

SEPTEMBER 2019

# rite now

THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

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WHY WE BELONG

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[valleyofpittsburgh.org](http://valleyofpittsburgh.org)

# In Memoriam

Since our last issue, the following members of the Valley of Pittsburgh have been called home:

## Ill. · Donald T. Beecher, 33°

Robert H. Andree	Paul H. Lambert III
John W. Beech	Walter W. Long Jr.
William Nolan Bland	Steve Lovasic
Thomas R. Blaskovich	William A. Lynn Sr.
Joel G. Bossard	Paul M. Madaras
James R. Brown	Homer L. McCabe
George F. Buerger Jr.	Leonard L. McCrory
William White Caldwell	Kenneth W. Middlemiss
John R. Churchel	Donald Grant Mitchell
James M. Coffroth	Charles J. Netzel III
Henry H. Devault	William A. Nylander
Jackie A. Fike	William J. Powelson Jr.
Charles E. Firestone	Joseph W. Proie Jr.
Robert E. Fretz	Charles A. Rapp
William H. Fulton	Mark J. Rutter
Ronald S. Gancas	Dale M. Smith
James H. Ghrist	William Harold Swan Jr.
George F. Glarner Jr.	Stanley A. Trader
David E. Gratz	Ralph D. Wagner III
Earl K. Hartzell	Thomas J. Walsh Jr.
Paul J. Imhoff	Donn A. Wilke
Thomas H. Johns	Lewis J. Wittman
James W. King	Leonard H. Wurzel
Melvin J. Kukich	Kenneth R. Young



**rite**now

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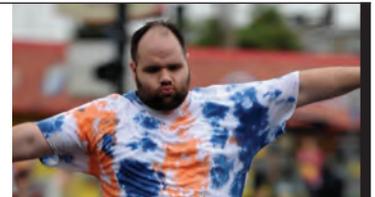
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### about this issue

So much of Freemasonry is constant, quantifiable. The science of geometry, from which many of our lessons come, is specifically concerned with measuring and calculating the unchanging. But for all of the exactness and precision in Freemasonry, the reasons it speaks to us are simply incalculable. The only thing that is similar for each of us is that we belong. We are a unique puzzle piece in the larger picture of the Craft, and without our participation, the puzzle will never be complete. *This is Why We Belong.*



# Meet the new Valley Officers

## Gourgas Lodge of Perfection



**Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°**  
Thrice Potent Master



**David L. Moore, 33°**  
Deputy Master



**Eric S. Teasdale, 33°**  
Senior Warden



**Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA**  
Junior Warden

## Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem



**Robert M. Polander, 32°**  
Sovereign Prince



**Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°**  
High Priest



**Richard F. Kucera, 32°**  
Senior Warden



**Robert H. Nelson, 32°**  
Junior Warden

## Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix



**Matthew A. Boice, 32°**  
Most Wise Master



**Kris M. Douglas, 32°**  
Senior Warden



**Jordan L. Frei, 32°**  
Junior Warden



**Charles F. Zurcher, 32°**  
Orator

## Pennsylvania Consistory



**Samuel C. Williamson, 33°**  
Commander-in-Chief



**Rodney E. Boyce, 33°**  
1st Lieutenant Commander



**William G. Johnston, 33°**  
2nd Lieutenant Commander



**Robert B. McGinnis, 32°**  
Chancellor



**George W. Polnar, 33°**  
Treasurer



**David W. Morgans, 33°**  
Secretary



**Vito A. Urso, 33°**  
Hospitaler



**Dennis R. Johnston, 33°**  
Tiler



# VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

## Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° . . . . . Thrice Potent Master  
 David L. Moore, 33° . . . . . Deputy Master  
 Eric S. Teasdale, 33° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA . . . . . Junior Warden  
 Christopher A. McNeal, 32° . . . . . Orator  
 David C. Allison, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 David C. Runco, 32° . . . . . Guard

## Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem

Robert M. Polander, 32° . . . . . Sovereign Prince  
 Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° . . . . . High Priest  
 Richard F. Kucera, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Robert H. Nelson, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden  
 B. Scott Allen, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Aaron J. Antimary, 32° . . . . . Master of Entrances

## Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

Matthew A. Boice, 32° . . . . . Most Wise Master  
 Kris M. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Jordan L. Frei, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden  
 Charles F. Zurcher, 32° . . . . . Orator  
 William B. Bittinger, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Guard

## Pennsylvania Consistory 32°

Samuel C. Williamson, 33° . . . . . Commander-in-Chief  
 Rodney E. Boyce, 33° . . . . . 1st Lieutenant Commander  
 William G. Johnston, 33° . . . . . 2nd Lieutenant Commander  
 David E. Thumm Jr., 32° . . . . . Orator  
 Robert B. McGinnis, 32° . . . . . Chancellor  
 Greer C. R. Lukens, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Thomas J. Anke, 32° . . . . . Engineer & Seneschal  
 Erich W. Gumto, 32° . . . . . Standard Bearer  
 Richard J. Saxberg, 32° . . . . . Guard  
 George W. Polnar, 33° . . . . . Treasurer  
 David W. Morgans, 33° . . . . . Secretary  
 Vito A. Urso, 33° . . . . . Hospitaller  
 Dennis R. Johnston, 33° . . . . . Tiler  
 Samuel C. Williamson, 33°, Peter A. Leary, 32°, MSA,  
 Ronald A. Plesh, 32°, MSA . . . . . MFS Representatives

## Executive Committee

Samuel C. Williamson, 33°, Chairman  
 Rodney E. Boyce, 33° . . . . . William G. Johnston, 33°  
 Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° . . . . . David L. Moore, 33°  
 Robert M. Polander, 32° . . . . . Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°  
 Matthew A. Boice, 32° . . . . . Kris M. Douglas, 32°  
 George W. Polnar, 33° . . . . . David W. Morgans, 33°  
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 Samuel C. Williamson, 33° . . . . . Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°  
 Matthew A. Boice, 32°

## Allegiance

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts, and whose Officers are: Ill.: David A. Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill.: Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Deputy for Pennsylvania. Other Active members for Pennsylvania are: Ill.: Thomas R. Labagh, 33°, Ill.: George Nakonetschny, 33°, Ill.: Keith E. Parkinson, 33°, and Ill.: Paul J. Roup, 33°.



**Christopher A. McNeal, 32°**  
Orator



**David C. Allison, 32°**  
Master of Ceremonies



**David C. Runco, 32°**  
Guard



**B. Scott Allen, 32°**  
Master of Ceremonies



**Aaron J. Antimary, 32°**  
Master of Entrances



**William B. Bittinger, 32°**  
Master of Ceremonies



**Benjamin J. Douglas, 32°**  
Guard



**Thomas J. Anke, 32°**  
Engineer & Seneschal



**Richard J. Saxberg, 32°**  
Guard

*photos unavailable:*

**David E. Thumm Jr., 32°**  
Orator

**Greer C. R. Lukens, 32°**  
Master of Ceremonies

**Erich W. Gumto, 33°**  
Standard Bearer

# The Active

A message from the Supreme Council Active for Pennsylvania

## SUPREME COUNCIL

# A Renaissance Mason

By Paul J. Roup, 33°

Illustrious Thomas Kay Sturgeon joined the North Fayette Police Department in 1969 as a patrolman. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1973 and to Chief in 1976. He retired from that position in 1994 and assumed the position of Superintendent of Police for Allegheny County. The final job in his distinguished career was as Director of Casino Compliance for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. He and his wife, Joan, currently reside in Sarasota, Florida.

Tom was raised a Master Mason in Oakdale Lodge No. 669 on March 25, 1965. He immediately took a shine to leadership, and four short years later, in 1969, he was elected Worshipful Master. In 1983, he was appointed as a District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a position he would hold for ten years. He remained active in Grand Lodge and served as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania in 2010-11.

Brother Tom joined the Scottish Rite in 1971, and again felt called to leadership. He worked his way through the line, and eventually served as Commander-in-Chief of Pennsylvania Consistory in 1988-89. He was crowned an Active Member of Supreme Council in 1990 and has served in that capacity, or as Deputy since that time. At the Supreme Council session in Milwaukee last month, Brother Tom was made an Emeritus member of the Supreme

Council. A fitting cap to a stellar career.

To say that Brother Tom is a leader would be an understatement. A thoughtful Mason and passionate and gifted orator, Tom has a unique ability to convey his passion through his voice and inspire others to action. He has spent the majority of his Masonic

journey in service to the Fraternity in some capacity or another. I recently had a chance to sit down with Tom and reflect on his time in service to the Scottish Rite:

**PJR:** *How did you become an Active Member of Supreme Council?*

**TKS:** 1988, I had just come off of being the General Chairman of the Supreme Council session here in Pittsburgh, so I had the chance to work closely with Ira Coldren of Uniontown who was the Active at that time. Evidently, the session went well enough, because I was surprised by Ira asking if I would consider taking the job when he reached Emeritus status. Sometimes in the Valley, I had spoken out on issues more than most people, so no one was more surprised than me when I was offered the job.

**PJR:** *What were your thoughts as you began that journey?*

**TKS:** It was clear to me from the outset that the Valley of Pittsburgh needed to be run by the officers. As I was coming up through the line, which was

It's concerning that in 50 years, we have lost 75% of our members.



Paul J. Roup, 33°  
pjroup@srmnj.org

an eighteen-year journey at the time, Brother Sam Williamson and I (we served back to back) had trouble getting anything done because the Trustees ran the Valley. So it was clear to me that the first order of business was to let the Officers run the Valley. And after 20 years of allowing that, I am convinced it was the right decision. The Valley of Pittsburgh is one of the best and arguably best-run Valleys in the entire jurisdiction, so I have never regretted it.

**PJR:** *Tell me about the Sovereign Grand Commanders you have worked for.*

**TKS:** I started under Commander Bob Ralston, though I had the chance to work with Commander Francis Paul when I was General Session Chairman. After Ralston were Walter Weber, John Wm. McNaughton, and finally David Glatly, our current Commander. Each was very different. Some served as caretakers, others as movers—and that is not a judgment on anyone. They all did what they thought was best, and what was needed at the time. Without a doubt, though, the current Commander has displayed a wide-angle vision of this Fraternity, how to modernize it, and how to improve it, and it has thrilled me beyond words to be a part of his team.

**PJR:** *What were some of your assignments in your role as Active?*

**TKS:** Early on, I was on the Strategic Planning and State of the Rite Committees for the first five or six years, but I was not a good fit. At that time (far before it was implemented) I was advocating for recorded degrees and alternate ways to structure the officer progressions within the Valleys. Those ideas were looked upon almost as heresy at the time, and ultimately, I found myself not on those committees. Today, both of those things have been implemented, so I feel vindicated, and I feel like I made a difference.

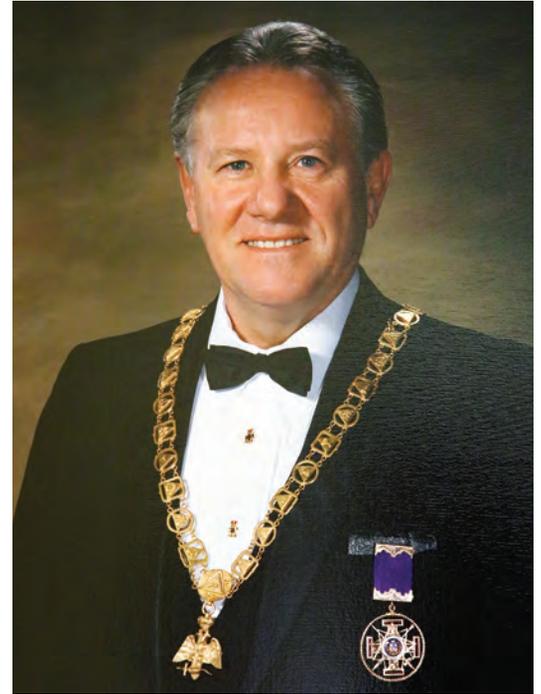
**PJR:** *That's pretty amazing. Where else have you felt you have made an impact?*

**TKS:** I was always one who spoke my mind. I never held back for the sake of being popular or for the sake of having a longer tenure. I was a tireless advocate for things that I thought would move the Fraternity forward. One of those was the building of relations with Prince Hall, and it was good to be a part of the Steel City Invitational where our two bodies got together and conferred degrees as a team. That wouldn't have happened twenty years ago, but it was a wonderful and unifying event. No matter what, I always spoke my mind and was willing to take whatever consequences occurred as a result. Fortunately, there were no consequences.

**PJR:** *For sure. So becoming an Emeritus Member is not the end for you. You are staying on as Grand Chancellor. What are your duties in that position?*

**TKS:** The Grand Chancellor is responsible for the relationships with Supreme Councils around the world. Sometimes it means visitations, sometimes just keeping fraternal relations open, and occasionally it means translating the nuances in complicated messages between bodies. It's interesting that not all Supreme Councils get along with each other all the time, but at the end of the day, they all get along. I was at a session in Europe where one Commander rose to address the host Commander. He said, "Commander, it is a pleasure to be here because thirty years ago, we were at war with each other." It's a great feeling to know that Masonry can supersede political strife. What kind of world would this be if everyone could get along like that?

**PJR:** *You have a unique vantage point where one part of your journey is ending and another beginning. What are your*



*thoughts on the past, present, and future of the Rite?*

**TKS:** Supreme Council has made some incredible advances in its membership development program. The Path Forward and all that it entails is really top-notch. But even with that, we are still losing three times as many members as we take in each year. It's concerning that in 50 years, we have lost 75% of our members. We need to be concerned about what we offer to make men want to be Scottish Rite Masons. And with some of the old "sword and helmet" degrees as I call them, I am not sure we communicated our values well. Even our current "modern" degrees are from the Civil and Revolutionary wars from 150 to 200 years ago. The new DVD degrees will help people understand our values better.

Another area where we can improve is in making new members feel welcome. There's a chance that a new member will come into a meeting, sit by himself, eat by himself, and leave alone. And if that happens, it'll likely be the last meeting he attends. We can all do better in bringing the new guys into the fold.

The greatest thing we have at the Supreme Council right now is the Grand Almoner's fund. Commander McNaughton talked endlessly about the obligation we took to care for one another and the great things that that fund has done to help people will be his legacy.

**PJR:** *What is the one thing you are most proud of in your twenty years as an Active?*

**TKS:** Most of all, I am proud progress of the Valley of Pittsburgh. I am proud of their initiative to do so many things differently than they used to. I am proud of the modern degrees that so many other Valleys have shown and requested information about. The programs, concerts, plays, and car cruises give the members so much value for their dues. More than that, doing these things has created such a camaraderie among the brethren that you can't put a price on.

**PJR:** *They say that no one gets where they are alone. Who was the biggest influence on your Masonic path?*

**TKS:** The credit for my whole Masonic career rests solely on Sam Williamson. He appointed me as a District Deputy Grand Master in 1983. He was a tireless advocate for me becoming the Junior Grand Warden. So as one of the more controversial Grand Masters, I truly never made a decision or a change

without the acquiescence of Sam because then I knew I had at least one person who I respected that agreed with me or at least understood and supported my reasons for doing it.

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to be  
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Masons.

**PJR:** *Any parting thoughts?*

**TKS:** I want my Brothers to know what a privilege it has been to serve, especially for so long. It was a privilege to serve as Grand Master of the largest jurisdiction in the world, and you can only do that with a great partner in life. I couldn't have done any of this without the love and support of my wife, Joan.

It was fun to lead, and I always felt like I did it to the best of my ability, and with integrity. I would be lying if I said I wasn't going to miss it, but the future of the Valley of Pittsburgh and the Scottish Rite is bright.

**PJR:** *If it's bright, that is because of the light you carried for so long. Thank you for all that you have done for the Valley, for the Grand Lodge, and the Supreme Council.* □



# The Chief

A message from the Commander-in-Chief of Pennsylvania Consistory

CONSISTORY

## Looking Toward Tomorrow

By Samuel C. Williamson, 33°

No one can possibly be more surprised than me that I am once again serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh. I had the honor of holding in that position in 1986-87 and did not expect to be here again. I view this time as one of stewardship and transition.

The Valley of Pittsburgh had and has so much talent within its ranks, specifically in the Officer Corps, so I do not expect to do much of the “heavy lifting,” leaving that to the young bucks. I will provide guidance, direction, and maybe even a little bit of wisdom that I may have picked up over the years—not to imply in any way that the officers are short on wisdom of their own.

At my farewell address as Grand Master 36 years ago in December of 1983, I said, “Today, our look should be forward. We should not permit yesterday to consume too much of tomorrow. It is

necessary, however, that we review yesterday in order that it may serve as a foundation for tomorrow.”

We should not permit yesterday to consume too much of tomorrow.

Our Valley is strong—probably the best in the Jurisdiction. Our Valley is wise, and we will use that wisdom to learn from the mistakes of the past, build on what has worked,

and shape for ourselves a bright future.

I look forward to once again being a part of the leadership of this great Valley.

□



Samuel C. Williamson, 33°  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org



# The Potent

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

LODGE OF PERFECTION

## Belonging

By Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°

In his 2011 book, *Native American Freemasonry, Associationalism and Performance in America*, J. Porter notes that the fraternity's operations have always been primarily social and ritualistic in nature, focusing on conviviality and the practice of carrying out successive rites among like-minded friends. More importantly, the Scottish Rite bodies confer the degrees—4th through 32nd—in full form and ceremony with dramatic fanfare, stage scenery, lighting effects, beautiful costumes, and musical accompaniment. It takes dozens upon dozens of dedicated, like-minded members of every walk of life to contribute their talents and abilities towards the execution of those degrees. However, the degrees are more than just an elaborate stage production. They

should appeal to the mind and heart, as well as the eye and ear of all who witness them. Each degree is full of drama, allegory, and symbolism. Likewise, each degree of the Scottish Rite touches on history, music, the arts and sciences, Masonic philosophy, and morality. George Washington once said, "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation." He also said, "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God." As with many of the degrees, there is no organization that builds on freedom, patriotism, fairness, and inclusiveness more than the Scottish Rite.

Every man has his unique reason for joining the Scottish Rite. Occasionally the path of satisfaction or gratification might be unknown to a poor and weary traveler, and the eventual rewards of accomplishment may be different for each person. Robert G. Davis, 33°, Secretary Emeritus of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies once said, "While on your travels through Scottish Rite you should understand that there is nothing more important than an educated mind because the thing that hurts people more than anything else in the world is ignorance. Every man has to look deep inside himself and figure out who he really is, and who he really wants to become, and if he does not make that introspective journey, he will tend to live his entire life unaware of who he is and what his real gifts and talents are." So take solace in the fact that only those individuals believed to be of the finest

character are favorably considered for membership.

Some people join for tradition, and fathers want to pass their experiences on to their sons. For others, it is self-improvement. Masons seek to better themselves and to help others, not because they think they should, but because they want to. For some, the draw is fellowship. By attending the

meetings and learning from your fellow members, you might strengthen the bonds of friendship as you join together with like-minded men who share the same ideals of both a moral and metaphysical nature. Yet for others, the call is leadership. As we progress in the Scottish Rite, we might discover different aspects of ourselves, and develop a range of new skills that even we did not know we possessed. By developing and nurturing those

leadership skills that fit our personalities, we can unlock the door to our fullest potential.

We belong to the Scottish Rite because we know there are people out there that we can rely on and trust. Every member of the fraternity is bound to create and develop lasting friendships, meet new business associates, and broaden their circle of friends. And should your journey in life be overtaken by misfortune, sickness, or adversity through no fault of your own, know that the hands of our great fraternity will be there to pull you up, aid, and assist you. Rest assured that no matter where your travels take you, there are Brothers out there that you can depend on and trust.

Every man has to look deep inside himself and figure out who he really is, and who he really wants to become.



Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°  
tjm@valleyofpittsburgh.org

# The Sovereign

A message from the Sovereign Prince of the Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

## A Pledge of Support

By Robert M. Polander, 32°

First off, I would like to thank everyone for supporting me throughout the years in my progression in the Princes' line—learning the degree work by helping each other, making friends, bonding, fellowship, working together in our charity drives, and gaining knowledge as we continue our Masonic journey. When I first joined Masonry, I never knew the joy I would find in the friendships of all the good men I have met and have had the pleasure of working with in so many ways. I hope this is the same feeling every Mason has as he becomes involved and takes an active part. The same holds for visiting other Masonic bodies. Let's face it, by showing our support for each other we learn there is something we truly love about the fraternity that



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keeps us coming back.

Unfortunately, we are losing more members than we are gaining, so if this keeps up, our beloved fraternity is doomed unless WE do something about it. We will have to do something; talk to your family members that are not Masons, your kids, grandkids, and friends who you think would like what we have to offer. You and they will have to find the time to Make Good Men Better.

My goals this year will be similar to those of all the good men who came before me: to help, keep, support, and maintain Scottish Rite to the best of my ability. We each must continue our work by doing whatever is asked of us to do; volunteer our services if not asked; support the Learning Center in any way you can—especially with fundraisers like the Golf outing and the Dyslexia Walk. Other programs like the flower and candy sales as well as the car cruises and vacations give the Center much-needed revenue. The Princes of Jerusalem host the children's Christmas party. Why not donate your time to help. The holidays are always a perfect time for us to give back to our friends and families.

Being dyslexic myself, I understand the challenges these children are facing. My goal is to write several papers on dyslexia, describing it and how tutoring helps overcome it; what a parent might look for; and how to have the child tested and apply to the Children's Dyslexia Center to let the learning begin.

We have a great learning center, staffed by exceptional people, with

the shared goal of helping the kids get the best start in life they possibly can. Support us by participating in and attending the fundraisers. Join the walk. Come to our graduation and hear the students and parents praise us for what we do. It's time to reach out to the parents and young adults we have trained (who have attended the Center) to see what the tutoring has done for them and what they are doing today. This information is very useful in helping to improve our school and surely boost our fundraising programs so we can help even more children overcome dyslexia.

My goal will be communicating helpful information to the Craft by:

Being dyslexic myself, I understand the challenges these children are facing.

1) Clearly identifying what and how students with dyslexia are helped, as well as the different forms of dyslexia. We don't call our instructors teachers; we refer to them as "trainers." The kids are smart but struggle with reading and other difficulties common with

dyslexia, so we train them on how to overcome these difficulties.

2) Reminding the craft of upcoming events, and encouraging our members to give more support to the people putting on these events by attending.

3) Talking about the problem of membership. We must do what we can to improve it. Start by supporting the Blue lodge, possibly giving programs to get the inactive members to attend. If you are knowledgeable about something that you think others would enjoy, do a program on it. If you bring out members that don't usually attend, they will help spread

*continued on page 32*

# TheWise

A message from the Most Wise Master of the Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix

ROSE CROIX

## Show Me

By Matthew A. Boice, 32°

Let me first express my gratitude for the confidence and support that you all have offered which has led me to now serve as Most Wise Master of Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix. I promise to do my best to live up to the standards set by those who have traveled this same road before me.

This issue, dedicated to the question of why we belong, reminds me of an article I wrote for my blue lodge website as well as words once penned by Ill. Roy A McCullough, Past Commander in Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh. Please consider the following sentiments.

### Why are we here?

This is the question that many newly raised Masons begin to ask themselves



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after they have spent a few months coming to the typical lodge meeting.

I have a friend who has been a Mason for just under two years. He came to meetings regularly at first. Then he missed a lot. He came to one more last spring. He is now willing to get suspended because he lost interest. I called him and tried to convince him to stay. His response to me was, "It's just not what I had expected or hoped for."

As I am now in my 33rd year as a member of what I considered the greatest fraternity this world has ever known, I can recall many occasions when a younger, enthusiastic man has joined the fraternity and then lost interest. I remember those early years when as a new high school teacher and newlywed, I found myself drifting away from regular lodge attendance. Job and family were first. Fortunately, I stayed the course and found my way back to active membership. In my case, I had great lodge mentors (as well as my father, who was a Mason) who kept encouraging me to get reinvolved.

The problem with lodge membership today does not lie with our young members, who just don't have the same commitment that we did. The problem is that we, the veteran members, don't have the same commitment to our young members as those veterans of the past did when we were the new members. I'm not speaking of the intimidation tactics that some of us have seen used in the past to browbeat young guys into learning their ritual or serving on committees. That kind of "encouragement" does not work. Today's young men will be as committed

as our fathers and grandfathers were as long as they see a reason to be. Today's younger members need a meaningful purpose—one that not only serves our Lodge or Valley, but that reaches out into the community and to humanity itself. They need to know that we are not only their Brother, but also their Father and Mentor in the Fraternity.

Today's younger members need a meaningful purpose

"Show Me!"—by Ill. Roy A. McCullough (abridged)

Recently, while listening to a selection from Lerner and Lowe's "My Fair Lady," I was attracted by the name of a certain song, "Show Me."

It seems the young lady was becoming impatient after all the promises her lover had been making, but not providing. So, she reacted with the beautiful song, "Show Me."

How appropriate the name of that song applies to Freemasonry, my Brethren.

If you really believe in true Brotherly Love and Affection, Show Me.

If you actually believe in Faith, Hope and Charity, then Show Me.

If you believe in the lessons taught in our degrees, Show Me.

If you believe in the symbolism reflected in the Plumb, the Level, the Square, the Trowel, and the Cable Tow, then Show Me.

If you believe in the Five Points of Fellowship, Show Me.

If you believe the time-honored fact that no organization, including your own Symbolic Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite Valley can long endure without

*continued on page 32*

# The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Help Wanted!

By David W. Morgans, 33°

We all joined this Fraternity for different reasons. However, we probably have some commonalities. I don't think anyone joined a worldwide organization that promotes brotherly love among its membership and individual personal growth to stand by themselves and be left alone. The whole idea of a fraternity is connectivity with other members who have chosen to join. Fellowship with other men who care about their Brothers is one of



David W. Morgans, 33°  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

the great things each member is eligible to partake in when they join Freemasonry.

If we are each eligible to get fellowship out of this Fraternity, then a logical question to ask would be, "Are we willing to give fellowship?" Fellowship is never one-sided. If we receive it, we must give it. In a Valley of over 5,000 members, it becomes a major challenge to offer fellowship to each member. However, it is possible through the Brother-to-Brother program that the Scottish Rite offers. That's where a group of very special Princes of the Royal Secret comes into play.

We are looking for 50-100 Scottish Rite Masons to participate in this program. Do you possess some or all of the following?

1. Likes to talk with other Masons.
2. Knows how to use and owns a telephone.
3. Has time during the week to make 5-10 phone calls.
4. Has an email address and is willing to communicate with other Valley members via email.

The Brother-to-Brother program is a way for Scottish Rite Masons to have fellowship with other Scottish Rite Masons in a unique way. The idea behind it is to communicate with other Brothers via phone conversations or email correspondence. This program is designed for proactive communication to find out how a Brother is doing and to see if the

Fellowship  
is never  
one-sided.  
If we  
receive it,  
we must  
give it.

Valley can do anything for them. IT IS NOT TO COLLECT DUES OR EVEN TO TALK ABOUT DUES. The Valley will provide you with contact information and suggested conversation starters.

Are you willing to give some of your

time to have fellowship with your Brothers? If so, please contact me at 412-939-3579 or via email at [secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org). Remember, one of the values of belonging to a fraternity is fellowship. Your Brothers will benefit from your participation. Your Valley will benefit. The Fraternity will benefit, and, most certainly, you will benefit from living into and up to your obligations. □

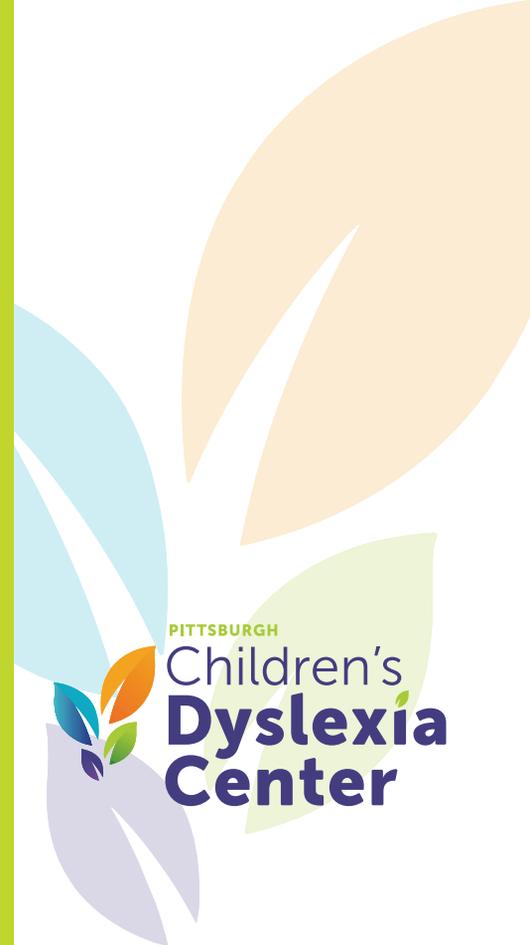


CHARITY

# Charity Golf Outing for the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

Golfers once again teed it up at Butler's Lakeside in Elizabeth, PA to support the Children's Dyslexia Center. More than 40 golfers vied for skill prizes and bragging rights all while supporting our flagship charity.

□



# A Community of the Spirit

by D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

For the second time in my parental career, I have returned from what I will chalk up as a successful college visitation tour. As my kids are not that far apart in age, they've had the pleasure of accompanying each other on all such adventures. As a family, we've traveled up and down the eastern seaboard and intentionally spent time at schools not situated in our proverbial back yard. Of course, there are reasons for this, not the least of which is the fact that wherever they end up during their college years needs to be a place that not only satisfies their chosen course of study but also provides the necessary support and surrounding atmosphere that will encourage them to succeed. In truth, the term "community" is one that comes up quite often in the modern exploratory visit to a college or

university. Creating a sense of familiarity and bonding among both students and faculty gives a sensation of giving back to the larger community, both on- and off-campus, while the student works on improving him or herself. Strangely (or not), I find several parallels in why Freemasons continue their search in the Scottish Rite and the Orders of the York Rite.

## Expanding Horizons

Within the past several years, my wife and I agreed that both of our kids would, at the appropriate time, find themselves subject to "the Code." In our house, "the Code" more or less states that the continuing student must give serious consideration to schools outside his/her immediate area (where, incidentally, all of their friends have decided to attend). Now we created





D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

**There is a community of the spirit.  
Join it, and feel the delight  
of walking in the noisy street  
and being the noise.**

—excerpt from “A Community of the Spirit”—Rumi

this Code for two very important reasons: First, it is essential to have an understanding of what other people and the world are like outside of the comfort of one’s neighborhood. Secondly, it serves as an ingenious ploy to visit a certain proud father’s alma mater, which as a small, private, liberal arts university in South Carolina might otherwise have gone unnoticed. For the record, my lovely wife wholly endorsed at least one half of this proposition.

When you stop and think of it, though, the Code is also applicable to our fraternal family. You are raised in your Lodge, first taught and mentored by the men in that Lodge, and may even have ventured to your local School of Instruction for some objective, but still neighborly education. At what point, though, is it important to consider expanding your horizons? For me, it was a combination of wanting to study the Craft in much more depth and a search for deeper and more thorough answers to my questions than I was getting at home. It was a realization that sometimes when you’re looking for a particular book, you may need to try searching in a bigger library.

### **Community Support from a New Community**

The competition among students at the university level is much more intense than what I recall from my time in school. Not only is being accepted to a well-known or top-tier school a fiercely competitive venture, but keeping pace with a larger number of quality students on an academic level is a very real challenge throughout most undergraduate programs. Colleges and universities,

therefore, direct significant resources toward creating a community atmosphere where students support one another in their endeavors and can reach out to both faculty and peers for guidance and support.

For those Masons who are similar seekers, the appendant bodies of the Scottish and York Rites are wonderful places to explore. When I joined the Scottish Rite, I immediately found myself in a larger world full of curious and interesting Brothers looking to satisfy their own questioning natures. Almost overnight, my family had grown. Similarly, my understanding of the Fraternity and its teachings began to grow. I was part of a larger world, meeting an even greater number of talented and intelligent men who challenged me to be even better than I thought I could be.

### **The New You**

For my kids, a higher education is about taking their basic studies and skills learned in school so far and focusing them in an effort to prepare themselves for a specific direction they would like to pursue as adults. From a parent’s point of view, college is also a place for them to learn to be independent, to shoulder greater responsibilities, to learn how to think and process information, and to adopt and practice skills that will allow them not only to succeed but to contribute in a way that helps others as well.

Fraternally, the progression is the same. Take what you’ve learned in your home Lodge and expand those skills

*continued on page 32*

PART ONE

# Migraines

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

MIGRAINES, WHICH HAVE AFFECTED ME SINCE my early 20s, are characterized by recurrent headaches that usually affect one side of the head or temple (although roughly 40% of migraines can result in pain involving both sides of the head), cause severe throbbing or pulsating pain which may radiate towards the eyes and forehead, and result in the person developing nausea/vomiting, visual acuity disturbances, fatigue, irritability, and extreme sensitivities to light, sound, and/or smell. Physical exertion can often exaggerate the pain. Migraines typically last anywhere from 2 to 72 hours if left untreated and can cost society a significant amount in both medical costs and lost productivity. In the United States, it is estimated that migraines have a yearly direct medical cost of \$17 billion as well as an indirect cost of \$15 billion,

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which can be attributed to missed or decreased ability to work. In Europe, the yearly cost of migraines is estimated at greater than 27 billion Euros. Nearly 10% of the direct costs come from the triptans class of medications used to abort acute migraine attacks (an 18 pill prescription typically costs me slightly over \$200).

Historically, one of the earliest recorded descriptions of migraines was found on the Ebers papyrus in Egypt which

was written in approximately 1500 BC. The description of visual auras that preceded headaches, and vomiting which resulted in partial relief of the headaches (consistent with some migraines), was found in the 200 BC writings of the Hippocratic school of medicine. Trepanation, the drilling of holes into the skull, has been traced to 7000 BC and was believed to be a treatment for severe headaches by “letting evil spirits escape” from the body. This “treatment” for migraines was utilized as recently as the 17th century. Migraines were first divided into the currently accepted two categories, migraine with aura and migraine without aura, in 1887 by the French librarian Louis Hyacinthe Thomas. The first effective treatment for migraines, the fungus ergot (from which ergotamine was isolated in 1918), was initiated in 1868. Methysergide was developed in 1959 but has fallen out of favor due to the potential side effects of pulmonary/pleural fibrosis as well as fibrotic thickening of the aortic root, aortic valve, and/or mitral valve. The first triptan, sumatriptan (Imitrex), was developed in 1988 and was a godsend for me after I started my Internal Medicine Internship/Residency in June 1989. I am not sure that I could have completed my training without this ability to abort a migraine attack (before Imitrex, I had to try to sleep and hopefully awaken without any pain).

Migraines affect nearly 15% of the world’s adult population - about one billion people. Worldwide, approximately 19% of adult women and 11% of adult men experience migraines. In the United States, approximately 6% of adult men and 18% of adult women will experience a migraine in any given year. The lifetime risk of experiencing a migraine for people in the United States is approximately 18% for men and 43% for women. In



Dr. Glenn D. Miller, 33°

## Migraines affect nearly 15% of the world's adult population—about *one billion* people.

Europe, 6-15% of adult men and 14-35% of adult women report suffering from migraines at least once yearly. The incidence of migraines is slightly less for people living in Asia and Africa as compared to Western civilizations. The frequency of chronic migraines in the adult population is approximately 1.4-2.2%. Migraines can begin at any age but most commonly start in the 15-24 year age group. Migraines tend to peak in the 35-45 year age group and often decrease in frequency and severity in the following decades of life. However, migraines can persist in up to 3-10% of elderly patients. In children, the incidence of migraines increases with age from approximately 1.7% at age seven years to 3.9% at ages 7-15 years. Migraines are slightly more common in males before puberty and then become more prevalent in females from that time

forward, with migraines occurring approximately three times more often in adult women than in adult men. Migraines tend to run in families in about two-thirds of cases. In fact, research has resulted in the identification of genetic defects as factors in certain subtypes of migraines. Migraines also appear to be more common in people with epilepsy, depression/bipolar disorder, anxiety, stroke, and asthma. Researchers no longer believe that migraines are more prominent in people with high intelligence, although I personally think that this possibility requires further investigation!

The exact physiological processes or mechanisms of migraines are not completely understood, and there are several competing theories at this time. The Vascular



Theory states that migraines are caused by spasms in the cerebral blood vessels, with auras caused by the constriction and the severe pain caused by the dilatation. The meninges are a membrane that covers the entire surface of the brain and spinal cord. When meningeal blood vessels dilate, the trigeminal sensory nerves are stimulated, resulting in the pain of migraines. This nerve stimulation causes the release of brain chemicals, neuropeptides, which further increases blood vessel dilatation and subsequent pain.

The Serotonin Theory states that the dorsal raphe nucleus, a structure in the brainstem, may function as a “migraine generator” by triggering the constriction and dilatation of cerebral blood vessels via the control of serotonin secretion. An initial increase in serotonin secretion results in blood vessel constriction and decreased blood flow causing an aura. As the serotonin (a neurotransmitter) is taken up by the brain cells, the serotonin levels decrease, which results in blood vessel dilatation, causing the migraine pain. Other neurotransmitters such as calcitonin gene-related peptides (CGRP) also play a role in migraine pain.

The Neurovascular Theory states that, in people who suffer migraines, the trigeminal nerve is more sensitive to activation. This activation causes the trigeminal nerve cells that supply the meningeal blood vessels to release chemicals that dilate the blood vessel, which results in increased blood flow as well as increased inflammation

around the blood vessels. This inflammation is the cause of the migraine pain. The inflammation becomes a trigger for a vicious cycle where the inflammation further activates the trigeminal nerve, which results in increasing inflammation and subsequent pain.

The Hypothalamus Theory states that abnormal functioning of the hypothalamus, an almond-sized

### Migraines tend to run in families in about two-thirds of cases.

gland located deep within the brain that regulates neurotransmitters and hormones, is the cause of migraine headaches. Even though these theories differ in the mechanism of migraine initiation, the one consensus is that some part or parts (blood vessels vs. dorsal raphe nucleus vs. trigeminal nerve vs. hypothalamus vs. other as yet unidentified parts) of the brains of migraine sufferers is different from the brains of non-sufferers.

In the next issue of *RiteNow*, we will conclude our discussion of migraines. We will cover the typical symptoms, causes/triggers, diagnosis, and treatment (both acute and preventive) for migraines, as well as the prognosis for people who suffer from migraines. We will also briefly touch upon the seven subclasses of migraines, although detailed descriptions of these subtypes are beyond the scope of our discussion. □



# Salute to Veterans

A message for Military Veterans of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Why Masonry Can Make a Difference

By Robert B. Ruff, 33°

Is there a topic you would like to hear about or have addressed in future articles? Are you proud of your service experiences, Lodge visits or do you have pictures you want to share with others?

This column is intended to be about YOU and your service. Your responses will shape the future content of Salute to Veterans.



Robert B. Ruff, 33°

Rruff2u@gmail.com | 412-621-0872

What is your answer to why you wanted to be a Mason or better yet a Scottish Rite Mason?

Maybe your dad or uncle, grandfather or cousin was a traveler. Perhaps you always liked the square and compass logo with the big G, so you went online and sought admission. Maybe you looked up to someone in your life—a policeman, fireman, doctor, paramedic, attorney, co-worker, or friend—who taught you honesty, patriotism, respect, empathy and thought they belonged, so it must be for people of integrity, morality and caring. Possibly someone needed help, and the Masons helped without stipulations. For the many diverse reasons we joined, we have a lot in common.

Being a Mason means you support our troops and our youth organizations—the future of our country. When you pay your Scottish Rite dues, you help with the Dyslexia Center. Shrine dues support the hospitals; Tall Cedars fund multiple sclerosis research; Grotto, the Special Olympics. The list goes on.

At a time when our country is becoming more divided socially and less respectful of differing opinions and patriotism, we need something to unite us. Masonry needs to be that example - the shining light for all to see. Get involved in your lodge and community, church, or temple. Come volunteer at the VA for the Masonic Service Association of North America. The vets truly appreciate your time and effort, and you get more in return

than you could imagine in the form of gratitude, respect, and understanding how really small some of your problems may be.

So why did you join the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or Coast Guard? Training, a job, a chance to do something for the greater good of all instead of self-interests, patriotism or to see things in the world you might not have an opportunity to see otherwise? Several of these things overlap Freemasonry at many points.

Commonalities include being able to improve yourself, to help someone, to do something useful in life, to make lifetime friends, and experience many opportunities you may not otherwise have had.

Many of our forefathers who founded and fought for this great country, Masons and non-Masons alike, were people with fantastic foresight—brave, honest,

caring men—some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice for generations whom they would never know. Thank a veteran for the freedoms you enjoy daily without even giving them a second thought!

Anyone interested in giving the most precious thing you have (your time) to volunteer at the VA or local CBOC, please call me. We need help desperately as our volunteer numbers have significantly diminished. Our vets would be very grateful. Be that shining light for someone by example. Life is short—make the most of it, for you cannot change yesterday, but you can change the future for the better.

Spes Me in Deo Est. □

Thank a veteran for the freedoms you enjoy daily...

# Why I Am

By PJ Roup, 33°

I belong because, in spite of all of our faults, foibles, and fears, we can come together and achieve great things.



PJ Roup, 33\*

**When** I initially sat down to write this column, I had intended to pen a tongue-in-cheek story about becoming a Mason so that I could be a part of the vast cabal that secretly ran the world from a bunker hidden deep underground in Dayton, Ohio or Charleston, West Virginia or Pittsburgh. Conspiracy theorists: if you draw lines connecting those three cities, they form a square! Gasp!

While I will admit that the mystique that has surrounded Freemasonry for centuries may have drawn me in at first, it is not what keeps me involved. The origin stories that held us up as descendants of Noah, Solomon's labor force, or Templars born anew made me feel early on like I was part of something special—something bigger than myself. That feeling grew stronger when I looked at all of the historical figures who associated themselves with Freemasonry. If these astronauts, inventors, statesmen, heroes, and intellectuals found it a worthy pursuit, then I certainly would. But my feelings quickly changed. I still feel very much a part of something bigger than myself, but for drastically different reasons.

Spiritually, being a Mason has satisfied what I can only describe as a soul-deep yearning. When I decided to join, I knew that I wanted something more out of life. I needed something more. I had to find out what my purpose was. And Freemasonry has helped me connect those dots from the corporeal to the eternal. It did so by showing me that there exists a spark of the Divine in everything. Understanding, or at least attempting to understand that, has made me want to strive even harder for Truth.

It was in this striving that I found what is, for me, the best part of being a Mason: sharing a journey with like-minded souls.

It didn't take me long to realize that I was in the company of men that I would never have met had I not knocked on the door. Our lives were too disparate. Some had large families; some were alone. Our vocations would not have brought us together. Our hobbies would not have brought us together. Most of us would never have met, and if we had, we may have only been acquaintances at best. But the Craft—this mystical bond of Brotherhood—has united us all. We have come into each other's lives and played the role of teacher, student, mentor, sounding board, rudder, shelter, caretaker, compass. We help without question, love (although imperfectly at times) without condition, and support without hesitation.



This is why I am.

I belong because, in spite of all of our faults, foibles, and fears, we can come together and achieve great things. With industry and energy reminiscent of the symbol of the beehive, we lift those who can't lift themselves; we teach children to read; we help heal the sick; we better ourselves; and we better the world. That is bigger than me. And it makes me a better me.

I love that about Freemasonry, and I wouldn't give it up for all that Templar treasure that we have stored in that secret bunker. Shhh! □

We asked the officers of the Valley of Pittsburgh why they belong to the Scottish Rite. In their own words, here is what they offered:

**To give something positive back to the community.**

**It satisfies the need to be part of something tangible I can believe in.**

**Masonic Knowledge.**

**Working with like-minded individuals toward a common goal.**

**To continue the journey and make it exciting.**

**It makes me better than I could have been on my own.**

**The fellowship that exists in the Valley makes me want to be more involved and to give back.**

**To follow and serve  
in a fraternity of  
like-minded Brothers  
towards a better  
society for tomorrow.**

**I belong because  
the Scottish Rite  
makes my world  
a better place to  
live in.**

**The trust  
we have for  
each other  
within the  
Fraternity.**

**It has taught  
me to accept  
nothing less  
than my best  
self.**

**It teaches  
us how to  
live our and  
to serve  
mankind.**

**To become  
a better  
well-  
rounded  
man.**

**To live.  
To love.  
To serve.**



# BlackHatProgram

A message about the new Black Hat Participation Program in the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Announcing something new and exciting in the Valley!

By Charles F. Zurcher, 32°



As you begin your journey as a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, you have a unique opportunity for enlightenment. By completing a five-category participation sheet, you will not only learn about Scottish Rite and what our Valley has to offer as well as earn a black Scottish Rite hat.

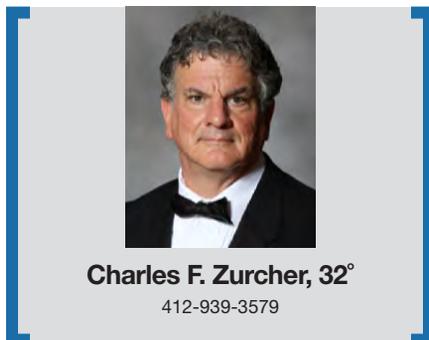
### The categories are:

1. Be a first-line signer for a new member.
2. Attend four stated meetings of the Valley of Pittsburgh.
3. Participate in two Valley of Pittsburgh Reunion Degrees.
4. Attend five Valley of Pittsburgh events.
5. Attend two Scottish Rite Degrees in Valleys other than Pittsburgh.

You are required to have a Scottish Rite Line Officer sign and date your participation sheet for every meeting or event attended.

An official Scottish Rite Valley stamp and date in your passport will suffice for category five. Once you have satisfied all the requirements, simply turn in your completed participation sheet to the Valley Secretary along with your hat size. The Secretary will contact you when your hat arrives so that we can present it to you at the next stated meeting.

Wear your hat proudly, and make sure to tell your friends how to earn one for themselves.



Applications may be obtained by contacting the Valley office at 412-939-3579 or by email at [secretary@valley-ofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valley-ofpittsburgh.org)

Valley of Pittsburgh A.A.S.R  
Black Hat Participation Program

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 32° Date \_\_\_\_\_

1) I am the First Line Signer for Scottish Rite Member:  
1 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

2) I have attended the following Valley of Pittsburgh Stated Meetings:

DATE	EVENT	OFFICER SIGNATURE
1		
2		
3		
4		

3) I have participated in the following Valley of Pittsburgh Degrees:

DATE	EVENT	OFFICER SIGNATURE
1		
2		

4) I have participated in the following Valley of Pittsburgh Events:

DATE	EVENT	OFFICER SIGNATURE
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

5) I have attended two different Scottish Rite Reunions:

DATE	NMJJ VALLEY	OFFICER SIGNATURE
1		
2		

# Executive Duty



The Valley of Pittsburgh recognizes the new Executive Officer for Pennsylvania DeMolay

“HERE, SIGN THIS,” Rodney’s dad said to him as he held out a folded piece of paper. That was almost 40 years ago, but he remembers it clearly. His father, G. Ervin Boyce, was holding a petition for DeMolay. Little did Rodney know that signing the petition in his father’s extended hand would change his life.

Rodney joined Westmoreland Chapter, Order of DeMolay in 1980 and immediately took to it. He progressed through the chairs and became Master Councilor in the Spring of 1984. Along the way, he forged lifelong friendships while learning and practicing the cardinal virtues of DeMolay intended to turn young boys into good men and leaders. In his time there, he and the Chapter would earn many honors.

“One of the things I remember the most about my time in DeMolay,” he recalls, “is when we returned from the Great Lakes Ritual Tournament, held in Chicago, as overall champions. Our parents, area Jobies, and Rainbow Girls, greeted us late at night as our bus returned to the parking lot in Greensburg. They had lined up their cars with headlights on—and the bus drove down between the rows of cars as everyone cheered. It was a feeling I’ll never forget.”

Even after he became a majority member, his involvement never waned. Upon graduating from college and returning to Pittsburgh to begin his career, he served as the Chapter Advisor for eight years. He became a Deputy Executive Officer, and a frequent volunteer at the annual Keyman Conference held each summer at Patton Campus. As District Deputy Grand Master, Rodney always made sure to keep the youth of the District involved with the

Blue Lodges. He regularly held Official Visits and welcomed their participation at District events such as Honors and Awards banquets and the 30th District Golf Outing.

It’s no wonder then, that Brother Rodney accepted the call from DeMolay International Grand Master, M. Boyd

Patterson, Jr., to serve as the Executive Officer for the state of Pennsylvania. The primary function of the Executive Officer is to oversee the Chapters in the state, make sure that they comply with the rules and regulations, and to represent the Grand Master of DeMolay throughout the jurisdiction.

Rodney is a true servant leader. In his first address to the annual convention, he began by saying, “It is an honor to greet you as *your* newest Executive Officer. I say *your* because I view the office to be one of service. Service to the Advisors

of Pennsylvania DeMolay and most importantly to the Members of Pennsylvania DeMolay.”

“Many people have asked why I took on such a role?” Boyce says. “There is a simple answer. I have always given the advice—if you don’t like the way things are going, get involved in a leadership role in which you can effect the change you want. In other words, don’t be the squeaky wheel, be the person with the grease gun.”

Please join me in wishing Brother Rodney many years of success in the significant role with the Masons of tomorrow. □



Ill.: Rodney E. Boyce, 33°



# Council of Deliberation

By Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

**We may be better prepared both to enjoy the benefits of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Pittsburgh, as well as to support and serve it, the better informed we are.** To that end, I would like to shed a little light on the function of our Council of Deliberation.

To set this in a context, I would like to “zoom out” for a moment, to an even larger body or structure: the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction consists of the 15 states north of the Mason-Dixon Line, and east of the Mississippi. The Supreme Council governs Scottish Rite Masonry in this jurisdiction; is headquartered in Lexington Massachusetts; and is led by our Sovereign Grand Commander in the person of Illustrious David A. Glattly, 33°. The Council of Deliberation functions as an efficient state-level division to help coordinate this extensive organization.

What is the business of the Council of Deliberation? According to the PA Council of Deliberation website, it “possesses the legislative and judicial powers not reserved to the Supreme Council and not inconsistent with the Constitution and Regulations.” This means it has the right to create rules governing the Scottish Rite Valleys in Pennsylvania to any extent not already covered by Supreme Council, and judge the degree of their compliance with those rules.

The Council of Deliberation consists of:

- **The Deputy**  
Your state has one Deputy. He is the representative of the Sovereign Grand Commander and the emissary from Supreme Council to your entire state. In this way, he’s kind of like a District Deputy.
- **Active members of Supreme Council (33°)**  
They function as a board of directors. Actives are 33° Masons who have been tapped to take added responsibility for helping the Deputy regulate Valleys within some geographic segment of their state. They are eligible to move up to Deputy. Every Valley has only one Active assigned to represent them to the Deputy; each Active can be responsible for one or several Valleys.
- **Honorary members of Supreme Council (33°)**  
Anyone who has been unanimously elected at an annual meeting of Supreme Council to receive this recognition for their service to the Scottish Rite or in other branches of Masonry
- **Several Ceremonial Officers**
- **A Master of Ceremonies**
- **A Sentinel**

The body of voting members also consists of:

- **The top three officers in Consistory for every Valley** (Commander-In-Chief, 1st Lieutenant Commander, 2nd Lieutenant Commander)
- **The top three officers in Rose Croix for every Valley** (Most Wise Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden)



Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

## Attending a session of Council of Deliberation... affords wonderful opportunities for strengthening existing fellowship, as well as forging new bonds.

- **The top four officers in Princes of Jerusalem for every Valley** (Sovereign Prince, High Priest, Senior Warden, Junior Warden)
- **The top four officers in Lodge of Perfection for every Valley** (Thrice Potent Master, Deputy Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden)

Formally speaking, the Actives are “elected and installed” officers. For practical purposes, they are chosen by the Sovereign Grand Commander. They can serve in their position until the first annual meeting of Supreme Council that takes place after they turn 75, at which point they attain Active Emeritus status.

Throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, each state is allotted Actives based on their number of Scottish Rite members. Some states have as few as two actives; Pennsylvania, with a more substantial Scottish Rite presence, has five. For the state of Pennsylvania, our Actives as of this writing are:

**Illustrious George Nakonetschny, 33°**  
Valleys of Allentown, Bloomsburg, and Towanda

**Illustrious Robert J. Bateman, 33°**  
Valleys of Philadelphia, Reading, and Scranton

**Illustrious Keith E. Parkinson, 33°**  
Valleys of Erie, New Castle, and Oil City

**Illustrious Thomas R. Labagh, 33°**  
Valleys of Coudersport, Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Williamsport

**Illustrious Paul J. Roup, 33°**  
Valleys of Altoona, Pittsburgh, and Uniontown

One of the Actives from your state is your Deputy. He is personally selected by the Sovereign Grand Commander and serves as his surrogate in any Scottish Rite business in the state, which gives him a great deal of authority and responsibility. His term limit is eight years, at which time he reverts to Active and must be replaced as Deputy; or until



he reaches 75 years of age, at which time he attains Emeritus status and must be replaced.

In Pennsylvania, we happen to be in a transitional phase where Pittsburgh's own, **Illustrious Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°**, has just attained Emeritus status and has "passed the torch" of his Deputy role to **Illustrious Robert J. Bateman, 33°**, and that of Active to **Illustrious Paul J. Roup, 33°**.

The Council of Deliberation convenes once a year; for Pennsylvania, this is usually a weekend in mid-July. At the Council of Deliberation, several recognitions are awarded to entire Valleys based on membership gains and charitable fundraising. Individual recognition will also be awarded to recipients of the Meritorious Service Award. Per the Scottish Rite NMJ website: "The Meritorious Service Award may be conferred upon members of the Rite in this Jurisdiction who have attained the 32° and who by reason of meritorious service of a Masonic character are deemed worthy of such recognition."

Also, the current Actives will bring their nominations to receive the 33° to Council of Deliberation. They will hold a private meeting on Friday to discuss which nominations will be brought to the Supreme Council executive meeting in August. Again, according to the Scottish Rite NMJ website: "A 33° Mason is a Master Mason who has exhibited knowledge, passion and sacrifice to his craft. The Supreme Council awards the 33° as a way of honoring outstanding and selfless work performed in the Rite or in public life."

Attending a session of Council of Deliberation carries at least two benefits that come immediately to mind: It impresses upon one the breadth and scope of Scottish Rite across the state; and it affords wonderful opportunities for strengthening existing fellowship, as well as forging new bonds. I hope that this overview leaves you feeling better informed and equipped and that you will avail yourself of your next opportunity to attend Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation. □



# Children's Dyslexia Center **UPDATE**

## Annual Walkathon!

Please come out and join us in support of the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh at the annual walkathon! The walkathon in support of the Dyslexia Center has been a staple for many years and is always an enjoyable time. It will take place Saturday, September 28th—PLEASE MAKE A NOTE as this is different from the traditional weekend.

The Learning Center is truly the “crown jewel” of the Valley of Pittsburgh. Although there is no cure for this learning disability, children ages 7 through 17 can improve to at-or-above their grade-appropriate reading level with the help of individualized lesson plans, one-on-one tutoring, and the Orton-Gillingham method, a unique multisensory approach. This support comes at no cost to the families, but tutors and trainers need to be paid, reading and teaching materials need to be purchased, and electronic equipment needs to be maintained. We as Scottish Rite Masons are proud to make that service possible.



The walkathon takes place at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. Registration is at 8:30 am, the walk starts at 10:00 and should end by noon. Registration at the door day-of is \$25; pre-registration in advance is \$15; children under 12 can register for \$10, and children under

five can enjoy the day for free! This is a fun day for Masons to enjoy fellowship, as well as an excellent opportunity to bring family, friends, and guests from the general public to see our impressive Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.

Please consider organizing a team of walkers to collaborate on fundraising—particularly if you work for an employer that has a matching program. We can walk you through how to take advantage of this opportunity to amplify your charitable efforts.

Incidentally, while you're at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center that day, you can also get breakfast served by the Masonic Youth Groups—a hearty buffet for only \$7 per person—from 9:00-10:30. Proceeds support the Masonic Youth Groups (Rainbow Girls and DeMolay). They have been great supporters of the walkathon in the past, and we'd like to let them know we appreciate them.

The walk is 5K (3.1 miles). If you can't complete the walk, please don't be discouraged, we'd still love to have you come out and participate. There will be light refreshments, basket raffles, 50/50, and other activities and entertainment for families to enjoy—rain or shine! □

For more information:  
**412-931-3181**  
**Austin Shifrin**  
**austin.shifrin@gmail.com**  
**412-496-8767**

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

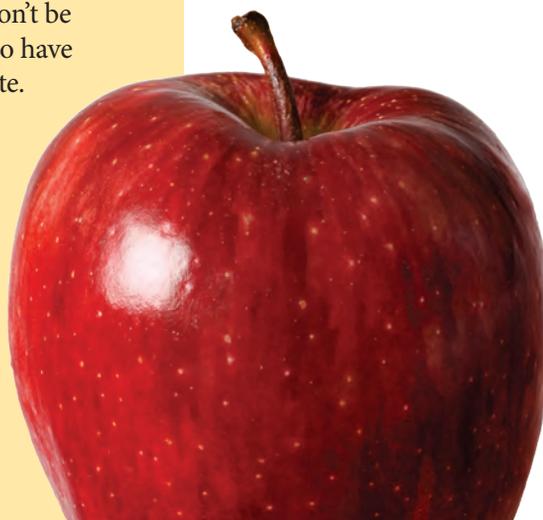
# Giant Eagle Apple for the Students program

You can help the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh. Just register your **Giant Eagle Advantage Card** for the **Apples for the Students** program.

You can register your card by calling **800-553-2324** or register online at **gianteagle.com/afts**.

The number for the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh is **5801**. □

Registering for this program does not affect any other program or discount offered by Giant Eagle (i.e. Fuelperks).



## The Sovereign continued from page 11

the word about Freemasonry and encourage even more to join.

4) Informing the members about the Learning Center by outlining the structure, such as the number of students currently enrolled, the number of trainers that are needed, their different levels of training, how to become certified, and the requirements to become a Supervisor.

I look forward to serving you this coming Scottish Rite year as Sovereign Prince and hope to see you at our upcoming events. □

## The Wise continued from page 12

the full and undivided loyalty and support of each and every one of its members, then Show Me.

And, finally Brethren, if you are willing to stand up and be counted for our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity; and labor well for it; and live a life that will advance its cause and thereby please The Great Architect of the Universe, then Show Me. But, *Show Me Now!*

Brethren, we belong, because we have so much to offer in character, in fellowship, in family activities, in brotherhood. □

## Upon the Checkered Pavement continued from page 17

and teachings. Both the Scottish and York Rite bodies have ample opportunities for you to practice the tenets of Freemasonry on a much larger scale. The men you will meet as you travel outside your “immediate family” will challenge you to think more broadly on how your actions as a Freemason impact those around you. You will be amazed at the ideas and information that are available in the wider world of the Fraternity, and these Brethren are waiting to share their thoughts with you. It is a remarkable feeling to gain knowledge on a grander scale, to understand the intricacies of Masonic history and ritual, and to share that knowledge with others who are just as excited as you. The pride and accomplishment you will feel as you grow in knowledge and responsibility are akin to a graduation, and you can be sure to feel free and throw your cap in the air at your first reunion! □

valleyofpittsburgh.org

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Oktoberfest Returns!

**Now** in their 33rd season, The Barons have become a staple of Pittsburgh-area Oktoberfests with their unique blend of music and fun. A staple at the original Penn Brewery throughout the 90s and early 2000s, the band quickly gained a reputation for great tunes and good times, which in turn made them in demand at festivals, corporate and society events, charity benefits, and weddings in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, and New York.

Oktoberfest with The Barons is certainly not your grandpa's Oktoberfest, but is quite an authentic musical recreation of the contemporary Bavarian Oktoberfest experience. You'll hear traditional volksmusik, as well as a variety of modern German tunes and the American hits that have become Oktoberfest favorites.

In addition to their Oktoberfest repertoire, The Barons perform American music from the 1920s through today, as well as ethnic and folk tunes from more than 20 different nationalities, and sing in nearly that many languages. They have been described by promoter Ed Traversari, formerly of DiCesare-Engler Productions and LiveNation, as “an entire folk festival in a single act.” A performance might include a musical journey from Acadian to Zydeco, with intermediate stops in Big-Band Swing, Blues, Classical, Conjunto, Country, Folk, Jazz, Jump, Pop, Reggae, R&B, Rock, Soul, Tejano, and Western Swing. Fasten your seatbelts and get ready for quite the musical ride! □



# Oktoberfest



Valley of Pittsburgh SCOTTISH RITE

Welcomes you to our ratskeller

Saturday, October 12TH from 6:00 P.M. to 10 p.m., Buffet 7:00 p.m.

Reservations ARE REQUIRED -DEADLINE IS October 9TH

Authentic German Buffet Dinner & Entertainment by the barons

Beer Tasting of Local Craft and Home brews

a wonderful evening with your brethren, ladies & family



Make check payable to: **Gourgas Lodge of Perfection** and mail to:  
AASR-GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER,  
3579 MASONIC WAY, PITTSBURGH, PA 15237-2700  
OR CALL:412-939-3579 to make a reservation and pay at the door.  
Tickets will be picked up at the door either way.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
For \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)(\$25/person)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Tables of 6 and 8 are available.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Short Game Basics—Putting

By Eric S. Teasdale, 33°

THIS IS THE fourth and final article in the series of scoring shots—putting basics. In this article, I will be going over the basic principles of good putting. The goal is to provide a roadmap to get better and more consistent on the putting green. The best putters in the world all have good sound fundamentals, and all incorporate the principles that I will be focusing on.

The goal of putting is simple—if you have a fundamentally sound pendulum stroke on the correct path and at the correct speed, you will make more putts. Also, remember the basic rule of thumb regarding all short game shots: putt the golf ball whenever you can, chip the golf ball when you can't putt it, and pitch the golf ball **ONLY** when you have to. Solid, fundamental putting is the single most important motion in golf, and for the average golfer, it is equal to 35 putts per round. The fastest way to shoot lower scores is to improve your putting, but it also the least practiced skill. Golfers usually struggle with putting not because of a lack of talent, but because of poor technique. The average golfer will generally use only their hands while putting, resulting in a very “handsy” and less repeatable motion. The best golfers will move their hands, arms, and shoulders as a single unit which is very repeatable.

As a review, the main principle, which I have mentioned repeatedly throughout the short game series, is that the position of your hands **MUST** be at or in front of the golf ball at impact. This very important principle

is essential to solid consistent contact, which will help improve your direction and distance control. Please refer to the illustrations below on how to properly putt a golf ball.



## Set-up Position—Face On

The perfect set-up for putting is slightly different than with the full swing. For more consistent results, focus on the following (picture above):

1. Neutral grip with both palms facing each other and the thumbs pointing down the center line of the shaft.
2. Hand position even or slightly in front of the ball.
3. Weight equally distributed.
4. Make sure your shoulders are level. This will ensure that the putting stroke is level.
5. The ball position is forward of the center line to make sure that the golf ball is struck on the upswing.

These set-up keys help to ensure solid contact which is essential for direction and distance control.



## Set-up Position—Down the Line

Also, from a down the line angle, focus on the following (picture above):

1. Bend comfortably from the waist which will enable your arms to hang in front of your body.
2. Have slight flex in the knees.
3. Your shoulders must be pointing down the target line.
4. The face of the putter head must also be pointing down the target line.
5. Finally, the eyeline must be over the golf ball.

For the record, this putt breaks a little left. These additional set-up keys will encourage a correct putter path on the backswing and forward swing.

“Half of golf is fun;  
the other half is putting.” —Peter Dobereiner



Eric S. Teasdale, 33°



### The Putting Stroke

With a good fundamental set-up, you are now in a position to succeed. The putting motion is a “one piece” motion in that the hands, arms, and shoulders are working together as a unit which will resemble a pendulum. Also, the transition from backswing to forward

swing must be smooth to keep the putter head on line. Also, you must keep the wrists firm during the entire motion. Please refer to the pictures above. Here you will see that the path of the putter head is on a slight arc around my body (the putter head is

opening and closing slightly) and is remaining on the target line. The putter head must travel on this path if the hands, arms and shoulders are working as a one-piece unit.



### Impact & Finish Position

At impact, the hands will pass through their original starting position which must be at, or in front of the golf ball. Another important fundamental of putting is that the putter head must be accelerating through impact. The average golfer tends to decelerate the putter head before impact resulting in poor contact and distance control.

Also, since the ball position is slightly left of the center line and the stroke is a pendulum which is accelerating, the ball will be struck slightly on the upswing. Make sure that the left wrist is firm and straight through the impact zone so the putter head remains square to the target line. Finally, try to make sure that the length of the

back swing is equal to the length of the forward swing. Please refer to the pictures below. Here you can see that the putter head has struck the ball on the upswing and is remaining on the target line. Remember that solid contact equals good distance control and direction.

“Putting is like wisdom—partly a natural gift and partly the accumulation of experience.” —Arnold Palmer



Conventional

Left Hand Low

The Claw

### Types of Grips

There are a lot of different preferences when it comes to putting grips and styles, but some important fundamentals must be followed for good results. The fundamentals of a putting grip are as follows: your hands must be “joined” together so the hands don’t work independently of each

other, the hands must be in a neutral position with the palms facing each other and the thumbs must go down the shaft. This is why all putter grips have a flat spot on the front side of the grip as this is where the thumbs go. Please refer to the pictures above. The conventional and left hand low grips

are very common and fundamentally correct. The claw grip has gained popularity in recent years and you will see touring pros using a version of this grip. The claw grip essentially takes the right hand entirely out of the putt and is used when the golfer develops the “yips” or becomes “twitchy.”

### Summary

This article is the last in a series on the scoring shots designed to help you improve your golf game and shoot lower scores. Again, working on the fundamentals of putting is the easiest way to decrease your scores. Think of how many strokes you can save by not three putting at all. Remember that the goal for putting

is to have a fundamentally sound pendulum stroke, on the correct path and at the correct speed. If you can do this, you will make more putts. Golf is not a hard game, but to get better, proper technique and practice are required. I hope that you enjoyed the short game series of articles.

□

**Eric Teasdale is the resident P.G.A. Professional at Shannopin Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.**

“A good player who is a great putter is a match for any golfer. A great hitter who cannot putt is a match for no one.” —Ben Sayers

# Our Youth

News and information about the Masonic Youth in our Valley

## Back to the Basics

Founded in Kansas City, Missouri in March of 1919, DeMolay is currently at the end of its Centennial celebration. Pennsylvania DeMolay is starting the second Centennial by taking the approach of going back to the basics. One of the common problems in DeMolay is that we can get so comfortable with what has been working that we forget that change is needed to keep the program successful. Although no one is in favor of change for the sake of change, it is important to provide creative ideas that generate excitement. Energy needs to remain high in order to keep our youth motivated enough to bring in members and stay active. Going back to basics means remembering what made DeMolay successful in the past and focusing on the path forward to make sure DeMolay is around for many years to come.

There have been some changes in the style of leadership to help PA DeMolay on the path forward. “Dad” Rodney Boyce, 1st Lieutenant Commader of the Valley of Pittsburgh, AASR, has taken over as the Executive Officer of Pennsylvania DeMolay. Brother Andrew Santilli was elected State Master Councilor for 2019-2020 at the annual DeMolay Convention in Mars, PA. Brother B. Tyler Moyer, our immediate Past State Master Councilor, was elected International Master Councilor, making him the first IMC to represent Pennsylvania DeMolay. PA DeMolay is looking strong in theory, but it is essential to carry that momentum into future programming. Brother Santilli and his elected team have a lot of work ahead of them, and the motivation is there to keep Pennsylvania DeMolay energized. Some of the ideas include a statewide dodgeball outing, building model rockets, and having music at every event. Enhancing the DeMolay experience is the number one priority, and this team, with the leadership of “Dad” Boyce, are making good decisions to keep PA DeMolay on the right path for the future. □



[pademolay.org](http://pademolay.org)

## What is IORG?

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a Masonic youth organization which has taught leadership through community service since 1922. Girls, ages eleven through 21, learn about the value of charity and service through their work with local and state service opportunities. Rainbow is a nonprofit organization that strives to give girls the support and encouragement needed for an outstanding life.

Through working and sharing together, members grow in many ways. Their confidence increases, their public speaking ability is sharpened, and most importantly, they have fun and make new friends that last a lifetime.

### Rainbow Girls Are Busy!

Pennsylvania Rainbow has a current membership of 293, and still managed to log 12,900 hours of volunteer service hours in the past 12 months! These girl volunteers assisted with community activities, schools, churches, charities, and many other Masonic groups.

### Rainbow Girls Love a Challenge!

By participating in fun events and activities during the past year, Pennsylvania Rainbow also collected funds for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. At our Grand Assembly, we presented them with a check for \$6,591.92, and with additional recent donations, the total has now exceeded \$7,000. PA Rainbow also donated \$3,045 to our state charity, “My Stuff Bags,” which assists youngsters in the foster care system.

In the Greater Pittsburgh area, we have Rainbow Assemblies in the following communities: *Beaver Falls, Butler, Coraopolis, Irwin, New Castle, Pitcairn, Pleasant Hills, Washington, and Wexford.* Contact the office for more information. □



[parainbowgirls.org](http://parainbowgirls.org)



Feature

2019  
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS  
PITTSBURGH MARATHON  
FINISHER

RUNNER OF STEEL  
PITTSBURGH MARATHON

D  
PITTSBURGH MARATHON  
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS  
Branden  
4733  
PITTSBURGH MARATHON  
Men's 45



Branden T. Plesh, 32°, MSA

# The Living Allegory of Distance Running

by Branden T. Plesh, 32°, MSA

In Scottish Rite Masonry, the primary medium for our degrees is the allegory. The idea behind this tool for communication is that watching a dramatic performance with characters and narrative will provide a different glimpse into the core principles of the fraternity than one would get by receiving a lecture. Identifying with these characters affords you a different perspective on their trials. In that same tradition, I wanted to talk about an experience that provided me a perspective on some of the lessons in the degrees: running the Pittsburgh Marathon.

## Distance running is not something that one would expect to have parallels to the lessons in Freemasonry...

Distance running is not something that one would expect to have parallels to the lessons in Freemasonry, and as a 270-pound man, I'm not the one you'd expect to talk to you about running. For the record, I've run one full and one half-marathon in my life. The full marathon was done in exactly 5 hours 0 minutes and 0 seconds, so feel free to assess my credentials to talk on the subject as you see fit.

The legend of the marathon is that after having participated in the Battle of Marathon, a Greek soldier ran the great distance back to the Capital City to inform them of victory. Shortly after delivering the message, the first marathoner died, and the experience has only improved slightly for its participants since then. Marathon events stand as a monument to man's hubris and excess. Not only do we elect to run 26.2 unnecessary miles only to finish 500 feet from where we started, but we choose to do it in spectacular fashion. Marathoners decide to pay \$80 to do what they can really do for free whenever they want. People often run for charitable causes, but running itself doesn't

benefit society. It doesn't feed the poor or bring peace on Earth; its most noticeable effect on the populace is to mess up traffic for a day. These things don't seem to add up to an experience one can align to the lessons of Freemasonry, but I can tell you the journey that begins with the beep of a stopwatch on your first training run and takes you through the finish line is an adventure rich with personal growth.

If you are preparing for a full marathon, a proper training program is key. And if you are in an area that is popular for running, you'll frequently get passed by people running faster than you. If you take pride in your running and are the competitive type, it will be discouraging to get constantly and repeatedly overtaken. During the actual marathon, unless you are an elite runner, you will finish hours behind people much faster than you. For the 2019 Pittsburgh Marathon, the first-place finisher literally ran more than twice as fast as I did, and that's okay. One of the



lessons taught in the degrees is not to measure yourself against others, but instead to yourself. It is one thing to be told this lesson or even see its virtue acted out on stage, but it is a profound experience to go out and lace up day after day and have to make peace with the feeling that you are slower than everyone. I had to learn to tell myself, Run your own race, and that is the example of a living allegory.

**Much like Constans, your commitment to yourself and your vigil is under constant assault from temptation and other obligations.**

A typical training plan for a marathon is eighteen weeks long and will have you running for at least four days a week at distances ranging from three to 20 miles. To maintain this training program and to run the marathon itself takes sacrifice. Running becomes your sacred vigil. Much like Constans, your commitment to yourself and your vigil is under constant assault from temptation and other obligations. Other responsibilities in your life will be jockeying for position for your now limited schedule. As Constans did, you will have to decide what is worth leaving your vigil. When you start running, the temptations bombard you within your mind: *You've done enough. You can't go any farther. You should slow down. Your pace is really off today; you should just call it in.*

It is essential to know that overwork, stress injuries, and personal safety are paramount in this sport and inclinations to moderate should not always be written off as temptation. For your own wellbeing, you shouldn't put yourself in danger for the sake of this pastime. Self-moderation is also important for success within the sport as well. Overdoing it on the first run of the week can ruin your body for remaining runs. There are situations where you can finish faster by taking a breather rather than toughing it out. Here is the problem: when you are out there exhausted and filled with doubt, the difference between a wise choice and submitting to temptation begin to be indistinguishable. Even when surrounded by people, this battle happens in a quiet place within yourself; with no witness and no succor, you are the only judge of your capabilities.

I've talked about the solitude in the vigil of running, but that does not mean that a runner is without support. When a friend found out that I was training for this marathon, she



enthusiastically offered to run with me on the weekends for my long runs. The battles of self-doubt are still there, but having a running partner is a great help. I had the support of my four children and my wife who sacrificed in my absence; they endured me missing bedtimes and disappearing for hours at a time on the weekend. These people gave up pieces of themselves for me to achieve this personal victory. I realized while standing in Corral D on marathon day that these people were my sponsoring knights.

Does this profound experience await everyone who runs marathons? I don't know. I do think there is something to be gained in everything if you allow your heart to open to introspection. Just like the allegories of the degrees, it will affect you to the extent that you allow it to. There is something unique about running, but by no means is it extraordinary. The trials I've described you may see in your own life. When I examined these hardships through the lens of the living allegory, I began to feel a closer connection with the values in the degrees. I was no longer just learning about these lessons; I was living them. So, if reading this article has done nothing else, I hope it causes you to think about how your life puts you in your own allegory. If this article has piqued your interest in lacing up and giving running a shot, good luck out there.

And if you want a running partner, just give me a call.

□

# UniontownUpdate

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Valley of Uniontown

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

## My Reasons

By Kiley B. Sexton, 32°



**Why** do we belong? What a powerful question, What a powerful statement.

To me, being a Freemason is not just being a part of the world's oldest fraternity; it is a way of life. Being a Mason is more than a choice; it is living a life to a higher standard. A Mason is a man who goes the extra mile, a man who does what is right, not what is easy.

We belong to this organization—this fraternity—because we find others with the same integrity, this same way of life and of living to a higher standard.

We belong to the Freemasons because we go beyond ourselves. We put others first. To watch them succeed means we have succeeded in helping them achieve their goals, their dreams, and their accomplishments. Our satisfaction and our reward from all of this is when someone asks us the question, “How do I become a Mason?” Then, and right then, you know in your heart that you have done something right. Your journey has inspired others to want to do what you do.

I believe the choices we make

in life define our character. The journey is not always easy. In fact, at times, it is tough. However, we know right from wrong, and we must make difficult choices. We know that we do not only represent ourselves with these choices; we represent all of the brethren in the fraternity. We remember the promises we all took in becoming

Masons. That is what sets us apart from other organizations. That is what makes us strong in our individual lives.

We belong to the greatest fraternity in the world, and to be able to share that with others is not a burden, it is a privilege. We take the knowledge from those who

came before us, and we pass that knowledge down to those who will come after us. I believe our goal as Masons is to “Keep the Standard,” share the knowledge, and simply to do what is right.

We belong because we choose to belong. We belong so that we can be better husbands, better dads, better sons, better friends, and of course, better brothers!

We belong to the greatest fraternity in the world, and to be able to share that with others is not a burden, it is a privilege.

□

# ValleyNews

A collection of recent happenings in the Valley of Pittsburgh

## Sturgeon Presides for Final Time

Ill. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, Deputy for Pennsylvania, presided at Council of Deliberation for his final time. Brother Tom stepped way outside of his comfort zone when he sang a lovely baritone rendition of the timeless gospel tune, *He*. For more information on Council of Deliberation, see page 28.



## Raising the Jolly Roger

June 22nd was Scottish Rite Night at PNC Park where 30 of our members and guests enjoyed a tailgate buffet before seeing the



Pittsburgh Pirates beat the San Diego Padres 6-3.



## A Walk on the Wild (Things) Side

Members of the Valley of Pittsburgh took an excursion to where the Wild Things are – Washington, PA to be specific. On July 27th, 100 Masons showed up to tailgate and cheer on the Washington Wild Things as they played the Schaumburg Boomers. Though the Wild Things lost 7-6, those in attendance enjoyed a close game, good food, and great fellowship.





### Local Brother Receives Assistance

Ill. Bob Bradley, 33°, had been unable to leave his home without assistance for the last five years. Recently, the Veterans Administration provided him with a scooter to improve his mobility, but with only a passenger car, he was unable to transport it anywhere.

With the help of the Grand Almoner's Fund, Brother Bradley was recently able to

purchase a lightly used Ford Escape which the VA will retrofit with a lift for him.

"The Masons were always the one group that I felt looked out for me," Brother Bradley said. He and his wife, Maritza, are grateful for the assistance they now have, and look forward to being able to enjoy a new degree of freedom thanks to the Scottish Rite.

### Sammy Lee Davis Peace and Freedom Service Recognition

Ill. Sammy Lee Davis, 33°, was a guest at this year's Council of Deliberation. Brother Davis earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for, in the words of President Lyndon Johnson, "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty" while stationed at Fire Support Base Cudgel in November of 1968.

Following his inspirational talk which included a haunting rendition of "Shenandoah" on his harmonica, Brother Davis personally pinned the service award bearing his name on more than 100 veterans who were in attendance.



### Brothers Receive Honors

At the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation session in Valley Forge, Brothers Branden Plesh and Bob Lorenz, of the Valley of Pittsburgh and Gary Gearing of the Valley of Uniontown were presented with the Meritorious Service Award for their contributions to their respective Valley's.

Established in 1937, The MSA is bestowed for distinguished service of a Masonic character by the unanimous agreement of both the presiding officers of the Valley and the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation.



Branden T. Plesh, 32°, MSA, Ronald A. Plesh, 32°, MSA, and Robert J. Lorenz, 32°, MSA, at the Council of Deliberation



Ill. P.J. Roup, 33°, with Gary Gearing, 32°, MSA, and Ill. Charles D. Curry, 33° at the Council of Deliberation

# TheLatest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

**SEP**  
**28**

**Reservations are required!**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org  
412-939-3579

## Walkathon

Please note that the date for this year's Dyslexia Walk has changed. Please consider donating, sponsoring, or walking to support the Valley's Dyslexia Center. *Complete details can be found in the September Valley Bulletin.*

TIME: 8:30 Registration/10:00 Start

LOCATION: GPMC

RSVP: **September 21**

COST: Adults: \$15/25 Day of Walk, Children 6-12: \$10,  
Children 5 and under: Free

**OCT**  
**12**

**Reservations are required!**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org  
412-939-3579

## Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest with musical group, The Barons, is certainly not your grandpa's Oktoberfest. They feature traditional volksmusik, as well as a variety of modern American hits that have become Oktoberfest favorites. A German buffet and samplings of local craft beers are included (*see pages 32-33*).

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: GPMC

RSVP: **October 9**

COST: \$25/person

**NOV**  
**15**

**NOV**  
**16**

**Reservations are requested.**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org  
412-939-3579

## Fall Reunion

The name of this year's very special Class Honoree will be released shortly but plan now to come to the Fall Reunion. A brand new 4th Degree, plus the 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 21st, and 32nd Degrees are scheduled to be conferred. Reservations are not required but are helpful in planning the banquets.

TIME: 6:00PM/Friday, 8:00AM/Saturday

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: Free

**Scottish Rite Masons and Candidates Only**

**DEC**  
**14**

**Reservations are required!**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org  
412-939-3579

## Children's Santa Party

Bring your children, grandchildren, and friends to the Valley's Annual Children's Santa Party hosted by Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem. There will be entertainment, cookies, pizza, and a visit from a very special man in a red suit! Even better, every child will receive a gift.

TIME: 10:30AM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: Free

RSVP: **December 10**

## Fellowship Breakfast

You can't find a better breakfast with better company that supports a better cause. The breakfast is cooked and served by our local DeMolay and Rainbow and the proceeds benefit those organizations.

TIME: 9AM to 10:30AM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$7/person (all you can eat)

RSVP: None required

**SEP**  
**28**

To have an event listed in future issues, please contact the Valley Office at 412-939-3579, or by email at [secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org)

**NOV**  
**7**

**Reservations are required for Dinner only!**

Please contact the Valley Office:  
[secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org)  
412-939-3579

## Stated Meeting

The November Stated meeting will be a tribute to veterans. The Community Band South will present a star-spangled Veterans' Day concert and all veterans in attendance will receive the Sammy Lee Davis Peace and Freedom pin (*see page 43*).

TIME: 6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$15/Dinner

RSVP: **November 5**

**DEC**  
**21**

**Reservations are required!**

Please contact the Valley Office:  
[secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org)  
412-939-3579

## Valley Christmas Luncheon

Celebrate the holidays in style at the beautiful Shannopin Country Club in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. The Valley's annual adult luncheon is open to all Scottish Rite Masons and their guests. You can reserve a full table via the Valley office, or choose your seat upon arrival.

TIME: 11:00AM Social Hour, Noon Luncheon

LOCATION: Shannopin Country Club

COST: \$30/person

RSVP: **December 17**

**NOV**  
**30**

**JAN**  
**25**

**FEB**  
**29**

# Looking Ahead

**SEP**  
**8**

## Fall Car Cruise

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
GPMC, 11AM-3PM, Free

**SEP**  
**5/6/7/13/14**

## Ghost Light's *Doubt—A Parable*

SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7, 13, 14  
GPMC, 8PM, \$20

**DEC**  
**20**

**DEC**  
**21**

## Ghost Light's *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Play*

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 21  
GPMC, 8PM, \$15

**FEB**  
**6**

## Stated Meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
GPMC, Dinner 6PM-\$15, Meeting 7PM

**MAR**  
**28**

## Rose Croix DeMolay Class

SATURDAY, MARCH 28  
GPMC, 2PM

**APR**  
**2**

## Stated Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2  
GPMC, Dinner 6PM-\$15, Meeting 7PM

**APR**  
**5**

## Story of the Crucifixion

SUNDAY, APRIL 5  
GPMC, 3PM, Play  
Dinner, immediately after Play, \$15

# Fraternal Classified Services Directory

These listed businesses subscribe to providing high quality customer service, delivered with a sense of warmth, friendliness, individual pride, respect, honesty, and the fraternal spirit.

## ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

Richard A. Reynolds, CPA 412-795-4194  
www.RichReynoldsCPA.com

## ADVERTISING SPECIALITIES

Grimes Advertising 412-921-1325  
Eddie Grimes

## ATTORNEYS

Henry Miller, III, Esq. 412-566-2565  
Wills, Estates, Real Estate millerhiii@aol.com

Quinn Logue LLC/Trial Lawyers 412-765-3800  
Attorney Matt Logue info@quinnlogue.com

West & Associates, P.C. 412-486-2800  
C. Arthur West III www.west-legal.com

## AUTOMOTIVE

American Classics/Street Rods 814-268-1234  
Dennis A. Liegey, 1026 3rd Ave., Brockway, PA

## BAKERY / EXPRESSO BAR

Patti's Pasticceria 412-896-6246  
Patti Macey PatisPasticceria@gmail.com

## BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

Gipson Bearing & Supply Co. 412-462-7960  
Craig Gipson www.gipsonbearing.com

## BOOKS

A. Wayne Ross, Author awayneross.com  
3 Hour Mysteries: paperback available at amazon.com  
Audiobooks available at audible.com

## CATERING

Hudson's Catering 724-438-2025  
Richard Hudson www.UniontownCatering.com

Party Line Catering 412-882-7110  
Brian Meador

## CHIMNEY REPOINTING & REBUILDING

Coffey Contracting Co. Inc. 412-341-1127  
Tom Coffey thomas.coffey3@verizon.net

## DISC JOCKEY

DJ Nick Barcio 814-860-1258  
www.DJBarcio.com

## ENVIRONMENTAL, GEOTECHNICAL, AND ENGINEERING CONSULTING

J. Scott Bush Company, P.C. 724-246-8879  
Scott Bush President/CEO 724-984-1881

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

Family Wealth Mgmt Group, LLC. 724-743-6170  
John T. Daley, ChFC® FamilyWealthGroup.com

## FUNERAL SERVICES

Jefferson Memorial Cemetery & Funeral Home  
Pleasant Hills 412-655-4500

George Irvin Green Funeral Home  
Munhall Donald Green 412-461-6394

Readshaw Funeral Home 412-882-3850  
Pittsburgh - Kevin R. Dieterle

Slater Funeral Homes 412-563-2800  
Mt. Washington, Scott Twp., Bethel Park

Warco-Falvo Funeral Home 724-225-1500  
Tim Warco, Washington, PA

Young Funeral Home Ltd 724-283-3333  
William F. Young, III, Butler, PA

## GRAPHIC DESIGN / CREATIVE SERVICES

Square Peg Design 724-925-0224  
Rodney E. Boyce www.squarepegdesign.com

## HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Bergfelt Heating, Cooling & Remodeling  
Bro. Eric Bergfelt, Sr. 412-761-5774

## HOME REMODELERS

Unglo Construction LLC 412-977-8924  
Building, Renovation & Remodeling PA06993

## INSURANCE

Colonial-Fleming Insurance, Inc.  
Michael Misour 724-274-6333

Rodgers Insurance Group  
James M. Wehur 412-922-1651

State Farm Insurance  
Brian Winfield 724-864-9000

## LANDSCAPING

Alex Landscaping 724-327-2539  
Alex Walters alexlandscaping@comcast.net

## MACHINE SHOP

Johnston Machine Works, Inc.  
Bob Johnston 724-695-7730

## MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION

Budget Charters 724-246-1982  
Gary F. Shimshock

## PLUMBING

John R. Meyers Plumbing, Inc. 412-787-2370  
Since 1972, John R. Meyers

## REAL ESTATE

McIlrath Realty Group-Keller Williams  
Mac McIlrath CRB 412-882-9002

## ROOFING

Coffey Contracting Co. Inc. 412-341-1127  
Tom Coffey thomas.coffey3@verizon.net

## SHOE REPAIRS

Mazza Shoe Repairing 412-341-7493  
Vincent M. Mazza 618 Brookline Blvd.

## TRAVEL

Worldview Travel 412-344-4845  
H. Carl Brandtonies carlb@worldview-travel.com

## TREE & STUMP SERVICE

R & R Tree & Stump Service 724-455-7378  
Brian Ritenour 724-640-2011

## TRUCKING

Dragonfly Industries 412-614-0953  
Heavy Highway Construction, Joseph A. Schrock  
josephs@dragonflyindustriesllc.com

JLE Industries 724-603-2228 x3055  
Donald L. Cox Don.Cox@JLEindustries.com

## TRUCKING / TARPULIN SYSTEMS

Merlot Vango 1-800-443-8277  
Automatic Tarps for Dump Trucks & Flatbeds  
Truck Tarpaulin Systems, Digital Vinyl Sign  
Printing, all sizes, Flatbeds: 8' to 24' Aluminum  
Vince Merlot 50 year member  
10 Plum St., Verona, PA 15147

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Dreamscape Productions 412-965-1860  
P.J. Roup pjroup@gmail.com

For advertising rates and information, please contact the Valley Office at 412-939-3579, or by email at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

GHOST LIGHT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



# DOUBT

a parable

by John Patrick Shanley

**September 5, 6, 7, 13, 14**  
@ 8PM

**Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center**  
3579 Masonic Way | Pittsburgh, PA 15237

For tickets,  
call the Scottish Rite  
Valley of Pittsburgh  
today at:

**412.939.3579**

**\$20 ADULTS**



or online at:  
**eventbrite.com**



# Valley of Pittsburgh

## Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center  
3579 Masonic Way  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700



VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Dreams Playa Bonita Panama Resort & Spa Playa Bonita, Panama

February 8-15, 2020

Includes: Round trip air from Pittsburgh, round trip transfers between the airport and resort, all taxes including U.S. and Panama departure taxes. All meals and drinks at resort.

A valid passport is required for travel and must have at least 6 months validity from date of return.

For more details or to make reservations, call All Seasons Travel at 800-435-1077 or 724-483-7989, and ask for *Valley of Pittsburgh Panama*.

All inclusive Vacation (includes all meals and drinks at resort). Early Bird Pricing is per person based upon double occupancy:

### Partial Ocean View

**\$1,865.85** / per person, double occupancy

### Ocean View

**\$1,911.85** / per person, double occupancy

### Preferred Ocean View

**\$2,139.85** / per person, double occupancy

### Preferred Junior Ocean View

**\$2,324.85** / per person, double occupancy

\$100 deposit/per person is due at booking. Cancellation insurance can be added for \$140.99/per person (cancel any reason). Final payment due November 5, 2019.

To view the resort, visit [www.dreamsresorts.com/en\\_us/resorts/panama/playa-bonita.html](http://www.dreamsresorts.com/en_us/resorts/panama/playa-bonita.html)