



**Scottish-Rite**  
**Valley of Burlington/Consistory**  
 1st QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2010



**UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2010**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meal</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Degree	March 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 PM 7:30 PM degree	Yes
Maundy Service	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00 PM	Refreshments
Consistory Day	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM	Lunch & Banquet
Annual meeting, Valley of Burlington	May 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM	Social time Afterward
Annual meeting , Council of Deliberation - in Montpelier	June 12 th	TBD	

**CONSISTORY DAY**

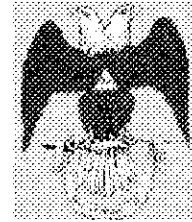
**All Scottish Rite Masons**

**The Vermont Consistory Reunion will be held Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> with a great day planned.**

- 10:30 Open Lodge and Stated Meeting
- 11:00 24<sup>th</sup> Degree- Brother of the Forest  
(How do our 17<sup>th</sup> century brethren treat an application by a Native American to join Freemasonry?)
- 12:30 Lunch with Introductions and Awards
- 1:30 Ladies Programs- some thing fun and artsy- check the web site calendar
- 1:30 Official Reception in Lodge Room  
32nd degree –Ceremonial and Bible Presentation  
31<sup>st</sup> degree - Constans Allegory
- 4:00 Ladies return to GMMC
- 4:30 Social Hour and appetizers
- 5:30 Dinner in Dining Room  
(Reservations taken until a few days before, but we might fill up. Check web site calendar.)



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## From the Secretary

The secretary's office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Office Phone – 802-878-0120

Home Phone - 802-899-3676

E-Mail: [ronsrelics@netzero.net](mailto:ronsrelics@netzero.net)

Ronald J. Place 33°, Secretary

Valley of Burlington/Vermont Consistory

### A call for email addresses

**The Valley of Burlington is engaged in an effort to broaden our communication with our members. We would like to increase our email distribution of newsletters as well notification of meetings, degrees and other happenings in the Valley. So please send us your email address. We do not , nor will not use it for any other purpose other than to send you Scottish Rite ,Valley of Burlington, or Vermont Consistory news and events. Please reply to ; Ronald Place at [ronsrelics@netzero.net](mailto:ronsrelics@netzero.net).**

Thank you

## LEARNING CENTER NEWS

### 32° MASONIC LEARNING CENTER FOR CHILDREN, BURLINGTON, VERMONT February 10, 2010

Our Learning Center is doing very well under the leadership of our new director Jan Ellis-Clements, as our center was without a director this spring and summer for approximately five months things needed to be brought up to speed and reorganized to get us back on track with the training for tutors, the director and scholars as well as providing tutoring for the twelve children we now are serving. We do have a waiting list for other children to enter our program.

The Supreme Council of Scottish Rite, funds our center at \$60,000 for the current fiscal year. The Board of Governors has to raise \$30,000 which is the difference to balance our budget. We are good shape for this current fiscal year. The board has some fund raising activities in process to help to close the budget gap. First is an all out campaign with the news media around our state to make the public more aware of these learning disorders such as Dyslexia which is found in 15 to 20 percent of our population. Our awareness campaign covers all daily, weekly, and monthly newspapers and radio and TV stations. This campaign has been organized and constructed by our Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Calvin K. Keyler. Much is being done on black-tie event with a fine dinner, dancing and a auction of fine wines and special guest speaker; the governor of our beautiful state, the Honorable James Douglas, and many other dignitaries from across Vermont. The music will be provided by a live orchestra, invitations and admission tickets will be on sale at \$50.00 per person. This very formal affair is to have fun and enjoy the time spent there. It is all about raising the awareness of people/children who have a learning disorders-some term as Dyslexia. We are hoping to



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sell 300 admissions to this affair and it is also about raising funds for our center. If you are interested in joining our affair please call Randy Cary at 802-893-4241 or email at [randycary@comcast.net](mailto:randycary@comcast.net) or any other board member.

. Another fund raiser is the Shaw's Community Rewards Program that will pay us 1% of the shopping you do for food on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Please contact a board members or Jan at the Learning Center for information on this program. Other fund raising information will be out soon.

It is a great thing that we are doing to help these children with these disorders and Dyslexia. This tutoring is free for these children to help them learn to communicate so that they can gain access to a better life.

F. Randall Cary, Chairperson  
Board of Governors  
32° Masonic Learning Center for Children

## MEMBERSHIP

Much of our work began, and has been motivated by, our experience at the Supreme Council Membership Seminar held last September 25-26, 2009.

- The overriding theme of the seminar was "fraternity;" let's take care of our brothers!
- We have developed a 3-point plan of action for membership, the acronym for which we call OSM. This stands for **Obtain** (calling the candidates), **Sustain** (shepherding the candidates), and **Maintain** (keeping the members).
- Each component includes a packet of specific information given to the candidates and a statement of duties that the Valley (or specific officers of the Valley) is responsible for.
- The Winter Workshop includes (1) a brief presentation of the OSM plan; (2) a skit called "The Lodge of Imperfection" designed to humorously point out typical shortcomings of Lodge meetings; (3) a roundtable discussion designed to get each Valley to think about (a) what's going well, (b) what's not going well, and (c) one take-away task they will bring back with them.

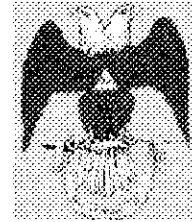
Electronic versions of this material include:

- OSM outline and all documents mentioned in the outline.
- Lodge of Imperfection skit.
- Class Marshall Guide.
- Various cover letters.

We are happy to send any of these upon request.



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Fraternally,

Sandy Karstens

[wkarstens@smevt.edu](mailto:wkarstens@smevt.edu)

Randy Cary

[randycary@comcast.net](mailto:randycary@comcast.net)

Membership Committee

Valley of Burlington

## From the Deputy

### A NEW LOOK AT VALLEY OFFICERS

For many years the officers of each of the Bodies of a Valley have been fixed by the constitution of the Supreme Council. Besides Secretary and Treasurer, which serve all the Bodies, a three Body Valley has been constitutionally required to elect 22 different brothers to officer positions. Add in a Consistory and the number rises to 33! Although each of these positions is supposed to be a different officer, small Valleys- and that is most Valleys- simply do not have enough brothers to fill all these slots. So for years the Actives looked the other way while Valley officers filled several of these slots at once. It was a good example of just not wanting to admit a problem existed.

Then two years ago our previous Deputy, Illus. Fred Jackson, petitioned the Supreme Council to allow VT to use an experimental and non-constitutional officer arrangement called the "Green Bay Model" after the Valley which initiated it. This was adopted by the Valley of Burlington and last June approved by the Council of Deliberation for use throughout Vermont. In essence, this new model calls for the elimination of all Body officer positions below the top two- the first officer in each Body being "the boss," and the second one being the "boss in training." All other positions are simply appointed by the Body heads as needed. Under this structure, one important difference from the past is that there is no "progressive" line: each officer is voted into place from the entire membership, with confidence in their leadership abilities being the only criteria of office.

There is no doubt that this is an advancement over the old model inherited from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. However, this model is still not reflective of the actual functions of a Valley in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Positions of great importance to a Valley are either not included or not given the prominence they deserve. For example, the position of Valley Publicist was little needed in the 1800's, and so Valleys today still routinely either have no one doing this work, or a brother just informally involved. Yet publicizing our Valley's work through newsletters, email and the internet is of vital importance to our survival.

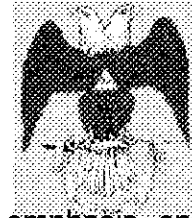
I would therefore like to have our Vermont Valleys reorganize their officer structure from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Model or even the Green Bay Model into a new form we will call



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the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Model. The first consideration is a reduction of emphasis on the historical "Bodies" and a basic focus on the Valley as the primary unit of governance. The Bodies will still, as in the Green Bay model, be represented by a Head Officer bearing his traditional title. However, these three or four brothers should not think of themselves as king of their own turf, but as co-producers of one of a Valley's most basic events: the Meeting. All other officer positions will apply to the Valley as a whole.

## 21st CENTURY VALLEY OFFICER MODEL

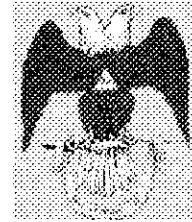
- Heads of Each Valley Body
- Secretary
- Treasurer
  
- Publicist- the duties of this officer are: 1)publish the newsletter 2)produce flyers for Valley events 3)distribute event notices via email 4)produce programs for Valley events 5) manage website information 6)maintain social networking sites.
  
- Education Officer- the duties of this officer are: 1)in charge of candidate mentoring 2) manage educational programs at meetings 3)produce educational articles for publication.
  
- Membership Officer- the duties: 1) recruitment, especially via direct talks to Master Masons in their Lodges 2) class marshal in charge of candidates at meetings 3) maintaining the candidate spreadsheet 4)communication with candidates 5)membership retention work.
  
- Degree Director- an office of the greatest importance and should be the equal of any other officer.
  
- Stage Manager- an office that also deserves parity of rank with any officer in importance to the Valley and in difficulty of execution.

It's still not a short list- 10 good brothers (11with a Consistory)- but running a Valley is not simple but requires a well oiled team to succeed. If each of these officers does a good job then the Valley will take off and become not good but great.

**Eric Ginette 33°**  
**Deputy for Vermont**



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## From the Active

### Actives Report for February

It is great to start the New Year with such activity in the Valleys .In one week I have witnessed two degrees. Attended a couple of board meetings .I visited the Valley of Rutland for the first time and Helped present our most Worshipful Grand master his White hat. I came away with one thought that I did not appreciate enough while I was working in my Valley. We have an exceptionally talented and hard working group of men in the Fraternity.

When I say talented I don't mean men who are good at memorization and hitting their marks. I mean very capable managers of men and resources. Some of our officers come to us with this talent but some are trained and get the most important thing that cannot be bought "on the job training".

The Scottish Rite is a place that is full of leadership opportunity. There is always a place to become engaged in leading the Valleys from becoming an officer to board work. This kind of experience can be a huge benefit to your career outside of freemasonry. How many men have learned how to run a board meeting in the Scottish Rite? How many men have become proficient in public speaking as the Head of a Body. I for one overcame stage freight in the supportive atmosphere of the Lodge of Perfection .Our Secretaries learn how to manage a complex database and our Treasurers know how to read a balance sheet. These are very valuable tools to have in your toolbox in the tight job market these days. I encourage currant leaders to identify the men in your Valley that need that nudge to become the next generation of leaders. I like to ask candidates "where do you see yourself fitting in to this Valley". Most men say I want to do what they are doing as they nod in the direction of the officers. I would like you to make that happen for them. There will be a Leadership training in Lexington in March, lets take advantage of this resource and enjoy a weekend learning about the future in Scottish rite. Let us also not forget our Valley training workshops this summer.

In December I attended my first Actives meeting in Lexington .The Actives meet three times a year. This was a time for me to meet and exchange thoughts with my peers from other states and to meet with the Sovereign Grand Commander. To hear what is going on at Supreme Council. I listened and absorbed as much information as I could retain to bring back to you the Membership. One cannot be around the Commander without feeling how deeply he has focused on the future of our fraternity. If you have read his addresses in The Northern Light you will notice they are thoughtful and to the point. This is how his meetings are. Feedback is encouraged and there is open dialogue. A couple of the points I brought back are not to be afraid to experiment and make changes at our meetings. Make an effort to reach out to our membership that has drifted away. Get to know the new members and what drew them to our Rite.

If you have any thoughts on this report send me an email [activevt@gmail.com](mailto:activevt@gmail.com) call me at 802-244-5905 or contact me on facebook.

**Don Duquette 33°**  
**Active for Vermont**