

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

James G. Hamlin, 33°
Personal Representative
of the S.G.I.G.
(425) 419-7893



Terry Grove, 33°
General Secretary
2431 Rucker Avenue # 1
Everett, WA . 98201
(425) 610-4561

Orient of Washington - Valley of Everett

Volume 34

DECEMBER 2025

Issue 12

THE RITE BULLETIN



From The Personal Representative
Ill. James G. Hamlin, 33°



Navigating the Line Between Duty and Dissent

At our October 6th meeting an interesting topic was raised. In our blue lodges we do not talk about politics or religion, and we all took an obligation to uphold the laws of the land and respect civil authority. Yet many of the Degrees of the Scottish Rite address political and religious tyranny and our duty to rise up against tyranny.

The question kicking around in my mind is; when is it proper for a Mason to speak out or even act against his government, its policies, or actions?

Many of the founders of this nation were Freemasons, they threw boxes of tea into Boston Harbor and started a revolution against the constituted authority. Our nation's founding fathers like George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, both Freemasons, led a revolution against British rule. Their actions were not seen as violations of Masonic duty, but as a defense of natural rights.

We hail them as heroes but vilify Benedict Arnold, another Freemason, who maintained his allegiance to the crown.

When the Southern States seceded from the United States, they took-up arms against their nation over an issue that much of our country thought violated civil and more importantly moral law. Each of these states had active Masonic Lodges with estimates that there were tens of thou-

sands Freemason in the South.

Were there conversations within Lodges in Colonial America and the South about the state of affairs/politics of the county? Did they talk about the line between duty and dissent?

How about actions our government has taken more recently: The internment of Japanese Americans in 1942; the social restrictions imposed on us during the covid pandemic; the efforts to overturn the election in 2020? Should Masons discuss these types of issues within our buildings? Should we try to discuss and apply the lessons of our Scottish Rite Degrees to current events? And how do we do that without inducing divisiveness within our organizations?

Continued on Page 2



From the Personal Rep
Continued from, Page 1

Freemasons should uphold justice, truth, and moral integrity even when that means dissenting from government actions that violate these principles. Is it not true that we fail as Freemasons when silence enables injustice or undermines the fraternity's ethical foundations?

Freemasonry teaches respect for lawful authority and encourages members to be loyal, law-abiding citizens. This duty includes:

- Supporting civil order and peace - Freemasons are expected to uphold the rule of law and contribute to societal stability.
- Avoiding political partisanship within the lodge - Lodges are apolitical spaces, fostering unity across ideological divides.
- Serving with integrity in public roles - Many Freemasons historically have held positions of civic leadership, guided by Masonic virtues.

Freemasons are also bound by higher moral laws. Dissent may become necessary when:

- Government actions violate justice or truth - Freemasonry's cardinal virtues—*Justice, Truth, Fortitude, and Prudence*—demand that members speak out against corruption, oppression, or deceit.
- Human dignity is threatened - The principle of *Brotherly Love* calls Freemasons to defend the rights and wel-

fare of all people, especially the marginalized.

- Silence would imply complicity - Ethical teachings emphasize personal responsibility. Freemasons must not be passive in the face of moral wrongdoing. Transparency and accountability are eroded - Freemasonry promotes *Truth* as a supreme value, encouraging civic engagement that holds leaders accountable.

How do we navigate that line between duty and dissent?

- Act with moderation and wisdom (*Temperance*) - Dissent should be principled, not impulsive. Freemasons are urged to weigh consequences and seek constructive dialogue.
- Use respectful channels - Advocacy, education, and community leadership are preferred over confrontation or rebellion.
- Maintain unity within the Craft - Even in dissent, Freemasons must avoid sowing division within their lodges or undermining fraternal harmony.
- Lead by example- Ethical dissent is most powerful when paired with personal integrity and service

Again, these are my thoughts (and they continue to evolve) and do not represent those of our Valley or the Rite.

Fraternally,
Jim Hamlin 33°
Personnel Representative to the Valley of Everett



From the Desk of the General Secretary

By Terry Grove, 33°

Did you know that we only average around 10% of our 167 members attend lodge? That means – that about 90% do not come to lodge meetings. Although we distribute our Rite Bulletin around 11 times a year. Based upon lack of attendance and support – we cannot help but wonder if many of you read it. Please note – we are only as strong as our weakest link – is it possible that you may be part of the problem vs a part of the solution? As of this writing – we still have 45+ valley members who have yet to remit their annual dues.

Does this sound familiar? “We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mingle again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate and discreet. Remember that at this altar you have promised to befriend and relive every brother who shall need your kind assistance. You have been enjoined remind him in the most tender manner of his failings and to aid in his reformation. For every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Finally, my brother, be ye all of one mind – live in peace. And, may the God of love and peace, delight to be with you, and bless you.” Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

It sure would be nice to see some of our long-lost Brothers again.

Christmas and Freemasonry: Exploring the Deeper Meaning

As we go through the very special and cherished Christmas season, let's pause for a few moments to reflect on the deeper meaning of Christmas for Masons. What is the relationship between Christmas and Freemasonry? What affirmed values does our brotherhood share with the Christmas story and with the teachings of Jesus? Let's consider . . .

A Values-Centered Brotherhood

When you visit the [Valley of Portland's website](#), you'll see our values spotlighted front-and-center. As Masons, we are profoundly committed to living a life devoted to Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth. But Freemasonry is not a religion. We welcome people of all faiths and beliefs, as long as you have a monotheistic belief in a supreme being.

Having said that, we, as Masons, should see very clearly a kinship between Christmas and Freemasonry. After all, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who devoted his life to teaching very specific lessons about how we should deal with our fellow man and woman. These lessons concerned love, tolerance, justice, hope, and kindness. Hmmm ... sound familiar?

A Life Serving Others

Christmas and Freemasonry are also similar in the way Masons advocate a life of service to others. Just as we give presents to others on Christmas morning—presents that symbolize our deep love for family, friends, and others—so

too do we Masons offer the gift of service to others throughout the year. When you see a Mason serving his fellow man and community, you see a man “walking the talk” of love and kindness, just as Jesus did. In that way, Christmas represents the birth of a man and movement that have profoundly influenced the way Masons see the world.

The Christmas Spirit, All Year 'Round

When we think of the Christmas spirit, and how it can touch and transform our world, we might think of Ebenezer Scrooge, who, in Dickens' famous *A Christmas Carol*, moves from the darkness of cynicism and cruelty to the light of kindness and mercy. In a similar way, the Christmas holiday—arriving each near the shortest day of the year but as days gradually lengthen—represents the world's profound movement from spiritual darkness to light. That “light” is the tolerance, justice, hope, and kindness embraced by Jesus—and also by the Masonic brotherhood. We learn these lessons so well in our Masonic meetings and activities that we instinctively act in the same manner when we go out into the world. In that way, in our charitable activities and in so many other, smaller yet meaningful ways, we seek to live a values-centered life that empowers and uplifts not only ourselves but the those around us.

In that very profound way, Christmas and Freemasonry are solidly connected. Because Masons seek to live in the spirit of love and generosity—the Christmas spirit—all year 'round. Reprinted: Valley of Portland, Dec 5, 2023

2026 Life Membership Per Capita

By Kenneth Thompson, 32°, KCCH, Treasurer, Valley of Everett

Brethren all:

As projected increases are inevitable in both our homes and as well - the Valley of Everett Temple. There is Insurance, Taxes, Utilities along with need to create a contingency fund to handle unexpected expenses like the roof, furnace; elevator and/or other maintenance issues that tend to bite us in the behind when they are least expected.

The Valley of Everett has done some major work to our kitchen and now is a licensed commissary kitchen and we presently have four (4) vendors who pay rent and storage rooms fees. With this comes the burden of a required cleaning policy of the of the installed kitchen stove vents and inspection of the Ansul Fire System, which is twice a year and then pay \$600 dollars annually permit fees to the Snohomish County Health Department for that privilege. All this requires us to hire a certified licensed technician to perform these functions. The rent and storage fees received from these vendors cover these costs and also producing a positive flow of income to the Valley of Everett.

The Valley of Everett remains on a very tight budget and as the Treasurer for the Valley of Everett, I keep a close watch on both the dollars and pennies that are received and expended each and every month.

As we are all apparent, each year the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite assesses every Orient in the nation a per capita fee per member of \$32.00 and the Orient of Wash-

ington assesses a per capita of \$2 for Rite Care and \$3 for Scholarship for a total annual assessment of \$5, together a total of \$37.00 per member per year. After a lengthy discussion in the Lodge of Perfection, several years ago, it was M/S/P to increase annual dues to \$187.00 which includes \$150.00 for their Annual Dues to the Valley of Everett and Annual Per Capita of \$37.00 which all non-life members pay annually.

Our Life members were informed in the past, that with a life membership your dues and per capita would be covered for the rest of your life and after, when the Supreme Architect calls you to his house, not made with hands. The Valley of Everett understands this, however, your Valley is asking for the assistance of all its Life Members. If you and your family are financially able to and knowing that it will not cause financial harm to yourself and family, please forward your 2026 Per Capita of \$37.00 to our General Secretary Terry Grove. Your check can be mailed directly to Valley of Everett Scottish Rite, 2431 Rucker Ave, Unit 1, Everett, Washington 98201.

Thank you, my Brethren, for taking the time to read this article and responding and if you are able to support the Valley of Everett with the submission of your 2026 per capita, please be sure that your generosity will be much appreciated. Thank you again.

Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

By David Downie, St Trinians Lodge No 2050, Isle of Man

I have a very serious question to put to you all.

I would like to raise it with you and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it.

It is a most important question that I am sure you have often asked yourself, and relates our Craft to the wider society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"



Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you?

A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so) and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof!

Let us start with his movements on the evening in question. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we do with an Entered Apprentice.

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree!

But, think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember.

What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. And I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

Surely all this evidence shows us beyond doubt that Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly

Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and the Christmas season, and sorry to part.

All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male ... On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other.

For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, the rituals that we use today.

St Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters.

Continued on Page 6

Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

Continued from Page 5

St Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after.

He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since. The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year.

Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of the shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house...." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today.

Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sledge, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia and they have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come

from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter.

It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hanukkah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other.

We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!

*Merry
Christmas*

DON'T DELAY, THERE IS A MASONIC BROTHER JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE VALLEY OF EVERETT SCOTTISH RITE

***Total Cost for the Class of 2026, the Valley of
Everett Scottish Rite Degrees is \$300.00***

***A printable copy of the Membership Petition for membership for the
Valley of Everett Scottish Rite Class of 2026 can be found on the
page 11 in this issue of the Rite Bulletin.***

The Brethren of the Mystic Tie

David McCuiston, 32°, KCCH
Valley of Everett Scottish Rite

Why men join the Fraternity of Freemasonry is in itself a mystery to many, including those to whom that reason was known from the very inception of the thought itself. Whatever the reason, it is of no particular significance or importance. More importantly, it is the reason men of like mind remain in the Fraternity of Men, enjoying the brotherly love, friendship, and the social tie that binds them together. That mystic tie has been written about for centuries. Robert Burns wrote about it in the "Farewell to the Brethren of Saint James Lodge in Tarbolton, Scotland, and several Short Talk Bulletins published articles on The Mystic Tie. The following is a compilation of thoughts on the subject.

We speak of the Trowel as spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection that unites us into one common band or society of friends and brothers, which provides for us one common language, one common ideal, one common like-mindedness, regardless of our religion or philosophical belief. The mysterious influences that camaraderie exerts upon us are often referred to as the mystic tie. Freemasons, because we enjoy that influence and the intrinsic value it brings, are sometimes referred to as "Brethren of the Mystic Tie." Brother Robert Burns called the Brethren of Saint James Lodge, "Dear Brothers of the mystic tie, Ye favored, Ye enlightened few, Companions of my social joy."

In the June 1920 edition of *The Builder*, Brother Joseph Fort Newton of New York quotes Rudolph Eucken, who in 1912, wrote of "The moral solidarity of mankind being dissolved. Further, he tells that even voluntary associations, that form of unity peculiar to modern times, unite more in accomplishments than disposition, which brings them together outwardly rather than in reality." Eucken seems to be implying that the intrinsic reasons for common associations are no longer of value, that a materialistic ideal – i.e., extrinsic reasoning – is the common bond of the association.

Newton reminds us that the ideal made plain by history is that the mystic tie that holds humanity together in ordered and advancing life is moral and spiritual, and that when that thread is cut, anything can happen. One prominent example is the fall of the Roman Empire. While writers and researchers claim multiple causes over 500 years as contributing to the decline and eventual fall of the Empire, the foundational ideal contributing to its demise was a decline in morals, political corruption, and the Praetorian Guard, and a decline in ethics and values. Newton further states that there are times in history when societies pass from a period of luxury and extravagance, followed by a short craving for the old social and religious orders. However, he states that craving subsides as new ideas and demands arise.

Although Newton's article and Eucken's insights were written before World War I, many of the same societal instances where the Mystic Tie of spiritual faith and fellowship are cut, and behaviors become regulated by the zoological principle in which lives are ruled by materialism and a denial of the divine and its importance to the existence and progress of life. Faith in the Divine declines or disappears; moral sanctions are relaxed or replaced with amoral and unethical behaviors. Man lives solely in the materialistic present, refusing to remember history and understand the human nature of man. Newton writes that "The practical denial of the Divine dehumanizes humanity, and the rest follows as night follows day."

As Masons, we seem to forget the relationship of the Lodge Altar upon which rest the Great Lights of Masonry and the intrinsic reason men of the Craft continue to share the Brotherly Love and Friendship upon entry into the Lodge. The spirit of circumambulation focuses more on being duly and truly prepared and less on the Mystic Tie that binds us to the Fraternity. The attitude of prayer becomes a ritualistic behavior without significance. Sacred Geometry becomes but words in the Fellowcraft Degree, with no intrinsic value to our growth and existence.

There was a spiritual tie that bound the Founding Fathers, many of whom were our Masonic Brothers. Their patriotic zeal, "the cause" as Brother Washington called it, was also a part of their religious zeal. Newton says, "...it should be part of our religion to be patriotic, it must be a part of our patriotism to keep the light of spiritual faith aflame on the altars built by our Fathers." Freemasonry is said to be a system of morality. Every degree teaches the moral basis of our Masonic Society, as do our Degree and Installation Charges. Every Lodge meeting is opened with a reminder of the Divine Principle upon which the Flag of our Country stands – a Divine Principle outlined in the Great Light of Masonry. Every Scottish Rite Degree speaks to morality and the Mystic Tie.

In answering the question What has Freemasonry done for me?, MW Bro. Carl H. Claudy states, "Freemasonry has given me the mystic tie; the tie which no man may put into words, yet which binds more closely than it is intangible. Bonds of silk are Freemasonry's chains; yet none of steel could hold as tightly or wear as softly. In the mystic tie, which I am privileged to renew about the holy altar of my lodge as often as I will, I find the perfume of life, the lovely colours of the love of man for man, and the gentle touch of a friendly hand, than which there is nothing softer in all existence." He further stated that Freemasonry has given him education, it has taught me that there is a higher reward for unselfishness than for self-seeking, that there is a high wage to be earned for good work, true love of the wage.

Continued on Page 7

The Brethren of the Mystic Tie
Continuation from page 6

In many Church Hymnals is the song Blest Be the Tie that Binds our hearts in Christian love. It could easily be sung in Lodge as Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Masonic love, or even Brotherly love. That tie – The Mystic Tie – is an integral part of Freemasonry. In an address given at the 10th Annual Conference of Western Canadian Grand Lodges, RWB Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, entitled *A Masonic Lodge is not a Service Club* says, “Freemasonry is unique amongst human institutions, for it is evident that its pattern was drawn under divine inspiration from the accumulated spiritual wisdom of the ages. Its lessons are derived from the powerful drama of life and death as portrayed in its allegories, where the ultimate meaning of life is interpreted in terms of moral and spiritual values which fortify the soul against the trials and vicissitudes of life.” WB Steve Osborn, who wrote in *Meditations on Hermetic Philosophy, Alchemy, Astrology and Infinity*, stated, “Without the Mystic Tie, we are nothing more than a service club, of which there are many, with a funny ritual to pass the time between charitable works.”

Masons are indeed “Brethren of the Mystic Tie” bound by a common bond whose cement is spread with

the Trowel of brotherly love and truth, with but one aim – to please each other, and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness. We must keep the quest alive to maintain and keep strong the tie that binds us as Masons and Brothers.

References:

1. Brother Joseph Fort Newton, *The Builder – June 1920*. Retrieved on 17 November 2011 from https://www.phoenixmasonry.org/the_builder_1920_june.htm.
2. Causes of the Fall of the Roman Empire. Retrieved on November 18, 2011, from <http://www.roman-colosseum.info/roman-empire/causes-for-the-fall-of-the-roman-empire.htm>.
3. Brother Steve Osborn, *Meditations on Hermetic Philosophy, alchemy, astrology and Infinity*. 2011.
4. *Standard Work, Freemasons Guide*. MW Grand Lodge of Washington. 2011.
5. MW Bro. Carl H. Claudy. *What has Freemasonry done for me?* Masonic Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, November 2009. Retrieved from http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/masonic_bulletin/73/lxxiii03.pdf.
6. RW Laurence Healey, *A masonic lodge is not a service club*. Retrieved from http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/grand_masters/healey_1/service_club.html.

Valley of Everett Elected and Appointed Officers 2026

All Bodies

Ill. James G. Hamlin, 33°

Personal Representative SGIG

Ill Terry Grove, 33°, General Secretary

Bro. Kenneth Thompson, 32°, KCCH, Treasurer,

Rite Bulletin Editor

Bro. John Mathers, 32°, KCCH. Almoner

Bro. Mike Tando, 32°, Prelate

Bro. Kyle Little, 32°, Asst. Prelate

Elected Body Officers

Lodge of Perfection

Bro. Mike Dulaney, 32°, Venerable Master

Bro. David Trader, 32°, Senior. Warden

Bro. Brian Hobbs, 32°, Junior. Warden

Chapter of Rose Croix

Bro. Bruce Whitlock, 32°, Wise Master

Bro. Howard Livingston, 32°, Senior. Warden

Bro. Valdimar Bjarnason, 32°, Junior. Warden

Consistory

Bro Jason Finch, 32°, Master of Kadosh

Bro. Ray Verschuyt, 32°, Prior

Bro. Steve Coleman, 32°, Preceptor

Bro. Joe Towns, III, 32°, Chancellor

Bro. Richard Jones, 32°, KCCH, Minister of State

Council of Kadosh

Bro. Jeff Maynor, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Bro. Jerry Arneson, 32°, KCCH, 1st Lt Commander

Bro. Earl Lara, 32°, 2nd Lt Commander

Officers Appointed by the PR

Director of Works

Bro Mike Dulaney, 32°

Director of Scottish Rite Education

Bro. Jeff Maynor, 32°, KCCH

Director of Masonic Education

Bro Andre DeWald. 32°

Class Marshall's

Bro Jason Finch, 32°

Bro. David Trader, 32°

Assistant Secretary

Bro. Jerry Arneson, 32°, KCCH

The History of Freemasons For the Month of December

December 1— In Highland Park, Michigan. At first, the assembly line was meant for the production of magnetos, but it is soon expanded to build the entire automobile. The time to produce a Model-T was reduced from 12 hours to 93 minutes. This bought the motor car within the reach of the average man. Bro.. Ford was raised in Palestine Lodge 357, Detroit, MI, in 1894.

December 2— On his day in 1901 American Bro. King Camp Gillette , inventor and manufacturer, patented the first razor with disposable blades. Until that time men shaved with straight edged razors which they sharpened on a December 2—leather strap which served the dual purpose of spanking naughty boys. For 30 years Bro. Gillette was president of the Gillette Safety Razor Company.

December 5—In 1792 Bro. George Washington, running virtually unopposed, was unanimously reelected President of the United States. His fellow Federalist John Adams, the incumbent Vice President, came in second in the electoral vote and was thus also reelected to his post, Bro. Washington did not want a second term. But because of a conflict between two members of his cabinet - Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, both of whom wanted the job - Bro. Washington decided the republic would; best be served if he remained in office until the political situation cooled.

December 8—In 1831, Bro. James Hoban, the Irish-born architect who designed the US President's Executive Mansion, later known as The White House, died at Washington, DC. Bro.. Hoban was born at Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1762. The Cornerstone for The White House, Washington's oldest building, was laid by Freemasons in 1792. Bro. Hoban after the War of 1812 also supervised the 1815 renovation of The White House. He was a founder of Federal Lodge No. 1 in Washington, D.C

December 19—In 1777: Gen. and Bro. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pa., to camp for the winter. Neither a valley (just a few small hills) nor a forge (though an iron works once stood there) Valley Forge was simply a bleak terrain 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Bro. Washington brought his men there expecting to find supplies provided by Congress which the British had earlier discovered and removed. Half the troops were without blankets, another third without shoes, stockings or breeches. Bro. Washington wrote Congress a warning that unless there were new supplies of food and clothing, the army must "starve, dissolve or disperse."

December 20—In 1881 in Lucasville, OH was born Bro. Wesley Branch Rickey, Baseball Hall of Fame player, manager and executive. Bro. Rickey was baseball's most innovative general manager . He invented the farm system, instituted unique training and teaching methods and, most prominently, signed Jackie Robinson to play major league baseball with the then Brooklyn Dodgers. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1967 and died at Columbia, MO December 9, 1965. Bro. Rickey was initiated into Tuscan Lodge 360, St. Louis, MO.

December 24—In 1809, Christopher "Kit" Carson, frontiersman, soldier, trapper, guide and Indian agent, was born at Madison County, KY. Because he was familiar with Indian languages he was largely instrumental in bringing about many of the treaties between the Indian tribes and the US government. He entered the Craft in Montezuma Lodge 109 , at Taos, New Mexico. Bro. Carson died at Fort Lyon, CO May 23, 1868.

December 30—In 1865, in Bombay, India, was born the Mason who was to become acclaimed an English poet, novelist and short story writer as well as Nobel Prize Laureate - Bro. Rudyard Kipling. Bro. Kipling was best known for his children's' books such as "The Jungle Book," "Just So Stories," poems such as "The Ballad of East and West" and "If." After working as a journalist India he traveled around the world then end married an American with whom he lived for many years in Vermont. Bro. Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907. Much of his writing contains Masonic allusions (notably "Kim," and "The Man Who Would Be King." "The Mother Lodge" is [probably the most quoted of all Masonic poems. He was initiated in Hope and Esperance Lodge 782, Lahore, India in 1887. On settling in England he became founder of two Lodges - Builders of the Silent City (in 1927), and Authors' Lodge. He was appointed poet laureate of Canongate Kilwinning Lodge at Edinburgh. Bro. Kipling died at London, England, January 18, 1936.

GENUINE CHARITY

By Dewey H. Wollstein, PGM, 32°, KCCH

There is a tendency today to use charity in a way that robs it of its beauty and leaves only a cold and inanimate word.

Many times an organization will be moved to perform an act of charity only to gain publicity and the material benefits which naturally follow such publicity. Many organizations "sell" something in order that they may obtain money which in turn they will distribute to various charities. These acts may be commendable but they do not carry the true spirit of charity.

The lesson of charity as taught in the first degree is perhaps the most important in all Masonry. If we teach the candidate Masonic Charity we go a long way toward making a Mason.

If you were to look for the secret in man's climb from the mud of ignorance to his place as a spiritual being, you would find it in the Ideal of Charity. When a man became conscious of his obligation to others and thus found joy in sharing with others- when man learned that he could impart something of value to others in time of joy and in time of sorrow- when man saw in others his own reflected hopes, ambitions and aspirations, he became One with God.

When you consider the deductions from your income tax for the amounts you gave to various organized charities, there is little of self included. You gave because you were expected to share in an impersonal appeal. This, too, may be commendable.

But in giving of self, you follow the lesson of Masonic Charity.

What Kind Of Mason Are You?

A lot of Masons are like wheel barrows – no good unless pushed.

Some are like trailers – they have to be pulled.

Some are like kites – if you don't keep a string on them they fly away.

Some are like balloons – full of wind and ready to blow up.

Some are like footballs – you can't tell which way they will bounce.

And then, some are like a good watch – open face, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.

Reprinted from Tied to Masonic Apron String

VALLEY OF EVERETT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 01 Monday— Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet—Stated Meeting
Special Presentation of the 6th Degree (Intimate Secretary)**
- Dec 15 Monday— Lodge of Perfection -6:30 PM Buffet—Stated Meeting**
- Jan 05 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet—Stated Meeting—Confer 4th°**
- Jan 19 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet—Stated Meeting**
- Jan 26 Monday—Combined Board of Trustee's and ExCom meeting— Hybrid Zoom at 7:00 PM**
- Feb 02 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet—Stated Meeting—Confer 14th°**
- Feb 16 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet —Stated Meeting**
- Feb 23 Monday—Combined Board of Trustee's and ExCom meeting— Hybrid Zoom at 7:00 PM**

Note: Brethren take the time to visit your local Blue Lodges and share with them the Joys of Scottish Rite Masonry and Fellowship.

Valley of Everett Scottish Rite Petition Drive

By Kenneth Thompson, 32°, KCCH

The Valley of Everett Class of 2026 will commence their degrees with the 4th degree to be conferred on January 5th, 2026. We ask for all the present members of the Valley of Everett to promote Scottish Rite Membership and invite your fellow Master Masons from your lodge and your visitations.

*The principal or chief tenets of Freemasonry are **Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth**. It is necessary not to overlook the word 'principal', for it signifies that while it is on these three great teachings that the Craft lays the greatest emphasis, yet there are other teachings of almost equal importance. These principal tenants of Freemasonry; **Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth** do not solely exist in just the Masonic Blue Lodges, but is further exemplified in the teachings of the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite.*

Being a Master Mason in good standing in a regular Symbolic Blue Lodge is the only requirement for the purpose of petitioning for the degrees to become an Everett Valley Scottish Rite member. If you are interested in additional Masonic education, you are heartily encouraged to petition for membership in the Scottish Rite without awaiting a specific invitation. You may ask any Scottish Rite Mason for a petition or you can contact the Everett Valley Scottish Rite Secretary for a membership petition or for further information.

The petition fees for the degrees for Scottish Rite Masonry (4th through the 32nd Degrees) is \$300.00, which includes the following: a copy of the books "Bridge to Light" and "Morals and Dogma", your 14th Degree ring, your 32nd Degree Cap, the 32nd Degree Patent, and your Valley dues and per capita for the current year ending on December 31st. Payment must be made prior

to receiving any of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

As always, a copy of the Valley of Everett Petition is enclosed in this newsletter on page 11.

Every member of the Valley of Everett must now show your support for the Valley of Everett while attending your Blue Lodges and spread the word about the continued education and benefits that the membership in Scottish Rite offers.

Last year, the class of 2025, Valley of Everett, we only had a class of nine (9), **January 2026 is fast approaching us at this time and now is the time for all of us to get to work**, by talking to our fellow Brother Master Masons and let us attempt to equal the number of candidates that the Valley enjoyed having in the Class of 2025 class. Our job, as members of the Valley of Everett is to ensure we make the Valley of Everett Class of 2026, a banner year for both our Valley and for our prospective candidates.

Please pass this article on to any Master Mason that you think might be interested in becoming an Everett Valley Scottish Rite Mason.

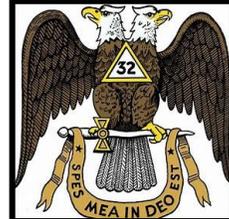


SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU TO INVITE HIM TO BECOME A SCOTTISH RITE MASON...

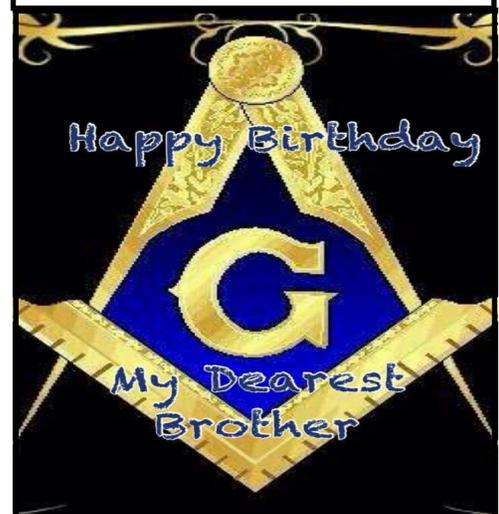


A Petition for the Valley of Everett Scottish Rite can be found in the newsletter and can be printed and copied

The Members of the Valley of Everett extend to all the Brethren listed for the Month of December A Very Happy Birthdays



Dan 'l Adams
Paul-Michael Bean
Bruce L Blakeslee
Neil K Brown
Albert K Gustafson
Daniel G Hernandez
Kenneth L Ivey
Eric D Leslie
Noel R Martinez
Warren C Nelsen
Brian R Pelton
David D Pokrajac
Antonio V Umali
Kenneth D Wehl
Marion A Windell





Application for membership in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America
Valley of Everett, Orient of Washington
2431 Rucker Avenue, Everett, WA. 98201
Telephone (425)610-4561

I respectfully make this application to the Everett Valley of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, promising always to bear true faith and allegiance to the Supreme Council of the 33°.

This Application is for Plural Membership and I hold membership in _____, _____, _____

List Valley and give location. Note: A certificate of Good Standing is required

I wish to transfer my membership from _____ to the Valley of Everett.

List Valley and give location Note: A certificate of Good Standing is required

To the officers and members of:

Everett Lodge of Perfection;
Everett Council of Kadosh;

Everett Chapter of Rose Croix;
Everett Consistory;

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify the following to be true and correct:

My full name is _____
First Middle Last

My date of birth is _____ I was born in _____ City _____ St _____

My mailing address is: _____

I have resided there for _____ Years. My telephone Number is: _____

My cell phone number is: _____ My e-mail address is _____

Wife's name: _____ My occupation is: _____

I am employed by: _____
If retired, state previous occupation and enter "Retired"

I am a Master Mason of good standing of: _____ Lodge No. _____

Located at: _____ Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge Of: _____

I was raised a Master Mason on _____
Date received third degree

Please attach a copy of your current Blue Lodge Dues Card.

The Supreme Council requires acceptance of the following fundamental principles: *The inculcation of Patriotism, Respect for Law and Order, Undying Loyalty to the Principles of Civil and Religious Liberty.* Do you promise to uphold these principles? Yes / No

Dated _____

Ring Size _____ Hat Size _____

Petitioner's Signature

Recommended By:

1st line signer Print

name legibly

2nd line signer

Print name legibly

The total fees for the 4th through the 32nd degrees of Scottish Rite are \$300.00. This includes a copy of the latest Supreme Council book, the 14th degree ring, the 32nd degree Cap, the 32nd Degree Patent, a copy of the "Bridge To Light" book and the dues for the current year, ending December 31st. Payment must be made prior to receiving any of the degrees. There is no charge for affiliation. Make your checks payable to and mail along with this application to Everett Valley Scottish Rite, 2431 Rucker Avenue, Everett, WA. 98201

YOUR LOCAL BLUE LODGE MONTHLY SCHEDULE

DISTRICT TWO MASONIC HAPPENINGS

December 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
Dec 02	Tuesday	6:00PM	Shoreline 248	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Dec 09	Tuesday	6:00PM	Yancy C Blalock 265	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner
Dec 11	Thursday	6:30PM	Edmonds 165	Stated Meeting—6:30PM Dinner
Dec 18	Thursday	6:00PM	Ashler 121	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Dec 23	Tuesday	6:30PM	Mill Creek 243	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner

DISTRICT EIGHT MASONIC HAPPENINGS

December 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
Dec 02	Tuesday	7:00PM	Sultan Monroe 160	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Dec 03	Tuesday	7:00PM	Crystal 122	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Dec 03	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Centennial 25	Stated Meeting- 6:00PM Dinner
Dec 06	Saturday	2:00 PM	Crystal 122	Installations of Officers
Dec 06	Saturday	7:00 PM	Centennial 25	Dinner 6:00 PM—Installations of Officers
Dec 08	Monday	7:30PM	Everett 137	Stated Meeting—6:30PM Dinner
Dec 09	Tuesday	6:00PM	Damascus 199	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner
Dec 10	Wednesday	6:30PM	Arlington 129	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
Dec 10	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Alpha 212	6:-00 Dinner—Installation of Officers
Dec 11	Thursday	6:30PM	Peninsular 95	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner
Dec 13	Saturday	2:00 PM	Sultan-Monroe 160	Installations of Officers (Dinner Follows)
Dec 13	Saturday	7:00 PM	Everett 137	Installations of Officers
Dec 16	Tuesday	7:00PM	Crystal 122	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Dec 17	Wednesday	7:30PM	Westgate 128	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner

DISTRICT NINE MASONIC HAPPENINGS

December 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
Dec 02	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Mount Baker 36	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 03	Wednesday	6:30 PM	San Juan 175	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 04	Thursday	6:30 PM	Burlington United 93	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 09	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Fidalgo 77	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 11	Thursday	6:30 PM	Camano 19	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 16	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Whidby 15	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 18	Thursday	6:30 PM	Garfield 41	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Dec 23	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Langley 218	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting

Note: To the Valley of Everett Brethren please take the time on your Mondays to enjoy a good meal and great fellowship with your Valley of Everett Brethren. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Meeting at 7:30 PM. We look forward to meeting and greeting each and everyone of you.

VALLEY OF EVERETT SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE MONTHLY RENTAL SCHEDULE

Dec 03, 2025	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Amaranth - Welcome Court #58
Dec 07, 2025	Sunday	1:00PM	Prince Hall—SR Consistory 118
Dec 07, 2025	Sunday	3:00 PM	Prince Hall Beni Hassan Sakkara Shrine Club 196
Dec 10, 2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
Dec 11, 2025	Thursday	1:00 PM	Oddfellows—Pilgrim #187 - Stated Meeting/Zoom
Dec 13, 2025	Saturday	10:00 AM	Prince Hall - Evergreen #9
Dec 18, 2025	Thursday	7:30 PM	Alderwood #185 -Order of Eastern Star
Dec 24, 2025	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
Dec 27, 2025	Saturday	2:00 PM	Amaranth—Perlas Court #90

Notice to all Valley of Everett Members

The Valley of Everett structure for membership dues are as follows::

<i>Annual Yearly Dues for 2026.....</i>	<i>\$187 Per Year</i>
<i>Life Membership Up to age 65</i>	<i>Annual Dues time 15 Years</i>
<i>Life Membership Age 65 to 75 Years Old.....</i>	<i>Annual Dues time 10 Years</i>
<i>Life Membership 75 and Older.....</i>	<i>Annual Dues time 5 Years</i>

From the Almoner's desk

John Mathers, 32°, KCCH

If you know of anyone who is ill, in a nursing home or hospital please contact me as soon as possible so I can send them a card or pay them a visit. May God bless each and every one of you. I can be reached either by phone at 425-788-3772 (home Phone) or email me at: j.mathers@comcast.net

Valley of Everett 2026 Degree Schedule

December 1st—6th Degree
 January 5th - 4th Degree
 February 2nd - 14th Degree
 March 2nd - 18th Degree
 April 20th -- 30th degree
 May 4th - 32nd degree
 June 1st - Cap n Ring Ceremony

Rose Croix Funeral Service

This service is very beautiful and available to all members of the Scottish Rite; however, Members must make their desires known to their families and the Valley. Should you desire a Rose Croix Funeral Service, when the time does come, please let your families know now. Ensure that they have the phone number of our Valley General Secretary, Terry Grove when that time does come -Terry can be reached at 425-610-4561 or email him at terrygrove50@yahoo.com



SCOTTISH RITE WEB SITES
 Everett Valley-Scottish Rite
 Orient of Washington
everettvalleysr.org
scottishritewa.org

Valley of Everett Contact List

James G. Hamlin, 33°
 Personal Rep of the S.G.I.G.
 Telephone: (425) 486-0652
 Email:
jghamlin62@msn.com

Terry Grove, 33°
 General Secretary
 Telephone: 425-610-4561
 Email:
terrygrove50@yahoo.com

John Mathers, 32°, KCCH,
 Almoner
 Telephone: 425-778-3772
 Email:
j.mathers@comcast.net

Kenneth N. Thompson,
 32°, KCCH, Treasurer, Editor
 Telephone: 425-344-4477
 Email:
Knthom32@Comcast.net

