# The Valley of Jackson Messenger

Newsletter of the Jackson Scottish Rite Bodies, Orient of Mississippi
A.A.S.R. S.M.J. U.S.A

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Stated Meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month

**WINTER 2027**



**The Messenger**

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**STATEMENT OF ALLIEGENCE**

The Four Coordinate Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Jackson, Orient of Mississippi, derive their Charters from and acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States (Mother Supreme Council of the World) of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General whose See is at the Grand Orient of Charleston in the State of South Carolina.

Sovereign Grand Commander
Ill. James D. Cole, 33°

S.G.I.G. Mississippi
Ill. Billy W. Sloan, 33°

Personal Representative
Ill. J. Kenneth Dawson, 33°

Executive Committee

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| Ill. J. Kenneth Dawson, 33° | SGIG Rep |
| Ill. Bryan Keith Wiley, 33° | Secretary |
| Ill. James G. Teeters, 33° | Treasurer |
| Ill. Van R. Gunter Sr., 33° | Almoner |
| Hon. Ed Rhodes, 32° KCCH PGM | Consistory |
| Hon. Rev. Phil Hobson, 32° KCCH | Kadosh |
| Hon. Gary Lamar Hamil, 32° KCCH | Rose Croix |
| Hon. Scott Womack, 32° KCCH | Perfection |
| Ill. Braxtel Neely Jr., 33° | At-Large |
| Vacant | KSA |

Brethren,

The passing of our General Secretary, Illustrious Brother Bill Sellers, should remind each of us of one of Masonry's most enduring lessons: that our earthly labors are finite, but the good we accomplish may endure long after we are gone.

Bill spent his life in service—first to generations of students and educators, then to his Masonic brethren, his community, and above all, his family. We speak often of building temples not made with hands. Bill understood that such a temple is built through kindness, fidelity, service, and the quiet fulfillment of our obligations to others. His passing leaves a vacancy in this Valley that another brother may fill in office, but never quite in spirit.

And so, as we remember Bill, perhaps the most fitting question we can ask ourselves is not simply what he meant to us, but what we might do to carry forward the work he leaves behind.

For a Mason's legacy is not measured by the honors he accumulated, but by the light he brought into the lives of others. Bill's death reminds us that we are not merely the inheritors of a tradition, but its temporary custodians. Each generation receives the Craft from those who preceded it, preserves and improves it through its own labors, and eventually entrusts it to those who follow.

May we be worthy of the example he leaves us, and may his memory continue to inspire our labors.

So mote it be.






**THE TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH REUNION**
**SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF JACKSON**
**ILL. JOHN ALLISON CLARK, 33°**
**MEMORIAL CLASS - NOVEMBER 7, 2026**



# Calendar of Events

Jan 1.....New Year's Day
Jan 5.....Stated Meeting
Jan 13.....Feast of Kadosh
Jan 18.....MLK/REL Day
Feb 2.....Stated/Installation
Feb 15.....President's Day
Mar 2.....Stated Meeting
Mar 14.....Daylight Savings Begins
Mar 21.....Palm Sunday
Mar 25.....Maundy Thursday
Mar 28.....Easter

Apr 6 .....Stated Meeting
Apr 21.....Passover Begins
Apr 28....Confederate Memorial Day
May 1.....Spring Reunion
May 4.....Stated Meeting
May 9.....Mother's Day
May 31.....Memorial Day
Jun 1.....Stated Meeting
Jun 14.....Flag Day
Jun 20.....Father's Day
Jun 24.....St. John's Feast







***Jackson Scottish Rite Bodies***
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*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. -- The Scottish Rite Creed*