



The Rite Light



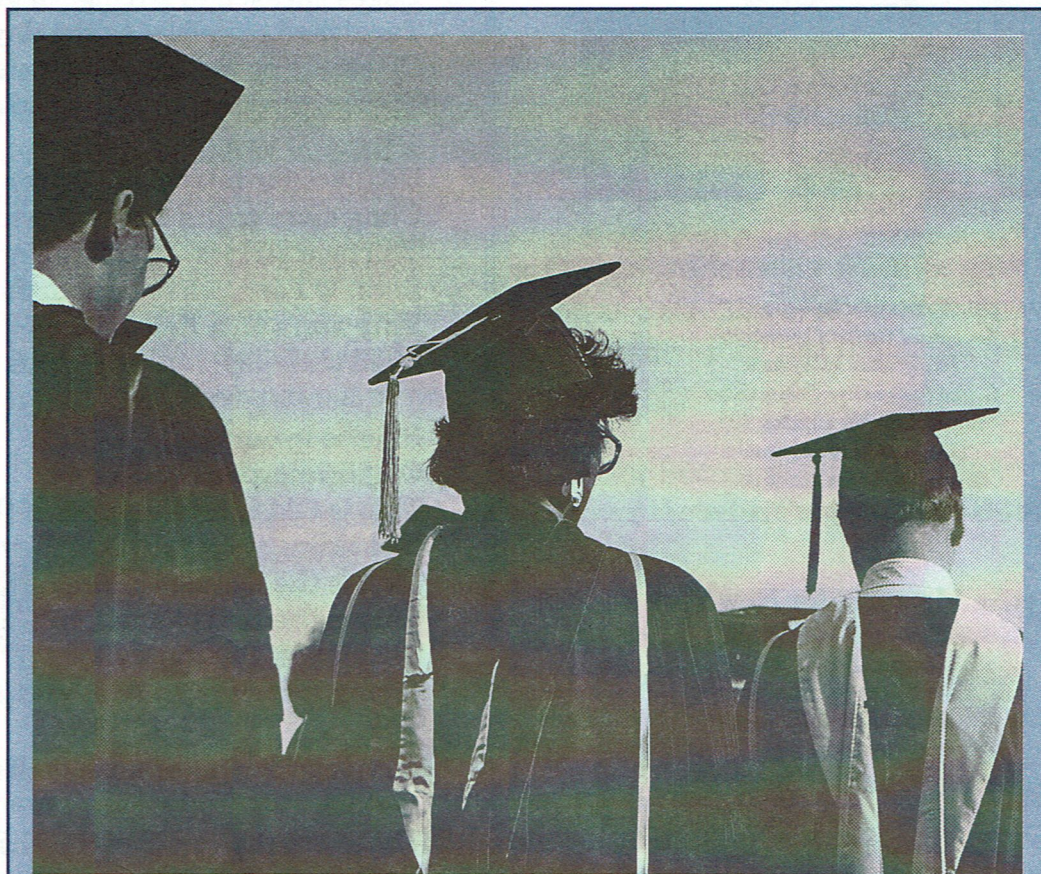
Valley of Albany

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XX111

Spring, 2003

No.3



A quest for knowledge

Knowledge – it is the basis upon which humans are able to improve themselves and the world about them.

There are men who believe the quest for knowledge does not end with a ceremony and the presentation of a diploma. There are men who have joined together in an unending search for knowledge. There are men who believe that knowledge is the key to self-improvement.

Who are these men? They are 32° Freemasons

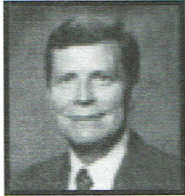


**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**



Allegiance

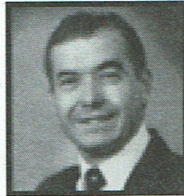
The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to thy Supreme Council, 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander



Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°
Deputy for the
State of New York



Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°
Active for Area 4

Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill. Walter E. Weber
Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill. Robert W. Clarke, 33°
Grand Minister of State

Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°
Deputy for the State of New York

Active Members for New York

Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°

Ill. Douglas K. Wilson, 33°

Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, Sr., 33°

Ill. Frederick D. Greene, 33°

Active Emeriti Members

Ill. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33°

Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33°

Ill. Carlton A. Winchester, 33°
past Deputy for New York

Ill. Bruce Widger, 33°
past Deputy for New York

The RITE LIGHT is published quarterly by Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Albany, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1904. Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970

"TO THE COLORS"

Some regiments, when on dress parade,
Adorn their flags with strips of braid,
Edges encased in a fringe of gold,
Tarnished to yellow as the day grows old;
Certainly no way to elicit a cheer—
Yellow, the symbol of a coward's fear.

No place for intrusion such as this; forlorn.
Cling close to the colors in which it was born:
Thirteen stripes—the Red and the White,
Lord, O Lord, what a beautiful sight.
Fifty stars on a field of Blue
Shed their light on a precious view.

Rejoice in our duty
Of guarding its beauty.
This is Old Glory, the flag of flags,
Upholding your spirit whenever it sags.
This is the emblem of liberty.
This is the soul of a nation free.
This is the guideline that carries us through,
Flying it always as Red, White and Blue.

L'Envoy: The point not to miss
Is this:
These are the colors of the U.S.A.—
To be kept that way
No yellow,
Fellow!

— John Daly—1971



Do Your Part . . .
RECRUIT
A NEW MEMBER!

Editorial

My Dear Sublime Princes:

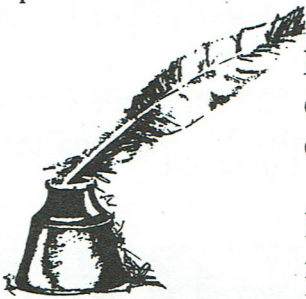
It is with a deep sense of pride and a heavy heart that I say good bye to all of you, as I step aside as your Valley Secretary and Rite Light Editor.

Serving over 24 years as Editor and 20 years as Secretary, rewarding as it has been, has weighed heavily on my shoulders in general, and my family in particular. I believe I've "paid my dues."



III. Richard G. Barrell, 33°
Secretary
Valley of Albany

As I once paraphrased General and Brother Douglas MacArthur when he gave his farewell address to Congress, when I resigned as Secretary of my Lodge, so will I once again. Old Secretaries (and Editors) never die - they just run out of ink. My quill is dull and I have run out of ink.



Fortunately, my successor for Secretary will be ready to come on board and take over the reins August 1, 2003, the day after I officially retire.

Brother Michael Duane Derry, 32* and his wife, Wanda, reside in Howes Cave NY. He recently retired from the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, and currently serves as Potentate of Cyprus Shriners in Albany. Mike is a Past Master and former Secretary of Noah Lodge No 754, Altamont NY. I am confident that the position of Secretary of the Valley of Albany Scottish Rite has been left in very capable hands, and I hope everyone of you will lend him your support and cooperation as you have done for me.

Although I functioned as Editor of the Rite Light, that job is not part of the Secretary's responsibilities. This position remains open. Anyone interested in becoming Editor should contact me or a member of the Executive Board immediately.

It may become obvious my presence will not be as frequent as before. However, I do intend to continue coming to meetings, reunions and special events as often as possible. This is a wonderful organization and deserves your best efforts. Keep it alive. and well.

I now close this chapter of my Masonic career. Thank you for letting me serve you. Good bye.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard G. Barrell".

Richard G Barrell

Salutations from the Thrice Potent Master

Respectable Brethren:

Where Were You When...?

It is often asked "Where were you when" something major happened. *Where were you when FDR died?*

I was a little kid living in Detroit, Michigan at 15422

Petoskey Street. However, I cannot remember my address in Schenectady when I first moved to New York in the Fall of 1986. I'm sure the doctors who study the human mind would have something to say about it, but I haven't the foggiest idea.

Let's get back to my first question. Where were you when? Here is a list that might help your "gray" matter work overtime:

The day John F Kennedy was shot.

December 7, 1941.

The day Neil Armstrong said "One small step for man, etc."

The day of the Columbia disaster.

Now, the real important matter in writing this article. ***Where were you the night all Valley of Albany Scottish Rite Brothers were summoned to vote on its new Bylaws?*** Only twelve men were in the room the night of the vote.

I fear all of us have become far too complacent and do not take to heart the fact that we took an oath to support the fraternity. The words "*time and talent*" were used to express when talking about support. Surely paying your dues is also a very important part, but putting in an appearance once in a while would also be great.

We only have two Reunions each year, and 16 meetings throughout the year. It would be very nice to see some new faces on the sidelines. I would like to thank those who do attend regularly and hope you can bring along one of your brothers who we haven't seen in a while. It's a sad state of affairs when we cannot open lodge for lack of numbers in the room.

Will you be one of those members who has not been around in a while and join us at

Remember, Get a Petition...NOW!



the next meeting?

As can be seen in another part of this issue of the Rite Light, a special One Day, Statewide, Scottish Rite Reunion Class, in honor of M..W.. & Ill..Carl J Fitje, 33*, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2003. The local venue for the Valleys of Albany, Middletown, Schenectady and Troy will be the Shalmont High School Auditorium, 1 Sabre Drive, Rotterdam, New York

This will be a shortened version of our usual reunions, which should be appealing to many of your busy Blue Lodge friends who just don't have the time to spend all day being initiated into Scottish Rite. This special class will conclude shortly after noon.

Give it your best shot Brothers - **get those petitions**, and together with the Initiation fee of \$135 payable to AASR, return them to the Secretary of the Valley.

Ben F Froggett, 32*
Thrice Potent Master

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A SCOTTISH RITE MASON?

The Scottish Rite offers unique opportunities for broad Masonic and social activities. Among the many activities we offer are:

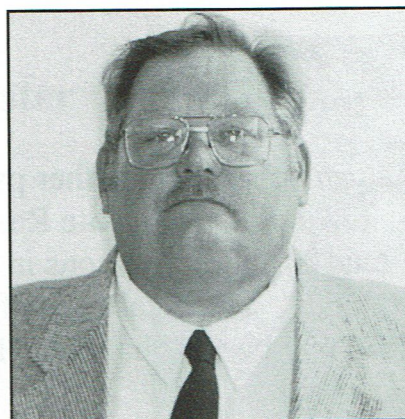
- provide scholarships for students and teachers
assist young people to overcome language and learning disorders
- support and create patriotic programs to remind Americans of our great national heritage and the importance of maintaining it
- champion the family as the cornerstone of our society
- combat substance abuse through educational programs aimed at youth
- sponsor Masonic related youth organizations.

Outstanding among these is the Childhood language and Learning Disorders Programs. Presently there are nearly 100 facilities helping children with communication disorders. Our charitable activities need helping hands, and our educational programs need men of vision. Whether you have only two days a year or two days a week your Scottish Rite has a place for you. There is not a better time to join our ranks.

Greetings from the Most Wise Master

Perfect Knights:

The above freezing temperatures we're experiencing give hope that Winter has finally passed and Spring is now upon us.



Palm Sunday, April 13, 2003, will usher in our traditional Solemn Ceremony of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. This beautiful and symbolic public observance is celebrated each year in memory of our departed Brethren. All Perfect Knights are obligated to attend.

This Feast is neither the Feast of Passover nor the institutions of the Sacrement of Holy Communion, although it celebrates both holy days. The Passover was a festival instituted to commemorate Jehovah's "passing over" the Israelite houses while "passing through" those of the Egyptians in order to destroy the firstborn of each household. In the early history of these celebrations, a lamb without blemish was taken from the flock on the 10th and killed on the 14th day of the Hebrew month Abib, which occurred at the spring of the year. The blood of the lamb was to be sprinkled on the two side posts and the upper door post, and the flesh eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs before the morning. Jehovah, passing over the blood-stained doors, slew the firstborn in the Egyptian houses not similarly protected. St Paul likens the Paschal feast to the resurrection of Christ, but, no matter what the interpretation, in Masonry it has no creedal significance. To our Brethren of Rose Croix, it is known as the Mystic Banquet, and it is obligatory, at least in spirit, for every Knight Rose Croix, on this special day, to break bread with a Brother and partake of a portion or roasted lamb. This ceremony is but another method of bringing to our minds those great moral truths which we already have been taught. It is in that spirit that we assemble, as Maçons and as Brethren.

The symbolic elements incorporated in the Mystic Banquet are *the Matzo*, or unleavened bread, symbolic of the bread which the Hebrews made when they hastily left Egypt, because they did not have enough time to allow their dough to leaven. *The Moror* or bitter herb (horseradish) is symbolic of the hardships which the Israelites endured when they were slaves in Egypt. *The Haroses* is a kind of paste of apples, almonds, raisins, and wine symbolic of the mortar the Israelites used

There are many Masons hoping that someone
will ask them to receive MORE LIGHT

He May Say "YES"!

when they were slaves in the construction for the Pharaoh. *The Shank Bone* is symbolic of the Paschal Lamb that was sacrificed and eaten on the eve of the Passover. *The Hard-boiled Egg* is symbolic of life and springtime when nature renews life. And *the Cup of Wine* is commemorative of the promise made by God to Moses to redeem the Israelites by bringing them out of bondage.

It was for the observance of this Feast that Jesus of Nazareth gathered his disciples on the night on which he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. He was in their midst when he instituted the sacrament which Christians revere as *The Last Supper*.

Following the Feast of the Paschal Lamb, a roast turkey dinner at a cost of only \$5.00 per person, will be served at about 5:00 PM in the Banquet Hall. Please call Brother Secretary at 434-8970 or 869-0684 for reservations.

Alan C Garrison, 32*
Most Wise Master

Solemn Ceremony
of
The Feast of the Paschal Lamb



*All Participants in the Ceremony
will assemble at 3:00 PM sharp*

*Ceremonial Feast will be exemplified at 3:30 PM
at the Scottish Rite Hall (4th floor)
Albany Masonic Temple*

*Roast Turkey Dinner (\$5 per person) at 5:00 PM
Telephone Secretary for Reservations*

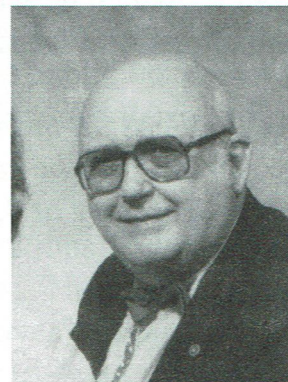
The Commander-In-Chief's Message

Sublime Princes:

At this writing, our two great efforts at providing a fresher and younger population base for the Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite are fast upon us.

The last figure I heard is that there were close to 150 petitions for the Albany Area Grand Master's One Day Class held March 29th.

This promises a fine, potential input for our Scottish Rite Special One Day Class April 26, at Shalmont High School Auditorium, Rotterdam NY.



The Valleys of Albany, Middletown, Schenectady, and Troy are busily at work preparing for April 26, and we would love to have your support, with lots of sideliners on Saturday, April 26, 2003. Don't be afraid to attend, as there are both ample seating and parking available at Shalmont High School in Rotterdam, easy to get to from Exit 25A Thruway and I-88 Exit. Please show the newcomers that we care.

As we near the end of the second year of service for your Consistory Officers, let me thank you for the honor of serving as Commander-In-Chief for this period. As I leave the administrative and financial woes to others, and return to my more natural "home" with the ritual, I wish the new line the very best as we continue to rebuild.

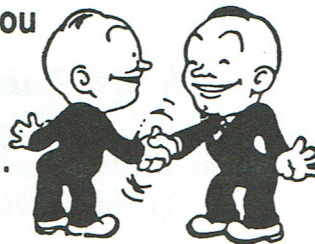
My very best wishes to all our Sublime Princes.

Fraternally,

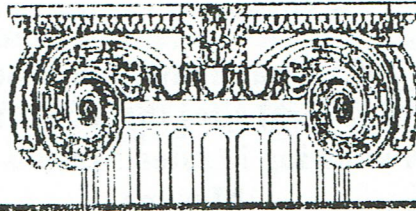
Alexander R Grone, 32* MSA
Commander-In-Chief

It takes less time to do a thing right than to explain why you did it wrong.

**Someone is waiting for you
to invite him to become
a Scottish Rite Mason . . .
Don't disappoint him.**



WISDOM



POINTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION THE WISDOM OF OUR FRATERNITY

I HAVE found it interesting that age is held in the highest regard in most countries other than the United States. Throughout the world, age and wisdom are interrelated. Across the globe and down through the ages, there is the belief that the young can learn invaluable lessons from their elders.

Unnecessary mistakes can be avoided, the most beneficial path can be followed, and the sacred continuity of one generation to another is unbroken. In other words, with age comes wisdom.

Only now in the United States are we beginning to recognize that the future is more secure if we look backward as well as forward, if we listen to voices other than our own.

Although a few have had their mentors in politics, business, the arts and education, we are now coming to appreciate and even celebrate the value of learning from those who walk before us.

All this, of course, is nothing new to Freemasons around the world.

It has long seemed to me that the wisdom of our Fraternity is one of its most significant gifts to our members, one that may not be fully appreciated by today's Masons.

There is an utter simplicity to Masonic wisdom. Perhaps this is the definition of wisdom: seeing life simply and clearly. Wisdom is the pane of glass that's so clean we do not even see it.

My idea of Masonic wisdom rests in our Fraternity's unique ability to help a man stay pointed in the right direction. Since we all make mistakes, there are those who urge us to learn from these errors. This is only partially true. We all know those who make one mistake after another and never seem to learn from what they're doing. They repeat - time after time - the same mistake. They never move forward.

There are others who are able to view what they have done against a standard of performance. They make the necessary adjustments and move forward. Have they learned from their mistake? Not really. They have actually learned to compare what they had done against a better standard.

The unique contribution of Masonic wisdom of a man's life is simply keeping him pointed in the right direction. He has a standard by which to measure his actions. He gets more out of life because he remains on the right path more than others.

Our Masonic symbol of the Square and Compasses is no accident. It serves a unique purpose. No matter how many times a Mason sees these tools, he cannot escape being reminded of how he is expected to live! This is the wisdom of our Fraternity.

FRANCIS G. PAUL

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE, N.M.J., U.S.A.

1985 - 1993

A Unique Opportunity

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, Shalmont High School Auditorium, Rotterdam, New York, will be one of several sites throughout New York State to host a *Special One Day Reunion* allowing Master Masons to become 32* Scottish Rite Masons.

This accelerated version of our traditional reunions will be conferred by members of the Valleys of Albany, Middletown, Schenectady, and Troy.

The class is named in honor of M..W..&Ill..Carl J Fitje, 33*, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, and falls on the coattails of the Grand Master's One Day Class for new Master Masons March 29th.

In addition to the anticipated 150 newly raised Master Masons in this area as a result of this One Day Class, many of your *busy* Blue Lodge Brothers would also be likely candidates. Just ask them.

The schedule for April 26 at Shalmont High School Auditorium, located on 1 Sabre Drive, Rotterdam NY (Thruway Exit 25A, I-88 Toll Booth, bear right, left at light, across I-88 to Rte 7, left at light, a short distance to Sabre Drive and Shalmont High School on right) is as follows:

8:30am - 9:30am	Candidates Registration
9:00am - 10:00am	Coffee Break
10:00am - 11:00am	Opening & Communication Ceremonies
11:00am - 12:30pm	32* - Full Form

A Buffet Lunch (\$5 per person) will be available at 1:00pm at the Scottish Rite Temple in Scotia (no charge for candidates). Please notify Secretary at 434-8970 or 869-0684 that you wish to attend.

Petition at end of this issue of the Rite Light may be used by candidate and may be duplicated. Completed petitions and full amount of fee should be sent to the Secretary at 67 Corning Place, Albany NY 12207-1904. Be certain to indicate whether candidate is attending lunch.

*"Small opportunities are
often the beginning of great
enterprises."*

—Demosthenes (343 B.C.)

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

VALLEY OF ALBANY, N.Y.

67 CORNING PLACE, ALBANY, N.Y. 12207-1904

PETITION FOR DEGREES / AFFILIATION (CROSS OUT ONE)

To the Officers and Members of the Scottish Rite Bodies sitting in the Valley of Albany, N.Y.

I, _____
 PRINT FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME (NO INITIALS)

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREOF, RESPECTFULLY SHOW THAT I AM DESIROUS OF BEING ADMITTED AS A MEMBER OF

INEFFABLE & SUBLIME GRAND LODGE OF PERFECTION, 14°

GRAND COUNCIL OF PRINCES OF JERUSALEM, 16°

ALBANY SOVEREIGN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX, 18°

ALBANY SOVEREIGN CONISISTORY, S.P.R.S., 32°

AND REQUEST THAT I MAY BE RECEIVED AMONG YOU, AND THAT I WILL EVER PRAY FOR THE PROSPERITY AND GLORY OF THE FRATERNITY AND THE WELFARE OF THE BRETHREN.

IN MAKING THIS APPLICATION I PROMISE ON MY WORD OF HONOR THAT SHOULD I BE ELECTED AND BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR HONORABLE BODY, I SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOLLOWING

Oath of Fealty

I will bear true faith, allegiance and fealty to the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and Last Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, sitting in its Grand East in the City of Lexington, Massachusetts, and will support and abide by its Constitutions, Orders and Decrees.

That I will hold allegiance to the said Supreme Council and be loyal thereto, as the supreme authority of the Rite; will hold illegal and spurious every other Body that may be established within its Jurisdiction, claiming to be a Supreme Council; and every other Body of said Rite within the same Jurisdiction that does not hold its powers from said Supreme Council and will hold no communication whatever in Scottish Rite Masonry with any member of the same nor allow him to visit any Body of the Rite of which I may be a member; and I will dispense justice to my brethren according to the laws of equity and honor.

And should I violate this, my solemn vow and pledge, I consent to be expelled from Scottish Rite Masonry, and all rights therein and in any Body of the Rite, and to be denounced to every Body of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the world as a traitor and forsworn.

And may God aid me to keep and perform the same. Amen.

Date of Birth _____
 MONTH DAY YEAR

Place of Birth _____
 TOWN STATE OR COUNTY

Residence _____
 STREET AND NUMBER CITY ZIP CODE Since _____

Your Mailing Address (if different than Residence) _____
 STREET AND NUMBER CITY ZIP CODE

Have resided in New York State since _____ Occupation _____

Business Address (or Employer) _____

Telephone No. _____ (HOME) _____ (WORK) Were you ever a member of the Order of DeMolay? _____

HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE PETITIONED FOR ANY DEGREE IN THE SCOTTISH RITE TO ANY OTHER VALLEY AND BEEN ACCEPTED OR REJECTED? YES OR NO? _____

IF YES, TO WHICH VALLEY AND WHEN? _____

SYMBOLIC LODGE MEMBERSHIP I AM A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF _____ LODGE

NO. _____ LOCATED IN _____

RECOMMENDED BY _____
 PLEASE PRINT SIGNATURE

DATE	CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE				
	LODGE	COUNCIL	CHAPTER	CONSISTORY	TOTAL
INITIATION FEES	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$135.00

NOTE - FOR SPECIAL ONE DAY CLASS 4/26/03

FULL AMOUNT OF \$135 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PETITION

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.
VALLEY OF ALBANY
Richard G. Barrell, Secretary
67 Corning Place
Albany, New York 12207-1999

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Latham, N.Y.
Permit No. 22

I'M THE GUY

I'm the guy who asked to join Freemasonry.

- I'm the guy who paid his dues to join.
- I'm the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.
- I'm the guy who came to the meetings and no one paid any attention to.
- I tried several times to be friendly to some of the Brothers, but they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to.
- I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me.
- I hoped very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fund-raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.
- I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there.
- No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been.
- I guess it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not.
- The next meeting I decided to stay at home and watch TV.
- The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.
- You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his community and his country.
- You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back.
- It amuses me when I think back on how the heads of the organization and the members were discussing why the organization was losing members.
- All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and welcome.

Printed from the Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

One Gift. Three Charities. Bringing Dreams to Life.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we help humanity. Through the simple act of one gift to our Blue Envelope Appeal, we accomplish this aim through three diverse charities.

Each year our Abbott Scholarships assist hundreds of students from Masonic families and Masonic

youth groups to achieve their dreams of higher education.

For more than 65 years, our Schizophrenia Fellowship Program has fostered medical discoveries in our pursuit of the dream of millions of families around the world - to find a cure for schizophrenia.

Our Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library fulfills the dream of preserving and sharing the history of our nation and our fraternity with thousands of visitors annually.



Scottish Rite
MASONIC CHARITIES



*Send your gift today.
Bringing more dreams to life.*

**CANDIDATES ARE EVERYWHERE
JUST ASK**