



DANVILLE VALLEY ECHOES

The Newsletter of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies of the
Valley of Danville

Spring 2024

Blue Envelope

The Blue Envelope Appeal is the Scottish Rite, NMJ's oldest Jurisdiction-wide fundraising appeal. For decades, Scottish Rite Masons have supported the charitable efforts of the fraternity by mailing their annual donations in a blue reply envelope, leading to the program's name.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been raised to support the work of the Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation thanks to the generous contributions of our members. Donations currently support: The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund, Children's Dyslexia Centers, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library and the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Fund.

Beyond supporting our Scottish Rite Charities, Blue Envelope donations have a positive impact on our Valleys. Valley of Excellence - Members' Blue Envelope donations can help Valleys receive Valley of Excellence credit. Obtaining credit requires at least 10% or more of a Valley's total members donating to the Blue Envelope, with the campaign running from October 1 to June 15. We need just 47 more members to donate. Even \$5.00 helps! Abbott Scholarship Allocation - Blue Envelope donations from Valley members also help determine a Valley's annual Abbott Scholarship allocation.

You can go to: <https://scottishritenmj.org/charities/blue-envelope>, or send your donation straight to Supreme Council, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519. Be sure to put Blue Envelope—Valley of Danville in the memo!

**Valley of Danville
32nd Degree Masons**

The Pursuit of Further Light

SPRING REUNION – APRIL 12 & 13, 2024
DANVILLE MASONIC TEMPLE,
109 W. NORTH STREET, DANVILLE, IL 61832

Friday, April 12, 2024

3:00 p.m. - Registration
4:30 p.m. - 4th Degree
5:15 p.m. - 14th Degree
6:30 p.m. - Supper and Presentations
7:45 p.m. - Social Time

All Master Masons welcome to join!
Candidate Fees are \$200.00.
Payment plans are available.

Saturday, April 13, 2024

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 16th Degree
10:00 a.m. - Choice of 10th or 23rd DVD
11:00 a.m. - 18th Degree
Noon: Lunch and Presentations
1:30 p.m. - 8th Degree
2:30 p.m. - Choice of 11th or 27th Degree DVD
3:30 p.m. - 32nd Degree

Valley of Danville
217-446-7620
aasrdanville.org

What's Old Is New ~ James W. Both, 33°



Plan on viewing the new 32nd degree as the Grand Finale at our Spring Reunion. Supreme Council has changed the ritual for the 32nd degree. They have combined the opening and closing ceremonial sections with the allegory now used to conclude the degree. The ceremonial section has brought back the use of the Masonic Camp, the Sacred words, the Passwords, the Golden Spurs of Knighthood, the Sash or Cordon of the Order, the Apron, and reference to the Mystic Numbers and the Holy Empire. The Tempters in the allegory have been changed to now include Florio, Urban, and Ignatius.

The explanation of the Masonic Camp now includes a visual representation of the Masonic Camp as well as an explanation. The Sacred words are given and at least one meaning in the Histori-

cal Notes tells us they mean "the light within guides us". The Historical Notes suggest to us that we should do further research to discover other possible meanings. The significance or meaning of the Golden Spurs of Knighthood, Cordon of the Order, and Apron are explained. The Historical Notes also explain the reference to the Holy Empire as possibly being an Empire of philosophy and morals as opposed to a territorial jurisdiction or as the Illustrious Albert Pike 33rd suggests, the Holy Empire of the true Masonic Brotherhood.

I challenge you to witness and study the new 32nd degree. See if you can catch and understand the changes that Supreme Council has made. Let's continue our "Search for Further Light".

Pursuing Further Light ~ Brian L. Pettice, 33°



At this writing, we have arrived at the midpoint of winter. Our holiday and New Year's celebrations are already becoming but warm memories. The Ground Hog, shadow seen or unseen, reminds us that we are still in winter's midst. Our minds, longingly, turn to thoughts of spring with its longer days and renewal of life.

As we think about spring and the further light and renewal it brings, let us take this opportunity to renew our acquaintance with the many programs that the Supreme Council offers to help you get the most from your Scottish Rite journey—the most Further Light.

Though not required to enjoy the Scottish Rite, information on it and its programs and offerings are most easily accessed by a visit to its website

at <https://scottishritenmj.org/>. Here you will find information on everything from our core values, mission, and organizational structure to a link to sign up for our online newsletter. Take some time to explore and you can find links to our magazine, *The Northern Light* and bevy of Supreme Council Member Resources. Log in to the Member Center and you can access many of the programs Supreme Council offers to help you engage both in person and online. Here you can monitor your progress in the Passport Program and plan visits to the Valley of Danville or any Valley in the NMJ to witness the degrees you need to complete the program. Click on *Thursday Night at the Rite* and view online degrees with brethren from all over the jurisdiction. This program returned on February 1st and will showcase videos of several Valleys performing the degrees on their stages. TNR also offers your

Master Mason friends an opportunity to witness the fourth degree and begin their Scottish Rite Journeys. If you are looking to delve deeply into the meaning of the degrees and share your thoughts on them, check out the Haute Grade Academy and get on a list for the next class.

In addition to these programs and more offered by our Supreme Council you can also find out about the Grand Almoners programs, Scholarships, and other charities that offer our members help when they need it and an opportunity to give back when they can.

So as you continue your Scottish Rite journey this spring, whether you know where you want your Scottish Rite journey to take you or not, a good first step is to check out everything at <https://scottishritenmj.org/>.

Duties of Officers

To be elected or appointed to any office in a Scottish Rite Body is a distinct honor which carries with it responsibility. Those who accept these honors must be prepared and willing to undertake the duties and responsibilities of their offices with the realization that some personal sacrifice will be necessary.

It is not intended that holding office in a Scottish Rite Body should interfere with an officer's vocation and his efforts to earn a livelihood. However, when any other cause, unless it be illness or death in the family, prevents his expected and required attendance at the meetings, rehearsals and reunions, he errs in expecting that his absence will be overlooked. If absence results from the pressure of one's usual vocation or from illness, the members are usually very considerate in forgiving the absence.

However, if it is the result of lack of interest or conflict with what might be termed personal pleasure, continued approval cannot be expected. Under such circumstances he should make way for another member who is more interested and willing to serve more faithfully.

Each officer should consider increasing membership and retaining present membership as a high priority. Interest, attendance, punctuality and devotion to duty by all officers will inevitably result in success through cooperative and zealous teamwork.

A portion of the obligation taken by an officer at his installation in a Scottish Rite Body is as follows: "I will seek diligently to acquire a due knowledge of the rituals, usages and administrative procedures of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in this Jurisdiction, and especially, to comply with the duties of my office. I will strive earnestly to promote the welfare of my Brethren and of our Rite, and to maintain peace and harmony in a spirit of courtesy and fraternal cooperation."

Presiding Officers

The primary duties of a Presiding Officer of a Subordinate Body are prescribed in the Constitutions and provide the following:

Except as provided in the succeeding paragraph, "it shall be the duty of the Presiding Officer of a Subordinate Body to preside at all meetings thereof, appoint all committees, and be ex officio a member of the same with voting rights. He shall discharge all

the duties prescribed for him by the Constitutions and rituals of the Supreme Council and the usages and customs of the Rite; but the Presiding Officer of a Subordinate Body shall have and exercise no authority or control over any other Subordinate Body.

"In a Valley having a Council, Chapter and Consistory, or any one or more of them in addition to a Lodge of Perfection, joint regulations of such Bodies may provide for a Board of Officers or Executive Committee with power and authority to coordinate the activities of all the Subordinate Bodies in that Valley including the acquisition, management and control of all properties for the common good, the scheduling of degrees, the appointment of committees, the fixing of budgets, the management of finances, and other appropriate common activities provided only that the Presiding Officer of each such Subordinate Body in such Valley shall be a member of such Board of Officers or Executive Committee.

Thereafter, the role and duties of such Presiding Officers shall be subordinate and subject to such joint regulations as shall have been duly adopted by such Board of Officers, Executive Committee or other appropriate committee."

A Presiding Officer is required to give his assent to the following charges of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite: 1.) to pay true allegiance and fealty to the Supreme Council

2.) to support its Constitutions, Statutes, Orders and Decrees 3.) to agree not to engage in any plot or conspiracy against the civil government 4.) to obey the laws of our country 5.) to submit peacefully to the will of the majority 6.) to avoid disputes and quarrels, 7.) to be impartial, upright and modest 8.) to refrain from all intemperance and excess 9.) to be faithful to his Brethren and courteous to all men 10.) to exercise hospitality 11.) to receive all duly accredited visitors 12.) to reject imposters 13.) to rebuke those who would seek to disturb peace and harmony 14.) to guard zealously the Charter of the Body over which he is called to preside 15.) to permit no one to receive any degree of the Ancient

Accepted Scottish Rite unless he be a Master Mason in good standing and qualified in accordance with the Constitutions and Regulations of the Rite.

It is the further duty of each Presiding Officer to observe and enforce such rules and regulations governing his Body as are consistent with the Constitutions of the Supreme Council, and the rules and regulations of the Council of Deliberation of his state.

The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the organization of the Body under his direction. He shall be responsible for the Officers of his Body performing their assigned duties. The Presiding Officers of the Bodies of the Rite in each state shall present recommendations in writing to the Council of Deliberation relative to nominating those who are to receive the Meritorious Service Award.

Each Presiding Officer should study and thoroughly familiarize himself with each of the following:

- (a) The Constitutions of the Supreme Council,
- (b) The "Forms and Ceremonials" authorized by the Supreme Council;
- (c) The "Ceremonial of Open Installation of Officers of Subordinate Bodies;"
- (d) Manual for Officers;
- (e) The Rules and Regulations of the Council of Deliberations in his state;
- (f) The Rules and Regulations of the Subordinate Body of which he is the Presiding Officer and of the other coordinate Bodies of the Rite in his Valley;
- (g) The ritual of each degree conferred by his Subordinate Body including the Historical Notes and Sacred words pertaining to such ritual.

Other Elected and Appointed Officers

All officers should perform the duties of their respective offices and assist the Presiding Officer of the Body in which they serve, and shall perform such other tasks that may be assigned to them.

The Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees, other Officers and Committees shall perform those duties which are assigned to them by the Constitutions of the Supreme Council and the Rules and Regulations of their Council of Deliberation and their Valley.

It is expected that all officers shall be present at all business meetings of their Subordinate Body as well as at Reunions.

Final Thoughts



James W. Both, Commander in Chief—It's amazing how fast time goes by. It seems like just a few weeks ago I became Commander in Chief of the Danville Consistory. My thoughts and impressions of the last two years are what follows.

The expression "don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" is especially true in a volunteer organization such as the Scottish Rite. The only way to get things accomplished is to dig in and get started.

If a few mistakes are made that is alright because mistakes are how we learn.

Our fraternity, nationwide, does a fantastic job of staying focused on our two main reasons for existing, searching for further light or knowledge and taking care of each other. Many educational programs are available to us, and they are continually changing, yet we continue to learn and take care of each other.

Change will continue to occur and probably at an accelerated pace, in life and in

Masonry. I think we can expect to see many changes in how we educate our brothers, but I am sure our fraternity will hold on to our "Core Values".

This fraternity and its lessons are needed in the country and the world now more than ever.

I look forward to serving this Valley for many years to come in whatever manner possible.



Myles S. Patterson, Sovereign Prince—As Sovereign Prince, I am humbly honored for the opportunity to have served with you and the Valley of Danville officers. Thanks to each of you for all your help. I hope we

have met your expectations of helping individual Lodges succeed, improving communications, and having more "Just for Fun" family activities.

Are you excited that we are again competing for the NMJ Valley of Excellence

Award? Scottish Rite is leading the way to provide tools for Masons to recruit good men and make them better. The core values that represent Scottish Rite makes me proud to be a member of the Walter E. Stevens Council, Princes of Jerusalem. Our future is safe with our new officers and each of you.



Thomas A. Roberts, Most Wise Master—Two years went by too fast. I tried to do my best as Most Wise Master and as a Board member. When I was sworn in as Most Wise, I wanted to accomplish everything and make our members proud. As I end my term, I still

want Scottish Rite to accomplish as much as we can to make this fraternity the best it can be. I can only hope that I asked my share of questions (perhaps too many at times) to get a more clear understanding of the situation at hand. I am confident that the Valley of Danville will continue to lead the way in AASR. We have to initiate

more members and allow them to add their touch to the efforts of all that have come before them. I, of course want to thank all members of my officer line, after all it's not a one-man job. I have every confidence that Richard and his incoming officer line will do an amazing job and help our Valley to soar to new heights.

Free Pizza!

Join your local Scottish Rite Brothers and a new candidate to Scottish Rite to enjoy a Thursday Night at the Rite degree presentation at your home or at a local Lodge and receive a free pizza.

Your Valley is proud to announce that we have a new opportunity for our current members to enjoy some fraternal time to-

gether AND bring in prospective new Scottish Rite candidates. As you know, Supreme Council has their Thursday Night at the Rite beginning again in February. The Valley of Danville will pay for pizza if existing Scottish Rite members come together to watch a Thursday Night at the Rite degree AND help a new candidate join the Rite by filling out an online petition and watching the 4th

degree offered prior to the Thursday Night at the Rite degree.

Please enjoy these degrees and a free pizza together with your friends and bring in a new Brother to our great fraternity.

Call the Valley Office at 217-446-7620 to get reimbursed for pizza.



Jersey Mike's Subs is coming to Danville! They're located on North Vermilion in front of Meijer. The Children's Dyslexia Center of East Central Illinois has been selected to be their charity of choice for two fundraisers happening in February and March. **Month of Giving - All of March and Day of Giving - Wednesday, March 27th** For the month of March, customers at Jersey Mike's

will be asked to make a donation to the Dyslexia Center. Jersey Mike's will collect the donations to the Dyslexia Center for the entire month of March. Wednesday, March 27th is Jersey Mike's Day of Giving and 100% of their sales for the day will go to the Dyslexia Center.



The Valley is always looking for help! If you would like to help with stage crew, lights, sound, makeup, credentials, passport stamps or selling tickets, Stop by the office and we will hook you up with the right connections!

Why Valley of Excellence ~ Christopher J. Hathaway



Why do we want to achieve this award for the 3rd year in a row? The simple answer is to increase the value of the Valley of Danville for our members. Why is this important? The world is pulling at our time daily. We have many options as to where to spend our time, our money, and our talents. A man who lives his life as a Freemason will be in great demand. He will only give his time to organizations that earn his respect and admiration. At the Valley of Danville, we must earn the respect and admiration of every Freemason to ensure we can carry out our vision statement: We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members"

We fill that obligation by carrying out the tasks laid out for us in the Valley of Excellence:

- Growing and restoring membership so that we may secure the Rite for future generations
- Including family and friends in social activities throughout the Valley
- Hosting Reunions and Degree Days to impart the wisdom of the degrees and share meaningful fellowship
- Educating our members through new member orientations as well as Masonic and Leadership seminars
- Calling every one of our members to check on their wellbeing
- Following up on dues so that no member who's in hardship will be suspended

- Being charitable through the Blue Envelope Appeal, Grand Almoner's Fund, Children's Dyslexia Center, and taking care of our Widows and Orphans.
- Having qualified officers who participate in Statewide activities
- Communicating with our members through multiple channels
- Having top-notch office staff to efficiently run the Masonic Temple

We hope to maintain excellence so that YOU, a man of high value, will take notice and want to participate and share the Rite with your loved ones. Every member has a chance to participate. All you have to do is ask me how: 217-918-2831 or email at cjhathaway09@gmail.com

Golden Eagles ~ Rick D. Strebing



The Golden Eagles Club is part of the Valley of Danville's Scottish Rite with a \$5.00 a year membership to become a member. At the time I am writing this, the brothers who sit on the Golden Eagles Board will need some help in April or May as our warehouse is full of items that need to be gone through and some items to be let go.

We carry hospital equipment and health and recovery aids free of charge to those who are in need of hospital beds, walkers, stairlifts, wheelchairs, porta potties, lifts, and a few shower chairs and crutches.

When can you, as brother Masons, help to check whether equipment works or separate metal and aluminum for disposal? We are working on a date or dates to have you help us to get the inventory to a

more manageable state. Contact the Valley Office at 217-446-7620 or email Bob Gill at execsec@aastrdanville.org on when you can help. It has to be somewhat warm as there is no heat in our building.

Our next meeting will be April 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Temple. If you can, please come and join us!

Office Corner ~ Robert A. Gill, 33°



Need a petition for a fellow brother? Call the office at 217-446-7620, get a petition online at aastrdanville.org or encourage him to fill out an online petition at: scottishritenmj.org! Watch our website aastrdanville.org for upcoming events.

Administrative Director —William J. Hussey, 33°



Greetings! We are getting ready for the reunion as I write this. Our hope is that you will join us and watch some degrees and revisit old friendships. We will have a new Scottish Rite pocket knife for sale. When they are gone, they are gone, so get yours soon.

We will have several events in our building in 2024. Please watch your email. If you are not receiving emails from us, contact the office at 217-446-7620 and get signed up. Let's have some fun!

Help Make a Difference.
Invest in the future. Donate to the Illinois Scottish Rite Scholarship Fund.

For several years now, the Fund has awarded in excess of a half a million dollars annually in scholarships to hundreds of students, many of them from right here in the Valley of Danville area. Your contribution will allow the Fund to continue to help deserving students pursue their education. Go to https://swipesimple.com/inks/lnk_7bbe7a7e or scan the QR code to donate now.



Every dollar counts! [DonateNow](#)



Calendar of Events

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| MARCH 9, 2024 | DEGREE DAY, ARCOLA, IL |
| MARCH 13, 2024 | VALLEY BOARD MEETING, DANVILLE, IL |
| MARCH 10, 2024 | FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB, DANVILLE, IL |
| MARCH 19, 2024 | MEET A MASON, MT. CARMEL, IL |
| APRIL 10, 2024 | VALLEY BOARD MEETING, DANVILLE, IL |
| APRIL 12 & 13, 2024 | VALLEY OF DANVILLE REUNION, DANVILLE, IL |
| APRIL 29, 2024 | LEARNING CENTER CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER |
| MAY 5, 2024 | LEARNING CENTER GRADUATION |
| MAY 8, 2024 | VALLEY BOARD MEETING, DANVILLE, IL |
| MAY 11, 2024 | INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, DANVILLE, IL |
| MAY 25, 2024 | HOWL AT THE MOON |
| JUNE 22, 2024 | LEARNING CENTER STEAK AND CIGAR NIGHT |



Monday, April 29, 2024
at the Masonic Center
109 W. North Street,
Danville, IL



The Dyslexia Center will be holding their annual Chicken Noodle Dinner of Monday, April 29, 2024 from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Tickets for dining in or carry-out are available at the offices of the Valley of Danville and the Children's Dyslexia Center and at the door. Deliveries for 6 or more meals can be made by contacting Sean McBride at (217) 474-8689 or sean@erhenterprises.com. Ticket prices are \$12.00 for adults or \$6.00 for children ages 2-6.

A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?
 ~ George Washington

The Next Two Years ~ Bradford W. Cronk, 33°



The Valley of Danville is recognized as one of the premier Valleys in the Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite. We have worked hard to receive recognition as a Valley of Excellence, we are well known for the quality of our degrees, and we have a Temple that has had a huge amount of work done to make it a facility to be very proud of. I was asked how we could continue to grow and improve when I become Commander-in-Chief. Considering all the achievements we have accomplished it sounds like a tall order to do more.

I believe my first step in addressing the task ahead is to listen to the voices of the membership and consider the areas where we need the most attention based on the needs of the Valley. New membership is one of our greatest needs. All organizations are suffering from a lack of involvement. In the Valley of Danville, we have a core group of dedicated individuals that have worked hard to create the organization we have today but considering the size of the Valley this is a relatively small group. This is why active membership is so important. The team that has been so dedicated takes on a huge load. Officers and volunteers who have been doing this work have to have help and replacements as they advance. The need for new blood in the lines, volunteers for commit-

tees, events, and participation in activities has never been greater.

The question is, how to get the members we have, and those Masons who are not yet members excited about Scottish Rite? I have heard repeatedly from both groups that they need to be asked. Secondly, they must be presented with activities they are interested in taking part in.

Regarding the asking, the Valley already has taken a step in the right direction by creating an application process for accepting members into the lines. I hope to see this process expanded to seeking out committee members, and volunteers for all facets of the Valley's activities, from members of the Degree Team to Greeters, Stage Crew, and Degree participants, just to name a few. I would like to see this information kept in a database so that we can easily find the interests of all our members and connect them with the positions in which they are most interested.

As far as the second part – activities, this is where growth is gained. If we have events people are interested in attending, I believe we will grow our membership. We had a good start last fall with the Southern Accents concert, but we need to go beyond that. I would like to see entertainment-oriented events frequently being held at locations all around the Valley. Our organization is larger in geographic area than some of the east

coast states. We need to make a concerted effort to sponsor activities from Mt. Carmel to Kankakee. By not having events in the furthest reaches we are alienating our Valley from a huge potential membership.

You might ask, why entertainment-oriented activities? I would say this is needed because all work and no play drives members away. Not only drives them away but prevents them from joining. It is true that Scottish Rite is the "University of Freemasonry," but if we rely exclusively on our degrees and education, we will limit our membership to the esoteric and academic. The men we seek as members are mostly family men. They are going to be most interested in doing things that they can bring their wives and/or children to and that they can tell their friends what a good time they had participating in. These events are also the reward for a job well done.

I hope to make these ideas the foundation of my service to the Valley for the next two years. I know there is no way anything can be accomplished without the input and assistance of the members of our organization. I hope I can get your support and suggestions to make the Valley's decline in membership turn around and keep the Valley the gem of the Northern Jurisdiction.

Nominated MSA Recipients



Tim Heinrichs



Jim Ireland

Brothers Timothy M. Heinrichs and James R. Ireland will receive their MSA's on June 29, 2024 in Springfield, IL at the 155th Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation.

Tim, who lives in Danville, IL retired as the Assistant Chief of the Danville Fire Department in 2021. Brother Heinrichs was raised as a Master Mason at Pleasant View Lodge #782 in Alvin, IL, where he served as Worshipful Master. Brother Heinrichs joined the Valley in 2000 and is involved in Degree Work. Brother Heinrichs is past Monarch of the Gao Grotto, where he has remained active there and currently serves as their Chairman of the fundraising committee and is a very active member of the Midwest Grotto Association.

Jim, who also lives in Danville, IL with his wife Linda, is a member of Russell Lodge #154 in Georgetown, where he has served as Worshipful Master three times. He is also a member of Further Light Lodge #1130 and Ogden Lodge #754. He joined the Valley in 1974 and has served as our Board of Directors Treasurer for the past 7 years. He retired from Danville Metal Stamping

This award is conferred upon members of the Rite who by reasons of meritorious services of a Masonic Character are worthy of such recognition. The Meritorious Service Award is the highest honor that a Council of Deliberation is authorized to confer.

Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers will be held on May 11, 2024 at the Danville Country Club, 2718 Denmark Rd, Danville, IL 61834.

There will be a cash bar at 5:30, buffet style dinner at 6:30 and Installation at 7:30. All officers are asked to make every effort to attend. Guests are welcome!

Costs for the dinner are being discussed and will be determined soon. Please call the Valley office at 217-446-7620 and make reservations by April 26, 2024.



"So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry, I conceive it to be founded in benevolence and to be exercised only for the good of mankind."

"Freemasonry is founded on the immutable laws of Truth and Justice and its grand object is to promote the happiness of the human race."

~ George Washington

Rite Guide Program ~ Christopher J. Both



The Rite Guide Program is a new initiative that Valleys across the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction are using to welcome each member, educate them about the Rite, and encourage them to become active in their Valley. Every new and returning member will be assigned to a Rite Guide from the Valley who will introduce Scottish Rite to them through one on one and group setting mentor sessions. Through the Rite Guide sessions, a member should leave more equipped to Journey On! through their Scottish Rite experience.

Scottish Rite Knife!

Commander in Chief, Jim Both approved the design of a new knife that we will have for sale at the Spring Reunion. These knives will be sold for \$20.00. We only have 100, so don't wait to get your one of a kind keepsake!



Robert D. Angle
Lawrenceville, IL

Tyler D. Brockett
Effingham, IL

Jeffrey Carpenter
DeLand, IL

Norman L. Elwood
Fisher, IL

Austin C. Gibson
Lincoln, IL

Noah E. Joiner
Louisville, IL

Wil Joiner
Louisville, IL

DANVILLE CONSISTORY
JAMES L. TUNGATE, 33° CLASS, FALL 2023

Jack A. Jones
Danville, IL

Troy P. Mitchell
Sidney, IL

Robert A. Pickett
Covington, IN

Todd J. Singleton
Mahomet, IL

Michael R. Williamson
Effingham, IL

Kelly M. Wright
Chicago Heights, IL

Not Pictured
Edward Winfield
Oblong, IL

Bourbon Tasting ~ Brad Cronk, 33°



The Valley had several new members from Effingham join our ranks in at the Fall Reunion. They didn't waste any time getting involved. Brother Mike Williamson headed up a Bourbon Tasting event at A1 Liquors on Rt. 33 west Effingham. About 30 members of the Valley, their family and guests were presented with a choice of 4 samples from a

selection of 8 different bourbons and scotches.

After everyone had a chance to make their selections, Mr. Gerold Donahue provided a presentation on getting the best experience from sampling the whiskeys. He instructed the audience on the correct way to experience the aromas and determine the different characteristics. He gave a little background on each of the samples and even provided some unexpected treasures out of his own stock after the presentations.

The venue is more than the average liquor store. They have a huge selection of all beverages and knowledgeable and friendly staff. The business has a "bourbon bar," stage with live music and plenty of seating, and food truck. Everyone who attended had a great time. The Scottish Rite members from Effingham are already talking about organizing a craft beer and wine tasting event in the Fall. Thanks go out to Bro. Mike Williamson and Mr. Gerold Donahue for putting together a get evening.



Brother Charles L. Gibson is Pulling His Weight



A brother pulled his weight and then some for charity last fall. Charles (Chuck) Gibson, Senior Warden, Danville Lodge of Perfection, AASR Valley of Danville, a member of Mahomet Lodge 220 and Urbana Lodge 157, is also a member of the Pulse Titans. Chuck spent most of the year preparing for his journey, culminating in physically pulling for charity.

How does one determine how much they are going to give to charity? Do they dig deep in their pockets to see how much they have, or write a check? This past fall our brother, Chuck had to dig deep into his soul to contribute his share for the cause. He and 11 men and women together pulled a 95,000-pound 727 airplane 12 feet in under 8 seconds. They pulled together for charity enabling his group to donate \$1,000 to the Special Olympics of Illinois. That works out to \$125 per second.



As a younger man, Chuck could Dead Lift 600 pounds and his leg presses were at 1,600 pounds. He said, "Now that I'm approaching middle age, I've slowed down." His Bench Press is 3 reps at 350 pounds each, and his Leg Presses are at 1090 pounds. I'm not sure what his definition of "slowed down" is.

The Last Full Measure



L to R: Jeff Craig, Hayden Cole, Cody Oakwood, Pete Eisenmenger, Troy Cary, Tyler McKelvey, and Jim Hegg

Charleston Lodge #35 hosted the Valley of Danville Players on Saturday, February 10 for a buffet dinner and performance of "The Last Full Measure". The play, based on the short story, "The Perfect Tribute" by Mary Shipman Andrews, is derived from the former Scottish Rite 26th Degree. The degree was often referred to as the "Lincoln Degree".

The backdrop is the Civil War the day after Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Lincoln fears his speech has been a failure, but a wounded Confederate soldier tells him different. While the story is historical fiction, it is a moving tale that illustrates once again the greatness of the speech and of the man who wrote and delivered it.

Proceeds from the event benefitted Lodge scholarships and construction of a new Lodge concession stand at the Coles County Fairgrounds.

**Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Bodies of the Valley of Danville
PO Box 693
Danville, IL 61834**

Forwarding Service Requested

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DANVILLE, IL.**



Illinois Grand Lodge: ilmason.org ~ Supreme Council: scottishritenmj.org
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