



Scottish-Rite
Valley of Burlington/Consistory
4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2009/2010

Event	Date	Time	Meal
7° Rehearsal	10/11/2009	7:00P.M.	
7° GMMC	10/15/2009	6:30 P.M.	Meal
Dinner Theater @ GMMC	10/24/2009	5:30 P.M.	Dinner
Veterans Day Dinner	11/07/2009	5:30 P.M.	Dinner
31° & 32° Rehearsal	11/08/2009	7:00 P.M.	
31° & 32° Montpelier	11/14/2009	10:00 A.M.	Yes
Consistory Lunch	11/14/2009	12:30 P.M.	Lunch
8° Rehearsal	11/15/2009	7:00 P.M.	
8° GMMC	11/19/2009	6:30 P.M.	Dinner
14° Rehearsal	01/17/2010	7:00 P.M.	
14° GMMC	01/21/2010	6:30 P.M.	Dinner
16° Rehearsal	02/14/2010	7:00 P.M.	
16° GMMC	02/18/2010	7:00 P.M.	Dinner
18° Rehearsal	03/14/2010	7:00 P.M.	
18° GMMC	03/18/2010	6:30 P.M.	Dinner

Synopsis of upcoming degrees

31st Degree – Knight Aspirant

The Allegory of the thirty-first degree portrays the vigil of an aspirant for knighthood, his spiritual ordeals and tribulations and eventual victory, his supreme sacrifice and his personification of the Royal Secret – the eternal gift of God – Love.

32nd Degree – Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

This degree is set in a modern setting in which a knight aspirant requests to be admitted to the rank of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. He is accepted and the camp of the Ancient Accepted Rite of Freemasonry is explained. This degree also advocates Patriotism for our Country.

From the Secretary

The secretary's office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Office Phone – 802-878-0120

Home Phone - 802-899-3676

E-Mail: ronsrelics@netzero.net

Ronald J. Place 33°, Secretary

Valley of Burlington/Vermont Consistory



Scottish-Rite Valley of Burlington/Consistory 4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



From the Deputy



“ICE”

Inspiration- Convenience-Enjoyment

Three hundred years ago speculative Masonry arose. The basic ideas of the future of western culture were spread out upon the frame work of ancient operative Masonry by young men who saw ahead to the world to come and strove to make this vision real by creating Freemasonry. Basic to these ideas was that of human liberty built upon the suffrage of the people; the right of individuals equally before the law; and the moral dignity proper for mankind. Set against an age where kings ruled a powerless mass of people and religion saw man as evil and dominated by sin, these were powerful and revolutionary ideas.

The project succeeded and over the years many millions of able men assembled under the banner of Freemasonry. But this very success sowed the seeds of failure, because these ideas became fixed in ritual and dogma, codified into Masonic Law, and carried on by ever older and older men. Instead of being a herald of the future at some point Masonry became the custodian of the past. Gradually we end up with the American Freemasonry of today: a glorious past having little relevance to our present culture, dispersed in a society that largely ignores it.

It would seem obvious that if Freemasonry is to return to being a vigorous meeting ground where the future is once again assembled by young minds it will not be by clinging to the sinking ship of the past. Three hundred years is a long time and the ideas and needs that gave expression to the vision of that day cannot serve to vitalize the vision of today.

It is unnecessary to define what this vision will be in this essay. It will not be the voice of any one man or the labor of any particular Lodge or Valley. But it is necessary to create the structure, the freedom, the organization capable of incubating this child of the future. Yes indeed the old structure of Freemasonry is grand and historic; yet it is feeble and abed. But within it resides yet the ageless human spirit that will give birth to the future. Will it be a future of the enslavement of the people, the extinguishment of the rights of the individual and debasement of the dignity of man; or the arising of a new vision of human freedom and expressions of the human spirit yet unarticulated and unknown?

These questions are too important to be decided by those ignorant of Freemasonry. Our fraternity has been for these long generations the voice of brotherhood, relief and truth. All of the great revolutions of human culture have had Freemasonry and Freemasons at their root. If man collectively is to continue to evolve our voices must become greater, not fade away.

And so what is this salve I suggest we spread upon the old man abed, buried almost under the weight of his aprons, jewels, and regalia? I will take up the call of John Wm. McNaughton for “ICE”: Inspiration, Convenience, and Enjoyment. Each of these elements will aid our Fraternity to shed the encrustations of the past.

Inspiration is what men need before the desire for action can arise. Do you honestly feel your meetings, your degrees, your events inspire? Then change them until they do.



Scottish-Rite

Valley of Burlington/Consistory

4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



Our world is fast paced and a myriad of things clamor for our attention. If we ask men to engage in a convoluted path to and through our gates we guarantee that many will not make the effort and the spark will die long before the fire can be kindled.

And no man continues long in anything they do not enjoy. Look around your lodge room on meeting night. Have they not voted with their feet and is the evidence not those empty chairs? We must appeal to the senses as well as to the intellect. How many times have you seen men laughing and talking for long in the parking lot, there in the dark after the dour meeting has ended? Perhaps the real Masonry was out there.

Therefore I make this plea to leave go of the old forms that just do not work any longer and use the principles of "ICE" to unlock our creativity. We have to pry loose the fingers of our petty tyrants from the throat of the child of the Masonry of tomorrow. Our call is not to define ourselves by how closely we adhere to what has been done in the past, but by how we can inspire the creation of the future. This is not to suggest abandonment of our core principles, but certainly to abandon the worn out script we use to express them. Every dreary drop of the gavel as it paces its way through the old forms is another death knell to our fraternity. How long has it been since any light was allowed through the tightly curtained windows of our lodges? Is the recitation of ancient rituals in antique phraseology really all we have to offer the initiate?

Somewhere in there is an ever living truth, a vital force that has propelled our Society through three centuries, a wisdom valid for all times. It is inspirational.

When good men come together, there is Brotherhood. Let's get out of the way of that happening. I am tired of raising them only to watch the excitement in their eyes fade away. Let us apply a new yardstick to our events. Not "Is it the way we always did it?" but "Is it Inspirational? Is it Convenient? Is it Enjoyable?" Those sidelines will start to fill.

Eric Ginette
August 2009

From the Active

Dear Brothers this is my first report as an Active member from of the Supreme Council .I am very humbled by what has taken place in Boston over the four days at Supreme Council .I was approached almost two years ago by Illustrious Eric Ginette and Illustrious Frederick Jackson that I might be under their consideration for the Actives position as fred was retiring and I should give it some thought for the future. Being an Active is not something that anyone should take lightly and I did not. I only have to look at those that came before me. These are men that are models of Masonic life. I was very comfortable being Secretary of my Valley and things are really going quite well as we have a great line of officers and it was a rewarding place to work. I looked forward to every degree and board meeting. Why would I want to look down the road at some other leadership position when things are going so well?

I spent time with Fred and Eric discussing what it meant to be an active. It was a chance to again work along side our Deputy Eric and help address the challenges that our brothers are facing in their Valleys. To serve the whole state not just one Valley. I also talked it over with



Scottish-Rite

Valley of Burlington/Consistory

4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



my family. They are very supportive of my Masonic activities and encouraged me to take on this new leadership position.

I think the thing that made me most comfortable was the confidence Eric had in me to help him in the coming years. This position also means I will be on standing committees at Supreme Council and give Vermont a voice in its actions.

I look forward to working for all the Valleys and accompanying the Deputy to your future valley events.

I would also like to talk about something that I have become involved in the last six months. The valley of Burlington's Scottish Rite Learning Center. I casually started going to board meetings as Secretary for the Valley of Montpelier so I could learn about the Center and report back to the Valley. What I learned about was the mission of the learning Center and the dedication of the board. It is something all Scottish Rite Masons should be very proud of.

The center has been going through some changes this year as it now has a new director Jan Ellis –Clements and assistant Catherine Anderson-Nguyen. Jan brings an incredible history of teaching and leadership to the learning center and is a great addition to the Staff.

Another change was the Chairman of the Board. Rich Hildebrand has become interim chair replacing Mike Raley who had to take a leave due to work and family obligations. Thank you Mike for the hours you have dedicated to the Learning Center.

Rich has brought all his energy to the board and has been adding new and talented members monthly. I am sure you will be hearing more about the learning center in the coming months as there will be some big announcements of events and from members of your communities that have been touched by the learning centers work.

I encourage you to do what my wife and I did and schedule an appointment (802-872-9900) to tour the Learning Center and talk to the director and I am sure you will be deeply moved by the work done at our Valley 's Learning Center.

Don Duquette 33°
Active

Dinner Theater

The Valley of Burlington will be presenting a Dinner Theater at the Green Mountain Masonic Center on October 24, 2009 with dinner at 5:30 P.M. After dinner, the play "The Last Full Measure" will be presented at 6:30 P.M. The "Last Full Measure" is a play based on the civil war and Abraham Lincoln during the period he gave the Gettysburg address

This event is open to the public and you are encouraged to invite family, friends and anyone that you think would be interested. There is a flyer in this newsletter for you to complete and return.

THE LAST FULL MEASURE



Scottish-Rite Valley of Burlington/Consistory 4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



I have been told that this wonderful, simple, yet moving play about Abraham Lincoln and the final years of the Civil War is in danger of dying here in Vermont for lack of the few Brothers necessary to carry it on. This is a great shame, since many venues around the State have asked to have it performed. It is a great way to promote Scottish Rite and Masonry, but perhaps we have just bitten off more than we can chew? The answer is up to you.

Anyone, Freemason or not, is welcome to become a part of this crew. I realize we are all busy, but it is not possible for a handful of dedicated performers to continue alone- they need help. Most parts are non-speaking and short. And most importantly, this is fun to do.

Please contact Rick Rayfield at 802-229-8237 or e-mail him at rayfieldvt@aol.com or Jack Campbell 802-893-7813 jackpgm@comcast.net and let them know they are not alone in their support for this great play. You will be glad you did.

Eric Ginette 33°
Deputy Inspector VT

LEARNING CENTER NEWS

We would like to introduce our new Director for the Burl, VT, Children's Learning Center. Her name is Jan Ellis-Clements and she began work in the middle of Aug. Jan lives in Essex Jct. and is a certified Orton-Gillingham Fellow. She tutored for many years at the Pine Ridge School in Williston.

The Center will open for tutoring September 21 with 16 students and three paid tutors. Jan will not take on any tutor trainees until she is fully trained in our procedures. She will have a full schedule just learning our system and equipment.

We are very encouraged by the donations that were included with your Scottish Rite dues. As you may have suspected, declining membership and the economy have had an effect on our funding from Lexington. Each Center must supplement their budget to maintain the level and quantity of tutoring we have achieved. The return on our endowments at this point has been reduced, so other sources of support will be necessary.

It costs \$5000 per student per year to tutor a child. Your Board of Governors has pledged to meet this challenge and is planning several fund raising events. This fall, Columbus Day weekend, we will be at "APPLE FEST" in So. Hero with a booth. It will be a coin toss for children's toys. This will also give our center exposure of the work we do with dyslexic children. On Nov. 7th we are planning a "DINNER/DANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR". Governor Douglas, along with others have already consented and approved the date. Later in the winter we are planning a "TEXAS HOLDEM" event. Details will be forthcoming. We would like your support at these events.

Many Brothers are making contributions to the Center with their dues. The Board of Governors thanks all the new contributors as well as the previous donors.

Rich Hildebrand 33°

Executive Board Monthly Meeting



Scottish-Rite

Valley of Burlington/Consistory

4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



The Executive Board of the Valley of Burlington meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Green Mountain Masonic Center in Williston, VT at 7:00 P.M.

The Executive Board is made up of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and officers of the several bodies of the Valley of Burlington and committee members.

All aspects of the Valley of Burlington business such as membership, financial, building and other items.

This meeting is open to all members of the Valley of Burlington and all of our members are encouraged to come and discover how our business is conducted.

Joseph Jacobs 33°
Advisor

Scottish Rite Day November 14, 2009

Our Sovereign Grand Commander has identified **November 14, 2009** as a day of celebration for the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. On that day each Consistory will open to present the 31st and 32nd degrees.

So here in Vermont we will do our best to make this day memorable for all Brothers. In order to make this special day convenient for the most members, we are holding this in a central location, namely the Montpelier Masonic Lodge. In addition, the degrees will commence at 10:00 AM and will conclude at noon. This is an excellent opportunity to see these degrees performed in a highly proficient manner. We promise that there will be no speeches and no introductions except for the Grand Master of Vermont.

Shortly after the Noon completion of the degrees, join us for a delicious lunch accompanied by the enjoyment of fellowship and good conversation. In all an enjoyable time is planned, so please plan to join us. If you need a ride, contact any Scottish Rite Mason or your Valley Secretary.

Ron Place 33°
Secretary



Scottish-Rite
Valley of Burlington/Consistory
4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2009



Scottish Rite - Valley of Burlington
Presents
Dinner & Theater Event

When: October 24, 2009

**Time: 5:30 P. M. Dinner
6:30 P. M. Theater**

**Where: Green Mountain Masonic Center, 87 Bishop Ave.,
Williston, VT (Behind Imported Car Center).**

Menu: Roast Beef Dinner.

Optional refreshment: You may BYOB.

Cost: \$15.00 per person.

Entertainment: The Last Full Measure performed by our Scottish Rite actors.

We encourage you, your family and friends to join us for this event. It is an opportunity to see our Scottish Rite actors and also enjoy a great meal. Please complete the below reservation form and return it by October 17, 2009. Please make checks out to "Valley of Burlington" and mail to : PO Box 208 Williston , Vt 05495-0208

If you have any questions contact Ron Place at 802-899-3676 or email ronsrelics@netzero.net. if you wish to make resevations via email.

*

(Cut here and return information below)

Name : _____

Address : _____

Phone Number : _____

of reservations: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____