



## Mid-Winter Degree Program – 7th and 20th Degrees – Saturday, February 22, 2003

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Cincinnati will reach a significant milestone in 2003 with the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of its founding. A series of special events is planned throughout the year to mark this achievement and to focus public attention on the impact the organization has had on the community.

The 150th Anniversary celebrations will officially begin on Sunday, January 19, 2003 with an inaugural program at the Cincinnati Masonic Center, headquarters for the 12,500 member Scottish Rite organization. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will feature an Anniversary Concert by the Scottish Rite Cathedral Choir, a book-signing of the soon-to-be-released history of the Valley of Cincinnati by the author, Jack P. DeVise, 33° and

complimentary refreshments. Members, their families and friends as well as the general public are invited to attend and advance reservations are not required.

The anniversary year's special events, which were outlined in the last issue of the *Rite Recorder*, are more fully described in the brochure to be included with the next issue. Readers will notice that, with the exception of the spring and fall reunions, all events are open to families and, in many cases, to the general public. The goal of the anniversary celebrations is to reach outside the Fraternity and promote community involvement during this important year.

Richard A. Graeter II, Chairman of the 150th Anniversary Committee, stresses that greater public awareness is a very critical aspect of the cele-

brations. "Simply holding a party for ourselves would be insular and almost self-defeating. The public needs to be made better aware of who we are and what we represent. The 150th Anniversary offered an ideal opportunity to design events that would help tell our story."

In addition to the 150th Anniversary Inaugural Program on January 19, other special events include the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children Charity Walk-a-thon on June 8; Founders' Day Picnic at Coney Island on Saturday, August 9; and the official 150th Anniversary Celebration at the Cincinnati Museum Center on September 13. Events for Masons only include the 150th Anniversary Reunion on April 25 & 26 and the 2003 Fall Reunion on November 15 & 16.

## Landmark Reunion Marks 150th Anniversary Year

The 150th Annual Reunion of the Valley of Cincinnati will be the only exclusively Masonic event in a year-long series of special events marking the 150th Anniversary of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in this area. The two-day convocation will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 25 & 26, 2003 at the Cincinnati Masonic Center.

Attendance is expected to be much larger than normal in view of the historic nature of this reunion. "This is one of

those once-in-a-lifetime events that our members will not want to miss," commented Raymond T. Clark, General Chairman of the 150th Annual Reunion. "Everyone wants to be a part of history and we expect an overflow crowd for this highly significant milestone."

Chairman Clark, in a departure from recent practice, has announced that the class will honor the seven charter members who founded the Valley of Cincinnati in 1853. Typically,

classes are named to recognize the accomplishments of living members. Because of the historical nature of this reunion, he felt establishing a connection between the present and the past would be meaningful. The name of the class, *The Magnificent Heritage Class* also has historical connotations as it ties in with the recently released history of the valley.

The Presiding Officers of the valley have released the schedule of degrees for this

### Calendar of Events

- Feb 13 Stated Meeting
- Feb. 22 Mid-Winter Degree Program Featuring 7° & 20°
- Mar 13 Stated Meeting
- Mar 15 Family Program Featuring *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit – a Musical*
- Mar 22 One-Day Class (Symbolic Lodge Degrees Only)
- Apr 10 Stated Meeting
- Apr 13 Easter Season Cathedral Hour
- Apr 25 & 26 **150th Anniversary Reunion**  
*The Magnificent Heritage Class*
- May 8 Annual Meeting
- May 10 Installation of Officers
- June 6 & 7 Ohio Council of Deliberation 106th Annual Meeting
- June 8 Learning Center Charity Walk-a-thon

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## *The Rite Recorder*

Official Publication of the  
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite  
Valley of Cincinnati

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*Active Member*  
Alfred E. Rice, 33°  
*Active Member Emeritus*

## Scottish Rite & Habitat For Humanity Seek Support

The Valley of Cincinnati hopes to put into action two of Freemasonry's principle tenets—that of Brotherly Love and Charity—as the Presiding Officers and the Board of Trustees have announced a new civic service initiative. The plan is to join with the Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity organization and the Scottish Rite, Prince Hall Affiliation to build a home for a needy family. The planned project is on Winkler Street behind Vine Street Elementary School, and is scheduled to begin construction in late spring to early summer.

To undertake such a project requires commitment from the membership. Both skilled as well as non-skilled labor can be utilized. If you can hold a hammer and drive a nail, then you are qualified to participate! In fact, many non-labor positions are need-

ed as well (see the two-page insert). Work generally takes place each Saturday, for five months. Volunteers can commit to just one, or to several Saturdays of volunteer time. Each workday is for an eight-hour shift, and lunch is provided for you.

Included as an insert to this issue of the *Rite Recorder* is a volunteer form. Please take the time to check the appropriate boxes of your preferences and skill levels, and return it to the Scottish Rite Office, 317 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**IMPORTANT:** As the deadline for commitment to this project rapidly approaches, we request that you do not hesitate. If you would like to participate, please return the form promptly so the Valley leadership can assess the level of support from our membership.

## Symbolic Lodge One-Day Class March 22

Following on the success of Ohio's first ever One-Day Class last year, Most Worshipful Brother William P. Mayberry, Sr., 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio has announced that he will continue the event this year. The One-Day Class is designed to attract good men who, because of business or family obligations, are unable to join the Fraternity in the traditional format.

Last year's event attracted over 8,300 new Master Masons throughout the state, and nearly 1,100 in the Valley of Cincinnati's geographical area. The format of this year's event will change somewhat, with the One-Day Class being held on the

district level, rather than statewide. In the First Masonic District, which covers the Cincinnati-Hamilton County area, the event will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2003. Michael A. Himes, 33°, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be the local coordinator of the event. This year the One-Day Class will only include the three Symbolic Lodge degrees. The Scottish Rite Reunion and Shrine Ceremonial will not be incorporated into the event.

Petitions and fees for the One-Day Class are being handled through the local lodges. Contact your lodge secretary for blank petitions and additional information.

## Landmark Reunion

*Continued from page 1*

reunion. Eight degrees will be conferred including the 12°, 14°, 15°, 16°, 17°, 18°, 24°, 32°. The Twenty-fourth Degree to be conferred on Saturday afternoon is of particular interest. Popularly known as the *American Indian Degree*, it uses an entirely new ritual and incorporates lessons of contemporary significance.

There will be four banquets, all open to the general membership. The banquet on

Friday evening will recreate the *King's Feast*, an annual feature of reunions that has fallen into disuse in recent years (For more information on the *King's Feast* see *A Magnificent Heritage*, the official history of the Valley of Cincinnati, page 374).

The complete reunion schedule and banquet ticket order forms will be available in next month's issue of the *Rite Recorder*.

# Proposed Dues Increase Helps Assure Financial Stability

A resolution to increase annual dues from \$35 to \$50 was introduced at the last stated meeting of the Four Coordinate Bodies on January 9, 2003. Several factors entered into this decision which should be brought before the entire membership.

The overriding consideration, of course, was the maintenance of the strong financial position of the Valley of Cincinnati. The proposed dues increase is in step with the policy of careful and responsible fiscal management which has resulted in the lowest annual dues rate of any valley in Ohio! The increase, if enacted, will bring the Valley of Cincinnati in line with the statewide average of \$46 and still less than two valleys.

Escalating costs of operation was another factor which had to be considered. The Scottish Rite is not exempt from increases in taxes, utilities, maintenance and repair. To continue an appropriate level of care of our landmark building in the heart of downtown Cincinnati, in which all Masons take such pride, requires large expenditures. Reducing the maintenance budget and the ongoing program of restoration and improvement would

only jeopardize the image and presence of Freemasonry in the community.

An increase in the annual per capita (assessment) charged local valleys by the parent organization (Supreme Council, N.M.J.) also made a dues increase unavoidable. The expansion and development of programs on a national level, such as the highly successful 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. require additional operating revenue which can only be raised through subsidiary valleys.

The increase in annual dues will also assure the scope and consistently high level of programming which the membership has come to expect. The leadership of the Valley of Cincinnati is committed to providing the very best programs possible for members and their families at little or no cost. (Example: substantial underwriting by the Scottish Rite makes tickets for Home for the Holidays, which sell to the public at \$23-\$33, available to members for only \$5.)

The formal resolution to amend the Rules & Regulations can be found on page 4. A vote on the proposed legislation will be held at the

# Good Cheer

To comfort our distressed worthy brethren is a duty incumbent on all Masons. The following is a list of Scottish Rite members who are known to be hospitalized or have been recuperating at home or residing in a retirement center. Please take a moment to send a note or card to give encouragement and cheer.

## Recuperating at Home

- C.K. Wright, 33°  
3525 Forestoak Court  
Cincinnati, OH 45208-1808
- Lloyd W. Bridges  
1664 Vaquera Place  
Cincinnati, OH 45255-2524
- Clifford H. Montgomery  
4734 Vicarb Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45244-1737
- John E. Nave  
1245 Shirmer  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

## Retirement Community

- Robert C. McSpadden, 33°  
New England Club  
8135 Beechmont Avenue Room E-153  
Cincinnati, OH 45255
- Robert W. Prewitt, M.S.A.  
Eastgate Village Apt. #409  
776 Old S.r. 74  
Cincinnati, OH 45245
- Walter Reffitt  
Heartland of Hillsboro  
1141 Northview Drive  
Hillsboro, OH 45133
- R. Russell Ridgley  
Mount Pleasant Village  
225 Britton Lane Room 206  
Monroe, OH 45050

Here is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5.00 Per Person  
Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Mid-Winter Degree Program Luncheon.

## Mid-Winter Degree Program Luncheon

February 22, 2003

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **February 14, 2003**  
Send check payable to **Valley of Cincinnati** and self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of tickets to:  
Scottish Rite Degree Program Luncheon  
317 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

February 22nd

Here is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ at \$5.00 Per Person  
Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Family Program.

## Family Program

March 15, 2003

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **March 10, 2003**  
Send check payable to **Valley of Cincinnati** and self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of tickets to:  
Scottish Rite Family Program  
317 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

March 15th

# In Memoriam

Raymond G. Gates	.....	January 1, 2003
Edward L. Henke	.....	January 1, 2003
Eldon L. Kirkpatrick	.....	January 4, 2003
Ronald H. Goodwin	.....	January 5, 2003
Harris G. Hoffman	.....	January 5, 2003
Taylor Jones	.....	January 6, 2003
Burl L. Colliver	.....	N/A
Francis K. Smith	.....	August 12, 2002
Robert K. Bennett	.....	December 12, 2002
Everett E. McFann	.....	December 24, 2002
Charles G. Boyle	.....	December 29, 2002
Otto P. Oppenheimer	.....	January 1, 2003
Albert W. Holloway	.....	January 7, 2003
Carl Green, Jr.	.....	January 9, 2003
Robert L. Lindsey, Sr.	.....	January 11, 2003
Robert E. Holmes	.....	January 14, 2003
Raymond R. Dowd	.....	January 16, 2003
Armon P. Ashton	.....	January 16, 2003
Arthur R. Kuhn	.....	January 18, 2003

## Peter Rabbit Performance on March 15th is 2003 Family Program

The Scottish Rite **Family Program** for 2003 will be a performance of *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit* presented by The Children's Theatre on Saturday, March 15th. The Valley of Cincinnati is pleased to underwrite this whole-family event. The tale of the mischievous long-eared carrot-nabber and his nemesis Farmer McGregor is likely to be a huge hit especially with the youngest generation.

**The Family Program** is a product of the continued evolution of the Father/Son and Father/Son & Daughter events of the past seventeen years. With what certainly feels like greater and greater demands on our time, a single gathering for parents, grandparents and children on a Saturday afternoon has proved to be most convenient for the majority of the interested members.

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. will be the first order of the day. While carrots would seem

to be the most logical entrée, instead there will be a pizza party on the grandest possible scale. A variety of toppings (maybe including carrots) will be available as well as salad, breadsticks and beverages. The performance will follow in the Taft Theatre.

The program is open to all Scottish Rite members and their spouses and, of course, their children and grandchildren. The entire package, lunch and ticket to the performance, is reasonably priced at \$5.00 per person. Tickets for the event may be purchased **by mail order** immediately, using the order form found on page 4 of this issue. Over the counter sales of any remaining tickets will commence on February 17. Ticket sales close on March 10th. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope when placing your order by mail.

We are sorry, but to assure that the maximum number of brothers and their families



can enjoy this event, a restriction of no more than five tickets per member will be observed.

Non-Profit Org.  
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317 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3399

**Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite**

## Proposed Dues overflow from page 3

stated meeting on March 13, 2003.

### **RESOLUTION TO INCREASE DUES**

A resolution to amend Article VI, Section 2 of the Rules & Regulations of the Valley of Cincinnati was presented in proper form before a stated meeting of the Four Coordinate Bodies on January 9, 2003. A vote to adopt or reject the resolution will be held at the stated meeting on March 13, 2003.

In its entirety, the resolution reads:

Resolved that Article VI, Section 2(a) of the amended Rules & Regulations of the Valley of Cincinnati of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite which now reads:

"Dues for the Lodge shall be \$8.75, for the Council \$8.75, for the Chapter \$8.75 and for the Consistory \$8.75, payable on or before the first day of July for the ensuing year. Providing that any member having