maximum allowed under our By-Laws. Our Brother has brought a wealth of financial expertise and ability to the Valley. He has been outstanding with our financial management and investments of the Valley. Our Brother previously served the Valley as Thrice Potent Master in

2008–2009. Brother Gary was an officer of the Lodge of Perfection from 2003 to 2008. He has been a member of the Cast of the 14th Degree since 2003.

Gary was raised a Master Mason in Ft Black Lodge 413 in New Madison, OH Gary served as Worshipful Master in 1990. Brother Gary started his Scottish Rite journey in the Valley of Dayton in 1987. Brother Gary is a member of Ellettsville 245. Gary served as Worshipful Master in 2005. Worshipful Brother Brinley is serving the Grand Lodge of Indiana as the Senior Grand Deacon.

Brother Gary is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, OH. He is the senior vice president – controller of The Peoples State Bank in Ellettsville. Gary is a Certified Public Accountant and resides in Bloomington with his wife Marilyn. They have two adult children Kevin and Kelly. They have one grandson.

Thankfully, Gary has agreed to serve one term as a Trustee of the Valley to help transition his knowledge to our new incoming Treasurer, Don R Reynolds II, who just completed two years on the Valley's Executive Committee as Most Wise Master.

The members of the Valley extend a hearty “thank-you” to Gary for doing an excellent job!



Executive Director Illustrious Rodney A Mann, 33° (right), congratulates Gary Brinley and his wife Marilyn on his six years as the Valley's Treasurer. Gary's intimate knowledge of the Valley's finances was invaluable to the Trustees.

Maple Elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Illustrious Jerry B Maple, 33°, was re-elected to the Board of Trustees for a second term at this year's annual meeting held on May 2. Jerry was originally appointed to fill Illustrious Greg Jordan's vacancy on the Board when he was elevated to become one of three Brothers to be Active for Indiana.

Jerry takes over the role of Chairman from Illustrious Paul C St Pierre, 33°, as the Board continues identifying, funding, and implementing needed projects to keep our aging Cathedral ready to serve our members.

May Signals A New Guard at the Annual Meeting and Elections

Saraiah Council Princes of Jerusalem

Taylor: A Dramatic Flair

by Edward S Christy - Sovereign Prince

“Life Without Friends Is Worthless” -- Zerubbabel

For nearly a decade now, the Saraiah Council line of the Indianapolis Valley has been blessed to have among its officers a man who has been the quintessential ideal of what a Prince Mason should be -- an adviser, companion, brother, and friend. Steve Taylor is all of these and more.

Steve has tirelessly labored to take the Valley to the next level by encouraging more participation from the officer lines, stressing a strong emphasis on membership recruitment and doing whatever is needed to assure that programs, events, and degrees go off as planned. In a nutshell, when there is a task that absolutely, positively needed to be completed, Steve Taylor was the go-to guy!

As Steve relinquishes his position as Sovereign Prince, one might think that he would take this opportunity to take a break from the taxing efforts of providing guidance and direction to a Masonic body. But nooo! He just recently took over as Dramatic Director of Theater Operations, so we will probably be seeing Steve more than ever around the Cathedral.

Thank you, Brother, for your past service as an officer in the Saraiah Council line and for your leadership and companionship. We truly look forward to working with you for many years to come as you oversee the Theater Department. Kudos to you, Steve, for a job well done!

Christy Elected Sovereign Prince

by Steven B Taylor, Past Sovereign Prince

Edward Scott Christy, Jr was elected Sovereign Prince of the Saraiah Council Princes of Jerusalem officer line on May 2 during this year's annual elections.

Brother Ed was born on February 21, 1962, in Fairfield, IL. At the age of 2, his family moved 60 miles east to Evansville, IN, where he grew up and attended public school. He continued his education at Indiana State University in Terre Haute where he obtained a BS degree from the School of Technology.

A fourth generation Mason, Ed's Masonic travels began in Constellation Lodge 748 in Evansville where he was initiated on May 1,



Illustrious Brian C Lewis, 33° (left), appointed Steve Taylor 10 years ago to the Council line. On May 4, Steve was honored at the annual Recognition Dinner along with his wife Pam.

Christy Appoints Neeley

1985, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on January 29, 1986, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on March 26, 1986. Upon relocating to Indianapolis in 2006, Ed transferred to Pleasant 134 in Acton, where he served as Junior Steward (2007), Senior Deacon (2008), Senior Warden (2009) and Master in 2010.

Ed joined the Scottish Rite at the Valley of Evansville during the 1992 Fall Reunion. He affiliated with the Valley of Indianapolis in 2006. He was appointed to the Saraiah Council Princes of Jerusalem line in May of 2012 by then Sovereign Prince Michael J Smith. In the 15th Degree, he has performed as Cyrus and Abazar. In the 16th Degree, he has played the parts of Seriah, Darius, and Zerubbabel. In addition, he participated in video production of the 12th Degree as he portrayed Levi. Furthermore, he has helped out at the kids' Halloween and Christmas parties for many years and has also served as the Chairman of the Family Life Committee (2012–2015).

Ed became a Shriner in 1992 at Hadi Shrine Temple in Evansville and immediately joined the Highlanders and took up the bagpipes. Currently, he is a member of the Murat Highlanders where he has served as secretary, vice president, president, and Pipe Major.

Other Masonic bodies which Ed belongs to and the leadership posts held are: member of the Order of Quetzalcoatl since 2007; Sword of Bunker Hill, member since 2007, co-founder of Cumberland Road Order 122 (2008) and Honorable Grand Commander and Chief (2009).

On a more personal side, Ed is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War- Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1990–1991) where he served in a Marine Corps rifle company. He has been married since 1995 to Lori Ann (Schippert) Christy and they have two children: Margaret, born in 1997, who is a Purdue University

student and will be graduating in May of 2018 and Wallace, born in 1999, who is a senior at Franklin Central High School.

Ed's vocational career has been in the fields of design engineering and manufacturing engineering, dealing mainly with packaging and fabricated sheet metal products. His hobbies include distance running (eight marathons), triathlons, and playing the bagpipes.



Incoming Sovereign Prince Ed Christy appointed Mike Neeley to serve as Master of Ceremonies of the Council at the Valley.

Thank you for your super service and commitment to the Indianapolis Valley.

Neeley Appointed

The Saraiah Council line is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Sean Neeley to their corps of officers. He was born (1979) and raised in Beech Grove where he attended the public schools.

Mike was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at Thorntown 113 in October of 2009 where he served as Master in 2014 and as Treasurer since 2015. He joined the Scottish Rite during the Fall Class of 2012 and over the past six years has been very active at the Rite, performing in the 14th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 23rd, 31st, and 32nd degrees.

As if that wasn't enough acting, Mike also took the stage in 2017 in both the membership play (The Game Show) and the Murder Mystery Dinner (I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning). His other Masonic affiliations include the Sahara Grotto, Sword of Bunker Hill, and the Murat Shriners.

Mike works at the Beech Grove operations of Amtrak where he is a quality assurance analyst. Mike and his wife Abbey live in New Whiteland with kids Katelyn, Ryan, and Elijah. His spare time hobbies include ammo reloading and building guns. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Mike Neeley to the officer line of the Saraiah Council Princes of Jerusalem.

Chapter Line Says Farewell to Reynolds

Reynolds: “Well done and welcome aboard”

by Steven J Sonafrank - Most Wise Master

The 66th Most Wise Master of the Indianapolis Chapter of Rose Croix, also known as Don R Reynolds II, has been an inspiration to the Rose Croix officers and me.

It has been my privilege to serve with Don as we have advanced to succeeding offices. We have met for breakfast at Acapulco Joe's on many convocation mornings. Every time we've eaten breakfast there, I've curiously watched Don eat pancakes without syrup. To this day, I still haven't figured out why he refuses to use syrup, but that's his prerogative.

Don and I have been at the same table for many Scottish Rite dinners and we have stood shoulder to shoulder working at many Scottish Rite Fourth of July parties. We have consoled each other at the deaths of family members. We have shared many laughs, usually at the expense of Past Most Wise Master Dale Wheatley.

We have felt the same excitement, anticipation, and nervousness just prior to presenting the 18th Degree in the hope that it would be meaningful and memorable to new Scottish Rite initiates.

Whenever there is a Scottish Rite event, it's a sure bet that Don is there. He has taken the responsibility of being Most Wise Master very seriously. The result of his commitment has been a stable, agreeable, close-knit, and committed Rose Croix officer line. Don makes the job look easy, but behind the scenes he is one of the hardest-working, most dedicated Scottish Rite officers I have ever known.

Congratulations to Don as he completes 10 years of service as a Rose Croix line officer and transitions to the title of Orator for his final two years as an officer. I am grateful for his leadership, guidance, and wisdom.

We also say, “Welcome Aboard” because Don has been elected to serve the Valley as the new Treasurer, taking over for Illustrious Gary Brinley, 33° (see Page 5 of this issue).



Illustrious Jeffrey K Saunders, 33° (left), congratulates Don Reynolds and his wife Shannon on 10 years of service to the Valley at the recent Officer Recognition Dinner.

Sonafrank Elected Most Wise Master

by Don R Reynolds II - Past Most Wise Master

I am extremely proud to introduce your Most Wise Master, Steven J Sonafrank. Steve was raised in Bunker Hill 683 in 2002 and served as Worshipful Master from 2004 to 2007. Steve has served the fraternity as a member of the Indiana Masonic Home Board of Directors, multiple Grand Lodge committees, and was appointed Grand Steward & Tyler for the Grand Lodge of Indiana by Grand Master James M Barkdull.

In 2012, Steve transferred his Symbolic Lodge membership to Millersville 126 in Indianapolis, where he is extensively involved in mentoring new initiates, an activity which he thoroughly enjoys. His mentoring efforts have earned him the nickname “sensei” (Japanese for teacher) among his many mentees.

Steve began his Scottish Rite career in 2002 and has enjoyed playing trombone in the Scottish Rite Orchestra since 2004. Steve was appointed to the Rose Croix line by Illustrious Michael W Klepper, 33°, and began serving in the progressive line as Captain of the Guard in 2010.

Sonafrank's First Act Is to Name Roberts to Be Captain of the Guard

Steve is one of the most committed officers in the Indianapolis Valley. His attendance and participation at Valley events has made Steve one of the most recognized Brothers in the Valley.

The years I have spent in the Rose Croix line with Steve have taught me one thing: Steve is a Brother's Brother. He cares for his Brothers and will go out of his way to assist them. Steve always has your back. His commitment to the Valley extends far beyond simple Brotherly love.

In 2016, Steve joined the Valley staff as Director of Development for the Indianapolis Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation and works daily to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of our beautiful Cathedral.

Steve married his wife Jenny in 1996. Steve and Jenny first became acquainted when they were both members of the Indiana University Marching Hundred. Jenny frequently accompanies Steve to our many family oriented events.

Steve's commitment to our Valley will make him a great executive officer and if you have never met him, make sure you stop him and introduce yourself. It has been my honor to serve as a Rose Croix officer with Steve and I am excited to watch him fulfill the duties of the Office of Most Wise Master.

Brad Roberts Appointment

Bradley Ray Roberts is the newest appointment to the Rose Croix officer line. He will serve as Captain of the Guard for the 2018–2020 term.

Born in Indianapolis on October 19, 1984, Brad was raised in Greentown. He is a 2003 graduate of Eastern Jr-Sr High School. He earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from Indiana University in 2007. After college, he did contract work for the US Navy in Virginia through Indiana University.



Most Wise Master Steve Sonafrank (left) was proud to announce the appointment of Brad Roberts to the Indianapolis Chapter of Rose Croix. It has long been a tradition that only Past Masters have been asked to join the line.

Upon returning home to Indiana, he entered the automotive industry. He worked his way up through sales and is now the finance manager at Tom Wood Toyota in Zionsville.

When a client suggested that Freemasonry would be a good fit for Brad, he did some investigating and discovered his grandfather was a Mason. Brad petitioned Ancient Landmarks 319 in Indianapolis and was raised a Master Mason in 2014. He

currently serves as Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

Brad joined the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis with the Spring Class of 2014. Soon after joining, he became a Cathedral tour guide. He takes pleasure in performing that duty on the second Friday of every month.

In his leisure time, Brad enjoys golf, working out, and flying. He lives in Zionsville.

We welcome Brad to the Rose Croix line and look forward to his service.

Consistory Line Says Good-bye to Adams

Adams: “Well done”

by Andy Clayton - Commander-in-Chief

One of the finest traits of our fraternity is that it brings together men from all walks of life, linking them as Brothers on a level platform.

When my Scottish Rite journey began in 2006, I quickly came to know Ed Adams as being one of those leaders who ensures our fraternal chain remains connected. It is a great honor for me to share a few words about Ed, and with much gratitude, offer a hearty congratulation to him for his exemplary service as our Commander-in-Chief in 2017–2018.

When I think of the traits that a leader in the Scottish Rite must embody, words such as reverence, passion, unselfishness, charisma, and devotion to others before self must be at the foundation. In the 15+ years I have known Ed, these traits have always been front and center. Whether it be his jovial laugh filling every corridor of the Cathedral, his astute knowledge and reverence for our history and its relevance to our future, or his fervent, passionate belief in our purpose as Scottish Rite Masons, Ed personifies all that is good and just about our Valley and our fraternity.

As Commander-in-Chief, he has led with character, honesty, and steadfast devotion that set a very high bar for not only future Consistory officers to follow, but our leadership as a whole. While never afraid of a good debate or gentlemanly argument, Ed gave respect to all those he has worked with and on behalf of. In an era when most care only about themselves, he has often inconvenienced himself for the express purpose of doing what is best for the Valley.

Our Valley is certainly a better place because of the leadership of Ed Adams. I am honored to have served with him,

but most important, I am humbled to call him my friend and Brother. Thank you Ed for the dedication you have given the Valley of Indianapolis and its members; we wish you much success in your future!



Illustrious Tom Shrock, 33° (right) congratulates Ed Adams, on seven years of service to the Valley at the recent Officer Recognition dinner.

Clayton Presides Over Con- sistory

*by Ed Adams - Past
Commander-in-Chief*

David Andrew Clayton, or we know him, “Andy,” is a native of Zionsville. He began his Masonic journey May 12, 2001, when he was raised by his father, Jerrit, to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Charles F Frank 760 in Zionsville, almost 100 years to the day his great-great

grandfather was raised as a Master Mason. At the encouragement of many Brothers, including his father and his Masonic mentor, Past Master and Past Commander-in-Chief Jerald Miller, 33°, Andy began serving his Lodge as an officer with a special affection for degree participation. In 2009, Andy was elected by his Brothers to serve as Worshipful Master. He continues to serve his Lodge and Indiana Masonry in conducting the Grand Lodge of Indiana Memorial Service when called upon; he has had the solemn honor of performing those rites for 81 Brothers since 2001.

Andy’s Scottish Rite journey began November of 2006. He loved the beautifully performed degrees and immediately became involved in performing prologues, various Lodge, Council, and Consistory degrees including Darius in the 16th Degree, Brother Gerry in the 20th, General Knox in the filming of the 20th Degree, with his favorite role performed being that of Constans in the new 32nd Degree. In May of 2009, Illustrious Brian C

Clayton Brings His Professional Experience

Lewis, 33° appointed Andy to the Saraiah Council, Princes of Jerusalem line. Unfortunately, a prolonged illness within the family required him to step down after only a year of service.

In June of 2012, Commander-in-Chief Illustrious Paul C St Pierre, 33°, appointed Andy to serve as Standard Bearer for the Indiana Consistory. In that capacity, he has assisted at various Valley events including Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and in the Murder Mystery plays in addition to officer responsibilities.

Andy enjoys other Masonic fellowship in Celestial 525 in Whitestown, Prather York Rite bodies, Royal Order of Scotland, and was recently honored with election to membership in the Red Cross of Constantine.

His professional career has been entirely in funeral service, serving the greater Indianapolis community most recently as executive vice president of Wilson St Pierre Funeral Service. In December 2016, Andy was chosen to become the executive director of the Indiana Funeral Directors Association, an association of nearly 400-member funeral homes of which he served as president in 2013–14.

Andy is a 1989 graduate of Zionsville Community High School where he was a member and defensive starter on the 1987 3A State Champion football team. He likewise is a 1995 graduate of Mid-America College of Funeral Service in Jeffersonville, IN, and is currently finishing his BS in political science through Indiana University.

Andy is a member of St. Jude Catholic Church in Indianapolis, currently residing in Southport with his wife Sheri and their children, Bailey and David, and their four-legged kid, Daisy Mae. In his free time, he enjoys reading, politics, good food, better wine, the best golf courses, and Roncalli Rebel Football.



Commander-in-Chief Andy Clayton (left) announced the appointment of Mark Bartolovich to the Indiana Consistory.

Bartolovich Appointed to Serve the Consistory

The Indiana Consistory is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark W Bartolovich to the officer line. Mark was born on October 10, 1965, and graduated from Plainfield High

School in 1984. After graduation, he attended the University of Indianapolis, where he played football and studied criminal justice.

Mark is a Past Master, Council of DeMolay in Plainfield. He is also a member of Plainfield 653, where he was Worshipful Master in 2012.

Mark was initiated into the Scottish Rite in 2012, where he has been involved in a number of degrees and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Children's Dyslexia Center at the Indianapolis Valley Scottish Rite. Mark is also a member of the Murat Shrine, past president of the Dramatic Cast, current president of KOWAD, Chief Raban of the

Hillbillies, and belongs to the Reception Unit.

Professionally, Mark has been employed by Rolls Royce North America for 23 years. He and his wife Cassandra will be celebrating their 29th wedding anniversary this year.

We welcome Mark to the Indiana Consistory!



Lodge Line Bids Ludlow One Last, “Happy Birthday, Bill”

Ludlow: Traveling Over the Bridges He Helped Build

by Cullen McCarty - Thrice Potent Master

What can you say about Bill Ludlow? Well, “Happy Birthday” does not count. Honestly, Bill is one of the most dedicated Freemasons you could meet.

His easygoing personality and willingness to help you in time of need is known throughout the Indianapolis Valley. Having served as Deputy last year under Bill’s term as Thrice Potent Master has been a privilege and an honor. The camaraderie he has helped build with the Lodge of Perfection line is infectious and will continue for years to come.

Bill’s journey through life has been one that grabs ahold of life and takes him wherever life may flow – from teaching middle school to working construction and overseeing numerous projects from bridges to renovation of the Monroe County Courthouse to highways like the one coming north to Indianapolis.

Bill is a Past Master of Ellettsville 245; current president of Stone Belt Shrine Club, and now Past Thrice Potent Master of the Adoniram Lodge of Perfection.

He and his wife Jan reside in Ellettsville. From there they occasionally travel to visit their children and grandchildren to continue that journey through life and see where it goes.

McCarty Elected Thrice Potent Master

by Bill Ludlow - Past Thrice Potent Master

Cullen H McCarty was elected Thrice Potent Master of the Adoniram Lodge of Perfection at our May 2 Annual Meeting.



Illustrious Gary Brinley, 33° (right), congratulates Ed Adams and his wife on six years of service to the Valley at the Officer Recognition Dinner.

Cullen was born in 1970 and is a graduate of Indiana University. He earned a BA in history at Indiana University.

Cullen was raised in 1999 and was elected Worshipful Master of Ellettsville 245 in 2004. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Masonic Home in 2004–2005.

Cullen became a 32° Scottish Rite Free Mason in our Indianapolis Valley in 1999. He has been an active member and has enjoyed being a cast member in several of our Lodge of Perfection degrees. Cullen served

on the Executive Committee last year and he also received an Honorary Legion of Honor from the DeMolay in 2017.

Cullen is active in the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and served as its chair in 2014–2015. He is proud of his Hoosier roots and is an active alumnus and past president of the Indiana University Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council.

Cullen is the executive vice president of Smithville Communications. Cullen, his wife Rachel, daughter Josie (9)

McCarty Brings Civic Background

and son Mason (6) live in the Ellettsville area and attend the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. In addition to his civic and Masonic duties, Cullen is a Cub Scout den leader in Bloomington, Pack 164 and helps with the Monroe County 4-H Club.

Congratulations to Cullen on his election and best wishes for a great year as Chairman of the Valley's Executive Committee.

JD Cash Brings Army Experience to the Valley

JD Cash has been appointed Captain of the Guard in the Adoniram Lodge of Perfection by Thrice Potent Master Cullen McCarty.

JD serves as Deputy Commander of the 53rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team.

JD has a short yet full Masonic history. He was raised to the sublime degree at Millersville 126 on January 25, 2011. In 2017, JD was elected Worshipful Master and led his Lodge to earn the Grand Master's Award with High Distinction that year. Also in 2017, Brother Cash was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Indiana Masonic Home at Compass Park by Grand Master Rodney A Mann.

Since 1994, JD has served his state and his country through the Indiana National Guard. He was commissioned as a Medical Service Corps Officer in 2007. Currently a Captain,



Thrice Potent Master Cullen McCarty (left) was proud to announce the appointment of J D Cash to the Lodge of Perfection line at this year's annual meeting and election of officers for 2018-19.

Along with Illustrious Brother Phil Herthel, 33°, MSA, JD co-owns Saltire Games Family & Hobby Game Store on Pendleton Pike in Indianapolis.

JD and his wife Rebecca will celebrate 20 years of marriage in December of this year. They have two boys: Ray, 13, and Eli, 9. The Cash family are members of Heartland Church in Indianapolis.

We welcome JD to the Adoniram Lodge of Perfection and we look forward to his participation in leadership here at the Valley of Indianapolis.

Bean Supper Reservations

317-262-3100 or www.aasr-indy.org

Making a Good First Impression

by Steven J Sonafrank - Most Wise Master

For a long time, my wife's car has had a personalized license plate imprinted with the word "INDIANA." We have received many questions and comments about it from both friends and strangers. It has been an interesting conversation piece.



Many years ago, we decided to go shopping for a new Oldsmobile and began our search at a local Olds dealer. We were doing the usual walk around the lot and found a model we liked. We were put off, however, by the sales rep who decided that he would not let us leave the lot until we purchased a new car from him. His lack of professionalism and respect for our time was annoying, but since we

had found a model we liked, we decided to proceed with the negotiation process despite our negative impression of our sales rep. When it became apparent that we were not going to get the deal we had hoped for, we politely thanked the rep for his time and headed for the door. That's when the situation deteriorated further. The rep followed us out the door to our car, talking incessantly and warning us that we wouldn't get a better deal anywhere else. By this time, I was really annoyed. I felt myself stiffening up and ready to release a verbal tidal wave, but I was able to control myself. That's when the sales rep noticed our personalized license plate. In one final bit of miscalculated strategy, he said, "INDIANA ... do you work for state govern-

ment or something?" "NO!" I responded tersely. "Oh" he replied. "I thought you were somebody important!" That did it. Trying my best to subdue my passions, I said, "Sir, we ARE important. We are customers. And with that last comment, you just lost a sale. We will never come back to this dealership, and I'll tell my friends not to come to this dealership." We purchased our new Oldsmobile from a different dealer.

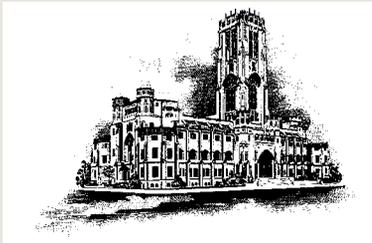
My story illustrates the old saying that we don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Because of a negative initial experience, the Oldsmobile rep lost a customer and a sale. As customers, my wife and I left the dealership angry and frustrated. I assume the sales rep was angry that he didn't make a sale. A potential win-win situation quickly turned into a lose-lose situation.

As human beings, we make mistakes such as this. I am just as guilty as the next person of sometimes showing my temper, making assumptions, and not always making a good first impression. But as Freemasons and Scottish Rite Masons, we must utilize the lessons we have been taught so that we may avoid situations where anger, snap decisions, and hurt feelings may develop. We must treat each other with dignity and respect.

2 Peter 1:5-7 says, "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."



The Knights of St Andrew presented a \$1000 check at the May Stated Meeting to the Children's Dyslexia Center for fund raising the group had performed over the past year. Membership is open to the Knights by contacting the Valley Office.



Petition for
32° Freemasonry
 Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

Scottish Rite Cathedral
 650 N. Meridian St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46204-1214
 317-262-3100 ≈ 800-489-3579
www.aasr-indy.org



To the Officers and Members of The Scottish Rite, Valley of Indianapolis:

Date _____

I, _____, respectfully show that I am desirous of being admitted as a member of your honorable body, and humbly request that I may be received among you.

Please Print Full Name

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

All applicants must be: (1) A resident of Indiana for one year (2) A Master Mason in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana (3) Recommended by one (1) members of the Valley of Indianapolis.

When born _____ Place of Birth _____
Month, Day, Year City State

Resides at _____
Street City State ZIP Code

I have resided in the State of Indiana _____ Year(s), and in this County _____ Months / Years (Circle One)

Occupation _____ Firm Name _____

I am now a member of _____ Lodge No. _____ F. & A.M. located at _____
Please attach a copy of your current lodge dues City, State

The Rules and Regulations provide A petition for the degrees shall be signed by the applicant's own hand, and by one member of The Scottish Rite, Valley of Indianapolis, who shall certify to his personal acquaintance with the petitioner and his qualifications for membership.

Recommended by: (Please PRINT or TYPE)

_____ Rite No. _____

Resident of _____ County

Payment: \$150.00 - Fee must accompany petition

() Check () Cash () Credit

Name on Card _____

Exp _____ Sec. Code _____

Card # _____

I am "Bringing a Buddy", to join with me!

Name: _____

Candidate Information

Signed: _____
First Middle Last
 Initials are NOT sufficient

MAILING ADDRESS

Preferred Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell. _____

E-mail address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Were you a DeMolay? _____ If yes, where _____

"Valley Visa"

Upon receipt of petition and payment of \$150.00, petitioner will receive a temporary Membership Card or "Valley Visa" entitling said petitioner to all the rights and privileges of membership except attending tiled meetings of the Valley.

11th Annual Ladies Tea: Success for the Dyslexia Center

by Jim Keating - Chairman

The Children's Dyslexia Center held its annual Ladies Tea at the Scottish Rite Saturday, April 28. As usual, the Scottish Rite men provided table service for the ladies at the tea and, also as always, their entrance "parade" is always a big crowd favorite at the event. In addition to an excellent lunch, there were several



opportunities for the ladies (and a few men also) to participate in raffle drawings for cash and prizes. This added a sense of excitement to the event and there were many who went home pleased with their winnings.

Of course, the main idea of the Tea is to raise funds for the Center. The work done there is wonderfully helpful to the young people who study hard to overcome their reading disability, dyslexia.

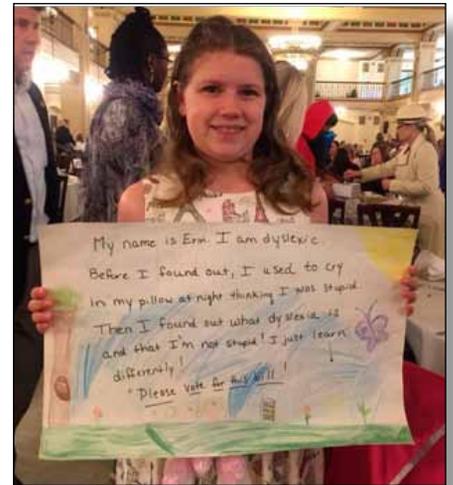
To highlight this, there were three speakers who spoke fittingly about the Tea. The first was Indiana Senator Rod Bray, from Martinsville, who worked in this last session to help pass important dyslexia legislation.

Also Josh Clemens, who suffered from dyslexia, spoke about the importance of adequate ways to address the problem. He successfully completed high school and is now studying at college.

Erin Groce was also present with the sign she made famous in the Indiana State House. These speakers helped remind

everyone of the importance of the work done at the Center. All attendees left with a better appreciation of the work we do and the tremendous support we receive from the Indianapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite.

The State of Indiana recently enacted legislation that will have an important impact on students in Indiana schools. The Children's Dyslexia Center at the Scottish Rite in Indianapolis has been active in advocating for children who suffer with dyslexia and it was proud to be represented at the bill signing in Indianapolis.



This new law will help schools identify students who need dyslexia intervention and will help students receive help at the earliest possible time. The bill, passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, requires reading plans for students in grades K-2 and screening, with parental consent, for dyslexia risk factors.

Members of our Board of Governors were active working with the legislature to craft this important legislation. Cheryl Clemens has long advocated for children's issues and was instrumental in speaking with legislators and providing them with research data to support the need for this new policy. Representative and Illustrious Brother Woody Burton, 33rd, helped usher the bill through the Indiana House of Representatives and was able to obtain widespread support from members of both political parties.



Cheryl and Woody, along with Deputy Grand Master Carl Culmann, Director Julie Bohanon, and Board Chair Jim Keating, attended the bill signing at the State House.

The Fantastic Tale of George Gardiner

by *John J Coelho - Archivist*
Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

The virtue of charity is a central tenet of Freemasonry. The fraternity and its members have a long and storied history of charitable giving that has aided those in need. The organization has also attracted the attention of those who wish to impose upon Masonic generosity. In this letter from the collection of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, George A Gardiner, most likely a confidence man, requests the assistance of Columbian Lodge, located in Boston, Massachusetts.

To the Officers and Members of Columbian Lodge.

Having lost our property by the great Earthquake of the 26th of March 1812 in Caracas, in South America, and the greatest part of the time since that period been detained by the Spaniards as prisoners, and for the last four years suffered everything but death and frequently threatened with that, and ultimately,— during the contentions in that country, the Royalists having found themselves likely to be overcome by the patriots, Robbed us of everything we possessed even to our clothes, and said “if the patriots should gain the place they would put me, my wife, and my two infant children to immediate and instant Death!”

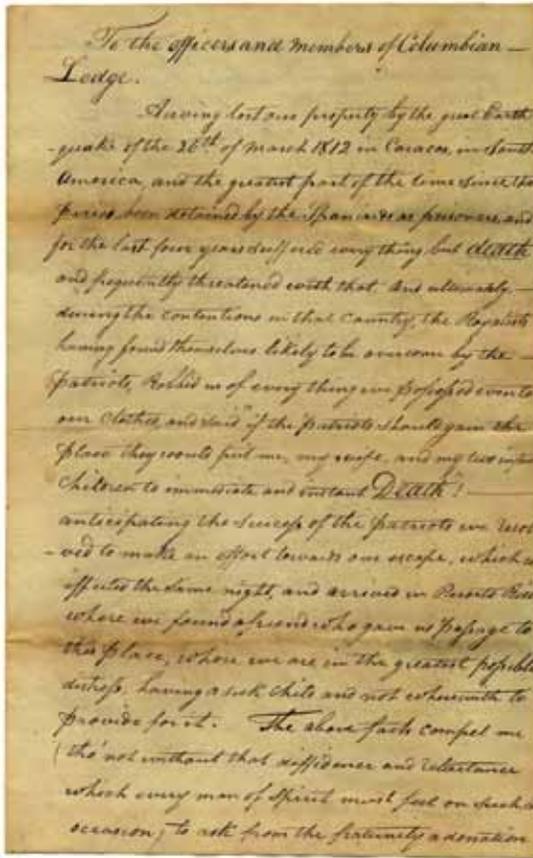
Anticipating the success of the patriots we resolved to make an effort towards our escape, which we effected the same night, and arrived in Puerto Rico, where we found a friend who gave us passage to this place, where we are in the greatest possible distress, having a sick child and not wherewith to provide for it. The above facts compel me thou’ not without that diffidence and reluctance which every man of spirit must feel on such an occasion to ask from the fraternity a donation for the present and immediate relief of a distressed family who have never before known want.

G.A. Gardiner

In 1820, only two years after writing the above letter to Columbian Lodge, Gardiner published his only known literary attempt, *A Brief and Correct Account of an Earthquake Which Happened in South America*, an account of the 1812 Venezuela earthquake. In addition to incorrectly dating the event—Gardiner stated the earthquake took place on March 26, 1818—he greatly exaggerated the numbers of casualties. His tall tale

included a fantastic description of a “subterranean channel” that “was formed by the tops of two very high mountains falling together” nearly 400 miles from Caracas.

Gardiner's surreal description of Venezuela drew the attention of respected Venezuelan geologist Franco Urbani Patat in 1985. Urbani Patat debunked Gardiner's work, calling it a fictitious invention possibly used to impress others. Gardiner's account amounted to literary fraud, Urbani Patat concluded.



It is unclear why Gardiner, who does not appear to have been a Mason, requested aid from Columbian Lodge or if he made the same request to other Lodges. Furthermore, we may never know for certain whether Columbian Lodge ever responded to Gardiner's plea for assistance. The Museum's collection of records for Columbian Lodge is incomplete and contains several gaps that prevent this question from being answered. That said, research into Gardiner's life provides a better, if not always clearer, picture of the man and of his life.

George A Gardiner was born in New York around 1786 and married Mary Anne Headley of New Jersey sometime before 1818. The couple had at least three children together—a son

George A, born in 1818, a son John Charles, who often used the name Carlos or John Carlos, born in Havana, Cuba, in 1824, and a daughter whose name and birth record have not yet been located. While no record of George A Gardiner's death was found in Ancestry.com, courtroom testimony from the trial of his two sons for perjury and fraud, the infamous Gardiner trial, reveals that senior Gardiner died in Havana, Cuba, possibly around 1840.

Letter from G A Gardiner to Columbian Lodge, May 6, 1818. Gift of Columbian Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts, courtesy of Mrs Godfrey S Tomkins, MA 002.

Campaign for the Cathedral

WIBC's Stacy to Host October Spelling Bee

For the first time ever, the Indianapolis Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation will host a spelling bee for grown ups at 7 pm on Friday, October 19, 2018, in the Cathedral. This event will be a fund raiser to benefit preservation of the Cathedral via the Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation.

Well-known Indianapolis radio personality Terri Stacy of WIBC will serve as the host and pronouncer for this team event. It will be open to members as well as the public. Be sure to fill out and send in the registration form before October 16, 2018.

Get a team together and plan to spend a fun evening testing your spelling skills and helping to preserve the Cathedral! Contact Steve Sonafrank at (317) 262-3123 or at steve@aastr-indy.org for more information.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Each team will consist of up to 5 members. All team members must be 18 years of age by October 19, 2018.

All teams will spell the same words. The official spelling list will consist of 3 sets of 15 words each. At the end of each round of 15 words, two bonus words will be given.

1 point will be awarded for each regular word that is spelled correctly. 3 points will be awarded for each bonus word that is spelled correctly.

In the event of a tie, a sudden-death "spell-off" of up to ten words will take place. A tie will only result if more than one team is still in competition after the tenth word. Those words typically will be more challenging than the bonus words.

Prizes will be awarded!

Cash bar and snacks will be available.

A non-participant seating area will be available for family, friends, and supporters.

For more information, please contact Steve Sonafrank at steve@aastr-indy.org or call (317) 262-3123

**SCOTTISH RITE ADULT SPELLING BEE
REGISTRATION FORM**

DEADLINE: OCT. 16, 2018

Team Name _____

Name of Team Captain _____

Captain Phone () _____

Captain Email _____

Names of team members:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

**TYPE OF REGISTRATION
(Check one)**

___ **Team Registration: \$100**

___ **Letter Sponsor: \$50.00 per letter
I wish to sponsor letter(s)** _____

___ **Letter Sponsor (one letter) and team
Registration: \$125.00**

___ **Corporate Sponsor (includes one
Team Registration: \$250.00**

**Name & address of Team Sponsor or Letter
Sponsor (if a sponsorship is involved):**

**Clip off this form and mail it with your check
payable to Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation,
650 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46204**



Spelling Bee

Rankin Returns to Play Silent Movie

Friday, September 28, 2018, at 7:30 pm, the Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation will present Mr Donnie Rankin at the Cathedral's magnificent E M Skinner pipe organ.

For his second appearance at the Cathedral, Rankin will accompany the original 1925 silent movie masterpiece, "The Phantom of the Opera."

"The Phantom of the Opera" is a 1925 American silent horror film adaptation of Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel "Le Fantôme de l'opera" and stars Lon Chaney, Sr in the title role of the Phantom who haunts the Paris Opera House, causing murder and mayhem in an attempt to make the woman he loves a star. The film remains most famous for Chaney's ghastly, self-devised make-up, which was kept a studio secret until the film's premiere on November 25, 1925. It established Chaney's nickname as "The Man of a Thousand Faces."



stars Lon Chaney, Sr in the title role of the Phantom who haunts the Paris Opera House, causing murder and mayhem in an attempt to

make the woman he loves a star. The film remains most famous for Chaney's ghastly, self-devised make-up, which was kept a studio secret until the film's premiere on November 25, 1925. It established Chaney's nickname as "The Man of a Thousand Faces."

Donnie Rankin first took an interest in the theatre organ at the age of 3 when he heard the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Civic Theatre in Akron, OH. Classical piano training followed in 2005, and his budding talent quickly blossomed. Since then, Rankin has won several organ competitions and awards, including being named the overall winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2007. He has performed for audiences around the world.

Please join us for what promises to be a memorable and entertaining event. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased in advance by calling the Scottish Rite fraternal office at (317) 262-3100. Proceeds go toward maintaining the Cathedral's wonderful organ.



THE SOCIETY OF Cathedral BUILDERS

Listed here are members and friends of the Valley of Indianapolis who contributed to the Indianapolis Scottish Rite Cathedral Foundation, Inc during the year February 1, through April 30, 2018. The Foundation was established in 1984 to preserve and maintain the Scottish Rite Cathedral and recognizes all donors at the level of their gift. Tax-deductible gifts may be made by contacting Steve Sonafank at (317) 262-3123.

Mark of Honor
Walter J Daly 33°
Henry R Schull

Mark of Provenance
Don R Reynolds II

Positioning Mark

- Anonymous
- Terry L Armentrout
- Michael G Barth III
- Mildred Cook
- Beatrice E Gauld
- Geist Christian Church
- Dorothy Hess
- Michael J Kauffman
- James D Pinnick
- Jonathan D Tekulve

Stonecutter's Mark

- Anonymous
- Darrell W Birge
- Edward W Bloom
- Richard D Bray, 33°
- Peter G Buttram
- Thomas C Cates
- Faye Monroe Crowell
- John R Freeland
- Kristan Carlos Groseclose
- Andrew C Hoffman
- Ernest E Hodges
- Christopher M Jenks
- Robert M McDonald
- Harold E Miller, Jr
- Lowell A Nicodemus
- Thomas H Niemeyer
- PEO Chapter F
- Carlyle Skinner
- Cary H Snyder, 33°
- George F Sparrow
- Derek D Sternaman
- David A Stratton
- Marlin C Summerlot
- Anthony W Swinehart
- Daniel D Trivett
- Danny L Vandame
- Kenneth Waits
- Kevin Williams
- Vicki Wilson
- Thomas Yeley
- Wilson D York
- Randy J Zentz

MEMORIALS

- in memory of Anna Schelbert Hurlock
Indianapolis Chapter of Rose Croix
- in memory of John D Gauld
Beatrice E Gauld
- in memory of Charles M Hess
Dorothy Hess



Trying to Be Like Tom and Bill

by Jerry B Collins, 33° - editor

I was recently talking with a good friend reminiscing about Illustrious Tom Williams, 33°, and Illustrious Bill Richter, 33°, and some of the things they did to help us along our Masonic Journey. Tom gave me my first speaking part -- a prologue and Bill recommended me for an appointment as a line officer. They were promoters and encouragers of our Craft in the finest of traditions.

This issue has reflected on the service of 15 Scottish Rite Masons of the Indianapolis Valley with a membership of 7000 men in central Indiana that is led by 35 elected and appointed officers. The last full convocation we conferred the required 258 parts to be cast in speaking and non-speaking roles, make-up and wardrobe departments, singing and orchestra groups, and masters of ceremonies, banquet, and tilers committees. We are organized by more than 15 committees, 14 clubs and guilds, and seven districts of ambassadors to liaison with lodges in our jurisdiction. Our Valley's charity is the Children's Dyslexia Center and is governed by a board of 14 members. The center of all this activity emanates from the most beautiful building in the world solely dedicated to the values of Freemasonry. To think that there isn't room for YOU would be an incorrect assumption.

For the past 18 years, we have honored the service of those retiring to provide an example and inspiration to others to take up their slack and be tomorrow's leader. So, you may ask, "Where or how do I get started?" Here are four ways:

- Attend the monthly Stated Meetings. Of course we have to 'take care of business' but that only takes about 20 minutes. Stated Meetings are really about the fellowship. No coat or tie -- come as you are. The meetings are fun and then we quickly adjourn for small talk and refreshments in the newly refurbished Double Eagle Café. Make new friends and start to explore other areas where you can get involved.

- Cathedral University. In the last issue of the Double Eagle, Cathedral University was introduced as yet another way to receive more Masonic education. For more info go to www.aasr-indy.org.

- Knights of St Andrew. This service organization was founded by one of our own members in 2003 and has been copied throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to provide opportunities to become involved in degrees, stage crew, and membership development. The Knights provide family-style social outings for fellowship and meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. No advance reservations are required -- just show up. Our leadership frequently reaches into the KSA when appointing members to the progressive officer lines.

- Bean Supper is another great opportunity to fellowship with more than 500 guys in the same room at the same time. This annual event will next be held on Friday, September 7, at 7 pm. No coat or tie required, but reservations are made through the website or by calling 317-262-3100. Great speaker, too!

By simply attending or participating in any or all of these events, you will likely find the path that is right for you.

As I began this article talking about Tom and Bill and what they did to identify new members and inspire us to consider how we can further serve the Valley (and in the time being, make ourselves better men and Masons), I came to the realization that after a quarter century in the fraternity, and now that Tom and Bill -- and others -- are gone, it is now my great opportunity and solemn responsibility to be 'Tom' and 'Bill' and carry on the mantel of promoter and encourager of our Craft by remembering the motto of the 33rd Degree: "First to the front, last to retreat."