

# the Double Eagle

THE VALLEY OF PHILADELPHIA



the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry



in the Cradle of Liberty since 1857

To all my Brothers,

I hope that you and your families are healthy.



We have been challenged over these past six months by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of our members have become ill from the virus, lost their employment due to its consequences or possibly lost a loved one or friend that came its prey. To all those that have suffered in some manner during this time, I want you to know that my and the prayers of all the Brethren of the Valley are with you.

As Freemasons, our members and the Valley Officers have continued to support each other and the community through “simple acts of kindness,” continuing our Brother to Brother calls/outreach, providing funding from the Valley’s Charity Fund to COVID-related and Foodbank charities (overall the Valley contributed \$20,000 to numerous charities this past year), along with utilizing our Valley’s Almoner Fund to financially help those in need. By witnessing all you have done for your fellow Brethren and our community, I have truly been proud to call myself a Scottish Rite Freemason and a member of the Valley of Philadelphia.

The Pandemic has certainly changed our lives for the last six months, and will continue to have its impact for an indeterminate time until an effective vaccine is discovered and the population inoculated. It has definitely been a trying time for all of Freemasonry. Unfortunately, our Lodges and the Valley have been unable to meet in order to ensure the safety and health of our members. This included cancelling our Spring Reunions, the 2020 Worker’s Night and Family Picnic.

We have and will continue to implement innovative means to keep our members engaged and conduct our business as a Fraternity. This June, we conducted our first “Virtual Annual Meeting” where we inducted the elected and appointed officers for the current year. I congratulate all of the new officers and thank those past officers for their service to the Valley.

Our plan was to conduct a Saturday Reunion in October 2020 to confer at least four (4) degrees for the new candidates. Because of the current continued COVID-19 restrictions and the uncertainty that we can safely gather to confer degrees, it has been decided to cancel the October Reunion. In lieu of a reunion in October, the candidates and members are encouraged to attend one of the virtual reunions planned by the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

The Virtual Reunions will include the 4° and three additional degrees. The events will take place for 9 a.m. to noon EST on each of the following Saturdays:

- October 3, 2020
- October 24, 2020
- November 14, 2020

The Virtual Reunions will go beyond simply broadcasting degrees. They will be singular experiences that welcome candidates into the Scottish Rite and bring current and new members together from across our jurisdiction.

The 32nd Degree will not be conferred during the Virtual Reunions. Therefore the Valley of Philadelphia will plan to confer the 32nd Degree on Saturday, November 21, 2020 or (as a contingency) December 19, 2020. Please save both dates on your calendars.

In addition to the above plan for the Fall Reunions, there are other great activities planned for the Valley of Philadelphia:

- We will be holding a “**VIRTUAL EVENT OF LIGHT**” on the morning of Saturday, November 7, 2020. Consistent with past “Day of Light” events, informative and interesting Masonic topics will be presented. The event will be open to members, candidates and all Freemasons. More information will follow and be posted on the Valley’s website. This will be the first of several programs arranged by the Valley’s Education Committee over the next year.

*Commander in Chief’s Comments Continued on Page 3*

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Thrice Potent Master for the Masonic year 2020-2021. We start this Masonic year during a period of great change and indeed some of the “old ways” may never return. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of



“live meetings” and the postponement of “Degree work” and the institution of “virtual degrees.” While we must embrace some change to survive and grow let us not change the the “core values” and remember them as we go through our now at times more uncertain lives. Beside the lessons of the core values taught in the eleven ineffable degrees there are other lessons including the need to exhibit justice and mercy in dealing with others, the importance of trying to heal dissensions, the danger of excessive zeal, and the importance of honest collection of taxes. Charity remains a core part of many Masonic bodies (along with light and knowledge) and if anyone has an idea for a possible charity for the Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection to champion for 2020-2021 please contact me. Lastly please remember that the Lodge of Perfection was not only the “place” where you started your Scottish Rite Masonic journey, it was where the spirit of the Valley became embedded in your mind and let us now in these uncertain times especially embrace that spirit in our lifetime journey toward Perfection.

Ill. John L. Wagner, 33°  
Thrice Potent Master

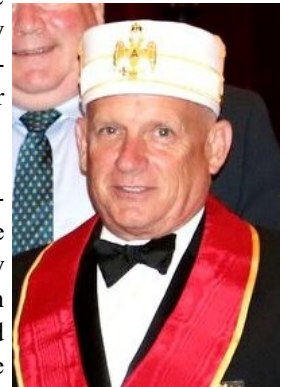
The past seven years serving as an officer for the Valley of Philadelphia, more specifically the Lodge of Perfection 14th degree line has been an enlightening and favorable experience. I am hopeful that our Valley and the rest of the line have benefitted from my participation and together, in moving our organization forward. Best of luck to all of our new Presiding and line officers. To all of our Valley of Philadelphia members - have pride in your organization! Get involved, take part in our activities, attend our many events and Reunions, and visit other Valleys and you’ll get the most out of Scottish Rite. Everyone please stay safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Sincerely and fraternally yours,  
Rick S. Freedman, 33°  
Past Thrice Potent Master 2019-2020  
Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection



I hope this message finds you, your family, friends, and associates in good health, good spirits and COVID safe. The day I was brought to Masonic light I knew I wanted to serve this fraternity in any and every capacity possible. To serve as an officer is a reward beyond description. Thank you for that opportunity.



As Princes of Jerusalem we hold a significant place in Masonic history. We are only two degrees but our allegory deals with the end of the Babylonian captivity and the building of the second Temple, the Temple of Solomon, the Temple within us. Our mission is Justice, Loyalty, Fidelity, and the greatest and mightiest of all, TRUTH! Keeping these values close to your heart will make you a better husband, father, and better person in life. I look forward to serving your and our Valley.

Sincerely & Fraternally,  
Robert J. Burns, 33°

Brethren,

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve as Sovereign Prince this year in the Valley of Philadelphia. I would like to thank the Executive Officers and the elected and appointed officers of the 16° line for their support and faith in me. To the outgoing officers of the 14° and 18° it was a pleasure to work with both of you and those friendships will be remembered and cherished forever. To the newly elected officers I am not going to wish you luck because luck has nothing to do with it, but continued success because I know your dedication and hard work will keep the standards that have been set in previous years at the highest level.



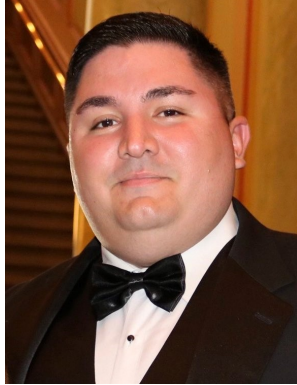
Stay healthy and safe during these uncertain and difficult times in hopes that one day we can all enjoy the fellowship this great fraternity has to offer.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Joe Calabrese, Past Sovereign Prince



Brethren,

I'd like to thank you for your confidence in allowing me to serve as your Most Wise Master. Service to others is the most honorable act we, as Scottish Rite Masons, can perform. You have shown this during this most difficult time by stepping up and volunteering to help your Brothers no matter what the need was. If we continue to serve others, we will get through this and once again return to our usual routines,

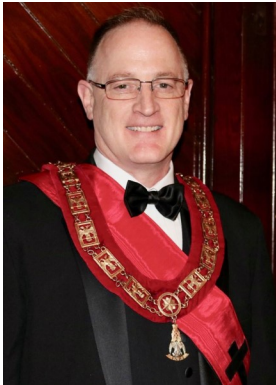


Congratulations to our Past Most Wise Master, Bro. David Kolmetzky, on a wonderful year. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bro. Timothy J. Curran Jr., 32°  
Most Wise Master

Brethren—Any Grateful Dead fan can relate . . . “What long, strange trip it’s been!” I can only say with 100% confidence that I will never forget the year I served as Most Wise Master. Despite the challenge of COVID-19, the members of the 18th degree line were able to accomplish some noteworthy things. Both our financial support of the Veteran’s Multi-Service Center and our clothing donations to the Military Order of the Purple Heart brought much needed relief to our Nation’s heroes. I’m very proud of the work our members have done and especially enjoyed the degree work. I was fortunate to have a very talented group of men to work with.



As I step away I want to especially thank Ill. Brothers Bud Garvey and G. Kent Hackney for their mentorship and support. I'd also like to thank Ill. Bro. Steve Morrison for the tremendous administrative support and Ill. Bro. Jeff Greene for his guidance as our Degree Master. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we all work together and support one another. I wish you all great health and happiness and look forward to the day we can all see one another face to face, break bread, and enjoy some “Valley of Philadelphia Fellowship”!

Sincerely,  
David Kolmetzky  
Past Most Wise Master



- The **Valley of Philadelphia Holiday Party for members is currently scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2020.** I truly hope that we will be able to hold this event as planned at the Springfield Country Club. Please save the date, as this was a great event last year!

A reminder to our current members - there is still time to encourage other Brothers at your Lodges to join our Valley. They quickly and easily join using the website at [scottishritenmj.org/join](http://scottishritenmj.org/join). I highly encourage the use of the Supreme Council’s website, and remind all of you to visit it today and update your profile to ensure we have accurate information to effectively keep you informed.

Finally, you all should have gotten information regarding completing and returning the Waiver that will be required for all attendees of the Scottish Rite Events. Information regarding the waiver is contained in this issue and on the Valley Website. Please complete the required documentation and send it to the Valley for retention. Contact the Valley Secretary with any questions.

I truly hope to see all of you at the conferral of the 32nd Degree in November and the Valley’s Holiday Party. It has been too long that we have not gathered in the spirit of Brotherhood and Fellowship, but it is more important that you are all safe and healthy.

***Brethren, Take Notice:  
The Future of the The Double Eagle***

In an effort to better manage the expense to the Valley and our members, the format and frequency of the Double Eagle has had to change over the past year.

With the recent COVID-19 pandemic and the changes in the way we all are doing business; the necessity and value of digital media has become a more vital part of your Valley’s communication strategy. As the issuance of the Double Eagle has changed, we have increased the use of digital media tools such as emails and our website to ensure effective and timely communications to our members. The overall communication strategy for the Valley will continue to progress towards more reliance on digital communications and less on physical mailings, which includes the Double Eagle.

In the future, the plan would be for the Double Eagle to be emailed to members and posted on the Valley website. All members are requested to visit the Member’s Center of the Supreme Council website, [scottishrite.nmj.org/login](http://scottishrite.nmj.org/login), and verify your contact Profile information. If you need any assistance in accessing your Supreme Council account or profile, please contact the Valley Secretary.

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### ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose Officers include:

ILL. DAVID A GLATTLY, 33°  
*Sovereign Grand Commander*

ILL. ROBERT J. BATEMAN, 33° RWPGM  
*Active Member of the Supreme Council  
Deputy for Pennsylvania*

[scottishritenmj.org](http://scottishritenmj.org)

[pacod.us](http://pacod.us)

### THE DOUBLE EAGLE

Valley of Philadelphia, A.A.S.R.  
Ill. Steven A. Morrison, 33° DSM, Editor

Unless otherwise stated, The Double Eagle will be published 6 times per year, March, April, May, October, November, December. Articles to be included in The Double Eagle as are always welcome, and should be typed, or written legibly, signed and dated by the author with proper credits, if applicable, sent to the following address no later than the first day of the month preceding the month of publication.

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