



DANVILLE VALLEY ECHOES

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

Summer 2023

Brother Gives Generous Gift to the Valley of Danville



I was asked to write an article for this addition of the Valley Echo's about a gentleman whom I never had the pleasure of meeting and did not know, which honestly I did somewhat struggled with. I've struggled not

with the writing of the article itself, but in doing justice to a man whose generosity and commitment to others is inspiring. I first became aware of Brother Lewis E. Aukes this past June when a letter was received from an attorney, whom was in charge of the final distributions for the Aukes Family Trust. Part of this final distribution included a generous portion to the Valley of Danville, thus my journey to find out more about Brother Aukes began.

My first step with the help of Christine was to do some preliminary online searches for Brother Aukes, which gained some information but not as much as I had hoped for. So I next called the trustee for the Aukes Family Trust and talked briefly with her. This lady and her husband became friends with Brother Aukes and his wife Pauline when they moved to Missouri in the mid 90's, to be closer to Pauline's Brother whom was in poor health at the time. She also provided some additional information that helped fill in some of the

blanks, so here is what I have found out thus far.

Brother Lewis E. Aukes, was born on October 31st, 1923 the son of John Aukes who was a dentist and Jessis Lewis Aukes in Orleans, Nebraska and departed this life on June 4th, 2014 at the age of 90 years. Lewis married Pauline Mizell on April 23rd, 1945 and she preceded him in death on February 11th, 2009, after 63 years of marriage. Lewis was also preceded in death by his brother-in-law Robert Mizell.

Brother Aukes was a retired Lt. Colonel for the United States Air Force having served during WWII as a pilot and spoke about "Flying over the Hump" in China during the war. Brother Aukes received a Ph.D in Psychology, was a college professor and administrator at Robinsonville College, and a Dean of Instruction at Lincoln College. He was the President of the Dunkin County Library overseeing the new Hornersville Library dedication on April 18th, 2010, which you can see him speak at on YouTube. He was a Methodist Lay Speaker and a member of the Hornersville Methodist Church. Lewis was also Mason, a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

Brother Lewis E. Aukes Masonic career in Illinois started at Rantoul Lodge #470

where he was raised a Master Mason on June 17th, 1947. He was also a member of Charity Lodge in Red Cloud, NE and Hornersville Lodge #215 in Hornersville, MO, though I do not have the dates for these memberships. Brother Aukes become a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Valley of Danville on November 5th, 1956 with Brother's Frank L. Pollock, Jr. and Kenneth A. Stephens being the top line signers for him. At the time of Brother Aukes passing, he was a 67 year member of Illinois Masonry and a 58 year member of the Valley of Danville.

The Valley of Danville and Scottish Rite Masonry made an impact on this incredible Brother's life, enough so that he included the Valley of Danville with a generous donation. In pulling the information together for this article I previously made the comment that I didn't know this gentleman, which was true I did not know him personally.....but I'm proud to know that he was my Brother, and I believe that was the impact that we all had on his life!

Finally, my hope is that there are some Brother's out there, that have some additional information about Brother Lewis E. Aukes which they would like to share. I know I would like to know more about my Brother!

~ Robert A. Gill, 33°, Executive Secretary



Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party

We are pleased to announce the first Valley of Danville "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party" on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Members and guests are most cordially invited. Event to be held in the first floor "Fellowship Room" at the Temple Building. A great food menu of Irish favorites, dessert and soft drinks provided in the ticket price. A cash bar will

be available to those wanting beer, wine or perhaps a little "drop of the pure".

Music for the evening will be provided by "Broken Brogue", a lively, engaging four-piece acoustic band based in Decatur, Illinois. They play venues and festivals throughout central Illinois with a wide selection of Irish Celtic music. Some old,

some new, some traditional and some of their own. They will play from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. that evening.

There will be raffles throughout the evening on door prize items with those proceeds to go to the Valley of Danville Learning Center. Tickets are \$35.00 each and can be found at: <https://buytickets.at/valleyofdanville>.

Illinois Council of Deliberation

At the 154th Session of the Illinois Council of Deliberation on June 24th 2023, the Meritorious Service Award were presented to Brothers Edwin A. Hedlin and Rick D. Strebing for their dedication and service to

Scottish Rite and the Valley of Danville. Also that evening the 2024 Meritorious Service Award nominations were announced with Brothers Timothy Heinrichs and James Ireland getting phone calls. These

awards are made by unanimous agreement by the Valley of Danville presiding officers. Please congratulate all of these Brothers when you next see them for all of their work and commitment.



Ed Hedlin



Rick Strebing and Dianna



Valley of Danville Members at ICOD

Supreme Council Annual Session 2023

The 211th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council, AASR – NMJ will be held from August 26th thru the 29th in Louisville, KY, where Valley of Danville Brothers Phillip L. Green MSA, Cody A. Oakwood and Ronald E. Wall II will witness and receive their 33rd Degree.

Then during the Fall Reunion on November 3rd thru the 4th they will be presented with their 33rd Degree White Caps. Please congratulate these Brothers for all of their outstanding work for Scottish Rite Masonry and the Valley of Danville!



Phil Green



Cody Oakwood



Ron Wall, II

Supreme Council News by Brian Pettice, 33°



For the Valley of Danville, the big news from Supreme Council so far this summer was the announcement that the Valley earned the Valley of Excellence award for the second straight year. According to the Supreme Council website, "The Valley of Excellence award recognizes Valleys in the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who go above and beyond in their endeavors. With focuses on areas of membership, service/philanthropy, leadership development and operations, this program encourages Valleys to deliver a premier Scottish Rite experience to their members." It took a Valley wide effort to accomplish this. We thank all our members who helped us all win and invite everyone to join the effort for 2024.

As our activities continue this year, I encourage you to

join with your brethren in the Valley at the many upcoming events that have planned. I also encourage you to take advantage of the many Supreme Council programs available to you through the internet. Sign in or create an account at the Member Center here <https://id.scottishritenmj.org/Account/Login>. Then explore the possibilities. There you can update your personal information and degree progress. You can also take part in many of the programs created in the last few years to enhance your membership experience. Begin your journey in the Pathfinder program. Sign up for the next Haute Grade Academy class here <https://scottishritenmj.org/hauts-grades-academy/wait-list>. Take advantage of SC leadership resources here <https://scottishritenmj.org/leadership-resource-center>. These and many other resources are available to you. I encourage you to take advantage of it all.

Southern Accents Concert

We are rocking the Valley Nov 25 2023. The country's best Tom Petty tribute band Southern Accents is going to be here playing all your favorite songs. Mike Campbell who was Tom Petty's guitar player says this is a great band! We have worked hard to bring in a class act. The opening band Ike & Rory out of Indy is great.

The concert is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Tired of turkey and dressing then get out of the house and help us bring music to this big building. Cash bar will be available.

Tickets are available by clicking the link
<https://buytickets.at/valleyofdanville>

News from the Administrative Director, William J. Hussey, Jr, 33°



We had a excellent time in Effingham and now have 6 more new members. The Valley has always traveled to our membership so they can enjoy degrees close to them during the year. Gather some candidates and invite the Valley of Danville to your Lodge.

Notes From your Valley Secretary, Robert A. Gill, 33°



The Fall Reunion on November 3rd thru the 4th honoring Illustrious Brother James L. Tungate 33' is fast approaching, do you have a candidate? We would like to have as many candidates as possible to honor Ill.

Brother Tungate and got great start with six new members at our Effingham Lodge degree day on July 8th. Do you have a candidate but need a petition? Call the office, we can either mail you one, email it to you, or give you the link to Supreme Council's website where on can be found on line and filled out.

Is your Lodge interested in having a Degree Day of their own or a Meet a Mason event, please do not hesitate to contact a Valley of Danville officer or call the office at 217/446-7620.

Please be watching your email and/or postal mailings for future events.

Pathfinder Report, Christopher J. Hathaway, Membership Chairman

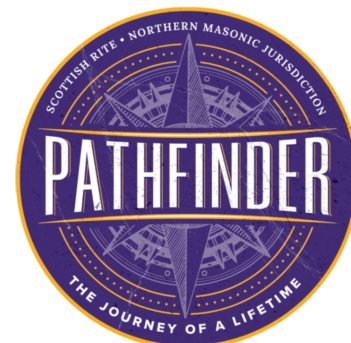
Congratulations to two Valley of Danville members for completing Pathfinder; Deputy's Representative Brian L. Pettice, 33° and Master of Ceremonies of the Danville Consistory, Christopher J. Both. We have six members that are on their journey now, and another 11 that have enrolled but have not yet logged their first mile-marker. We are one year into the program and it has been a success across the jurisdiction. You do not have to be local to participate.

This program is designed to be completed no matter where your residence

is located. You will feel connected to the Scottish Rite more than you ever have by enrolling and completing mile-markers. If you haven't already done so, please join our interactive Facebook groups at "Pathfinder (AASR NMJ)" or "Illinois Pathfinder AASR." New challenges (mile-markers) are being added to the program quarterly so you will never get bored.

Orientations for the program are held the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 pm EST. You can find detailed information and updated way-points and mile-markers by visiting scottishritenmj.org/

pathfinder. If you need assistance with Pathfinder, please email me at pathfinderIL1@srmnj.org.



Ancient Craft Degree Team ~ Troy Cary



The Ancient Craft Degree Team consists of Scottish Right Brethren who enjoy traveling and conducting work on the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees. **Anyone in the Valley is welcome to be a part**

of the Team. We work with Lodges throughout the Valley to present degree work in the best manner possible, so it is an impressive ceremony for the candidate. We also try to have a tuxedo Third Degree in the Temple preceptory once a year.

I have recently assumed the coordination of the Team from Brad Cronk

and thank him for his many years of service leading the Team. Contact me if you would like to be a part of the fun and fellowship we enjoy in conducting the work of our Masonic craft and bringing new men into our Fraternity. Troy Cary Phone 217.621-8982 or trcary60@yahoo.com

Updated Preceptory Sound System



According to Sound Director, Tom Jewell, a new quality sound system will be complete by the Fall Reunion. The sound system on the 3rd floor has

plagued the presentation of the degrees for several ears. Tom and his sound crew decided to correct the problem after the last Reunion and submitted a proposal to the Board of Directors, requesting the funds to replace wire, speakers, and surge

protection power conditioning unit, as needed and received approval. Work began this summer and awaiting receipt of back ordered components, will be completed by summers end.

Officer Responsibilities, Items from the Officers Manual

Funeral Services—An officer is encouraged to attend the visitation or funeral service of any member in his area. Each presiding officer should see that his line is represented by at least one officer or past officer at the visitation or funeral service of an Officer, Past Officer, MSA, 33°, is wife or widow.

Degree Practices—An Officer should attend every practice of every degree he is involved with. If unable to attend, he should inform the degree director and the presiding officer of that degree.

Governance Documents—During the course of his tenure, an officer should familiarize himself with the Valley by-laws and procedures, the annual budget, and the Supreme Council/Valley officer manual. He should know the Valley and Supreme Council Vision and Mission statements.

Stated Meetings—Stated meetings are the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors of the Valley. At these meetings, most of the discussion and actions take place regarding the building, the budget, and

other corporate issues as well as fraternal issues. In order for an officer to learn about these issues, he should attend every stated meeting possible. If unable to attend, he should inform his Presiding Officer and the Valley office. If a presiding officer is unable to attend, he should also inform the 2nd in line or the next ranking officer able to attend so that he may take his place.

Upcoming Events

Big Thorn Event

August 19, 2023

Fall Reunion

November 4 & 5, 2023

Halfway to St. Patty's Day

September 9, 2023

New Member Orientation

November 9, 2023

32 Club Steak

September 13, 2023

Southern Accents Concert

November 25, 2023

Feast of Tishri

September 16, 2023

Wreaths Across America

December 16, 2023

Widows Help Day

September 30, 2023

Membership Report ~ Christopher J. Both

As we look forward and develop plans to stir the Masonic renaissance in Illinois, we have to reflect inward first. We must take the time to consider our Strengths and Weaknesses and consider our Opportunities and Threats. Who or what are our competitors? Who are our target members? Where and how do we find those potential members? First, we have to consider what our current membership breakdown is compared to the US population.

The way the Scottish Rite expands is through the attraction of Master Ma-

Membership Breakdown

Generation	IL SR	US Population
• Generation Z:	0.9%	24%
• Generation Y:	12.0%	25%
• Generation X:	11.2%	22%
• Baby Boomers:	47.0%	23%
• Silent Gen.:	21.7%	6%
• GI Generation:	7.1%	0.2%

sons. We can increase our membership in two main ways: increasing the percentage of Master Masons that join Scottish Rite or helping our Blue Lodge increase their membership. Ideally, we are able to do both. Masonry and

Scottish Rite is and always has offered a very special product or service, something we have all experienced. How does this amazing experience get spread to new prospective members? The short answer, it is up to each and every one of us.

What does Scottish Rite mean to you? Have you shared that experience with a fellow brother in your Blue Lodge in the last 6 months?

The future of Scottish Rite Masonry is up to each of us, please share your experiences with others!

Valley of Excellence/Membership Report Christopher J. Hathaway, Membership Chairman



Back-to-Back. The Valley of Danville has proven once again to be among the top organizations in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Why do we compete for this award? We do

so to live up to our mission statement of 'We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members.' We believe that providing everything the Scottish Rite has to offer to our members is the best way to care for each other and our families. By striving to

meet the demands of being a Valley of Excellence, you have showed compassion to our members and their families through donations, educational opportunities, social events, phone calls, service projects, quality degree productions, and so much more. A key element in winning

the award last year was restoring members that had previously been suspended. We brought back 20+ members in one calendar year! That is outstanding. Do you know a brother that has been absent for sometime? Let them know

the Scottish Rite is on the move towards success and we are not slowing down. The Masonic community needs the Scottish Rite to be strong now more than ever. Scottish Rite brings together Masons from all over the area that would have remained silo-ed in their individual lodges. When a Mason gets their 32nd Degree from our Valley, you can bet they will go home and be more productive in their lodge and their communities. So let us improve the fraternity by ensuring every Mason that comes through the West Gate fully understands the opportunity that awaits them in the Valley of Danville.

Looking ahead, 2023-2024 will be even more challenging. Supreme Council is raising the bar and it is up to us to meet their challenge or to back down. Valley of Danville members should be excited to rise to the occasion. The Valley of Excellence in previous years needed 90 points to earn the award. It has now been increased to 95 points. In addition to raising the minimum amount of points required, we will need to initiate more candidates than in previous years. To hit our goal, the Valley will need to

initiate around 50 new members in this Masonic Year. We are off to a great start! At our degree day in Effingham, we initiated five new Scottish Rite members that will get their 32nd Degree this fall. The Valley is a 365-day a year program.

We are open for business year round and our members must enjoy our programs and degrees all year. We cannot sit back and wait for candidates to show up in the spring and fall.

I look forward to what our officers have in store for us this next calendar year. No doubt, we will enhance the lives of our members by teaching the core values of Reverence for God, Service to Humanity, Devotion to Country, Justice, Toleration, and Integrity, in a fun and uplifting way. We have so much to be proud of, but we cannot rest on our laurel. Let's write another chapter in our storied history and go for a 3-peat, leading by example, the Danville way.

James D. Peplow, II, TPM



As the newly elected Thrice Potent Master of the Danville Lodge of Perfection, it is with profound gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility that I pen these words. As we embark on a fresh chapter in our illustrious history, I am eager to contribute my part towards the shared vision of our fraternity, focusing on the core values of integrity, loyalty, and service to humanity. These values serve as our foundation and guide our efforts towards maintaining the rich traditions of our Valley, while also engaging and inspiring a new generation of members.

Being elected as the Thrice Potent Master is an immense honor, signifying the trust and faith our fraternity has placed in my leadership. It symbolizes the fraternity's confidence in my commitment to uphold our time-honored principles, to foster unity, to promote education and growth, and to fortify the bonds that hold us together.

But what does this mean for our valley in Danville? It means that together, we are destined to uphold the high stand-

ards set by our predecessors, while boldly venturing towards new horizons of growth and development. It means that we are tasked with preserving the legacies of the past while embracing the future with openness and resilience. And it is a call for us to inspire and be inspired by our fraternity's enduring wisdom and vision.

As we set our sights towards these lofty goals, our key objective remains to fortify and expand our membership. We aim to welcome new members into our fold, not merely to maintain our numbers, but more importantly, to continually infuse our fraternity with fresh perspectives, diverse talents, and renewed vigor. Therefore, our efforts will focus on creating a welcoming and engaging environment that attracts individuals committed to personal growth, ethical conduct, and service to others.

To attract new members, we will enhance our efforts to reach out to the local lodges, offering them a glimpse into the rich tapestry of our traditions, the warm fellowship of our fraternity, and the meaningful opportunities for personal and communal growth that membership offers.

But our focus is not just on expansion - we also aim to foster a nurturing environment that promotes continued involvement and satisfaction among existing members. Our fraternity is built on the bonds of brotherhood, and it is paramount that we nurture these relationships, ensuring that each member feels valued, engaged, and fulfilled.

Our beloved valley is a symbol of unity, strength, and tradition, and as your Thrice Potent Master, it is my honor to guide us on this journey of growth and renewal. As we chart this course together, let us remember that the future of our Valley rests not just in the hands of its leaders, but in the hearts of all its members.

Together, let's usher in an era of brotherhood, enlightenment, and service that reflects the best of our past and the promise of our future. In this unity, in this shared vision, lies our true strength. The strength to uphold our values, to inspire new members, to satisfy and fulfill existing ones, and to help our Valley shine ever brighter in the grand tapestry of our Fraternity.

AASR Valley of Danville, 32nd Degree Masons



FALL REUNION



ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES L. TUNGATE, 33° CLASS

Friday, November 3, 2023
 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 - Social Time

Saturday, November 4, 2023
 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast ~ 9:00 a.m. - 15th Degree
 10:00 a.m. - DVD or DVD ~ 11:00 a.m. - 18th Degree
 12:00 Noon - Lunch and Presentations ~ 1:00 p.m. - 13th Degree
 2:00 p.m. - DVD or DVD ~ 3:00 p.m. - 32nd Degree

Bring a candidate!
 Candidate Fees are \$200. \$100 must be paid when the 4th Degree is taken. Payment plans are available.

Degree Production ~ James Beebe, MSA



As you know, the "lessons" of Scottish Rite are presented through a series of "storytelling: degrees. Each time a degree is presented, it must be carefully enacted. The quality of every degree should bake a lasting impression on each candidate and also on all members present.

I will be reaching out to the membership for comments and support. Areas of interest are: Degree Directors; Actors—both major and minor speaking parts; Non-speaking roles—walk-on and "crowd" scenes; Tech Lighting and Sound (electrical); Stage crew: Scenery and props, wardrobe/costumes and makeup.

We're here to assist, guide, help, advise and connect. Please call or text me at 217-474-9986 or call the Valley Office at 217-446-7620. We need your comments and help.

~ In the spirit of Fraternal Excellence

Spring Class 2023



Robert C. Alexander
Newton, IL



Justin J. Benda
Buckley, IL



Bradley L. Falconio
Danville, IL
Secretary



Rick L. Fiala
Arwood, IL



Andrew J. Ford
Tilton, IL
Orator

DANVILLE CONSISTORY



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER MICHAEL JACKSON CLASS, SPRING 2023



R. Garrett Gunter
Villa Grove, IL



Dyke M. Rothenberger
Williamsport, IN
Vice President



Ethan B. Rothenberger
Williamsport, IN
President



Todd A. Wilson
Lawrenceville, IL
Treasurer



Bruce Yoskum
Champaign, IL

Web and Email Addresses:

Illinois Grand Lodge: ilmason.org ~ Supreme Council: scottishritenmj.org ~ Valley of Danville: aasrdanville.org

Grand Master: Michael Jackson—grandmaster@ilmason.org

Valley of Danville Deputy's Rep: Brian L. Pettice, 33° - aasmason@gmail.com

Valley of Danville Executive Secretary: Robert A. Gill, 33°—execsec@aasrdanville.org

Valley of Danville Administrative Director: William J. Hussey, 33° - admindirector@aasrdanville.org

Valley of Danville Office: Christine E. Baird—office@aasrdanville.org

Valley of Danville Thrice Potent Master: James D. Peplow, II—peplow2008@gmail.com

Valley of Danville Sovereign Prince: Myles S. Patterson—pattersonmyles@gmail.com

Valley of Danville Most Wise Master: Thomas A. Roberts—thomas@joriecakes.com

Valley of Danville Commander in Chief: James W. Both, 33° - jboth@hotmail.com

Valley of Danville At-Large Director: Michael J. Puhr, 33° - michaelpuhr@comcast.net

Valley of Danville At-Large Director: Christopher J. Hathaway—cjhathaway09@gmail.com

Valley of Danville At-Large Director: Peter J. Eisenmenger, 33° - p.eisenmenger@mchsi.com

Valley of Danville Treasurer: James R. Ireland—jili83@aol.com

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

Valley of Danville

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DANVILLE, IL.

Ben Franklin once wrote:

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. Masons are earned and paid in their dealings with one another: sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.”