



THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY OF MONTPELIER, AASR
TRESTLEBOARD #16 **JUNE, 2008**



From the Secretary's Desk

Hello brothers,

I am still enjoying the memories of consistory day. Thirty-eight candidates from around the state made up a very strong class that is eager to roll up their sleeves and get involved. The first thing that I did after class day was to use the information questionnaire that the candidates filled out at Consistory Day to make a spreadsheet for our Valley committee heads. They will be contacting you if you have not been called already. This kind of new spirit in the Valley boosts the energy of present members. It also brings brothers that we may have not seen for a while back into lodge to witness the growth and enthusiasm. A few weeks ago, I was contacted by a brother that I have never met. He said he had lost interest in the Valley when his mentor passed on. Recently, he had been at the local store shopping and bumped into one of our new Brothers. This new Brother had been so touched by his experience in the class that it prompted our old timer to call me and say he would be attending degrees again.

June 5th was the start of our degree cycle for the fall, what a great 4th degree we had. I won't say too much here, because I think you'll get the idea from other discussion within this same letter. We'll be doing it again in January, but now is the time to bring your Blue Lodge Brothers into the Rite. A great start would be to invite them to our fall picnic in Barre, coming up on August 16th. Who could not be impressed by Ron Green's abilities at grilling steaks! Please contact Lee Martenson at 479-0334, Steve Engel 635-2150 or myself at 244-5905 for Candidate information packets. Lee and Steve will also come to your Blue lodge and present an informational program on the Scottish Rite if you need something to liven up your evening program.

Fraternally,
Don Duquette 33°, Secretary



FROM THE GAVEL

To all my brothers, I wish to thank you all for your support and encouragement on my first night behind the gavel.

To all the candidates, I hope your first degree in the Scottish Rite opened your eyes to what you can expect in future degrees. Believe me there is much more to look forward to. I can remember my first degree in the Scottish Rite, not knowing what to expect and a bit nervous not knowing very many people there. Then after the degree, feeling better and more a part of the Valley. I was also in awe of seeing a degree done in costume. It is our hope that the way this 4th degree was presented you felt right at home from the beginning. I want to especially thank those that stepped up to take a part at the last minute. How about all those new 32 degree participants?

To all the brothers that worked unselfishly in the background to make this last and all the degrees go smoothly I thank you. Bob Herdling and Barry Duquette for making sure all the costumes and props were ready, and did I mention Rick Rayfield our drama king. We are very lucky to have Rick in our Valley. Then of course there's Eric Ginette, if it's knowledge you want, he is your man. Not only is he knowledgeable about the Scottish Rite and York Rite, but also what is 'Rite' about masons in general. I know he looks forward to your questions.

I feel the Valley is like a fine watch, there is a lot going on behind the face to make things work. You know that big gear in there? That would be Don Duquette, our secretary. What a great job he is doing.

Well I can't name every one in the Valley, but without each and every brother, that watch won't tick.

We are looking forward to an exciting year. Please mark every date on your calendar from the schedule so you don't miss anything.

Don't forget to call Ron Green with your reservations for our picnic on the 16th of August, it's open to family and friends. If everyone would bring a brother to our next 4th degree we could double the size of our valley. Let's not be selfish with the light. I have packets and petitions, please just call me and I will send them right out or just bring a brother to the next 4th degree Jan. 24th 2009.

Lee Martenson, TPM
802-479-0334

ITS A MATTER OF DEGREES



4° Cast 06/05/08

The fourth degree was a corker. With 22 members in the cast, the six newest Scottish Rite brothers were treated to the fullest version of the Fourth Degree on Thursday, June 5th, 2008. As usual, we started the evening with 31 brothers at supper. The business meeting was brief and we welcomed Actives Richard Hildebrand, Eric Ginette, and Fred Jackson in their purple hats. At the request of a new member we pulled out a box of black hats and reinstated that tradition. We also reinstated the tradition of welcoming all candidates by name in front of the altar and administering the cover obligation.

The Fourth Degree, Master Traveler, set a theme of Scottish Rite being the enriching journey of your lifetime. Three new modules were added last summer as options, and we chose to perform them all, meaning a total of seven scenes from the Lodge, Council and Chapter, and seven from the Consistory. The result of this meant the candidates saw snippets of half of our 28 degrees. The new scenes, presented in Vermont for the first time, were a Woodsman talking with his apprentice about the value of work, two Army officers concerned about taking sides in the impending Civil War, and Pope Honorius III making peace with Emperor Frederick II and agreeing on the separation of Church and State. A few brothers filled in at the last minute, with either non-speaking roles, or short speaking ones. At least half the cast was made up of members new to Scottish Rite in the last two years. What a great mixture of new and old blood for a great degree. The evening was filled with brothers doing fine work, all deserving more credit than the small space here allows. The actors, music, lights, casting, costumes- everyone did a great job of working together so that the harmony of our allegorical work was not only good, but pleasing.

Rick Rayfield, Drama Director



STATEWIDE

During this past year, the four Vermont Valleys have done work together and exchanged degrees. Last January's combined meeting of the Valleys of Montpelier and Rutland was the first such meeting for many years. It illustrated the re-emergence of the Valley of Rutland after several years of virtual dormancy. Thanks to the hard work of Winfred Pike, who received his 33° last summer at the Annual meeting in Washington, DC, and many other Brothers of the Valley, they created a degree team to exemplify the 16°, one of the most popular degrees of our Rite. This was presented following the work of the 15° by our Montpelier degree team.

But that's not all, because on March 15th a very special combined meeting of the Valley of Montpelier and the VT Consistory occurred, again for the first time in many years. Following our 18°, one of the most enjoyed rituals in our Rite, we were treated to an opening of the VT Consistory under the leadership of Marty Branch, 33°, our Commander in Chief. They continued on to present the 19°, Grand Pontiff. This is a wonderful old "ritual" type of degree which has not been done in our State for many years. In this allegory we journeyed into the land of the Shades, and met Philo, a famous Jewish writer from ancient Alexandria, and other illustrious philosophical spirits of the past. We look forward to more cooperative work between the valleys over this next year, and a continued strengthening of our Scottish Rite statewide bonds.

Eric Ginette,
Supreme Council Active for VT



From Your Scottish Rite Learning Center

What is dyslexia? Dys means difficulty, and lexia means language; therefore, dyslexia means a difficulty with language. The difficulty can be with either receptive language or expressive language. Receptive language is being able to 1) listen and comprehend and 2) read and comprehend. Expressive language is being able to 1) speak so that others can understand your intent and 2) write so that others can understand your intent.

Dyslexia is neurologically based, that is brain-based. It is often passed down from one generation to the next in the same family. There are many degrees of dyslexia, ranging from mild to severe, with emphasis on receptive or expressive language or both.

Dyslexia is not a lack of motivation, sensory impairment, inadequate instructional or environmental opportunities, or other limiting conditions, but may occur together with these conditions. Even though dyslexia is lifelong, people with dyslexia do respond successfully to timely and appropriate intervention such as we provide at the Burlington, 32° Masonic Learning Center. This work is so important to those young people we are helping.

I want to thank the Scottish Rite Community for making our work possible, and to urge you to continue supporting this great work. Why not stop by the Burlington Masonic center some time, to see what we're accomplishing.

Sincerely,

Carlene Badeau, Director



Welcome to the Valleys'

As the new Commander-in-Chief of the Vermont Consistory, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind all 32nd degree Scottish Rite brothers in the Valley of Montpelier, that if they took their 32nd degree here in Vermont, they are also full members of the Valley of Burlington. This is because the one Consistory in Vermont, is in the Valley of Burlington. While it is a bit confusing to some brothers (don't feel alone) that they belong and pay dues to both Valleys, it has the wonderful effect of bringing Scottish Rite brothers together from around the whole State on a regular basis. Recently a Committee led by Jack Campbell rewrote the By-Laws for the Valley of Burlington, and we will be considering parallel changes in the Council of Deliberation Constitution in order to clarify that the Consistory is in "Burlington".

Among the exciting things on the schedule for the Consistory this coming year is a repeat of the 19th degree. The Consistory presented this degree in Montpelier last winter, and will be repeating it in Schenectady this year. We also hope to exchange a degree or two with Montreal, which provides a global perspective to Scottish Rite.

Rick Rayfield, CIC,



Dates to put on your Calendar:

June 14:

Vermont Council of Deliberation
ANNUAL MEETING 2008
9AM Montpelier Masonic Center
12:30 Lunch by reservation only.
ROAST PORK,
OR
CHICKEN CORDON BLEU \$12.00
CONTACT SECRY ROBERT POWLUS
rpowlus@comcast.net

LADIES PROGRAM:
ART & GALLERIES OF STOWE
LEAVES AT 9:00AM sharp!

June 30:

Admin. Council at 7:00 on Monday

July 28:

Admin. Council Monday 7pm

Aug. 16:

Valley Picnic at Barre Town Rec. Field 3PM
Contact Ron Green for reservations
802-434-5422
All Friends & Family members Welcome!

Aug.25:

Admin Council Monday 7pm