

HATTIESBURG VALLEY COMMUNICATOR

December 2023

Master Calendar

- 1.6.23 — KSA Meeting #1/ Ex. Bd
- 1.24.23 — Degree Team Conferral of MM (See Jason)
- 2.3.23 — Robert Burns Dinner / Meeting of 33rds
- 3.3.23 — 14th Degree
- 4.1.23 — Gulfport Spring Reunion
- 4.7.23 — Cerm. of Rem. and Renewal
- 5.5.23 — Black Hat Ceremony / KSA Meeting #2
- 6.2.23 — Fst. of Consist / Ex. Bd
- 7.7.23 — Gordian Knott Bus. Meeting / KSA Meeting #3
- 8.4.23 — Fst. of Manifesto
- 8.21-23.23 — Biennial Session — Washington DC
- 9.1.23 — Guest Speaker / Proposition Night
- 9.8-9.23 — Honors Weekend — Tupelo
- 10.6.23 — Feast of Tishri / KSA Meeting #4
- 10.7.23 — Gulfport Fall Reunion
- 11.3.23 — Election / Black Hat / Annual Awards
- 12.1.23 — Installation / Christmas

Sickness and Distress

Bro. Freddie Zehner – arthritis and pain
 Bro. Michael Baker's wife - lung transplant
 Unspoken Bro. - undergoing cancer treatment

Please contact Chaplain Gerald Griffin with any reports. 601-543-7219

HIGHLIGHTS

**Officer Installation;
 Michael McKenzie – Education;
 and Budget Approval**



Lost in the Quarry

It is suspension time. It has been said that you have either helped our Brothers stay by your actions or helped them go with inaction. Either way, we all bear responsibility.



Birthdays

Thomas Clifton Gardner	2-Dec
Ben Richard Johnson	3-Dec
James Leroy MC Phail	8-Dec
Benjamin Franklin Wade	11-Dec
Samuel Elvin Duncan	11-Dec
Michael Paul McKenzie	11-Dec
William Ameal Hennes	14-Dec
Thomas Lane Cumberland	15-Dec
Toby Ray Davis	15-Dec
Claiborne Gowers Meador	18-Dec
John Kevin Fairley	19-Dec
R. Lane Dossett	30-Dec

Message from the Venerable Master – Hon. Art Patrick

Well Brothers, the year is almost over, and our terms of office are at an end. This does not mean we are to just up and quit, this is just the beginning. There is never ending work still ahead. Your leadership expertise and knowledge will be of great benefit to the incoming officers.

I give a huge Thank You to the members of Hattiesburg Valley for me allowing the honor and privilege of serving as Venerable Master this year. I am humbled by you thinking me worthy of the position.

To each member, I encourage you to give yourself a "big pat on the back," you have earned it! Due to your efforts our valley has succeeded in every undertaking!

Join me in wishing our new Valley officers every success and join with me in pledging to them our continued support.

I am wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year!

Thank you again for your support, now on to next Year!



THANK YOU BROTHER ART!

Hattiesburg Valley thanks you for your dedication to the craft and all branches of Freemasonry. We look forward to your continuing leadership in the Valley.

Job well done!

**Message from the Personal Representative to the SGIG,
Hattiesburg Valley, Lane Dossett, 33°**



Bro. Maynard Edwards, 33 °, with the House of the Temple, released a video this month about four practices all Masons should engage in on a daily basis. [Here is a link to his video.](#) One of his points was that, at the end of each day, we should reflect on what we did well and what we can improve on.

New Year's "Resolutions." This is both a dirty word many avoid, while others cling to it for hope for a better future. The juxtaposition of how people see the word "resolution" is very similar to the word "obligation," as used by Masons. Many understand the word obligation positively, perhaps in the way the Fourth Degree discusses Duty. They understand it as a promise, both to their Brethren and from their Brethren. There are others that see the word obligation as being tantamount to burden, and therefore negatively.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we study the tenants of many belief systems. In Christianity, we find a similar discussion offered in the Bible regarding Christ's "yoke," which he described as easy. (Matt. 11:29) Many view it as hard and burdensome.

Returning to Bro. Maynard's point, as we finish the year, we should each examine what we did well this year and what we seek to improve. We may call those things we wish to improve a resolution, but we should not be limited by that language. I would offer as Masons we might consider making New Year's obligations or New Year's yokes.

Our measures of success may come in normal ways (e.g., weight loss), but perhaps abnormal ways. Success may be world changing or minor and individual. Regardless, many suggest goals should be ascertainable and measurable.

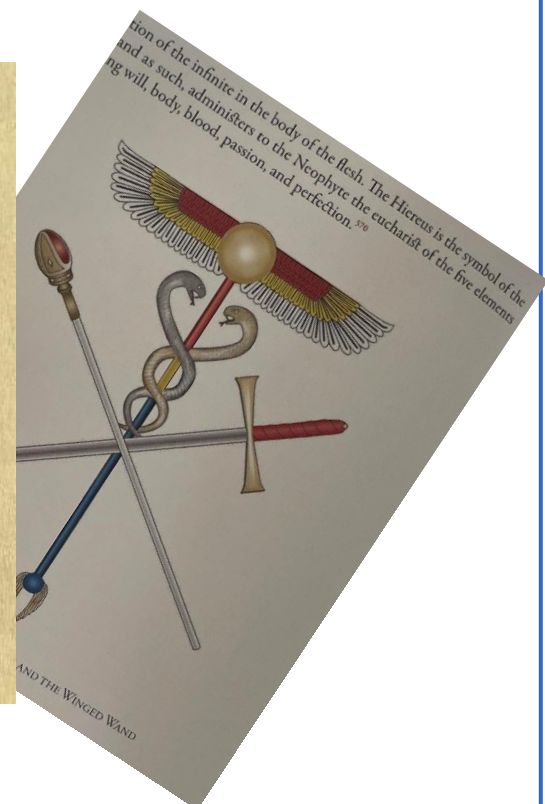
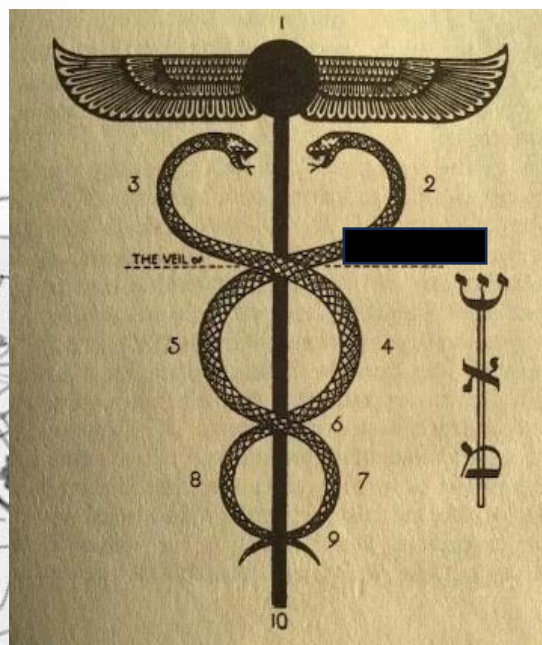
As I look back over this year, I count it as a success in the most unusual of manners. But, I will remember it, and it has forever changed me, and I consider it a successful year. I met great men and forged new relationships in ways that I never expected. I buried a blood Brother, and I made new Fraternal Brothers. I worked on the Great Work with a few close Brothers. I think I made advancement, and hope I brought a couple with me one or two steps forward. There are Brothers that I wish I could have made a more positive influence on that I simply failed.

On the 28th Degree, Knight of the Sun, Albert Pike states on page 835 of the annotated version of M&D:

It is the *will* that is free: though sometimes that will may be ineffectual. The power *to do* must not be confounded with the power *to will*. The former may be *limited*: the latter is *sovereign*. The *external effects* may be prevented: *the resolution* itself cannot. {Of this sovereign power of the will we are conscious. We feel in ourselves, before it becomes determinate, the force which can determine itself in one way or another. At the same time when I will this or that, I am equally conscious that I *can* will the contrary. **I am conscious that I am the master of my resolution: that I may check it, continue it, retake it.** When *the act* has ceased, the consciousness of *the power* which produced it has *not*. That consciousness and the power remain, superior to all the manifestations of the power. Wherefore free will is the essential and ever-subsisting attribute of the will itself.}755

There was a period years ago that I felt extremely dissatisfied with my Masonic path, and I did not feel there was anything of substance that was benefiting my life. To an extent, like Pike, I felt the symbols, virtues, and morals were shallow, not practiced by the average Mason and rather lacking. I am thankful that I stuck with it, just as he did. If you feel the same, next year is an opportunity for change. Just this past evening I have enjoyed a great hour long conversation with a Mason in another state that I met this year on symbols and applications regarding the Tree of Life I had never heard of before.

What will 2024 bring to us and our Fraternity? Can we predict it? At the end of the day, we are called to action, and how we view it makes all the difference. Instead of viewing what we must accomplish as a burden, let us count it as a blessing and opportunity.









Valley Ambassadors

Beaumont	Art Patrick	601-508-2978
Bowie	Xerxes Herrington	703-341-9588
Bunker Hill	Larry Robinson	601-603-0139
Carly	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Ellisville	Duane Mitchell	601-433-5229
Enon	Shane White	601-689-7784
Fairmont	Lester Ivy	601-466-0678
Hattiesburg	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
Hub City	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
JM Bradley	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Leakesville	Chris Rounsaville	601-525-7697
Liberty	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122
Lucedale	Dickey Dickerson	601-947-2293
Moses Cook	Joe Vawters	601-798-1501
Mt. Carmal	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Mystic Tie	Jay Morris	901-247-8028
Ovett	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Petal	Lane Dossett	601-543-5273
Richton	Shane White	601-689-7784
Sanford	Bobby Hebert	601-517-3261
Sherrard Byrd	Tom Cumberland	601-463-2485
St. Alban	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Summit	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122

Links

GroupMe Group Texting:

https://groupme.com/join_group/68986319/OI4jIKX2

Valley Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hattiesburgsr>

Orient Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msscottishrite>

Orient Website

<https://scottishrite.ms.org/>

Online Petition

<https://scottishrite.jotform.com/212843415672961>

Volunteer Help Wanted

Social Media Manager / Content Creators
Articles for Communicator

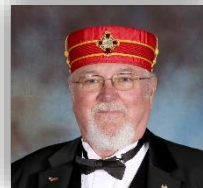
Candidate Proposals

SEC. 7. Any qualified person residing within the territorial jurisdiction of this Supreme Council may be **proposed** at any Stated Meeting of a Body under its jurisdiction by proposition in writing, signed by one member and seconded by another, also in writing. Such proposition may be made without the knowledge of the person proposed. A Body may, by its bylaws, require candidates to apply for Degrees by petition in writing.

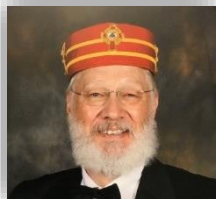
Officers



Art Patrick, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
601-508-2978



Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH
General Secretary
601-603-0139



Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
601-658-2048



Lane Dossett, 33°
Personal Representative
601-543-5273

Dickie Dickerson, 32° KCCH
Commander
601-947-2293



Michael Baker, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh
601-323-6303



Xerxes Herrington, 32° KCCH
Treasurer
703-341-9588

Upcoming York Rite Activities

- ~~2.11.23 – Festival in Tupelo~~
- ~~2.18.23 – Festival in Laurel (cancelled)~~
- ~~3.16.23 – Grand Lodge~~
- ~~4.29.23 – St. Jude RCC~~
- ~~5.19.23 – Grand York Rite~~
- ~~6.10.23 – SE YR Conference~~
- ~~(postponed) – Festival in Meridian~~
- ~~7.8.23 – Knight Masons in Gulfport~~
- ~~7.15.23 – YR College in Byram~~
- ~~7.23.23 – St. Jude RCC~~
- ~~8.23.23 – Festival in Gulfport~~
- ~~5.19.23 – Grand York Rite~~
- ~~6.10.23 – SE YR Conference~~
- ~~6.24.23 – Festival in Meridian~~
- ~~7.8.23 – Knight Masons in Gulfport~~
- ~~7.15.23 – YR College in Byram & St. Leonard RCC~~
- ~~8.23.23 – Festival in Gulfport~~
- ~~9.23.23 – Festival in Meridian~~
- ~~9.30.23 – St. Jude RCC~~
- 12.2.23 – St. Jude RCC
- 12.16.23 – St. Leonard RCC

