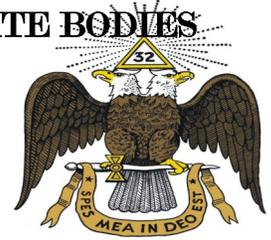




A PUBLICATION OF THE STOCKTON SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

# The Rite News



Volume 116-12

Valley of Stockton, California

December 2017

The Holidays are well upon us and I hope that we all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. I wish all of you the best of health and happiness as we begin to celebrate the seasonal celebrations.

The officers of the Rite have been very busy over the past couple of months. We are finishing up the business of the sale of the property at 33 W. Alpine and beginning to move forward in planning for our future. We will be discussing the possible acquisition of compatible properties which will facilitate our meetings and support the important contributions of the Almoner's mission.

The University of the Pacific has secured a lease with First Baptist Church so that we may continue to operate the language center in the existing location on Alpine Avenue. Our contracts will be modified and we will continue to support the center as we have for many years. Brothers James Linnerman, John Baker and myself attended the annual meeting for the California Scottish Rite Orient and Language Center Foundation in San Diego on November 17, 18, 2017. Issues concerning the Scottish Rite and the Operation of the Language Centers were central in the meetings and I believe we all came away with an appreciation for the work everyone has been doing to insure the future of the organizations. Finally, I hope to see all of you at our upcoming meeting. The decisions we make as to the future of the Stockton Scottish Rite depends on your attendance and input. If you have any suggestions or opinions you are encouraged to voice them.

Patrick

Changes are a way of life, even though many profess that Masonry never changes. The Scottish Rite building is at 33 W. Alpine has been sold to the First Baptist Church next door. Our last Stated meeting in the old building was held on October 4th. We are settling in at our new (if temporary) home at the Masonic Temple building at 340 E. Market St. in downtown Stockton. Happy or not, that is where we are going to hold our meetings until further notice. There are many decisions yet to be made but you may rest assured that every one's opinion will be heard and is important.

I ask that you attend the next few meetings and get involved with what is happening. Only then can you have an informed opinion and only by attending, can you get anything out of Scottish Rite. That statement is true for all aspects of life. Get involved and prosper. We have already elected officers for the 2018 Scottish Rite year but there are so many things to do that whatever your interests, we can keep you busy. With the upcoming presentation of all 29 Scottish Rite Degrees in Oakland, our Valley needs additional help. Our Valley is presenting the 29° and Stockton has not performed that degree in so many years, none of us remember doing it. The degrees will be conferred on the weekend of July 1st. Plan on joining us if you are able and if you do not already belong to the Scottish Rite, this is the perfect time to join us.

I also urge you to come to the Sunset Club meeting on December 19, 2017. This is an informal gathering for purely social purposes. We sit around and have a little liquid refreshment, a good meal and have a chance to discuss what we are each doing personally and fraternally. It is the perfect forum to give YOUR view of where we should be pointed. See you then.

Fraternally, John L. Baker, 33°



**STOCKTON SCOTTISH RITE  
VALLEY**

The Rite News is the official publication of the **Stockton Bodies**, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The Rite News is published bi-monthly.

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## Language Center News

We have had another successful and amazing year at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Center. With the holiday season in full swing, it's the time of year that we reflect on the lives we have impacted and on all that the center has been able to accomplish in 2017.

Thanks to the generous donors, the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Center was able to provide free speech and language therapy to 220 children with speech and/or language impairments in 2017. We developed our clients' communicative skills who were between the ages of two to seventeen years old. Some of the skills developed included learning new speech sounds, expanding the length of sentences, learning new vocabulary, developing social skills and making new friends, learning to read, summarizing new information, and learning to write.

Over the summer, four different summer camps were happening at the center. With the theme of *Camp Out*, the walls were decorated to resemble forests and every craft activity taught our summer campers about nature and camping. We were even able to introduce a new style of camp, called our *Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Camp*. The children who attended this particular camp used picture systems or small computer devices, such as an iPad, in order to communicate with others. What a joy to watch these young AAC users become more confident in their communicative skills while being provided opportunities to talk with new friends.

Not only were the camps a blast for the children, but our local fire and police department joined in on the fun. Each department drove their vehicles to the center and interacted with the children, teaching them about the vehicles, the different aspects of each profession, and answering all of their questions.

In the fall, we introduced a new program known as *early intervention*. Within this program, we were successful in our efforts to provide free speech and language services to clients between the ages of birth to three. Thanks to the success of this program during the fall, we are happy to report that new families are sending in referral packets and therapy requests to participate in our early intervention program.

This has truly been a great year and we are excited to see what is in store for 2018!

Nicholaus Brock MS, CCC-SLP  
Clinic Director  
University of the Pacific  
Dept. of Speech-Language Pathology



## *In Memoriam...*



*Soft and safe to thee, my Brother, be thy resting place.  
Bright and Glorious be thy rising from it.*

## **Childhood Language Disorder Center**

July 2017 was the twentieth anniversary of the joint effort of the Stockton Scottish Rite and the University of the Pacific providing services to children with speech disabilities. Although the Scottish Rite building has been sold, the First Baptist Church has agreed to rent the clinic building back to the University of the Pacific and, therefore, the program is continuing without interruption.

We as members of the Stockton Scottish Rite are still called upon to support the effort via the 365 Club, Scholarship purchases, Giving Tuesday, bequeaths, and the Super Bowl Raffle. Shortly, the raffle winners will be announced. The Board of Directors wishes each entrant to be a winner, as by your participation you already have made WINNERS of the children in the program.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I wish all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Jim Linnerman, 32<sup>o</sup>, KCCH

Chairman Stockton Scottish Rite Childhood  
Language Disorder Clinic

### **Up Coming Events at the Scottish Rite**

- Stated Dinner and Meeting on Wednesday December 6, 2017
- Join us at our new location: 340 E. Market St. Stockton, CA.
- Sunset Club December 19 at 5 PM on East Market...



Merry Christmas Knights and Brothers, I hope everyone has had a nice Thanksgiving, and are now gearing up for a great Christmas. It is during these times that I reflect as to how lucky I am to have my family, that includes my immediate family as well as my Masonic family. I treasure each relationship that I have with not only my fellow Knights, but my Scottish Rite brothers and all of my Masonic brothers. As I reflect on the past year, I look for ways to make the things that I am involved in better. It is that reflection that makes me proud to be a Knight of St. Andrew. Acting as a service unit allows each of us to put our talents to use to make the Scottish Rite a better organization, and improve the experience that our members have at the Scottish Rite. I expect to see a lot of growth among the

visibility at will increase it. We are also Lodge Visitation Committee. been held,



Knights and their the Scottish Rite right along with going to begin a tion Program in with the VMAP Elections have and the results

are as follows: Grand Councilor, Second Knight (Vice President) Tosh Saruwatari; Keeper of the Realm (Secretary) Greg Niskanen; Guardian of the Treasury (Treasurer) Terry Mislark PM.. Appointed Offices are Knight Grand Orator (Spokesman for the Knights) Ross Anderson; Knight of the Watch (Education and Ritual Director) Kit Gamble; Knight of Merriment (Social Director) Earnest McDonald; Knight of Heraldry and Regalia (History and Regalia) Ziggy Striplin. Their term of office is for two (2) years. The Knights of Saint Andrew is a service unit that consists of 32nd Degree "Black Caps". We answer directly to the Personal Representative of the Stockton Valley, and our duties consist of membership services, community outreach, recruitment, and other duties as directed. We have established a dedicated 29th Degree Team, and are responsible for assisting with the degrees at the Communication. The Knights of Saint Andrew will also assist with social functions, and encourage Masonic Education by helping to administer the Master Craftsman Program. If you are interested in becoming a Knight of St Andrew contact Greg Niskanen at the Scottish Rite (209) 466-3391

(stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org) or myself at (209) 601-1448 or [Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com](mailto:Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com). It is my hope and wish that each and every one of you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Roger Moore

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and have stuffed themselves appropriately, but don't diet yet...Christmas is coming. I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas. As I reflect on this year and the relationships that I have forged in the past year, I find that I am very grateful to have each and everyone of you as my Scottish Rite Brothers. While reflection on the past is great for memories, this is the time of year where we should also look to the future and the hope that it provides. It is the future that VMAP is concerned with. The Scottish Rite has a new home. The building on Alpine has sold, and we are now located at the Stockton Masonic Temple in downtown Stockton. While it is undecided if this will be the permanent home of the Scottish Rite it is refreshing to be at the starting point of a brother's Masonic life in Stockton. Masonic life begins at the Blue Lodge, and it is with our eye to the Blue Lodges that we should look to for our growth. All of us are members of a Blue Lodge. As you sit in lodge at Stated Meetings or other gatherings look to your left and your right. Does your brother belong to the Scottish Rite? If not, invite him to Sunset Club which is an informal gathering that occurs on the third Tuesday of each month. Enjoy the fellowship and a dinner and introduce him to your brothers. If you have not been to the Scottish Rite in a while consider yourself invited to Sunset Club, reconnect with your brothers and remember what Scottish Rite stands for and the growth to your Masonic life that it provides. The VMAP committee is coordinating with the Knights of St Andrew to begin a lodge visitation program. Beginning the first of the year we will begin visits. A survey should be arriving shortly. Please complete the survey and return it to the Scottish Rite. We want your honest answers and opinions so that we can make the Scottish Rite experience better for everyone. The VMAP committee will be coordinating with the Knights of St Andrew to begin a lodge visitation program. Look for us in the future to begin visiting your lodge. The VMAP committee is tasked to help improve Member Retention and Recruitment, Education and Goodwill. The VMAP program is a statewide program, and our results are compared and shared statewide if not nationally. The Scottish Rite is always looking for new members. If any Scottish Rite member knows of someone who is or might be interested in joining the Rite and improving their knowledge of Masonry invite them to fill out a Petition. Better yet, invite them to the Sunset Club every third Tuesday of the month, or for Stated Meeting Dinner. If you have any questions or know of someone who would like more information have them contact me at (209) 601-1448 ( E-Mail [Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com](mailto:Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com)) or Greg Niskanen at Greg Niskanen at the Scottish Rite (209) 466-3391 ([stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org](mailto:stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org)). Roger Moore Chairman VMAP Committee  
Valley Membership and Achievement Project (VMAP)

Roger Moore

Chairman VMAP Committee

## Notes From The General Secretary's Desk

Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas ,Sarasvati Puja, Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day (Rohatsu), Jul and Epiphany. These are all expressions of the Season that we are in. May your families and hearths be warm and loving during this season. May the New Year bring joy and may your families thrive.

Let each one of us, practice out of the Lodge those great moral duties which are inculcated in it.

If you have paid your dues for 2018, Thank you. There are still deals to be had for life memberships and it is geared to save you money. Give us a call at the Rite if you would like to explore Life Membership. Our Per Capita payment to the Supreme Council is around \$25.00 per member. We are cutting a check to the Supreme Council for our 90% payment of the Per Capita which is around \$7,000.00. The rest is due in February. Your dues and contributions do help the Rite in staying solvent. Out of 398 Brothers, we have about 165 members that have paid their 2018 dues so far. 77 that are dues exempt and 19 that are Life Members.

Greg



### **Make A Note!!!**

#### **SUNSET CLUB AT THE STOCKTON SCOTTISH RITE**

**When: December 19, 2017**

**At 340 East Market Street**

**4:00 Cigar and Social**

**5:00 Social Hour**

**7:00 Dinner in the Front Room**

**Cost: \$5.00 Please make reservations to Greg @ (209) 466-3391**

**Or: [stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org](mailto:stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org)**

