



# Masonic Home Journal

The Oldest Continuously Published Masonic Newspaper In The United States  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40299

MARCH 2025

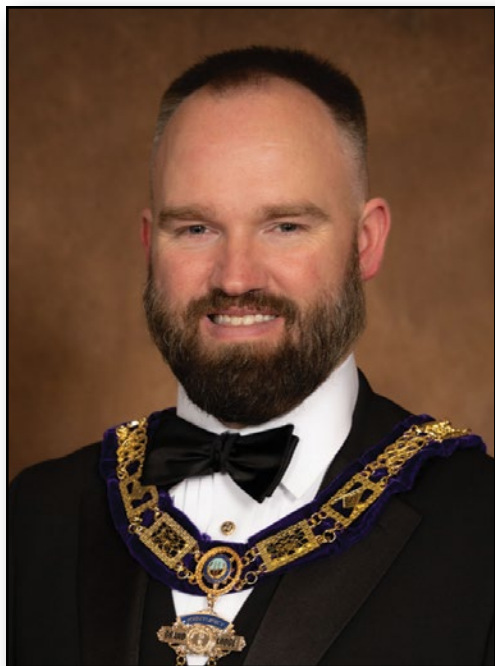
141ST YEAR OF PUBLICATION

NUMBER 6



*Brother Fred Wetzel installing the  
Wardens of Van Lear Lodge #885.*

# GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



**MITCHELL A. MAY**  
Grand Master 2024-2025

My Brothers,

When I was four years old, my parents purchased a tract of land near my maternal grandparents' home in eastern Kentucky. At the time, we still lived about fifteen minutes away in southwest Virginia. My father immediately began clearing the land and leveling it in preparation of building a new home for our family. In the meantime, my mother had purchased a grocery store that had long been in our family from my aunt. One day, a local conservation officer came into the store. He offered her several bundles of white pine saplings to distribute to customers as part of his work. She took a bundle home with her and planted a line of saplings along the border of our new property. My mom loved pine trees, and, as the trees grew, she took great effort to prevent damage to them. They grew into large, beautiful trees, and served as a great addition to our landscaping.

As anyone who has cultivated pine trees can tell you, once they sustain damage, unlike deciduous trees, they do not repair themselves. If you trim a pine tree, that branch never grows again past the point of pruning. If you remove the leader branch, or main vertical branch, it does not regenerate. One of the horizontal branches turns upward and takes its place. Thus, if you want pristine pine trees, you must remain prudent and resist the urge to prune them, and you must protect them from potentially irreparable damage.

We, as humans, are not unlike the lofty pines that lined my childhood home. Words and actions, even when they seem insignificant, can leave a lifelong impact. Be it a slip of the tongue, or a well-meant piece of constructive criticism, your words do carry consequences. I encourage you to remain mindful of this fact.

A few years ago, while watching an episode of *The Crown*, a historic drama based upon the British monarchy on Netflix, the Queen Mother reminded Queen Elizabeth that there are three things the British royals ask themselves before speaking: "Does it need to be said? Does it need to be said by me? Does it need to be said by me, now?" Reflecting upon this, and determining it to be wonderful advice, I began researching to find the origin of the thought. Surprisingly, it was not the British royals, but rather late-night comedian Craig Ferguson, in an interview years ago, who proposed these questions as a method of determining whether it was prudent to speak a thought.

Speaking without thinking can lead to harmful consequences. Just because a thought enters your head, even if it's valid, does not mean it will be productive to share it with others. Will it move the conversation forward? Further, you have to consider whether you're the right person to share the idea. Would it be better to come from someone else? If you are not the leader in the situation, would it be better to allow the leader to express their opinion? Would the information or critique be better received from someone else?

The consideration of time is a must, as well. Do you have all of the relevant information to make an informed opinion and decision? Is the setting right for the conversation? One of my mentors, Past Grand Master Gary C. Rose, told me long ago that it is better to praise in public and reprimand in private. Another mentor, Past Grand Master Timothy D. Sanders once told me, long before I was ever a District Deputy Grand Master, that "you have to know when to cut a snake's head off, and when to let it crawl away."

Brothers, if you arrive at a yes to each of the three original questions posed above, I would encourage you to finally ask yourself whether you are acting from a position of truth, love, and kindness. Reacting spitefully out of initial hurt from a situation, or out of revenge, is simply un-masonic. It is too late once words are said, because you cannot un-ring the proverbial bell any more than you can reattach the limb that has been sawn from a pine tree. The individuals concerned are forever changed.

My hope for each of you remains that you will move forward as Freemasons with a spirit of prudence, restraining the urge to react for the sake of reacting. Instead, consider all things in a spirit of reason. Ask yourself, will it produce a benefit for me? Will it produce a benefit for the other individual concerned? Will it produce a benefit for mankind? My Brothers, living a Masonic life is not for the faint of heart, as much as it requires action, sometimes it requires inaction. Even in the times of challenge, remember that with time, patience, and perseverance we shall accomplish all things!

Fraternally thine,

Mitchell A. May  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Kentucky F&AM



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In The United States

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF  
THE GRAND LODGE OF KENTUCKY

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Digital Photos are the preferred format.  
300 DPI (or as large as you can)  
Please consider your subject matter and lighting.  
Provide a list of names of the individuals in the photo.  
Word documents are the preferred format for the articles.  
Please send photos as separate files.  
Thanks for your help.

## 2025 DISTRICT MEETINGS

LADIES WELCOME TO ALL DISTRICT MEETING MEALS

### March 22 | District 23



Meal at 11:00 am  
-----  
District Meeting  
at Noon

Thomas Fletcher, DDGM  
Bourbon County High School  
3341 Lexington Road  
Paris, KY 40361

### March 22 | District 27



Meal at 5:00 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 6:00 pm

Billy Hall, DDGM  
El Hasa Shrine  
13450 KY 180 W  
Ashland, KY 41102

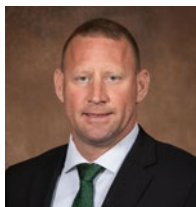
### March 28 | District 17



Meal at 6:30 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 7:30 pm

James Lewis, DDGM  
Carroll County Middle School  
408 5th Street  
Carrollton, KY 41008

### March 29 | District 20



Meal at 5:00 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 6:00 pm

Brad Durr, DDGM  
Lexington Scottish Rite  
553 Rosemont Garden  
Lexington, KY 40503

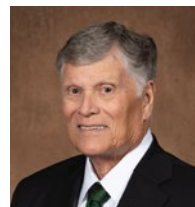
### March 29 | District 13



Meal at Noon  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 1:00 pm

Richard Viglione, DDGM  
Louisville Scottish Rite  
200 E. Gray Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

### March 29 | District 14



Meal at Noon  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 1:00 pm

Doug Puckett, DDGM  
Louisville Scottish Rite  
200 E. Gray Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

### April 4 | District 9



Meal at 6:30 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 7:30 pm

Mike Hoyle, DDGM  
Morrison Lodge No. 76  
125 N. Mulberry Street  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

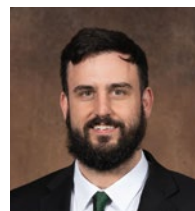
### April 5 | District 16



Meal at 3:00 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 4:00 pm

Brandon Metts, DDGM  
Mackville Community Center  
10651 Main Street  
Mackville, KY 40040

### April 5 | District 15



Meal at 9:00 am  
Meal at  
Bullitt Lodge No. 155  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 10:00 am

Stephen Hawkins, DDGM  
Bullitt Central High School  
1330 Highway 44 E  
Shepherdsville, KY 40165

### April 11 | District 24



Meal at 6:30 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 7:30 pm

Lee Jett, DDGM  
Stanton Christian Church  
100 W. Church Street  
Stanton, KY 40380

### April 12 | District 28



Meal at 11:00 am  
-----  
District Meeting  
at Noon

John Kazee, DDGM  
Salysersville First Baptist Church  
Dixie Avenue  
Salysersville, KY 41465

### April 12 | District 31



Meal at 5:00 pm  
-----  
District Meeting  
at 6:00 pm

Zachary Lucas, DDGM  
Paintsville Lodge No. 381  
408 2nd Street  
Paintsville, KY 41240

## GRAND HISTORIAN'S NOTES

My Brothers,

As the District Meetings get under way, I look forward to visiting with each of you as we travel across the Commonwealth. This month, I have included a brief description of the formation of our Grand Lodge 225 years ago. I trust that you will find this recitation both informative and enjoyable.

On Monday, September 08, 1800, at the invitation of then Lexington Lodge No. 25, a convention of the five lodges located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky opened at Masons' Hall in Lexington. Fifteen Brothers were present for the proceedings, including representatives of Lexington Lodge No. 25, Paris Lodge No. 35, Georgetown Lodge No. 46, Hiram Lodge No. 57, and Abraham Lodge, U.D. Brother John Hawkins, a Past Master of Georgetown Lodge No. 46 took the chair, and Brother Thomas Bodley served as Clerk. Brother William Murray was appointed as part of a committee to draft an address to the Grand Lodge of Virginia requesting consent to form a new Grand Jurisdiction in Kentucky, citing the extreme distance between Virginia's coast and the Kentucky frontier.

With the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia adopting a resolution consenting to the formation of a new Grand Lodge in Kentucky, the five lodges enumerated above met again at Masons' Hall in Lexington on Monday, October 08, 1800. Being the oldest Past Master present, Brother James Morrison of Lexington Lodge No. 25 (now No. 1) was requested to assume the Chair as President of the Convention. A Master Masons' Lodge was then opened in due form, the Masters of the several lodges produced their charters, as well as their credentials. Brother Morrison then held an election of Grand Officers with Brother William Murray, Master of Hiram Lodge No. 57 (now No. 4), being elected Grand Master. He was immediately installed, but waived his right to appointed a Deputy Grand Master and instead the Grand Lodge elected Brother Alexander McGraw, Master of Lexington Lodge No. 25 (now No. 1), to the position. Brother Simon Adams, Master of Abraham's Lodge, U.D., was elected Senior Grand Warden, and Brother Carey L. Clarke, Past Master of Georgetown Lodge No. 46 (now No. 3), was elected Junior Grand Warden. Brother James Russell was elected Grand Secretary, Brother John A. Seitz as Grand Treasurer, Brother Thomas Hughes as Grand Senior Deacon, Brother Nathaniel Williams as Junior Grand Deacon, Brother Samuel Shepherd as Grand Pursuivant, and Brother John Bobbs as Grand Tyler.

The following day, a resolution was adopted to draft a circular letter to the several Grand Lodges in the United States detailing the formation of our Grand Lodge. At the same time, the *Ahiman Rezon* published by Brother John K. Reid, Deputy Grand Master of Virginia, was adopted as the rule of government of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. Further, a resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of well-skilled Brothers to visit the different lodges subordinate to this Grand Jurisdiction and inspect their workings. Additionally, it was ordered that the five subordinate lodges be renumbered as Lexington Lodge No. 1, Paris Lodge No. 2, Georgetown Lodge No. 3, Hiram Lodge No. 4, and Solomon's (formerly Abraham's) Lodge No. 5. Charters were then reissued pursuant to this order, and the seal of Lexington Lodge No. 25 was used until one could be procured for use of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge, having completed its business, adjourned.

Fraternally Thine,

Jordan L. Staton (884, 856, 998)

Grand Historian

## THE CRAFT AT WORK



**Breathitt Lodge #649** honored three members that got their 50 year membership this past year. From left to right: Cameron Adam's Master; Charles Hays 50 year; Joe Mike Allen 50 year; Dennis Brown 50 year; Wallace Bates Senior Deacon.



**Owensboro Shrine Club & Clowns** were presented with a plaque in recognition for their Outstanding Service & Dedication to Rizpah Shrine & the Community "2024", Potentate Dennis Moore. Front row kneeling left to right: Eric Fagen & Jerry Maggard Sr. 2nd row standing left to right: David Havener; David Mulligan; Barry Spencer Jr.; John Roberts; Mike Johnson Club President with Plaque; John Eversole. Back row standing left to right: Koal West Paul Holloway Mike Jones Steve Rogers Garland Parker Vernie Beals. Lodges Represented; KY #130, #186, #379, #729, #742, #800, #878 & #112(IN).



On January 13th MWPGM Wilson Wilder and WB Walt Ryder installed Bryan Sharp as Master of **Solomon's Lodge #5**. We look forward to an exciting 225th year.

# THE CRAFT AT WORK



Elkhorn Masonic Lodge #568, from left to right: District 12 DDGM Paul Matthews (9), with Tom Smith (570, 132), and A. Wells (570), and WM Shane McStoots (568, 124). Our Brothers from Gavel Lodge No. 570 visited Elkhorn Lodge #568 on our January stated meeting and picked up the Travelling Gavel.



Congratulations to José Rivera Castillo (front row center) on being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at the stated meeting of Lexington Lodge #1 on February 3rd.



Brother Luis Arroyo presents a hand made plaque to Brother Jordan Fondren, in recognition of his raising to Master Mason on January 25th. Brother Fondren, of Camp Knox lodge, and 3 other brothers from District 9 lodges were raised in a special evening at the Stephensburg lodge.



On December 27th Jerusalem Lodge #9 held an open installation of officers that were able to attend. First photo: Officers left to right: Sec. - PM James Roll, SD - PM Peter Perrone, WM - Patrick Bassett, Treas. - PM Rob Toerne, Tiler - PM D. Dale Fritts, and Installing Master - PM Edward Anderson. Second photo: Brothers in attendance. Third photo: WM Patrick Bassett and outgoing PM J. Bryan Wingfield. Fourth photo: WM Patrick Bassett with his family. Fifth photo: WM Patrick Bassett, with his father, PM Bruce Bassett.

# THE CRAFT AT WORK



**Gateway Lodge #109** Top left photo: 2025 officers, front row: Treasurer Dwight Rider, Senior Warden Paul Word, Worshipful Master Eric Nelson, Junior Warden Alex Gallucci, Secretary Greg Hornsby, and Junior Steward Orlando Dos Santos. Second row: Tiler Jason Hale, Chaplain Kenny Rodgers, Senior Deacon Seth Channing, and Junior Deacon Chuck Mills. Senior Steward John Dettor is not pictured. Pictured top right, left to right. Newly installed WM Eric Nelson being presented to the Craft by installing Master Kenny Rodgers. Bottom left: PM Charles Bucky Gurren, Gateway Secretary Emeritus being presented a memorial in honor of his 26 years of service as Lodge Secretary. Bottom right: Greg Hornsby presented his PM Apron and "passed" PM Andy Wilder's Jewel from Andy's son PM Chris Wilder and family.



On January 28th, **Good Faith #95** installed their 2025 officers. Left to right; Bob Lainhart, Timothy Walker, WM Al Tucker, Kevin Schneider, & Greg Hornsby. Back row: Chaplain Tim Ellis, SD Matt Grubbs, JS Chuck Mills, Tiler Mark Leming, JD Kevin O'Neill, & SS Stan Redrow. Pictured: WM Al Tucker being placed in the East by installing Master and Marshall PM's Kenny Rodgers and Chuck Black. WB Ken Grubbs was presented his 50-year Masonic service pin by his son Matt Grubbs and WM Al Tucker.

## THE CRAFT AT WORK

### WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHY

By Stephen D. Bowling (649, 939, 996)

The King James Version of the Bible mentions thirty-seven types of trees or wood in its holy pages. Most are mentioned in passing or with specific purposes. Two very specific woods teach us great lessons as men and Masons.

Woodmen felled the cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*) for their strong, durable wood, known throughout the Middle East for its beauty and aromatic lumber. The cedars can grow 130 feet tall, and the oldest are about eight feet in circumference. The bark of the cedar was used to treat leprosy and other ailments. The cedars spread a large canopy, allowing sunlight to filter through the needle-like leaves, offering travelers a place of cool peace and respite. The tall cedars became a symbol of the strength and power of the region. The tall trees were highly desired for building materials and were used as roofing support beams to create large open expanses.

Shittim wood boasts none of the qualities of the tall cedars. The shittim, or shittah, tree is a small member of the acacia family. Its small, irregular branches are twisted and difficult for carpenters to work. A hardwood, the shittim is considered a “trash wood” and holds little value for woodworkers and carpenters.

The two types of wood have very different uses in the history of Freemasonry. The cedars of Lebanon were chopped down and hauled, by way of Joppa, to Mount Moriah for the construction of the holy Temple of Solomon. Its large beams covered the Holy of Holies and the Temple. God chose the shittim tree’s twisted wood to be used for the Ark of the Covenant. The plans for the Ark of the Testimony were given to Moses during his 40-day stay on Mount Sinai, and Bezalel and Aholiab constructed the ark.

The juxtaposition of these two trees teaches the masonic principle of purpose. Mark Twain once wrote: “The two most important days in a person’s life are the day they were born and the day they find out why they were born.” God found purpose in both of the trees. To the naked eye, the cedar was more valuable and highly prized, yet the twisted branches of the shittim wood were chosen to house the pot of manna, Aaron’s rod, and the tablets. It was the most unlikely wood to be selected for the mercy seat where God’s presence dwelt with man on earth.

As Masons, we must see value in everyone and everything, regardless of appearance or history. We learn that, as Masons, we are called to service. The great challenge for us is to find that purpose and the opportunities we have to serve our fellow man. In short, we should celebrate those two days identified by Twain and see a God-centered purpose in us all. We have to find our purpose!

### MASONIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUPPORT A LEGACY OF CARING

*Contributed by: Director of Development & Fraternal Relations David Young*

#### The Badge of a Mason Giving Program Update

Did you know that on average, Masonic Homes Kentucky spends more than \$225 per day on each resident? Our Masonic principles are endowed with a belief in God and helping our fellow man through charitable means and the **Badge of a Mason** campaign was established to honor this legacy. Funds raised support Masons and widows who need assistance while living at Masonic Homes Kentucky. Since its inception, Badge of a Mason has raised more than \$135,000.

Participating lodges are recognized and celebrated annually at the Master Mason Dinner where they are presented with a shadow box of the year’s commemorative apron featuring an iconic landmark to display at their lodge.

The Friends of Masonic Homes was created to offer an easy way to support the campaign and enable all Brothers, their wives and widows, the opportunity to give with a recurring monthly donation. The ease of an ACH or debit card donation monthly can be calculated by lodge affiliation. The sum of the monthly contributions will roll up to a designated giving level and the lodge will be recognized as a Badge of a Mason.

To participate, talk to your District Ambassador or contact Development & Fraternal Relations Director David Young at [dyoung@masonicky.com](mailto:dyoung@masonicky.com) or 502.753.8828.

#### The Great Day of Service on Louisville Campus

Come to Give Back. Stay to Learn More! Bring family and friends to participate in the 17th annual Great Day of Service with a twist on Saturday, April 26 on Masonic Homes Kentucky’s Louisville Campus. The event will start at 9 am with coffee and donuts, then attendees can assist with light volunteer projects, participate in campus tours, and then enjoy a fish fry lunch supported by Suburban Lodge No. 740. To participate, lodges may sign-up by calling Manager of Donor Relations Brenda Travis at 502.753.8892.

#### 2025 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars and plan now to be part of the upcoming events

**March – May:** Friends of Masonic Homes Presentations  
at District Meetings

**April 26:** Great Day of Service

**June 23:** Sproutlings Annual Golf Scramble at Valhalla

**July 13:** Masonic Alumni Reunion

**August 13:** Carefree Living Luncheon

**September 22:** Jim Johnson Charity Golf Classic

**October 24:** The Gilded Age Gala to benefit Sproutlings

#### Follow Us Online

Stay in the know of all things happening by following Masonic Homes Kentucky on Facebook and Instagram.

## ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE - ORIENT OF KENTUCKY



Brethren,

What do you think if Illustrious Brother Albert Pike would say if he sat in on one of our Reunions? Would he critique our Degree Work, our production of the Degree, or maybe the essence of the Degree we are trying to portray. Remember, he did rewrite most of the Scottish Rite Degrees to be acted out on a stage for better viewing and clarity. Just something for us to think about.

The Consistories are gearing up for their Spring Reunions. Let's all Scottish Rite members pitch in and help anyway we can. We do realize for some members their Consistory is quite a trip away from home, but if you can make one Reunion a year, that would be great. But most importantly, the Reunions need candidates. Ask that Blue Lodge Brother to join you at the University of Freemasonry. All you have to do is ask! Call your Consistory for petitions.

Please remember the RiteCare Foundation in your Consistory. Our mission to help children with speech issues is a Blessing. Check out our new RiteCare website at [www.ritecareofkentucky.org](http://www.ritecareofkentucky.org) and see the great work that is being done for the kids.

Remember our senior members that may need a ride to our or any Masonic meeting. Take care and may God Bless!

Terry L. Bowman, PGM, 33°  
SGIG, Orient of Kentucky





# ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE - ORIENT OF KENTUCKY

## GOAL SETTING 2025 (PART 2)

Let's get to work. A few years ago, we had a situation at our Consistory where the cost of our insurance skyrocketed to over \$7,000.00. Our Secretary Registrar and I started searching for other insurance companies and found a brother in Alabama that saved us over \$3,000.00 per year. His name is David Caldwell. His email is david@caldwellinsurance.net. His phone number is (256) 582-4020. His website is insuremylodge.com. I encourage everyone to contact him and get a quote for your lodge. I hope this information helps.

Our District Meetings started February 28th with District 5. Our DDGM Sam Ware 33° did an outstanding job. Districts 7 and 8 meet March 1, District 1 March 14, District 2,3,4 March 15. We will have a table set up at each district meeting for anyone interested in what the Scottish Rite is.

Our first lady Ada May is supporting our philanthropy this year. Her pins are \$10.00. I CHALLENGE EVERY SCOTTISH RITE MEMBER (except our SGIG) to purchase pins. If you are the PR or Sec/Reg you should have a minimum of 7, 33° minimum of 5, 32°KCCH minimum 3, 32° Scottish Rite member minimum 1. I know as an appendant body we quietly work behind the scenes, but this year we need to step it up and shine. Helping children with speech and language disorders between the ages of 2 and 7 learn to talk and communicate helps our communities and families and makes our world a better place to live.

Our next meeting is March 20th with the meal at 6 PM and the meeting at 7 PM.

Our next Reunion is April 5th. I hope to see you there.

May God Bless You, your Family, your Lodge and the USA,

Douglas W. Bunch, 32° KCCH Personal Representative  
Western Kentucky Scottish Rite, Valley of Madisonville



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 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFO:  
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 BE SURE YOU HAVE NOTIFIED YOUR  
 LODGE SECRETARY

## ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE - ORIENT OF KENTUCKY

MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
COVINGTON SCOTTISH RITE

*"I Didn't Know That....."*

### WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR 2025

Worshipful Brother John W. Bizzack, Master of William O. Ware Lodge of Research, has announced the Lodge's Educational Programs for 2025. Two called meetings to hold Masonic debates and two "Papers Nights" will highlight the year.

The Lodge will kick off its program for the year by calling a stated meeting for Wednesday, March 12. This meeting will be the first of two "Debate Nights" hosted by the Lodge of Research. The March meeting will be held in historic Spindletop Hall, 3414 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, Kentucky. The topic for debate that evening will be the issue of whether the fundamental business is the exploration of the philosophy and symbols of Freemasonry, or that of a civic improvement club. The tyled meeting will open at 7:30 P. M. eastern time. All Masons are invited. Attendees must make their own dinner arrangements.

The Lodge's stated meeting on April 30 will be the first of two "Papers Nights" that the Lodge will host this year. Any Mason who wishes to submit a paper for consideration to be read at Papers Night may do so by e-mailing a copy to [secretary@williamowarelodgeofresearch@gmail.com](mailto:secretary@williamowarelodgeofresearch@gmail.com). All stated meetings are held at the Temple of Phoenix Lodge No. 719, 92 North Main Street, Walton, Kentucky. Dinner is at 6:15 P. M. and Lodge opens at 7:30 P. M.

The Lodge of Research will return to Spindletop Hall on June 25 for a second called meeting and Debate Night II. The next stated meeting of William O. Ware Lodge of Research will be on July 30 at the Temple of Phoenix Lodge No. 719. The theme of this stated meeting will be "Papers Night II." Times and details for these two events will be the same as those preceding.

On September 19, William O. Ware Lodge of Research will co-host The Rubicon Masonic Society's 13th Annual Festive Board, and on September

20 the Lodge of Research will be the principal host for the "Exploring the Role of Masonic Research Lodges in the 21st Century" Conference.

Moderators at the conference will include M. W. John L. Cooper III, PGM, California (who will also be the Keynote Speaker at the Festive Board), M. W. Brother David Cameron, PGM, Canada, R. W. Brother Andrew Hammer, President, Masonic Restoration Foundation, R. W. Brother David L. Daugherty, Past Master, Ohio Lodge of Research, and Worshipful Brother Rich Hanson, Chairman, Grand Lodge of Kentucky Committee on Masonic Education. There will be a special presentation by W. B. S. Brent Morris on the history of research lodges.

William O. Ware will close its activities with its annual Festive Board at Walt's Hitching Post on November 6. Tickets are limited for this event and are \$100 each. Be sure to reserve your ticket now.

Throughout 2025, the Lodge of Research will be selling raffle tickets for a Kentucky Long Rifle, to be given away at the annual dinner on November 6. Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased through the Lodge's website, [www.williamowarelodgeofresearch.com](http://www.williamowarelodgeofresearch.com).

Finally, the website for William O. Ware Lodge of Research has received a facelift. Please visit the website and explore our library of book reviews (over 70 at present time), essays (approximately 100), videos and historic documents.

All meetings of William O. Ware Lodge of Research are conducted on the Master Mason Degree, but educational content is suitable for Masons of all Degrees, unless otherwise noted. Attire for all William O. Ware events is suit and tie. Make plans now to attend William O. Ware Lodge of Research's events for 2025. Please address all questions to [secretary@williamowarelodgeofresearch.com](mailto:secretary@williamowarelodgeofresearch.com).

.....*What do you think?*



Greetings My Brothers All,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. As we embark on the journey towards our Spring/Summer activities, I am filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the events that lie ahead.

This year, our focus is on unity and collaboration, as we believe that together, we can achieve remarkable things. By working hand in hand, we can strengthen our bonds and bring our shared vision to life. Let us embrace every opportunity to support one another and make our Fraternity stronger.

Sharing with you some of our upcoming events, I am pleased to announce our Spring/Summer Reunion Class honoring Illustrious Leslie Edward Black, 33° beginning March 1, 2025, and concluding on June 7, 2025. If you know anyone interested in joining the Scottish Rite, please inform them of this opportunity. They can contact me personally or call the Scottish Rite office for more information and a petition. Let your desire for Masonic Light become a reality and join us for this upcoming reunion class.

At the request of our Grand Master Mitchell May, the Scottish Rite will once again host a Unity Class with the York Rite, with the York Rite hosting their Festival on Friday August 22, 2025, and the Scottish Rite Reunion on August 23, 2025.

I encourage you to take part in the many activities and opportunities that are offered to you as a member of the Scottish Rite. I look forward to seeing you at the Scottish Rite Temple.

Geary F. Laird, PGM, 33°  
Personal Representative, Valley of Louisville

# ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE - ORIENT OF KENTUCKY

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Louisville  
 Valley of Louisville Reunion Schedule  
 Ill. Leslie Edward Black, 33°  
 Spring Reunion:  
 Part I: March 1, 2025 4° - 17°  
 Part II: June 7, 2025 30° - 32°

Ill. James B. Wall, 33°  
 Summer Unity Reunion/Festival  
 York Rite Bodies - August 22, 2025  
 Scottish Rite - August 23, 2025

2025 Calendar of Events

1-Jan New Year's Day Open House; 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm  
 9-Jan Stated Meeting - Elections; Chapter/Consistory/Guard/KSA  
 9-Jan Master Craftsman  
 15-Jan 33° Dinner  
 23-Jan Stated Meeting (LOP) - Installation of Officers/Family Dinner  
  
 13-Feb Stated Meeting (KCCH) - Valentines Day Dinner  
 13-Feb Master Craftsman  
 27-Feb Stated Meeting (LOP) - Washington/Master Mason Night  
 3rd Section of the Master Mason Degree  
  
 1-Mar Spring Reunion; Ill. Leslie Edward Black, 33°  
 Part I: 4° - 17°  
 13-Mar Stated Meeting (LOP) - Confer 18° (CRC)  
 13-Mar Master Craftsman  
 27-Mar Stated Meeting (LOP) - Confer 20° (CRC)  
 29-Mar GL Districts 13, 14 Meeting @ Noon  
  
 10-Apr Stated Meeting (CRC) Open Meeting  
 Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal  
 10-Apr Master Craftsman  
 16-Apr 33° Dinner  
 24-Apr Stated Meeting (LOP) - Communicate 21° - 28°  
  
 8-May Stated Meeting (LOP) - Family Dinner;  
 Widows Night and SR Foundation Meeting  
 8-May Master Craftsman  
 22-May Stated Meeting (LOP) - Confer 29° (KSA)

7-Jun Spring Reunion; Ill. Leslie Edward Black, 33°  
 Part II Reunion; 30° - 32°  
 12-Jun Stated Meeting (CKK) - Flag Day Program; Family Dinner/Capping Ceremony  
 12-Jun Master Craftsman  
 26-Jun Stated Meeting (KSA) - Battle of Bannockburn Presentation  
  
 10-Jul Stated Meeting (LOP)  
 10-Jul Master Craftsman  
 16-Jul 33° Dinner  
 24-Jul Stated Meeting (LOP)  
  
 August Dark-No Stated Meetings  
 22-Aug York Rite One Day Festival; York Rite Bodies  
 23-Aug Scottish Rite One Day Reunion; Ill. James B. Wall, 33°  
  
 11-Sep Stated Meeting (LOP) - Service Awards; Family Dinner/Capping Ceremony  
 11-Sep Master Craftsman  
 25-Sep Stated Meeting (LOP)  
  
 9-Oct Stated Meeting (LOP) - Family Dinner; Feast of Tishri  
 9-Oct Master Craftsman  
 15-Oct 33° Dinner  
 Oct 20-21 Grand Lodge 226th Annual Communication  
 23-Oct Stated Meeting (LOP)  
  
 13-Nov Stated Meeting (AHF) - Veterans Program; Family Dinner  
 13-Nov Master Craftsman  
 Nov 21-22 AASR Honours Weekend  
 27-Nov Dark - Thanksgiving Day  
  
 11-Dec Stated Meeting (LOP) - Family Dinner and Christmas Program  
 11-Dec Master Craftsman  
 13-Dec Guard's Dinner  
 25-Dec Dark - No stated meeting  
  
 1-Jan New Year's Day Open House; 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm  
 8-Jan Stated Meeting - Elections; Lodge/Council/Guard/KSA  
 8-Jan Master Craftsman  
 21-Jan 33° Dinner  
 22-Jan Stated Meeting (LOP) - Installation of Officers/Family Dinner



## Scottish Rite Creed

*Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.*



## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth, while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values, including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family, and country.

# THE CRAFT AT WORK



Stone #890 and Stone #533 OES giving laptop computers to four Belfry High School students in honor of Monroe Justice Jr.



Shawnee Lodge #830 is off to a great start for 2025 under the leadership of Master Larry Franklin. Larry creates a welcoming atmosphere. He will guide the lodge toward a bright and prosperous future. Many brothers attended our official visit from Richard Viglione, District Deputy of District 13 on February 4, 2025. We hope that you will visit us soon.

# BY-LAW NOTICES

## IRVINGTON LODGE #868

At the next stated meeting in the month following publication in the Masonic Home Journal, Irvington Lodge #868 will be reviewing and amending its current By-Laws. All bothers are urged to attend.

## JENKINS YORK RITE

At the next stated meeting after this article appears in the masonic home journal, Jenkins York Rite will be voting on changing their meeting night from the 4th monday back to the 2nd tuesday of each month.



# LODGE ARTICLES AND SUBMISSIONS

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE

# Masonic Home Journal

ARE DUE BY THE 5TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

[masonichomejournal@grandlodgeofkentucky.org](mailto:masonichomejournal@grandlodgeofkentucky.org)

**CALL THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE**

**502-893-0192**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



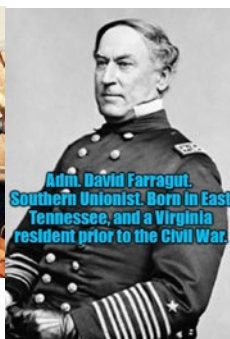
# Veterans Corner



...even on our worst day, we are blessed to live in America



"DAMN THE TORPEDOS, FULL SPEED AHEAD!"



Adm. David Farragut, Southern Unionist. Born in East Tennessee, and a Virginia resident prior to the Civil War.



**Flag Etiquette** THE US FLAG DOES NOT DIP during ceremonies or movement .... It remains erect at all times. It may be lowered when going thru a door or when being cased for travel

March 5, 2022  
Seabee Birthday



The difficult we do now ....  
The Impossible takes a little longer.

"Damn the torpedoes"  
Most popular accounts of the battle of Mobile Bay relate that USS Brooklyn slowed when USS Tecumseh crossed her path, and Farragut asked why she was not moving ahead. The reply came back that naval mines (then called "torpedoes") were in her path—to which he allegedly replied, "Damn the torpedoes..... Full Speed Ahead"



**Vietnam Veterans Day**  
29 March 2025





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# Masonic Home Journal

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MARCH 2025

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Most Worshipful Carroll M. Curtis, P.G.M. installing his son, Worshipful Seth C. Curtis, as Master of **Georgetown Lodge #3** on Monday, January 20, 2025.



On January 20th the brothers from **Phoenix Lodge #719 Boone United Lodge #264** presented Boone County Sheriff Michael A. Helmig with an award for his life time of dedication and service to the citizens of Boone County. As well as a donation made in his name to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research as Sheriff Helmig is retiring in April from the on set and effects of Parkinson's disease. Last photo, pictured from left to right: Brother Joe Pierce 264, Brother Robert Denney PM V 719, Brother Ralph Kelly PM 264, Brother Mike Rodgerson Worshipful Master 264 Sheriff Michael A Helmig, Brother Wayne Denney PM 719, Brother Mike Cummins Worshipful Master 719, Masonic Homes Ambassador District 18, Brother Sean Weaver PM 719, PDDGM District 19.