



# ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF DELAWARE

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction



Newsletter

February 2025

Vol. 4 No. 02



**Reunion – Saturday**  
**February 22, 2025**

---

## VOW Heads of Bodies - 2024

---



---

*Thrice Potent Master  
Scott Christensen*

---



---

*Sovereign Prince  
James Alexander*

---



---

*Most Wise Master  
David Walters*

---



---

*Commander-In-Chief  
Gregory Correll*

---



---

*KSA Chief  
Michael Swain*

---

---

## VOLD Heads of Bodies - 2024

---



---

*Thrice Potent Master  
Eric Evans*

---



---

*Sovereign Prince  
Mike Pastuzyn*

---



---

*Most Wise Master  
James Coulbourne*

---



---

*KSA Chief  
Gregory Vernicek*

---

# Proposed 24-25 Calendar

## SCOTTISH RITE SCHEDULE 2024-2025

2024-25		EVENT	TIME	MEAL	LOCATION
February	2/6/2025	Reception for the Grand Master	5:30 PM	YES	Felton Fire Hall
	2/22/2025	<b>REUNION #4</b> (4, 5, & 21) (CRC)	9:00 AM	LUNCH	818 N. Market Street
March	3/9/2024	Family Life - Theater and Dinner	2:00 PM	YES	Clear Space Theater & Big Fish
	3/10/2025	Mixer #2 - VOLD	5:00 PM	YES	Park Place, Milford
	3/14/2025	Brotherhood Night	5:30 PM	YES	Nur Shrine Center
	3/24/2025	<b>VOLD Meeting</b>	7:30 PM	YES	<b>Endeavor #17 in Milton</b>
April	4/12/2025	Feast of Pascal Lamb	11:30 AM	LUNCH	Union #7 Dover
	4/17/2025	Annual Business meeting (CON)	7:30 PM	NO	Newport
	4/20-25/2025	Committee Week	----	YES	Lexington, MA
	4/26/2025	<b>VOLD Reunion (TBD)</b>	9:00 AM	BRKFST	<b>Temple #9 in Milford</b>
May	5/3/2025	Worker's Dinner	6:00 PM	YES	Smyrna ??
	5/10/2025	<b>REUNION #5</b> (16 & 32nd) and COD (CON)	9:00 AM	YES	Clayton ??
	5/16/2025	Charity Golf Outing	11:00 AM	YES	Odessa National Golf Course
	5/16/2024	Flags Distribution	8:00 AM	NO	Veterans Cemetery (Bear, DE)
	5/19/2025	<b>VOLD Meeting</b>	7:30 PM	YES	<b>Endeavor #17 in Milton</b>
August	8/20-27/2025	Supreme Council Executive Sessions	----	YES	Indianapolis, IN



Jim Croce's Time in A Bottle

# February 22<sup>nd</sup> Reunion & Degrees

<p>4th</p>	<p>Across the world, Master Masons are raised every day, and every day we are called to live by the principles of our Order: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. We live these in our daily lives whether among strangers, friends, or family because we recognize their value in meeting everyday challenges.</p> <p>There was a builder - we all know him well - who was called upon to face an insurmountable task: to create a home for God on earth.</p>	
<p>5th</p>	<p>The fifth degree dramatizes the sin and punishment of two of the sons of Aaron who, led by greed and ambition, plotted against the peace of Israel, and who, after neglecting the guardianship of the sacred flame upon the altar of the Lord, sought to rekindle it by unhallowed means.</p> <p>The lesson is of the corrupting and destroying nature of selfish thoughts and unworthy ambitions. If allowed to dwell in a man's mind, they poison his whole being until he forgets his duty to his family, his country, and his God. Then moral and spiritual destruction overtake him. "The wages of sin is death."</p>	
<p>21st</p>	<p>The time and place represented in the Degree of Patriarch Noachite is late 12th Century Germany, in Westphalia, near the Imperial Free City of Dortmund. The Grand Chapter of Patriarch Noachites is representative of a secret society or tribunal known as the Vehme (FEM-e). This tribunal was a necessary institution in the Middle Ages, as crime was rampant and could not be kept under control by the governments of Central Europe. Knights and nobles were leagued together in the Grand Chapter in order to punish crime, reward virtue, protect the innocent, and provide aid and assistance to the needy and afflicted, regardless of wealth or social standing.</p> <p>This Degree portrays a meeting of the Grand Chapter of Patriarch Noachites, and makes clear that Freemasonry is not a shield for evil doing and that the pillar of Justice is one of the chief supports of our fraternity.</p>	



# Be Part of our Dramatics Group

One of the growth opportunities fairly unique to the Scottish Rite is the experience of performing on stage to teach our core values: Reverence for God, Integrity, Devotion to Country, Justice, Tolerance, and Service to Humanity. There are various levels through which one can participate. Of course, there is the obvious role of learning a part and performing it on stage. These come in all sizes from a few lines to major roles. There are also those supporting roles which require no lines to memorize, only positioning and interacting on stage. Then there are those behind the scenes roles such as props, lighting, sound, and stage managing. Whichever level might interest you, know that all roles are important and come together at every Reunion to make Scottish Rite Masonry a truly memorable experience.

Contact [Bro. Greg Correll](#) and let him know your interest in joining in on the fun. Whether it is a non-speaking part, a few lines, a major roll, or behind the scenes, it is as they say, “there are no minor rolls in theater”. This is one of those “Making Good Men Better opportunities that masonry is all about. Come on out and make new friends.





## What is Thursday Night at the Rite?

What was envisioned to be a temporary solution has evolved into a cherished member event. Over 1,000 members have joined us online since the inception of Thursday Night at the Rite.

Each season of Thursday Night at the Rite, the Supreme Council invites Brothers from across our 15-state jurisdiction to gather online to watch one of our inspiring degree productions, with the featured degree presentation changing every other week.

Each degree presentation allows members to connect with and learn from each other as they continue along their path towards more light.

## What Degrees Are Presented?

The Scottish Rite, NMJ expands on the degrees of the blue lodge, offering the 4°-32°. Our Thursday Night at the Rite events rotate through these degrees with the exception of the 32°, which is reserved for special celebratory events and in-person Reunions. Each degree presented at Thursday Night at the Rite is eligible for passport credit.

Our production team has taken great measures to bring a one-of-a-kind, cinematic experience to each presentation, traveling onsite to various Valleys to film the degrees live. These productions are far beyond a home video, capturing the unique attributes that each Valley's presentation offers.

A new season of Thursday Night at the Rite begins January 2025. The full schedule can be found through the following link - - - [2025 TNR Schedule](#)

One testimonial - - -

*"Because of my business I can't usually make the Reunions in my Valley, but I so enjoy the life lessons and teaching of the degrees. Even those degrees I have seen several times, I still find new takeaways! I also find that Thursday Night at the Rite keeps me grounded in my journey to becoming a better man!" - Bro. Ronald Boice*

# SEASON 6 SCHEDULE

## EPISODE 1

**Join the Rite Night @ 8:00 PM ET**  
**Thursday, Jan 30, 2025**

**Friend of the Mother.**  
 Two officers of the Civil War era explore the values of Masonic principles. Core values explored include Service and Integrity.  
**Presented by Valley of Cincinnati, OH**



## EPISODE 2

**Join the Rite Night @ 8:00 PM ET**  
**Thursday, Jan 30, 2025**

**Knight of Valour.**  
 Based on a story of George Washington and the heroic actions of a soldier. Core values explored include Service for God, Service to Country, and Devotion.  
**Presented by Valley of Cincinnati, OH**



## EPISODE 3

**Join the Rite Night @ 8:00 PM ET**  
**Thursday, Feb 6, 2025**

**Master of the East and West.**  
 Joseph Smith's story of him into slavery. Core values explored include Service and Integrity.  
**Presented by Valley of Cincinnati, IN**



## EPISODE 4

**Join the Rite Night @ 7:30pm**  
**Thursday, Feb 27, 2025**  
**8:00 PM ET**

**Knight of the East and West.**  
 The degree dramatizes a picture of human failure, and social and moral behavior. The book of life is sealed. Core values explored are Service and Reverence for God.  
**Presented by Valley of Allentown, PA**

## EPISODE 5

**Join the Rite Night @ 7:30pm**  
**Thursday, Mar 13, 2025**  
**8:00 PM ET**

**Brother of Tolerance.**  
 A Native American petitions for membership in a colonial symbolic lodge. We learn that a Mason must show evidence of compassion, piety, and justice. Core value explored is Tolerance.  
**Presented by Valley of Cincinnati, OH**

## SEASON FINALE

**Join the Rite Night @ 7:30pm**  
**Thursday, Mar 27, 2025**  
**8:00 PM ET**

Stay tuned for the Season Finale March 27th!





For those who have already started their Pathfinder journey, or for those interested in beginning their path, there are 6 Waypoints that help one progress through the program with numerous Mile Markers under each Waypoint that will guide you in learning all about our Rite in general and your Valley in particular.

The Six Waypoints are: Organization, Self-improvement, Valley Life, Enrichment Programs, Service and Philosophy, and Choice. Under Organization, there are 18 Mile Markers of which you need to complete 6. Under Self-Improvement, there are 22 Mile Markers of which you must complete 6. Under Valley Life, there are 24 Mile Markers of which you must complete 6. Under Enrichment Programs, there are 14 Mile Markers of which you must complete 6. Under Service and Philosophy, there are 27 Mile Markers of which you must complete 6. Under Choice, you may go back and complete any two additional Mile Markers from any of the Waypoints.

There are Field Guides and Workbooks you can use to keep track of your progress, BUT there is also a Pathfinder Digital portal on-line where you can track your progress electronically.

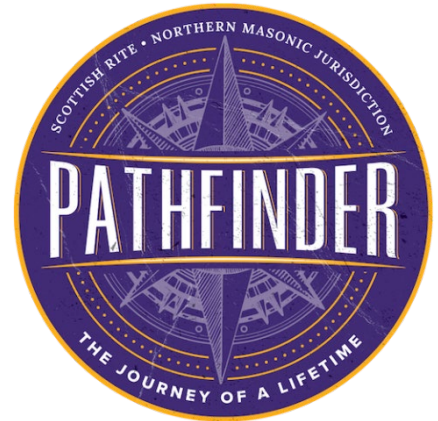
Some of the following information might prove helpful in getting you started:



**Have you started your “Journey On” with Pathfinder yet? Now is a perfect time to get started.**

**Where can I get more information on the Pathfinder Program?**

<https://scottishritenmj.org/pathfinder>



To Help you get started, here are a few of the Mile-Markers under the Valley Life Waypoint that you can use to continue your Path and Journey On.

**PF-VL\_007:** Volunteer and assist the stage crew at a Valley Reunion. Record your experience in your Field Book entry.

*Answer: Contact [Greg Correll](#) (VOW) or [John Badeen](#) (VOLD) to volunteer and get involved with a stage production. Both brothers would welcome your participation and would make you feel at home in the worthwhile endeavor.*

**PF-VL\_008:** Attend a combination of any six of the following: • Valley Stated Meetings • Reunions, Degrees, Rehearsals, or Rite on the Road Events • Valley/Social Events • KSA/Guild Meetings Record your experiences in your Field Book entry.

*Answer: Reach out to your Valley secretary ([Steve Tucker](#) (VOW) or [Jack McDuff](#) (VOLD) to find out what is going on in your Valley. Another way if to check out the calendar on page 3 of this newsletter to find the remaining events for the current Scottish Rite year.*

**PF-VL\_014:** Visit a Valley in your state and attend one of the following events. Reflect and record your experience in your Field Book entry. • Stated Meeting • Reunion, Degree, or Rite on the Road Event • Valley/Social Event

*Answer: Check out the calendar on page 3 of this newsletter to find dates and times for events scheduled in the two Valleys of Delaware. Make arrangements to attend that event and get to know your brethren from the other Valley..*



## *Dr. John Warren's Medical Trunk*

--- By Stacey Fraser, Assistant Curator, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library



Trunk, 1770-1815. Loaned by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, GL2004.2055.

Photograph by David Bohl.

This leather and wood trunk decorated with brass studs is thought to have belonged to Dr. John Warren (1753-1815) of Massachusetts. Its side handles and manageable size (11-7/8" x 13-1/2" x 24-1/2") made it both portable and practical. Through the service of its dynamic owner, this trunk may have seen military action during the American Revolutionary War.

Born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, Dr. John Warren was the younger brother of Dr. Joseph

Warren, whose death at the Battle of Bunker Hill made him a martyr to the Patriot cause. John Warren studied medicine at Harvard, graduating in 1771. He became a surgeon with a militia commanded by Colonel Timothy Pickering (1745-1829) in 1772 and in that capacity, responded to the Lexington Alarm in April 1775.

In 1775, Warren was practicing medicine in Salem, Massachusetts. He traveled with his unit to the various battles in which he was involved. Like many Massachusetts militia members who were called out for the Lexington Alarm, Warren remained in the Boston area into the month of May. Warren likely brought his own medical supplies with him when he traveled. He owned two amputation kits. Based on the dimensions of these amputation kits, both items could have been carried inside this trunk.

By June 1775, Warren had returned home to Salem and received news of the start of the Battle of Bunker Hill. He hurried to Cambridge in the early hours of the following morning to treat wounded soldiers. At the same time, Warren fretted about his brother Joseph who had fought in the battle. At one point, Warren left the medical area in Cambridge and went to Bunker Hill to find his brother, asking any and all soldiers he encountered about Joseph's whereabouts. One of these was a British sentry, and Warren received a bayonet wound to his side in response to his inquiry. Unfortunately, Joseph "fell on the field," as John later wrote in his diary.

His fervor for the Patriot cause and his brother's death motivated Warren. According to Sibley's *Harvard Graduates*, "He enjoyed helping repulse the raid at Lechmere Point, and, case in hand [emphasis mine], took his post on Cobble Hill at night hoping for another Bunker Hill." The "case" mentioned was likely a medical case, possibly this trunk. Cobble Hill was a colonist-fortified hill in Charlestown with an excellent view of Boston Harbor. Warren may have carried his medical supplies in this trunk during the early days of the Revolutionary War when the action was focused in Massachusetts.

It is also possible that Warren brought this trunk with him when the action moved away from Massachusetts. The nascent Continental Army struggled to provide uniforms, firearms, and other supplies to its soldiers. Warren's medical tools and supplies would have been highly valued and were likely brought with him when he left for New York in May 1776, after the British evacuated from Boston.

Warren later served as Surgeon General of army hospitals in Long Island, New York and Bethlehem, New Jersey in 1776. In the latter location, he—and possibly this trunk—saw action at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. Warren also participated in the 1778 Rhode Island campaign, perhaps due to his marriage the previous year to Abigail Collins (1760-1832), daughter of Rhode Island Governor John Collins (1717-1795).

Dr. John Warren was a knowledgeable and dedicated surgeon, who put his medical skills to use in service of the American cause. This trunk, both substantial enough to hold needed medical supplies and portable enough to carry into battle, is an apt symbol of his service. Warren's trunk will be on view at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library beginning in April 2025, part of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's newest gallery exhibition, "Protest & Promise: The American Revolution in Lexington."

*EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP SERIES*

# EXCELSIOR



*NEW YORK COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION, AASR NMJ*

Excelsior is a project of the Leadership Committee from the New York Council of Deliberation. It is composed of three online components: Leadership Sessions, Lecture Series and a video news series, XLCR32.



Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

## **“50th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library”**

In April 2025, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library will launch a year of celebratory anniversary programming, including special gallery talks, engaging lectures, and two new gallery exhibitions.

Join us on March 5th as we chat with the SRMML Director & Staff as they discuss the Anniversary and their upcoming events.

[Register Here](#) to receive the Zoom link for the session. The program will begin at 7:00 PM. The link will be emailed to you during the week leading up to the session.



Spring is almost here.  
Next outing for the Nur Shrine Golf Club is April 17, 2025.

We will be playing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month starting in April. Dates are as follows: 4/17, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 9/18 and 10/16.



Tee time for the April start is 9:30 am.

Place: Del Castle Golf Course, 801 McKennan's Church Rd, Wilmington, DE—302-998-9505

Cost: \$40.00 includes \$5.00 voucher for lunch which includes a hot dog, chips and soda. If you prefer something else you would only have to pay the difference of a \$5.00 credit.

One Time Registration fee of \$25.00

Total for April is \$65.00 (\$25.00 registration & \$40.00 course fee)

Format: 9 hole scramble

Please send your reservation and check to Jim Stevens no later than one week before as he has to give a count to the course for tee times.

Thanks and see you soon.

Jim Stevens  
7 Anderson Lane  
Newark, De 19711      302-545-6937

All are welcome and bring a friend

Checks payable to Nur Golf Club (please no last-minute calls)

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_, Come out and have some fun!

## **SCOTTISH RITE NOW OFFERS DUES AUTO-PAY!**

Remembering to pay your dues has never been easier! Once you enter your secure payment information within the Member Center to pay your dues, you now have the option to enroll in auto-pay, which stores your preferred payment information for future transactions.

**Enrolling in auto-pay is optional.** Should you wish to opt out of this feature, select the "No, I decline" button before hitting "Submit Payment."

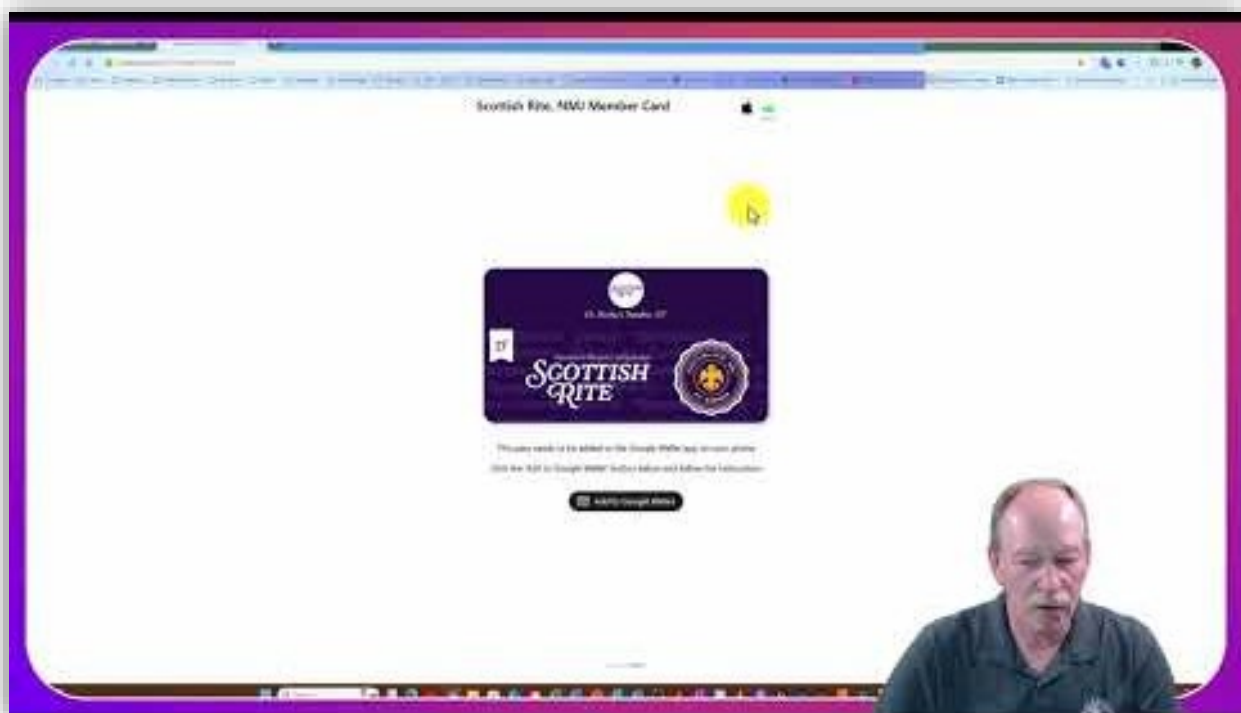
The screenshot displays the 'Make a Payment' interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Make a Payment', 'Payment History', 'Payment Methods', and 'Subscriptions'. Below this, the 'Make a Payment' section includes a note: 'To make a payment to your account, please use the form below. Payment may be made by credit/debit card or bank transfer.' There are two tabs: 'Credit Card' (selected) and 'Bank Transfer'. The 'Credit Card' section contains fields for 'Card Number', 'Expiration Month' (MM), 'Expiration Year' (YYYY), and 'CVV'. Below these is an 'Address' field, and further down, 'City', 'State/Province' (with a dropdown menu), and 'ZIP Code' fields. On the right side, the 'PAYMENT DETAILS' section shows 'Dues' for \$100.00 and 'Donations' for \$0.00, with a total of \$100.00. Below this is a yellow button for 'PREVIOUS STEP' and a 'NEW! ENROLL IN AUTO PAY' section. The 'ENROLL IN AUTO PAY' section includes a disclaimer: 'By enrolling in Auto Pay, you authorize storage of your payment method, and allow Scottish Rite, NMJ to charge it annually for membership fees and donations. You may cancel Auto Pay at any time by deleting your subscription.' There are two radio buttons: 'Yes, enroll in Auto Pay' (selected) and 'No, I decline'. At the bottom right is a green 'SUBMIT PAYMENT' button.

[Access the Member Center](#)

## INTRODUCING SRNMJ MOBILE MEMBERSHIP CARDS AVAILABLE NOW!

Accessing your membership card has never been easier! Here's how to pull up your card using your phone:

- 1.) Log in to your Member Center account at [MyNMJ.org](https://MyNMJ.org). If you haven't previously registered, you can create a free account using your Member Number (<<MemberID>>) and birthdate.
- 2.) Click on the link that appears on your dashboard that reads "Create Mobile Member Card."
- 3.) A black strip will appear with a link inside it that reads, "Click here to download your mobile member card" – Click the link.
- 4.) Follow the on-screen instructions for adding your card to your mobile device (available in Apple Wallet and Google Wallet).
- 5.) Click on the video below to watch how to do it.





17th ANNUAL DELAWARE SCOTTISH RITE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025**

ODESSA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB  
1131 FIELDSBORO RD.  
TOWNSEND, DE 19734

SCHEDULE	
Registration/Breakfast	8:00am
Shotgun Start	10:00am
Reception/Dinner	3:30pm

**OPEN TO EVERYONE**  
**SCRAMBLE FORMAT**

**GOLFER REGISTRATION**

**\$125 PER GOLFER / \$500 PER FOURSOME**

REGISTER ONLINE AT THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW!

Golfer 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

INCLUDED

- GREENS FEES
- GOLF CART
- BREAKFAST
- DINNER AND SOCIAL
- SCORE SHEETS
- DRIVING RANGE
- GIFT BAG

EXTRAS

- MULLIGANS
- ON-COURSE GAMES AND CONTESTS
- 50/50
- RAFFLES/AUCTIONS
- PUTTING CONTEST
- FREE REFRESHMENTS

GRAND MASTER'S TROPHY

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST BE A FOUR-MEMBER TEAM COMPOSED OF MASTER MASONS FROM ANY JURISDICTION

The Delaware Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament is an annual event that raises money for a designated worthy organization. We proudly support the 436th Force Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, and our seventeenth annual tournament is once again dedicated to assisting this worthy organization. 100% of all net proceeds provides combat support, family and community services, counseling, and social events for the families and children of our active military men and women who are deployed and serving our Country around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT US AT  
[delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com](mailto:delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com)

**MAIL CHECKS TO:**  
DELAWARE CONSISTORY  
GOLF OUTING  
P.O. BOX 7227  
WILMINGTON, DE 19803-0680

**SIGN UP OR SPONSOR ONLINE**



PROUDLY SUPPORTING



<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/scottishritegolf>





## FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

DEADLINE TO SPONSOR IS FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

## SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

HELP SUPPORT THE CHILDREN AT THE LINK OR QR CODE BELOW!

### TECHNOLOGY SPONSOR - \$3,000 (1 available)

Your logo showcased on the front page of our website and at the top of the leaderboard during scoring. Includes a free foursome, promotional banner, 2 hole sponsorships, full-page ad, and announced in media events. [CONTACT THE EVENT COORDINATOR AT delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com](mailto:delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com)

### FLAG SPONSOR - \$2,500 (1 available)

Your logo on all 18 flags. Includes a promotional banner, two hole sponsorships, a full-page color ad, and a free foursome. Your sponsorship will be announced in all media events.

[CONTACT THE EVENT COORDINATOR AT delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com](mailto:delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com)

### BEVERAGE SPONSOR - \$1,000

Your advertisement promoted at all beverage stations. Includes a corporate banner, two hole sponsorships, and a full-page color ad.

### GOLF BALL SPONSOR - \$1,000

Your advertisement imprinted on a custom sleeve of balls for each golfer. Includes a promotional banner, two hole sponsorships, and a full-page color ad.

### DINNER SPONSOR - \$750

Your advertisement promoted at sign-in tables and dinner. Includes a promotional banner, two hole sponsorships, and a full-page color ad.

### GOLFER APPRECIATION SPONSOR - \$500

Includes a promotional banner, tee sign, and a full-page color ad.

### FULL PAGE COLOR AD (8X5.5) + FREE HOLE SPONSOR - \$200

### HALF PAGE COLOR AD (5.5X4) + FREE HOLE SPONSOR - \$125

### QUARTER PAGE COLOR AD (5.5X4) + FREE HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

### HOLE SPONSOR (12X18 SIGN) - \$60

PROUDLY SUPPORTING



<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/scottishritegolf>

The Delaware Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament is an annual event that raises money for a designated worthy organization. We proudly support the 436th Force Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, and our seventeenth annual tournament is once again dedicated to assisting this worthy organization. 100% of all net proceeds provides combat support, family and community services, counseling, and social events for the families and children of our active military men and women who are deployed and serving our Country around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT US AT

[delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com](mailto:delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com)

### EVENT LOCATION

Odessa National Golf Club  
1131 Fieldsboro Rd.  
Townsend, DE 19734

### MAIL CHECKS TO:

DELAWARE CONSISTORY  
GOLF OUTING  
P.O. BOX 7227  
WILMINGTON, DE 19803-0680

SIGN UP OR  
SPONSOR ONLINE



**LOCATION**

**LODGE NAME**

**AMBASSADOR**

Wilmington	Washington #1	Darin Lorenzen
Wilmington	Temple #11	Michael Rodgers
Wilmington	Lafayette #14	Clinton D. Lemaster
Wilmington	Eureka-Dupont #23-29	David Russ
Talley	Granite-Corinthian #34	Kenneth J. Musto Jr./James A. McClain Jr.

**DISTRICT #2**

New Castle	St. John's #1	Frank E. Hartsell
Middletown	Union #5	Lawrence H. Biederman
Smyrna	Harmony #13	Kevin Musto
Delaware City	Jackson #19	David Walters
Newark	Hiram #25	Lee Gray
Newport	Armstrong #26	Byrom I. Price
New Castle	Ionic #31	Michael Swain
New Castle	Christiana #35	Thomas Sullivan
Newark	Solomon #36	Steve Salvatelli
Newark	High Noon Lodge #38	Darin Lorenzen

**DISTRICT #3:**

Laurel	Hope #4	Jack McDuff
Dover	Union #7	Maurice W. Little
Milford	Temple #9	Jack McDuff
Georgetown	Franklin #12	James M. Locklear
Lewes	Jefferson #15	Eric Evans
Milton	Endeavor #17	Jim Coulbourne
Seaford	Hiram #21	Jack McDuff
Reliance	Gethsemane #28	Jack McDuff
Millville	Doric #30	Greg Vernicek
Dagsboro	Delaware #37	Jim Lawrence




## LEON M. ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIPS

“Helping those who most need it strive for greater heights”



The Supreme Council is pleased to announce an expansion of the eligibility criteria for Abbott Scholarship awards. Named for Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921 to 1932, the Abbott Scholarship Program provides financial support for the continuing undergraduate and graduate education of Scottish Rite Masons, young men and women from Scottish Rite families, and Masonic related youth groups.



Eligibility: Those meeting any of the following criteria are eligible to apply for the Abbott Scholarship program:

-  A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is in good standing.
-  A student directly related (bloodline or by legal means) to a current or deceased Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.
-  A member of a Masonic sponsored youth group located in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

In addition, the applicant must be either:

-  A high school senior, currently accepted at an accredited trade school or college or university who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale  
OR
-  An undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled at an accredited trade school or college or university.

To apply, applicants should print the form, complete it, and mail it to the appropriate Valley secretary (Jack McDuff – VOLD or Steve Tucker VOW) received by April 15, 2025. Applicants should submit their application to the Valley of the sponsor of the applicant.

To apply, please visit our [Abbott Scholarship](#) page.



## A MASONIC MOMENT

(*Chips Off the Ashlar*) October 2024

R.W. Bro Richard Lacoursiere



<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0246/0382/0104/files/who-was-hiram-abiff.png?v=1574416355>

With the changing of seasons, I have been doing some reflection and contemplation. My mind travelled to the three Ruffians.

Being of the Canadian Work, I found it remarkable to sit on the side as well as participate in the York Rite work of our fellow Brethren as they initiated, raised and passed new brothers to the fraternity. W.L. Wilmhurst in his "The Meaning of Masonry" states the central to the initiatory process of Freemasonry is the allegory of the Hiramic Legend. Today I would like to touch on what I believe is the meaning that we should take from the Hiramic Legend.

We can spend hours searching the internet, perusing the vast volumes of history, scouring through our favourite version of the bible, but it is within the second part of the Master Mason Degree where we find the story of Hiram Abiff; suggesting that it is merely an allegory, a parable worth contemplation. It is here where we are again told of the age-old story of the struggle between good and evil. My Chips off the Ashlar today is to expound upon how I believe the main characters of the second section of the Master Mason Degree are used as symbols, their meaning, and how they are used to communicate the lesson that they are intended to impart.

Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff represent as suggested in the degrees, wisdom, honesty, and perseverance. Jointly they characterize all that is good and



pure in the world. They exemplify brotherly love, relief, and truth. They symbolise perfection that each of us has obligated to labour daily towards. The three principle fellowcrafts represent the labor that each of us must perform, the reflection that we must employ and the care for all of whom we encounter during our daily labour so that in turn we become a better person each day and if we are fortunate, assist others in their daily advancement.

Each of the characters in this story no matter how big their part conveys a message. It is to this that I would like to further examine the Three Ruffians that while they portray villains, they represent symbols of a cautionary quality. The three ruffians represent ignorance, prejudice, and greed. They are the forces of evil that continually attempt to undo and defeat the forces of good. Once we realize what each of these groups of characters represent, then we are more able to contemplate their effects on the human condition and us.

To those who trace our symbolism to ancient solar worship, they represent the three winter months that plot to destroy the beauty and glory of summer. To those of us who find comfort in the origin of Freemasonry coming from the Ancient Mysteries of Egypt, it is the drama of Typhon, that evil spirit of evil who slayed Osiris, who then is resurrected. Many of us find satisfaction of this drama in the life and death of Jesus, who was crucified outside the gates of Jerusalem by three Ruffians, the Priest, the Pontius Pilate, and the mob. We know them by Jubela, Jubela, and Jublum," the three ruffians, brother and men of Tyre. Pike in his *Book of the Words and Their Hidden Meanings* (1992) investigates the names of the three Ruffians. Here he considers the meanings of the names Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum as well as the origins of Abiram, Akirop and Abibal. The most current common names, utilizing their Hebrew equivalents, can be split into Yu-bal and a,o,um. He defines these as "Yu (yod)" Which in Hebrew means "Deity", "bel" meaning the god Baal and the signifier of a, o or um (Pike, 1992, p. 85). Newton mentions that Albert Pike identified the three Ruffians that are the greatest enemy to of individual welfare and social progress are Kingcraft, Priest craft, and ignorant mob- mind (we only need look at the present day at mob mentality at its worst in the United States and globally. The first strikes with a 24-inch gauge a blow to the throat, the seat of freedom of speech, thereby silencing it. This wound is fatal. The second stabs at the heart with a square, the home of freedom of conscience. This wound is also fatal since it puts out the last rays of Divine Light- how man is guided. The third using a setting maul murders Hiram Abiff with a blow to the brain which is the throne of freedom of thought

### The Three Ruffians

The first ruffian represents ignorance. Ignorance in this context is the lack of knowledge of how to properly relate to and act toward others or how to consider the welfare of others. Ignorance can allow a person to be led easily or influenced to commit offences that harm other people. These offences can take the form of plotting against someone, spreading rumors, lying, or other conduct that is detrimental to others or that may benefit the perpetrator at someone else's expense. Ignorance stifles the mental growth of a human being and helps prevent his ability to think beyond self. It also tends to foster an inflated sense of self entitlement which tends to encourage the type of behavior that ignorance proliferates.

The second ruffian represents prejudice. Prejudice creates and encourages hate and intolerance. The practice of intolerance makes a person or group reject the opinion or belief of others summarily, without giving any thought as to their legitimacy or worth. Prejudice becomes that narrow mindedness that encourages hate because of race, religion, and political beliefs, or some other reason that is unreasonable or invalid. It discourages a person from understanding his or her differences with others and hinders the growth and strength that understanding, and acceptance can produce.

The third ruffian represents greed. Greed is the desire to obtain wealth or power by any means necessary. Greed can manifest itself through thievery, deception, swindling, or any other means which can result in one person or group attaining an unfair advantage over another.

In contrast, the three principle fellowcrafts together represent the attainment of knowledge and the individual's effort to improve by practicing the Masonic tenets of brotherly love, relief, truth, and morality. They exemplify the effort to battle the three ruffians in defense of good. They teach us to battle ignorance by gaining knowledge of how to properly treat and relate to others. They demonstrate that this is a lifelong effort to improve our ability to practice the knowledge we gain. Through the Allegory, they instruct us to battle prejudice by the realization that every person should be treated equally without regard to their race, religious or political belief, wealth, or station in life. They teach us to battle greed by realizing that there are things in life that should be more valuable to us than worldly possessions and that honor, integrity, and honesty are invaluable in the mêlée against evil.

The three ruffians demonstrate that the forces of evil are always at work so that evil can triumph over good, and chaos can then rule. They use powerful weapons and allurements to influence and win people to their side, and they are always present to capture anyone

who might slip. The three fellowcrafts demonstrate that although the forces of evil are powerful and relentless, we can still prevail through perseverance and the diligent practice of virtue.

The last event in this part of our degree is when the individual receives the last secret of a Master Mason, representing the rebirth of the individual into a life where he is to work through the study, contemplation, and practice of these principles and virtues to continually improve.

Honor, integrity, reputation, and respect are the benefit for the individual when he takes these lessons to heart and practices them in his daily life. The Master Mason practicing these virtues in his daily life will influence others to seek association with us to improve themselves.

Manly Hall in his work, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* echoes Pike's summation of the symbolism of the Ruffians and adds a few points of his own regarding the significance within the Hiram Legend and allegories within. Hall states that the three Ruffians represent the laws of the inferior world; birth, and decay which always tend to undermine the plans of the Great Architect of the Universe. In his work *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry* Hall suggests that the three Ruffians are symbolic of "the three expressions of our lower self which are the murders of the goodness in each of us. One of the tools that Freemasonry provides brethren to make each of us a better version of ourselves today over yesterday is through this wonderful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Whether the symbolism of the three Ruffians is an interpretation on how society behaves, a mystical tale of the turning of the seasons or that internal battles each of us undergo on a daily journey is up to each of us to consider and decide for ourselves. What is important is that the roles these Ruffians portray should not be ignored or minimalized, but rather be looked upon as gigantic steppingstones to be observed along the path of our own individual masonic journey.

Lastly, if any of you have papers, ideas for a Masonic moment do not hesitate to email me at [rpal5655@gmail.com](mailto:rpal5655@gmail.com).

Yours in the Craft

RPAL 

Remember,

**FREEMASONRY "YOURS TO DISCOVER"**

*The opinions and thoughts written here are not of any Grand Lodge, but rather those of my own.*



From Your Pathfinder Advisor . . . Just wanted to extend a big shout-out to brother Gary Hartmann who recently completed his first path and is fervorously working on his second path in the Pathfinder program. Congratulations brother!! He was recently seen in the Bahamas rocking his justly deserved Pathfinder cap.

He is looking forward to receiving his 32nd degree in May. Under the recently revised qualifications for Pathfinder, any brother who has seen the 4th degree is eligible to sign up for the Pathfinder program, which can be done on the J365 website. It is truly the journey of a lifetime, where a brother can delve more deeply into the Scottish Rite, obtaining more knowledge and light. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I will be more than happy to assist you in continuing your journey or getting you started in Pathfinder. In addition, I can usually be found at most reunions at a table in the back. Stop by and say hi!!! Love, Light, and Service, Greg Vernicek  
dolphinchef@aol.com 917-816-1042

---

**We just presented our new "Not Just a Man. A Mason." video to leaders at the Conference of Grand Masters in North America. The ad was met with great acclaim and enthusiasm about the future of Freemasonry as we look to rising generations to lead us into the future.**

Brothers, we present to you our latest video: Timeless Connection. It invites today's men to discover what it *truly* means to be a Freemason while celebrating the values and friendships found in our fraternity. We hope this video leaves you feeling proud of the unwavering bond we share, and inspired for sharing our Craft with the next generation of Brothers.





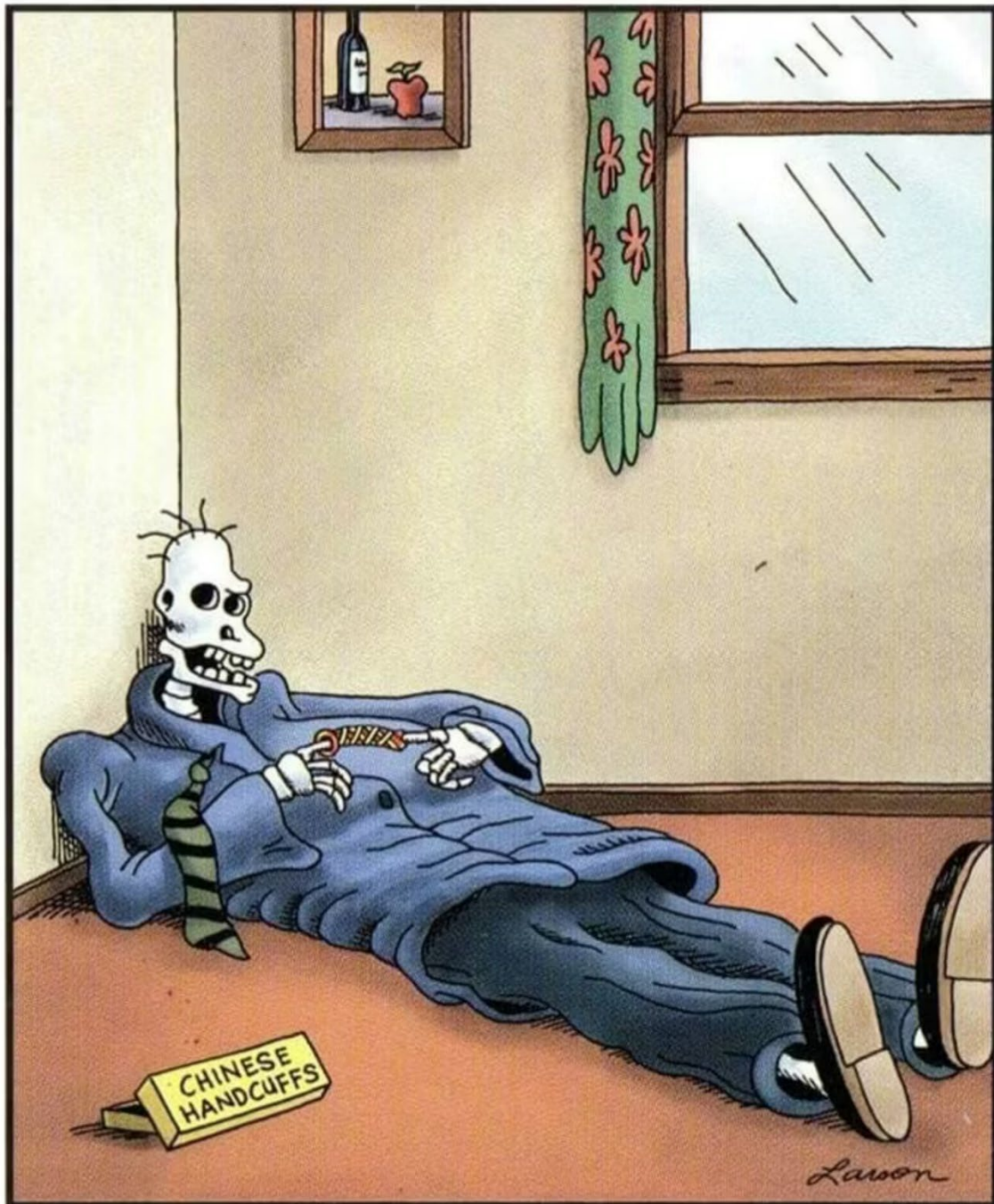
## Our February Birthdays

*happy birthday*

Amengor	Lionel	Godfrey	Barry	Price	Byrom
Athey	James	Haass	Ronald	Riebman	Ronald
Atkinson	Patrick	Hammock	Jerry	Rivera	Christopher
Barnes	James	Hardesty	Howard	Rouke	James
Beck	Bruce	Harper	Warren	Russo	Peter
Belmont	Charles	Hicks	Daryl	Savage	Eric
Bevans	Anthony	Hipp	David	Shaw	Scott
Boettcher	Dennis	Johnson	Walton	Smith	John
Coleman	William	Jorss	Damian	Smyk	Stephen
Comer	Thomas	Joyce	William	Steen	Curtis
Conley	Glen	Kerr	Steven	Swalm	Ricky
Conly	Brian	Kollias	Basil	Thompson	Albert
Crago	Donald	Konowitz	Herbert	Thompson	Larry
Cutright	Lawrence	Lightcap	David	Tucker	Stephen
Darczuk	Stefan	Lusk	Robert	Turansky	John
Dodson	Roger	Matthews	Loyal	Urick	Kevin
Dotterer	Robert	McDowell	Kenneth	Walters	Jeremy
Estep	Ralph	Megee	Don	Ware	Bryan
Frazer	Richard	Melchiorre	Vincent	Watts	Harold
Gaffney	James	O'Neal	Charles	Weisman	Milton
Gant	Lawrence	Plummer	George	Willey	Roger

# Leave them Laughing

A Little Bit of Larson



Houdini's final undoing