

Scottish Rite Of Freemasonry

September/October 2011



Gateway Double Eagle

Volume 1 Issue 1

News for the Valley of St. Louis

Knock and Enter Within



6 Behind The Books

8 Trustees of the Past

16 National Gathering of KSA

19 Sitting Down
With Bret Akers



Date

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Time

9:00 am Registration
10:00 am Start
12:00 pm Lunch

Location

Gateway Gun Club
13547 Missouri Bottom Road
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Committee

Frank Mistretta, Chair
Bret Akers
Joe Dale
Kirk Hutchison
Rich Lecinski
Mike Lucey
Joe Roeser
Jim Wright



Come join us at the Inaugural Pull for Kids Trapshoot to benefit the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders. Each shooter will receive 50 clay birds, 50 shells, plus ear and eye protection. Don't have a shotgun of your own? No problem, one will be provided for you.

The Clinic is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides FREE speech and language therapy to children ages two through six-years old.

Highlights

- All skill levels welcome!
- \$75 per shooter—\$375 per team of 5 shooters
- Great Prizes
- Additional Fun Shoot Competitions for Prizes & Fun!
- Food & Beverages
- Must be 18 or older to participate.

**The Walker Scottish Rite Clinic
for Childhood Language Disorders**

3632 Olive Street
St. Louis, MO 63108

314-533-7415 or 800-358-5656
314-533-7503 fax
www.srclinic.org

2011 Fall Reunion



Illustrious John Anastosios Souris, 33^o Memorial Reunion

Join us on Friday, October 14th & Saturday, October 15th for Scottish Rite, Valley of Saint Louis Reunion. Go to the Scottish Rite, Valley of Saint Louis website at <http://www.scottishrite-stl.org> for more information.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Lodge of Perfection

- 4th Degree (Secret Master)
- 9th Degree (Elu of the Nine)
- 10th Degree (Elu of the Fifteen)
- 14th Degree (Perfect Elu)

SATURDAY MORNING

Rose Croix

- 15th Degree (Knight of the East)
- 18th Degree (Knight Rose Croix – 1st & 2nd Apartments)
- 18th Degree (Knight Rose Croix – 3rd Apartment)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Council of Kadosh

- 24th Degree (Knight of the Tabernacle)
(Performed by the St. Louis Valley KSA)
- 30th Degree (Knight Kadosh – 4th Apartment)

Consistory

- 32nd Degree (Master of the Royal Secret – 2nd Apartment)

SATURDAY EVENING

KCCH Investiture

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KSA Photo (p9) – Bret Akers, 32°

Jay Traxel (p13) - Curt Fulbright, 32° KCCH

Bret Akers (p19,21) - Randy C. Davis, 32°

Back Cover – Scottish Rite Archives

The mission of this magazine is to bring the news of the Valley of St. Louis to the brethren, share the passion of and for Scottish Rite and Missouri Freemasonry, and work to spark the imagination of other brethren who, upon reading this humble publication, will feel the need to also open the door for others thus letting more light shine within.

Veritas est lux

Scottish Rite - Valley of St. Louis

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Pictures submitted for publication will not be returned. The Gateway Double Eagle does not accept forms or clippings for publication. Please do not submit materials in PDF format. All articles should be submitted in either doc or text format.

CONTENTS

FRONT COVER

The front cover picture of this issue is the door knocker on the under seats door in our Auditorium. Combined with deep wood to which it is attached, the ornate door knocker is warm and inviting while simultaneously expressing caution and whispering of the brotherly bond of secrecy. If you have not seen this beautiful piece of metal work in person, make it a point to come to the next Scottish Rite Reunion to do so. It is one of many treasures you will find in our beautiful building.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral, at 3627 Lindell, was designed by William B. Ittner and was dedicated in 1924. A fine example of neo Classic style, the building has a frontage of 235 feet and is approached by a broad flight of steps. Its auditorium, which seats 3000 persons, is notable because no posts obstruct the view. Features are an extremely wide proscenium and a fine organ. The granite and limestone structure was erected at a cost of \$2,000,000.



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BACK COVER

This is a picture of the original Library at the Scottish Rite which was in the same space now occupied by the dormitory and DeMolay room. Looking at this picture, it is easy to tell that one of the primary purposes of the Scottish Rite is the furthering of masonic knowledge. While the library is located in a different place within the building today, it still is full of wisdom and beauty yet to be discovered.

Behind The Scenes

Behind The Books

by Ill. Bro. John Mahovsky, 33°

The first books formally presented to the Valley of St. Louis Scottish Rite were in 1911 when the library of the late Brother James Fowler Ewing 33° was given. When the Cathedral on Lindell was built, the original location for the Library was part of what is now called the Dormitory, and included the room to the west of it (No one knows why it was moved). The records do not even mention a Library Committee until 1937, but this first committee did wonderful things. The Museum has now been merged with the Library making for a most unique experience on one's visit.

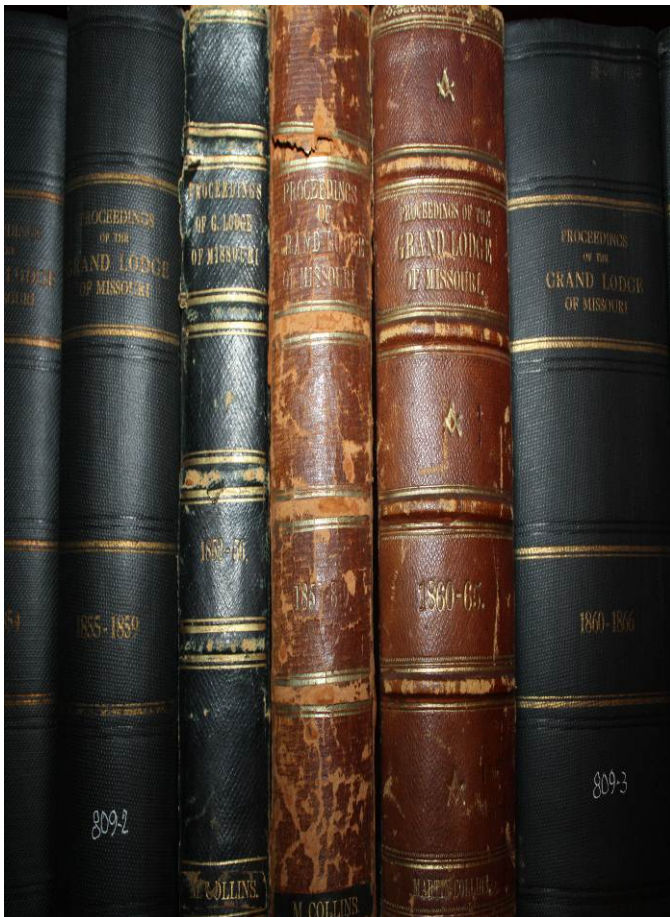


...Research is the most important step in the study of history...

Several years ago, the Library was given a complete makeover. This splendid Library is ready to be offered to the whole fraternity as an incentive to follow the admonition of the late Brother Harry S. Truman, 33° P. G. M., in his introduction to the four volumes of "*10,000 Famous Freemasons*," where he wrote:

"We know that research is the most important step in the study of history. Comprehensive and accurate information must be available for those who would interpret trends in world-happenings".

Let's take a look at this repository of Masonic information and culture. On your first admission, one is drawn to the display cases, not only in the Library proper but extending into the Lounge. One will find such interesting



items as a first edition of Anderson Constitution of 1723; a quill pen used by Albert Pike; hand written manuscripts; books held by Queens and Masonic treasures from countless Brethren. All these marvels are trying to help you answer that question "Whence Came You."

As one browses the long line of shelves, we come upon one interesting find after another. In addition to the vast variety of books, pamphlets and magazines which the library has accumulated over the years, there are many volumes of collected interest and subjects.

First, of course, are several sets of the Missouri Lodge of Research from its first publication in 1942 to present. This set includes such works as *10,000 Famous Freemasons* by Brother William R. Denslow, P. G. M., which gives biographies of famous Masons throughout the world and their history. *Territorial Masonry* by Ray V. Denslow, P. G. M., gives the story of how Freemasonry came to Missouri. *Anti-Masonry* by Alphonse Cerza, gives us insight about those who dislike us. All in all this set of works is a treasure-trove of facts and data.

One of our most prize resources is the complete set of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* (AQC) of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076 (United Grand Lodge of England), the premier research Lodge of the world. This set is from 1886 to present, and we have been told that it is one of only five complete sets in the United States. This collection is full of a broad range of material.

The Transactions of Lodge CC of Research of Ireland is another set of research volumes that are full of vital information, especially about the earlier rites and systems of Freemasonry relating to and based on Craft Masonry.

Authors' Lodge No. 3456 of London was founded by the top literary giants of the England in the early part of last century. The Library has about a dozen volumes of the Transactions.

Transactions of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Missouri, which includes several of their own publications on different Masonic subjects.

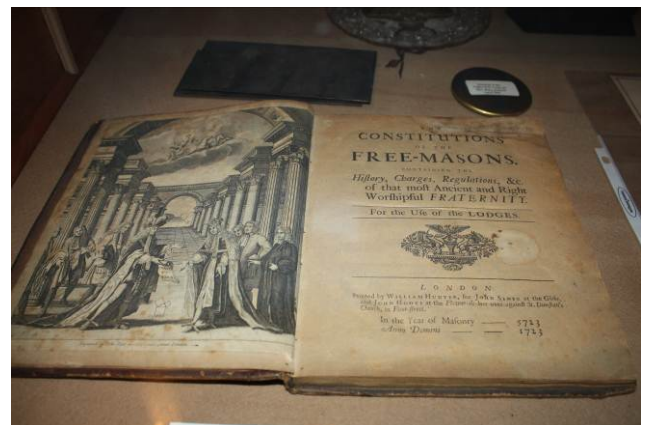
In addition to these sets of Masonic research, the Library also contains several sets of Masonic Encyclopedias, histories of the Craft, Lodges and Grand Lodges. Plus, not just the Scottish Rite, but all of the York Rite, Blue Lodge and other appendant Masonic Bodies.

Unfortunately our staff is very small, so we are strictly a Research Library. We try to keep the doors open every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are going to make a special trip to visit us, call the office and set up an appointment. We are always willing to help.

Recently we have expanded hours to include Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Due to security concerns, the Sky Walk Door may not always be open, so bring your cell phone and call the number on the "Library Is Open" sign on the door. We will be happy to come up and let you in.

In conclusion we would like to leave you with the words of Brother Samuel L. Clemens:

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."



Our Scottish Rite Library has one of the very few 1st edition copies of Anderson's Constitutions dated 1723.

Trustees of the Past

By Ill. Paul A. DeMerath, 33°

The main mission of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Preservation Association (SRCPA) is to preserve and restore the architecturally significant St. Louis Scottish Rite Cathedral. The SRCPA Board of Directors has been very diligent in prioritizing and funding ongoing efforts to ensure that the Cathedral endures for future generations.

Over the past few years we have been concentrating on systematically upgrading the 85 year old boiler steam lines and radiators, which have proven to be irreparable. This year we have approved more visible projects, including the renovation of the Main Office and of the East Stairwell. We hope you pay us a visit sometime soon to see how these projects are progressing.



East Stairwell Ceiling – Needing Repair

In 2010, to further their mission and to recognize and honor our members who give significant annual financial support to the Scottish Rite Cathedral Preservation Association, the Board of Directors launched a capital campaign and cumulative recognition society titled: “*Trustees of the Past, Architects of the Future Society*” (TPAF Society). The TPAF Society is open to all Scottish Rite Masons and a minimum contribution of \$100 gains membership into the TPAF Society. Upon reaching each membership level, donors receive corresponding recognition gifts.



Main Office – New Ceramic Tile and Carpet



Thus far there have been over 160 members who have joined the TPAF Society, and the Board of Directors is thankful for these gifts. The most recent TPAF Society tribute contributions have been made in honor/memory of the following:

In Honor of:

Harvey R. Soule, 32° K.C.C.H. 33° Coronation
by Ill. Richard L. Smith, 33°

Ill. James R. Tinker Sr., 33°

by Thomas H. Hamlett, 32° K.C.C.H.

Alfred & Betty Conrad's 56th Wedding Anniversary

by Alfred L. Conrad, Jr. 32°

In Memory of:

Lucille Mueller

by Glenn Mueller, 32° K.C.C.H.

Coy D. Fitzgerald

by Riley E. Fitzgerald, 32°

The Board of Directors asks that you please consider the Scottish Rite Cathedral Preservation Association in your estate planning. Your benevolent gifts would help to ensure that future generations of Scottish Rite Masons benefit from your legacy. The Scottish

Rite Cathedral Preservation Association, Inc. is designated 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Code, and all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Did you know you can pay your dues online?

The Supreme Council Department of Membership Services is pleased to announce that online dues payment processing is now available to Scottish Rite members. Online payments are safe, convenient and easy.

Simply click the "Pay Your Dues" link located at the top right of the Supreme Council main page, www.scottishrite.org and follow the directions.

All major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express) are accepted.



Pictured (L-R) Dan Flynn, Dan Bogue, Bret Akers, Paul DeMerath, Thom McCann

KSA Working Hard

Bret Akers says he has definite proof that Dan Flynn and Thom McCann work occasionally.

Bret would like to thank Knights of Saint Andrew members Dan Bogue, Dan Flynn, Thom McCann and Paul Demerath for all their hard work on Saturday, July 16, 2011. They ran all the wiring for the telephones, data and electrical to the main office which is being remodeled. Bret Akers and the others worked for over six hours in the heat and humidity and got more than a little dirty. Bret said he was really glad he did not tell them what they were all going to be doing beforehand.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

By Ill. Ron Hartoebben, 33°

Fourteen of the Valley of St. Louis Brethren have been selected to receive the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 15th. Congratulations to: **Bret A. Akers, Joe W. Johnson, Derek A. Laubinger, Todd A. Litzau, G. Marshall Lukens, Jr., Thomas G. McCann, Norman A. Moeller, Tim L. Morgan, Frederick H. Neal, Rodney L. Pensel, Kenneth R. Rogers, Monte Safron, Eric M. Strong and Randall H. Wilson.** The Ceremony of Investiture will be held immediately following the conclusion of our Fall Reunion October 15th.

Five Brethren from the St. Louis Valley have been elected to become **33° Inspectors General Honorary: Jerry D. Davis, George M. Merkle, Edward A. Plitt, Harvey R. Soule and James L. Woodfin.** Their Coronation will take place September 17th at the Scottish Rite in Kansas City.

Be sure to congratulate our new Honored Brethren at our Fall Reunion. This Reunion is in memory of **Illustrious Brother John A. Souris 33°**, and will be held **October 14th & 15th.** **Now is the time to get in your petitions. The petition fee is \$350. Included as part of the fee is a Scottish Rite Cap & Box, 14th Degree Ring, enrollment in the Master Craftsman Course, the Scottish Rite Ritual and the Bridge to Light Books, plus your dues for the remainder of 2011.**

Soon after you receive the next edition of the Scottish Rite Journal, you should be receiving your 2012 Dues Notice. Please be kind and remember those charitable activities so dear to the hearts of all Scottish Rite Masons. Separate boxes are shown on the notice to indicate the level of your support for our Cathedral Preservation Association, the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic, and the Missouri Scottish Rite Foundation. Of course, your donations can now be made on-line together with your dues payments, as outlined in the previous edition of your Journal.

Donations to the Almoner are always welcome! The Almoner can provide immediate assistance to those in dire need due to unforeseen emergencies and disasters. Our Almoner provided such assistance to the Valley of Joplin following the devastating tornado there.

We have a busy schedule for this fall. A new type of fundraiser is planned for the Clinic on September 24th, in addition to the annual KidTalk Celebration. See the announcement on the inside front cover of this newsletter.



Photo by Marshall Lukens, 32°

K S A Degree Team

The Knights of St. Andrew Degree Work Formula

By Philip A. Cole, 32^o

You, the reader, are most likely a Scottish Rite Mason who, also most likely, joined the Scottish Rite to be illuminated by the lessons it has to teach through a system of twenty nine degrees. The meaning they contain intertwine to form a value structure geared toward enhancing a man's character and honing his societal contribution. Logic, then, tells us that if we do not understand the degrees or do not absorb them fully, we are, perhaps clearly, missing the intent. Realistically, the degrees should be witnessed and then processed or discussed for understanding, ensuring the lessons they contain have the full impact. Practically, many Scottish Rite Freemasons witness the degrees and are lost in a sea of information.

As you may, or may not know, the degrees of the Scottish Rite are quite theatrical. They have a heritage in a time when Freemasonry played the role of entertainment to a population where TV and movies simply did not exist. This is not to suggest the meaning contained within the degrees is dulled or contrived – certainly not! It merely highlights the importance of the presentation. In fact, it is the elements of presentation that should make the words come alive. If a candidate remembers the degree, he is more likely to



29th Degree Cast – Fall 2010 Reunion – Photo by Marshall Lukens, 32^o

remember the lessons they contain. Thus, the impact has been made.

This general philosophy is the basis of a formula followed by the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) degree team when 'attacking' a

degree. The degrees they perform, by their request, are usually those that have not been seen in the valley for awhile, allowing the KSA to start with a clean slate and to tap into endless potential. Here are the steps the KSA follows to build a degree.

1. Expectation & Commitment – From the off, the expectation of time commitment is communicated. Each member that signs up is committing themselves to attend all practices and to a tight schedule of memorization as necessary.
2. Practice, Practice, Practice – More than enough practices are scheduled with the expectation that all who are participating will be attending. If a degree member cannot attend, adequate notice of such is the expectation.
3. Education – Careful attention is given to setting aside time for digging into the meaning of the degree. Questions degree team members come up with about the degree are discussed as

a group or are followed up on at the next practice after research has been done. By doing so, it is felt that understanding will enhance the performance and produce “buy in” by the degree team members.

4. Collaboration & Innovation – Each and every degree team member makes a contribution to the degree through anything from floor work suggestions to musical enhancement. More “buy in” and ownership of the degree is the result. Opportunities to use technology or other unusual theatrical elements are always identified and employed.

5. Rebuild on a basis of Tradition – All of those suggestions are taken and built into the degree ensuring that the original meaning is not lost or skewed.

6. Fun – While self explanatory, this is a key element. The fellowship experienced and the bonds of brotherhood that are formed are lifelong experiences.

7. Execution – When it is game time, each degree team member is committed to delivering the best possible performance – no exceptions. All want to keep the bar high.

8. Follow up & Re-evaluation – Even after a successful performance, all is broken down to find out what can be done better; so that the next time, the bar is even higher. Honest and upfront self or group evaluation is appreciated by all since all are dedicated to making it the best it can be.

After the success of the 29th Degree, the KSA have asked for, and have been requested to take on, another degree for the coming Reunions. This time, it will be the 24th Degree – Prince of the Tabernacle. The writer of this article encourages you attend this coming reunion to see what is in store. You will not be disappointed.

Curt's Corner

by Curt Fulbright 32° K.C.C.H., Building Superintendent

Welcome to Curt's Corner. This is the place where you can find out what is happening with the cleaning and maintenance operations of the Scottish Rite Building.

Most of the Spring this year was taken up with setting up and cleaning up after Dance Competitions, other rental and Fraternal events. Then the rains came. This kept us from doing several outside jobs that we had planned. We did however spend a couple of days on the roof fixing minor “divets,” cracks and other anomalies in our roof.

One of the last storms tore the Scottish Rite sign off the back of the building. We found it laying in the alley on a Monday morning. Thank God that it came down on a weekend, so

no one was injured and no cars were damaged. Since the sign was old, needed to be repainted and was not very visible from Olive Blvd. (due to the garage being built since its installation), it was kind of a blessing in disguise. The good part was that Jay Traxel was able to recycle it and turn the aluminum sign and frame into cash for the wardrobe committee! This will enable him to get some more costumes repaired (or new ones made.)

We have also had an exhaust fan installed in the property room at stage right. This room was getting very hot during the heating season due to steam pipes in the room. The fan was installed with a thermostat that will start the fan when the room gets too warm and exhaust the hot air across the hall to the wardrobe room

that has no heat. So we get a two fold return on this investment. Now Steve Hayes will be able to once again store his candles in the room without them melting, and his guys will not get heat stroke working property during reunions!

We have also purchased and replaced a motor on our kitchen's convection oven. So now we will once again have both ovens working. This oven has been put to good use during our concession stand operation, reunions and other events.

The KSA had another work day this Spring and got the brass handrails polished again (a constant job) and the doors and frames on the main and lounge floor were cleaned and polished. It was a good day of working fellowship and the KSA is getting a real feel for ownership of our building.

We are now in the process of having our Southeast stairwell painted from the 5th floor to the basement. We are removing all the ceiling tiles, removing the loose paint and plaster, resurfacing as needed and painting all the ceilings and walls. Jay Traxel has been graciously helping us, and we are assisting him as needed. We are also cleaning all the marble base and trim as we go. Once the job is complete we will scrub and wax all the landings and stairs.

In July, we completely emptied the main office, break room and office bathroom, and stripped out all the carpet. Jay Traxel took a break from the stairwell project and painted all the areas, including the ceilings.

You will have to check out the fantastic job Jay did, especially with wood graining the trim. Once again the ceiling tiles were removed, and resurfacing to ceiling and walls was done as needed. Major kudos have to go to Bret Akers, Dan Flynn, Paul DeMerath, Dan Bogue and Sir Thom McCann for the dirty and hot job of rewiring the electric, phone, and cable installation. After the painting, Brother Kevin Fulbright and his crew installed tile and carpet

that Paul DeMerath picked out (and even picked up and delivered with the aid of Bret Akers). The bathroom even received a new vanity, sink, water heater and lighting. This major overhaul was long overdue, and the Scottish Rite will have a very impressive look and be much more functional when complete.



Jay Traxel on scaffolding 50 feet over the floor of the auditorium.

We are also in the process of acquiring some furniture for the office; and once the office is set up (and the hall is empty of furniture and office equipment), the main floor will be scrubbed and waxed.

In addition, we are molding some replacement blocks for the missing and broken wall "tiles" in our main entry way. This was made possible by Brother Dan Flynn, who made a latex mold of an existing block. Once these are installed, Jay Traxel is once again coming to our aid to paint these to match existing tiles.

So as you can see, things are happening at the Scottish Rite. With the backing, assistance and planning of the Scottish Rite Preservation Board and the assistance of our brethren (especially the KSA), we are completing a lot of projects, and quite a few of our members have good reason to be proud of their part in improving and preserving our grand building. I, for one, cannot thank all involved enough.

Walker Scottish Rite Clinic



Who Does the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic Help?

Where do the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic kids come from? This is a question we often hear. Most are very surprised that we have three locations in St. Louis as well as three sites outside of St. Louis - - Crystal City, Elsberry and Union.

The Walker Scottish Rite Clinic covers a large geographic area. Our service sites sit in four different counties (including St. Louis City) and our service area reaches to eleven counties. Here is a brief overview of each of our services sites:

- **Crystal City** – (Jefferson County) This Outreach Site is hosted in one of the meeting rooms of Shekinah Lodge. A therapist is there two days a week providing individual therapy and screenings.
- **Elsberry** - (Lincoln County) A therapist provides service four days a week for both screenings and individual therapy.
- **Union** – (Franklin County) Services are provided in the upstairs offices of a building on the main square of town. While only open one day a week, the therapist adjusts the therapy time and homework to meet specific needs of children she sees.
- **Headstart on Magnolia Avenue** – (St. Louis City) One therapist spends two mornings each week at the Grace Hill Headstart Center where all her clients are in the Headstart program. She does individual therapy as well as screenings.
- **Headstart on South Grand Avenue** - (St. Louis City) One therapist has a case load of both English and Spanish speaking children and provides screenings and individual therapy in both languages.
- **Main Clinic in Scottish Rite Cathedral** – (St. Louis City) This is where screenings, as well as both individual and group therapy, are held; and our audiologist gives examinations. Graduate students from SLU and Fontbonne Universities also work from this office when they help with community screenings.

2010 Program Services and Statistics

Individual and Group Therapy – 2010 (12-18+ months of services per child)

St. Louis Individual Therapy	St. Louis Headstart Individual Therapy	St. Louis Group Therapy	Crystal City Individual Therapy	Elsberry Individual Therapy	Union Individual Therapy	TOTALS
91	33	12	9	26	11	170
Children served	Children served	Children served	Children served	Children served	Children served	Children served

Screenings – 2010 (approximately 30-45 minute service per child)

St. Louis	St. Louis Headstart	St. Louis Group	Crystal City	Elsberry	Union	TOTALS
546	46	N/A	21	30	6	649
Children served	Children served		Children served	Children served	Children served	Children served

For more information about the Clinic or to set up a screening for a child, please contact Sheri Mistretta, Executive Director at 314.533.7415 or sheri@srclinic.org or www.srclinic.org.

The Clinic was founded in 1988 by Scottish Rite Masons of the Valley of St. Louis and is one of 180 clinics around the country. The Walker Scottish Rite Clinic is a 501(c)(3) charity organization and is committed to teaching two through six year-old children with speech and language disorders the communication skills necessary to succeed in school and throughout their lives. This goal is achieved through early identification and long-term therapy and by training parents in techniques to use with their children at home.



Pictured (L-R) Cam Janssen, Clinic Kid, and Ill. Bro. Earl E. Walker, 33°, Grand Cross

Cam Janssen of the St. Louis Blues Hockey Team is a wonderful advocate for local charities. On Wednesday, June 22, Cam gave back in a big way by participating and emceeding at the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders annual benefit KidTalk Golf Outing. After spending a beautiful day on the Tapawingo National Golf Course in Sunset Hills, Cam joined the other golfers for dinner and emceed the live auction bringing his unmistakable energy to help raise much-needed funds for the Clinic.

Going Places

St. Louis KSA Co-Sponsors National Gathering

By Dan Flynn, 32^o

The St. Louis chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA), under the leadership of Venerable Knight Randy Davis, 32^o is co-sponsoring the first ever attempt at a national meeting of KSA chapters within, not only the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Freemasonry, but the Northern Jurisdiction as well at Guthrie's Spring Reunion.

The St. Louis group is co-sponsoring the event with the KSA chapter in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The "Gathering", as it is being called, will coincide with the Valley of Guthrie's Spring Reunion to be held March 30-April 1, 2012.

Invitations were sent out to 137 Valleys, KSA Chapters and individuals, which covered 32 states with a total of 102 Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction and five states with 10 valleys in the Northern Jurisdiction. KSA chapters as far away as Tokyo, Japan (part of the Southern Jurisdiction) have been invited.

During the three-day event, KSA members will witness the Valley of Guthrie's formal Knights of St. Andrews Procession, a night time ceremony at which the chapter initiates its new Knights and Squires and includes torchlight and bagpipes. There will also be meetings to discuss common problems and to share ideas among the chapters.

Another highlight of the event will be the chapters displaying their unique differences. For example, not all KSA chapters refer to themselves as Knights of St. Andrews. In some Valleys, they are called Knights of the Thistle, the Order of Bannockburn or the Scottish Guard.

To commemorate this historic "first", the Valley of Guthrie is having a special "KSA First Gathering" coin stuck, which will be available at the Gathering.



Your Valley of St. Louis KSA Working Hard

Serving



Preparing



Repairing



E D U C A T I O N



**SCOTTISH RITE
MASTER CRAFTSMAN**

Master Craftsman Program Returns

The Valley of St. Louis is once again offering a unique opportunity to all Scottish Rite Masons, all Freemasons and even non-Masonic men and women, a Study Group for the Master Craftsman program developed by the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction.

This is a group-study plan designed for individuals wishing to complete the Scottish Rite's Master Craftsman Program.

Members of the Valley of St. Louis Spring and Fall 2011 Candidates' Classes are automatically enrolled at no additional cost!

All others - The sole prerequisite to participation in this group study plan is enrollment into the Master Craftsman Program. The cost of the program is \$35.00 plus shipping and handling. Details and registration regarding the Master Craftsman Program can be found at: <http://www.scottishritestore.org> You need not be a Freemason (or a man) to enroll in the Master Craftsman program.

Texts - There are two required texts, *The Scottish Rite Monitor*, which is included in the cost of enrollment; and *A Bridge to Light*, which can be purchased from the Scottish Rite office.

A. de Hoyos, *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, SMJ, 2007 or 2009 (referred to in the reading list as SRM)

R. Hutchens, *A Bridge to Light*, Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, SMJ, 1995, 2006, or 2010 (referred to in the reading list as BTL)

But Wait! There's More!

Available only to Valley of St. Louis Study Group members - we recognize that a fuller understanding of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry requires a working knowledge of several of the world's mystical and spiritual traditions; for this reason, each session also incorporates a seminar on comparative religious thought, presented by Ill. Ron Hartoebben 33°!

Meeting Times

The meeting dates for the Fall 2011 session are: October 24 and 31, November 14 and 28 and December 12 and 29.

We will meet at the St. Louis Scottish Rite Cathedral, 3633 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

The plan for each meeting is as follows:

6:50 p.m.	Fellowship and introductions
7:00 p.m.	Meeting opens
7:00-7:15 pm	Brief recapitulation of readings (Flynn and Mahovsky)
7:15-7:45 pm	Group discussion and personal reflection upon the readings
7:45-7:55 pm	Break
7:55-8:30pm	Survey of world religious thought (Hartoebben)
8:30 p.m.	Disperse for refreshments

To register for the class, contact the Group Study Leader, Bro. Dan Flynn, 32° at danjflynn@sbcglobal.net.

Come join the group or just sit in as a monitor/visitor. Remember that "Knowledge Is Power" and "If You Think Knowledge Is Expensive, Try Ignorance."

In Memoriam

*If tears could build a stairway and memories build a lane,
I'd walk up to heaven and bring you home again.
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one the chain will link again*

-Author Unknown

The Grand Architect of the Universe has received the following into His Presence:
With sympathy and sorrow, we share in the loss of our brothers,
(deaths reported to the Valley between 1/1/2011 and 7/31/2011)

Beatty, Floyd Herman
Beckmann, Thomas Wilson
Bilkey, William Walter
Blackburn, Hendrix
Johnson
Blake, Junior Floyd
Boergadine, James Carl
Brasch, Marvin Zidell
Caldwell, George Berton
Charleville, Joseph E
Conradi, Robert William
Craig, Frank Ambrose Jr
Cruse, Oliver Buss
Davis, Don Lloyd
Duke, Curry Lee
Duncan, Columbus Pete
Eads, Wencil Eugene
Freese, Norman Oliver
Frick, William Malvin
Friend, Glen Eugene
Gibson, Kenneth Roy
Greco, Joseph Thomas
Heiland, Robert Ernest
Henson, Charles Lenon
Hickman, Raymond Daily

Holekamp, John Henry
Huffmaster, Samuel Joseph
Hurt, Cecil Herzer
Imms, John Wayfield Jr
Jackson, Billy Norman
Jones, Leslie Paul
Kekeris, Constantine J
Kramer, Carl William II
Kriemelman, Arnold Edward Jr
Lafferty, Jearl Henry
Light, Leo Forrest Jr
Lincoln, Percy Marsh Jr
Lingle, Ralph T
Linley, William Dewayne
Linne, George Francis
Long, Hubert Glenwood
Magruder, Don Frederick
Maichel, Warren Richard
Mc Coy, John Patrick
Meister, Wilford L
Metzler, Raymond Herman
Morrison, Arnold Edward
Mueller, Oliver Henry Jr
Mueller, Richard Louis
Neupert, Raymond August

Nolte, Charles Alfred
Owen, Donald Eugene
Price, William Buck
Raaf, William Henry Jr
Richardson, Loren M
Robinson, George Roy
Rodes, Boyle Owsley Jr
Rotskoff, Morris William
Schott, Charles Geo Jr
Schulenburg, Harold Wm
Schwartz, Julius
Schwartz, Miles Francis
Scism, Samuel Kent
Stamp, Charles Ray
Sullivan, Edward Paul
Thompson, Perry Harold
Trego, Timothy David
Tufts, Lee Dyer
Vordtriede, Oliver A
Williams, Gene Edward
Windhorst, Raymond A
Winks, Donald Keith
Wood, Marvin Spalding
Woodson, Charles Ernest
Yard, Alvin Nathaniel

INTERVIEW



Bret Akers

Interview By Philip A. Cole, 32⁰

It must be said that this interview was a new experience for the interviewer as well as the interviewee. For me, it was simply the fact that I had never done it before. But for the man being interviewed, it had more to do with a general lack of comfort in talking about himself. Brother Bret Akers 32⁰, soon to be KCCH as he was recently bestowed with the honor, is a humble man who does not like to be in the spotlight. So with a photographer floating around, taking random shots and a recording device capturing every word, Bret was a little out of his element.

You should understand, Bret is perfectly content with making things happen behind the scenes. Compliments are tough for him to take and he would much rather let someone else take the credit. Bret is interested in the end result and moving something (which could mean anything) forward, by always giving his best effort and is someone I have gotten to know a lot better in the past year plus.

Even with all the lights and camera flashes pointing in his direction, it did not change the underlying generosity and genuineness of his thought process. Sitting in his chair, comfortably clothed with a large beverage nearby and scores of books on shelves as a backdrop, we dove into question time.

Gateway Double Eagle – I really do want to thank you for letting me ask you a few questions. You are one of the new guys on the block and I don't know if a lot of folks know about you or know how long you have been around Freemasonry or whatever the case may be. But just so people can get to know you a little better, I thought it might be good to sit down and talk with you about a few things. How long have you been a Freemason?

Bret Akers – Probably since I was about 21. I think I joined right after DeMolay.

GDE – Ok, and how long have you been in the Scottish Rite?

BA – I joined in '87, left for a little while and then came back in 2003.

GDE – That actually leads to my next question which is I know that you did join quite some time ago but for a while were not very active. What made you come back and why were you not active?

BA – Well, originally I left because I wasn't active. I was begging for stuff to do and there was never a place. Dad Harder was actually the one that got me involved up here and then once he left Kadosh, there was just nothing left for me to do. So I figured if I wasn't doing anything then why pay dues and I just took off for a while. Then Scottish Rite got really active in supporting the DeMolay when Dad Cockerham took over as Executive Officer and with the support we [DeMolay] were getting from the Scottish Rite, I decided that even if I wasn't going to be active, I needed to support the organization that was supporting the DeMolay – the youth. So I did start paying my dues again. Then right after I started paying my dues and came up [to the Scottish Rite] once in a while, Harvey Soule asked me if I wanted to be on the line of Kadosh and it all started from there.

GDE – Now that you have been back and things snowballed from there, what do you think is the critical benefit, perhaps, of Scottish Rite Freemasonry?

BA – The critical benefit, I would say, is more knowledge. You've got the brotherhood in all the organizations. I think the brotherhood is actually tighter in the Scottish Rite from what I have seen. But I think it all stems around gaining further knowledge of Freemasonry



through the twenty-nine degrees that we teach and practice. So, I would have to say the answer to your question is “More Knowledge.”

GDE – You are now Treasurer at the Scottish Rite, but I want to focus on the Event Coordination piece, because you have jumped into that to a greater extent. What are your plans to bring business to the Scottish Rite?

BA – Well, I don’t know how much it is about bringing business to the Scottish Rite. I think just in the time I have been here I have had people knocking at the door wanting to use the building. So, right now, it is more just [providing more] accessibility. As far as bringing business into the Scottish Rite, there is a lot of business out there to be had. I mean we have got a gorgeous auditorium second only to the Fox Theater, as far as I am concerned, and we are just not using the assets that we have. So my focus will be getting the auditorium used more.

GDE - Now aside from you official duties, you are always down here working at the Scottish Rite, whether it be on projects or with the KSA. What do you enjoy doing or what pieces do you think are critical?

BA – The main piece that I feel is critical is taking care of the building so that it is here 100 years from now for future brethren to enjoy. I won’t be here 100 years from now, but if we stop working on the building now, it is gone. If we can get the building back up and running in its former glory, I think that the membership here will be more excited about coming back. That’s really a multi-tiered question with a multi-tiered answer.

GDE –Let’s focus in on your work with the KSA now, because you do quite a bit with that group. The KSA does a lot of things, but what drives you to want to do that? How does that work fit into the mindset or the thought that you just expressed?

BA – To me, the work of the KSA is what we should be doing in our everyday life, not just here at the building. It is all about helping other people and not working for yourself or your own glory. It is the glory of others. Once again, [this is a] multi-tiered question. I don’t know, I enjoy working for others and that is what the KSA is all about. They are not just in it for the glory. They are just here to help.

GDE – How about we shift gears to some of the other official titles and responsibilities you hold. You are currently the Executive Director of Missouri DeMolay. How long has that been the case?

BA – I believe since 2003.

GDE – It is pretty much known, by anyone that knows you, whether it be in DeMolay or in the Scottish Rite, you very much enjoy your involvement in DeMolay. But few people, I think, probably know or understand why. So really that is the questions, why DeMolay?

BA – Well that question just got answered a few days ago when my son joined [DeMolay]. That is the whole reason I have been doing what I have been doing. I know there are a lot of other benefits that I derive from it, but the goal that kept me working was to make sure that there was still an organization for my son to join.

GDE – That really does sum it all up right there, but I would like to go a little further than that. What do you think had to be done or had to happen to make sure that it was still around? And it doesn't have to be what you have done specifically, but maybe what has DeMolay done or what have you championed? And this may be another of those multi-tiered questions.

BA – It is, very much. I haven't really championed anything. I've just been here. Pretty much if you ask me to do something, there is good possibility that it is going to get done. Back in the glory days, back when I first joined, and prior to that, DeMolay was very active around the whole state. By the time Dad Cockerham took over as Executive Officer, I think there were only 10 to 12 active chapters. It was really headed downhill. And just through Dad Cockerham's enthusiasm for the organization, he got everybody working again. We are now back up to 35 chapters in the state of Missouri. So I don't know if I really have championed anything, per se, but I have always just kind of been there.

GDE – Being there is really half the battle. Having someone you can rely on and who is dependable. You are probably humble enough not to take those as compliments, but know they could be attributed to you as characteristics. As Executive Director, what are your official duties?

BA – To do everything Dad Cockerham doesn't want to do.

GDE - Can I print that, or....?

BA – [Laughing] Sure, anyone who knows me knows I am kidding. Boy...where does it start? I take care of the minor paperwork issues. I am a Dad trainer, which means I go around to different chapter and do Dad training programs. At our annual Conclave, over Memorial Day weekend in Jefferson City, I am in charge of putting the hotel together, all the registration and getting the paperwork out to the chapters to get registered. Basically, Assistant Director for the leadership training camp. Boy, I don't know. I have never really

thought about all I do, I just do it. Whatever Dad Cockerham asks me to do.

GDE – Earlier you talked a little bit about your son, and that is really wonderful experience to have. Congratulations. Can you share some other experiences that you have had in DeMolay that, and I don't really mean proves to you that this is really what it is all about because I know you don't need proof, but backs up that idea that DeMolay is just a wonderful thing?

BA – Ah, shoot. You want to talk about a multi-tiered answer. One of the main reasons I do what I do is to pay back what I have gotten out of DeMolay. I mean, from the time I was 13 to 21, there was always an Advisor there opening up the building making sure I had a place to come. Whether it was just a regular meeting night, a fun night or an annual Conclave, there were so many advisors doing what needed to be done back then. And when I turned 21, it was just my turn to start paying all that back. And if you think you could ever pay it back, you are mistaken, because the gains you get from working with this organization just go above and beyond whatever you think you are doing. I have seen kids come in at the age of 12 or 13 and stumble over themselves and walk away leaders of our communities. How could you not want to be involved in that?

GDE – Is there a need for more Freemasons to be involved in DeMolay?

BA – I hate to say that is a stupid question, but that is a very stupid question. We have never closed a DeMolay chapter for a lack of DeMolays. They have always been closed for lack of adult leadership. Now we are allowed to have Moms as advisors. That all kind of came about because there weren't enough Master Masons stepping up and saying "I want to work with the young men." You will never find a Master Mason to complain about us, except maybe trash cans being left full at the lodges, but most of the Master Masons have always supported us. The problem is we really need their time. We always appreciate the money and usage of buildings, but their time is very

important to us too. So yes, we need more adult leaders to step forward

GDE – Now I probably know the answer to this question before I ask it, more so because of the answer you just gave, but overall how has Freemasonry, it all its aspects and through all the things that you are involved in, changed your life?

BA – That is a very tough question. You’ve got to sit back and wonder if you had made different decisions in life, where would you be right now. Freemasonry has always just been in my life and I wouldn’t even know what to do other than Freemasonry or DeMolay. I have always known that I was going to be active in it. I am not necessarily as active in the blue lodge as I would like to be, but now that my kids are getting older, I have plans to change that. I’m very active up here at the Scottish Rite and there is nothing about the Scottish Rite that I do not like. This is the place to be for me right now. Has it changed my life? It really hasn’t changed my life. It has just been a benefit because it has always been here. So, I would have a hard time saying it has changed my life.

GDE – Lastly, what do you hope to get accomplished in your various positions at the Scottish Rite?

BA – It is to see a reunion with 3000 members

in attendance.

GDE – That is a lofty goal.

BA – Well it shouldn’t even be a goal but for some reason it is. Obviously, from 1987 until 2003 something took me away from the building, and then something led me back to the building and in a big way. When we look at a reunion, and you are looking at 30 to 40 candidates sitting in the auditorium that is built to fit 3000, it is a very empty feeling. Not only is the feeling in the auditorium, but also in your heart. Something brought those 3000 members into the organization; something has either pushed them away or made them feel unwelcome. I think it is our goal as Scottish Rite Masons to get those people back in this building and tell them they are welcome. That is what this building was built for.

GDE – Bret, that is all the questions I have for you.

BA – [Laughing] Good....that was about 10 too many.

GDE - [Laughing] Thanks for your time. We appreciate it!

Valley Facilities Available for Rentals

Did you know that the dining rooms, auditorium and meeting rooms at the Valley are available for rentals? The Scottish Rite Cathedral offers you a perfect environment for your special event, a handicap accessible building with a parking garage centrally located in midtown St. Louis.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral has multiple rooms available for rent: Meeting rooms for large and small gatherings, banquet facilities for up to 500 guests, as well as a full function auditorium with seating for more than 3000 guests.

For more information, please contact Bret A. Akers, 32° at events@scottishrite-stl.org, call 314-533-7410 or stop by the office for details and pricing.



The Last Word

By Illustrious Robert W. Cockerham, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General Orient of Missouri

Freemasonry just keeps getting better every day! How would you like to be inspired, enthused, overjoyed and have fun all at the same time? Well, come along and experience the best time ever – teaching to and learning from our Masonic Youth at the Missouri DeMolay Leadership Training Conference (LTC). This year was the best of all. Over 100 DeMolays and advisors teamed up at the YMCA Trout Lodge and Conference Center to share in a lifetime experience that will benefit Freemasonry and themselves for years to come. Some say pictures speak louder than words. Well, I encourage you to take the time to view over 1500 photographs from 2011 LTC at www.modemolay.org and share the goodness of DeMolay.

In addition to the pillar of excitement and incredible activities, our own **“Dad” and Illustrious Brother Earl E. Walker, 33° Grand Cross**, attended the LTC and had the time of his life. Dad Walker was presented with an exquisite and unique portrait of Jacques DeMolay, the hero and martyr who is the exemplar of the Order of DeMolay. Missouri DeMolay and Freemasonry are truly blessed by Dad Walker. Through his loving graciousness, \$1,000,000 has been gifted in honor of and on behalf of Missouri DeMolay for the benefit of the Scottish Rite RiteCare program. The Jacques DeMolay Portrait, painted with dignity, honor, and grace by Brother Ronald D. Hauser, 32°, will be mounted at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. as part of the Pillars of Charity Portrait Gallery. In Addition, Dad Walker and Mom Myrtle E. Walker, were honored with the singular and remarkable *“Citizens Extraordinary” distinction for their Extraordinary Love – Hope – Charity and everlasting Dedication to The Order of DeMolay.*



Dad Walker and the Scottish Rite Foundation of Missouri are the primary sponsors of the Missouri DeMolay LTC and the DeMolays are most grateful for their love, service and commitment to the Order of DeMolay. At every LTC, the DeMolays are requested to provide a brief letter as to their experience at the Leadership

Conference. Here is a typical example:

Something very special happened to me while I was here; my life was totally changed. I found a new appreciation for God, Family and DeMolay. This was all made possible by your selflessness and generosity. Now is the time to make a difference in a young man's life because the last couple of years of being a teenager are what decides whether or not you will succeed in life. I would like to extend my gratitude for allowing me to be part of the greatest youth organization and family in the world. Sincerely, Cole Simmons, Waynesville Chapter.

God has graced us with the gift of Freemasonry and especially with the children who become part of our Masonic Youth organizations. The time is now to get involved and help our Youth to secure the future of Freemasonry.

God bless you and your families.

2011 Supreme Council Active Members

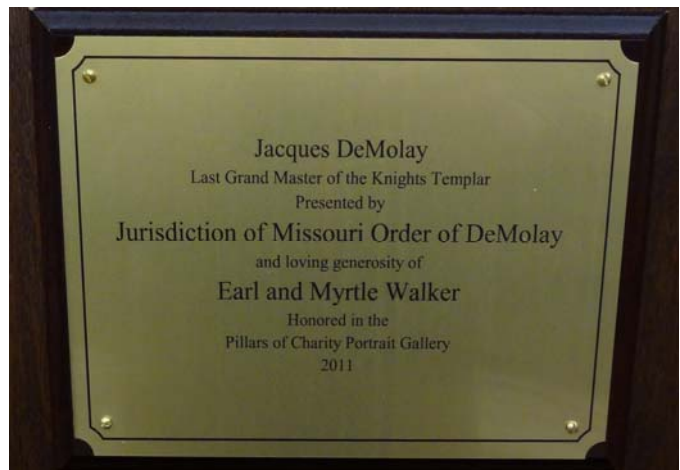


The governing body of the Scottish Rite is the Supreme Council, an autonomous self-perpetuating body comprised of thirty-three officers, known as Sovereign Grand Inspectors General (SGIGs), who possess administrative and voting powers not held by other members. The 2011 Biennial session was held in the Temple Room at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. August 21 through August 23, 2011.

WHAT IS IT?



Have an idea what the picture to the left is? It will be revealed in the next issue.



Plaque for Jacques DeMolay Portrait mounted at Pillars of Charity Portrait Gallery

Upcoming Events

September 2011

15 - Four Bodies Meeting 7:00pm
24 - Pull For Kids Clinic Trapshoot Event 9:00am
30 - KSA Meeting / Gentlemens league 6:30pm

October 2011

14-15 - Fall Reunion & KCCH Investiture
28 - KSA Meeting / Gentlemens League 6:30pm

November 2011

12 - KidTalk Celebration

December 2011

4 - Down Syndrome Assoc Holiday Party & MoCHIP Event
17 - Scottish Rite Holiday Party

January 2012

21 - Four Bodies Officer Installation

Knights of Saint Andrew Meetings and Gentlmen's League Nights

By Randy C. Davis, 32^o

You are invited to come down to any of our KSA Meeting / Gentlemens League nights. We meet on the last Friday of the month (no meeting in November or December) at 6:30 p.m. in the lounge.

You do not even have to be a Scottish Rite member to attend our Gentleman's League. Feel free to bring your dominoes, mah jong board, cards or just come down and play some pool. This is our opportunity to get to know other brothers in the area and enjoy a fun-filled evening of brotherly Masonic fellowship.

The cost is \$10 per person, and a first time guest can attend for FREE. The money we collect goes towards providing the food and drink for the evening.

So plan on attending and spend some quality time with your brothers, shoot the breeze, play some pool and get re-charged for another month of work.

Commissary Committee Report

By Eric Strong, 32^o

The Commissary Committee has a long and storied history in the Valley of St. Louis. Back many years ago, the kitchen and dining hall were always busy with people preparing and serving food to the multitudes that came to each reunion. Over time, things slowed down and it fell into disuse to the point where all of the meals at the reunions were being catered.

The Commissary started back up about three years ago and is now here to stay, not only for the benefit of the Valley for reunions but also other events. We have come a long way in just three short years. At each reunion we prepare dinner on Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday; and in the years that we have KCCH Investiture, we also do a Saturday dinner. The average number of meals during a reunion weekend is around 450-500 meals.

There are many people that say we work too hard, and they do not want to be a part of all that work. While it is true that we do work very hard in the kitchen, we also work harder at having fun and creating friendships and brotherly bonds. Remember, the party always happens in the kitchen; so stop by between degrees and visit us.



S c o t t i s h R i t e C o m m i t t e e s

Knight of St. Andrews (KSA)	Randy C. Davis, 32 ^o (black cap)	314-920-6306
Knights Commander Court of Honour (KCCH)	David Jacobi, 32 ^o KCCH (red cap)	314-846-0680
Thirty-Third Degree Assoc.	Ill Roger Moser, 33 ^o (white cap)	314-608-6453
Funeral, Scottish Rite (Rose Croix)	Ill Roger Moser, 33 ^o	314-608-6453
Candidates	John Litzau, 32 ^o KCCH	314-293-1680
Choir & Organist	Edward Plitt, 32 ^o KCCH	314-868-4367
Commissary	Eric Strong, 32 ^o	314-440-4309
Hospital & Shut-in	Darrel M. Curtis, 32 ^o KCCH	314-404-8142
Library	Ill John Mahovsky, 33 ^o	314-426-7336
Maintenance	Curt Fulbright, 32 ^o KCCH	314-809-9249
Make-up	Ill Dean Walls, 33 ^o	636-296-6755
Publicity	Kurt D. Witzel, 32 ^o KCCH	314-892-2812
Reception	Ill Kenneth Muehlrath, 33 ^o	314-849-0922
Property	Steven Hayes, 32 ^o	314-368-9686
Scottish Rite Cathedral Preservation	Harvey Soule, 32 ^o KCCH	314-576-3455
Stage, Sound & Lights	Ill Billy Pyle, 33 ^o	314-481-6499
SpotLights	Thomas McCann, 32 ^o	314-946-3232
Wardrobe	Jay Traxel, 32 ^o KCCH	314-426-1957

W h o T o S e e A t T h e O f f i c e

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Orient of Missouri	Ill. Robert W. Cockerham, 33 ^o
Personal Representative of the S.G.I.G.	Ill. John C. Caraker, 33 ^o
Executive Secretary	Ill. Ronald H. Hartoebben 33 ^o
Treasurer, Event Director	Bret A. Akers, 32 ^o
Office Manager	Vernon E. Goede, 32 ^o KCCH
Almoner	Ill. James E. Snavely, 33 ^o
Coordinator of Work	Ill. Walter S Sawicki II, 33 ^o
Director of Communications	Ill. H. Larry Walton, 33 ^o
Chairman, Library Committee	Ill. John Mahovsky, 33 ^o
Director of Finance	Ill. Stanley R. Oberman, 33 ^o
Director of Membership	Dennis A. Watz, 32 ^o KCCH
Director of Public Relations	Ill. Louis L Monken, 33 ^o
Director of Rite Care Clinics for the Valley of St. Louis	Ill. Alden G. Hacker, 33 ^o
Director of Scottish Rite Clubs	Ill. Donald G. Bowers, 33 ^o
Scottish Rite Cathedral Preservation Assoc Administrator	Ill. Paul A. DeMerath, 33 ^o
Webmaster	Randy C. Davis, 32 ^o



SPES BONA IN DEO EST

