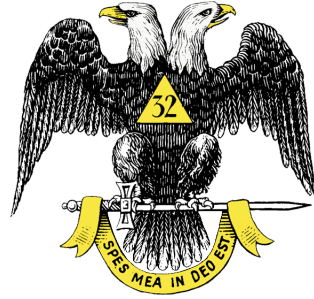


The Norwich Valley Orator



A Newsletter of the Valley of Norwich, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, NMJ
15 Route 165
Preston, Connecticut 06365

Winter-Spring 2009

Valley Welcomes Seven New Sublime Princes

A warm fraternal welcome and congratulations to the following Brothers who have been created Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, 32° on Consistory Day, December 6, 2008: (Note: Because of schedule conflicts, some of our Brothers received their 32° through the courtesy of Lafayette Consistory on November 15, 2008)

David D. Nelson of Coastal Lodge No. 57; **John P. Merein** of Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34; **Jason M. Stork** of Pacific Lodge No. 233 (New York, New York) and Somerset-St James Lodge No. 34; **Robert J. Bailey** of Coastal Lodge No.57; **Darryl Hartley** of Somerset-St. James Lodge No. 34; **Robert S. Eubanks** of Putnam Lodge No. 46; and **Richard Panebianco** of Union Lodge No. 31.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren:

Having gone through one half of a dues collection cycle as your new Valley of Norwich Secretary, I would like to share my observations with you.

The request for dues payment you receive from The Supreme Council is the only official Scottish Rite body authorized to set dues rates and issue a request to pay dues. Many Brothers thought that the notification of pending dues increases sent out by the Valley of Norwich on July 9, 2008 was a request to pay dues. This resulted in many of your overpaying your dues. These overpayments have been resolved.

In order to facilitate the dues processing time, please enclose your dues payment and the dues remittance sheet in the supplied envelope. Don't forget to remove and sign your dues card. Do not obscure, amend, or remove the dues payment schedule located in the upper right hand corner of the dues remittance form.

Keep me informed of address changes.

If you are experiencing financial, health or economic hardships that could prevent you paying your dues, please contact me. I will be glad to discuss any inquiries with you directly in a timely manner.

Frank Rebmann
Secretary Valley of Norwich
1-860-442-0556
frankrebmann@ct.metrocast.net

A Message of Thanks from the Sovereign Grand Commander Regarding the Blue Envelope Appeal

The following are edited excerpts from a letter received from the Sovereign Grand Commander dated August 6, 2008:

“Thank you so much for your support of the 2008 Blue Envelope Appeal...

“I feel that the Blue Envelope Campaign is the most fraternal of our fundraising efforts. The fact that this is our longest standing charitable event seems to imbue it with a unique character. It is as if we can reach back in time to join hands with our past brethren along with our fellow members today each time we participate in this wonderful event.

“It is clear that many of our Brethren have a similar affection for the Blue Envelope Appeal. I am proud to say that 32,771 donations were received this year. The \$813,198.93 raised will sustain our Benevolent Foundations programs, which include the Leon Abbott Scholarships, schizophrenia research and our own National Heritage Museum. Funds from the Benevolent Foundation truly benefit our entire Jurisdiction.

“You are among the 96 who supported the Blue Envelope Appeal in the Valley of Norwich. You raised \$3,587.00 for our Charities. This is an impressive amount, surpassing last year’s performance. Thank you.

“In closing, let me once again thank you for your generous consideration of the 2008 Blue Envelope Appeal. Every day, we promote “more light” throughout our communities. Fulfilling this mission is made possible because of your support.”

Fraternally yours,

John William McNaughton, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Commander

Yohe to receive 33°

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Brother **Charles W. Yohe** who has been elected by the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General to receive the 33°, and become an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council at its Annual Session in August of 2009 in Boston.

Charles William Yohe was born on April 14, 1948, in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where he grew up and attended public schools. After graduating from Cumberland Valley Regional High School, he enrolled in a BA program at Messiah College in nearby Grantham, PA. He graduated with a BA degree in Secondary Education and Biology in 1970 and began teaching Biology and General Science at his alma mater. In 1971, he moved to Sharon, Connecticut and held the position of Biology/Earth Science teacher at Housatonic Regional High School in Falls Village, CT.

While teaching, he met and married his wife, Barbara (Schulze), a lifelong teacher at Sharon Center School. In 1976, Charlie left the field of education and, eventually, was hired by Southern New England Telephone Company, where he was employed for 22 years until his retirement in November 2000.

Charlie was initiated into Masonry in the fall of 1973 and was raised a Master Mason on March 1, 1974 in Hamilton Lodge No. 54, Sharon, CT. In 1975, he was appointed Jr. Deacon and progressed through the chairs to Worshipful Master in 1979. In 1981, he was appointed District Deputy for District 2A. He affiliated with Blazing Star Lodge No. 74, Cornwall Bridge, CT in 1983, where he again progressed through the line and served as Master in 1985 – 1987, 1990 and 1991. He also served several years as secretary. On December 31, 1996, Hamilton Lodge surrendered its charter to the Grand Lodge and its members were assigned to Montgomery Lodge No. 13. In October 1997, Blazing Star Lodge voted to merge with Montgomery Lodge No. 13, Lakeville, CT. During his employment

with SNET, Charlie became a member of the Telephone T-Square Club degree team. He subsequently affiliated with Annawon Lodge No. 115, West Haven, CT in 1998 where he served as Marshal for one year, following which he was elected Jr. Warden to fill a vacancy in the progressing line. He served Annawon Lodge as its Worshipful Master in 2001. In 2002, Housatonic Lodge No. 61, Canaan, CT, requested his assistance to fill the secretary's position in the Lodge. Charlie affiliated with Housatonic Lodge and served as secretary there from 2002 through 2004. Meanwhile, he continued as an officer in Montgomery Lodge, progressing through various chairs until being elected Master in 2005 and 2006. He currently is serving as secretary of Montgomery Lodge No. 13 and is president of the Temple Corporation.

He was appointed as Grand Junior Steward in 1988 and progressed through the Grand Lodge line until being elected and installed as the 150th Grand Master in April 1996. He has served on various Grand Lodge committees including: Publicity & Public Relations, CT CHIP, Medals & Awards, Fraternal Relations, Budget & Appropriations, Wooster Memorial, Addresses & Reports, and Sessions. He is currently serving as a Grand Lodge Trustee. He was appointed the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Switzerland, Alpina in 1992. He received the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze in 2003.

In June of 1982, Charlie was exalted in Ousatonic Chapter No. 33, Royal Arch Masons. He received degrees in Buel Council No. 20, where he served as Thrice Illustrious Master from 1986 through 1988 and then as recorder for several years. He was knighted in Crusader Commandery No. 10 on May 1, 1984.

On September 30, 1996, while serving as Most Worshipful Grand Master, Charlie received the 4th degree in the old Masonic Temple in Norwich. He received the 16th and 18th degrees during that fall of 1996 degree rotation and on December 7, 1996 (Pearl Harbor Day), in a chilly Scottish Rite Auditorium (no heat!), he became a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. Soon, he was approached about taking on the

task of Master of Ceremonies for the 18th degree. He progressed through several chairs in Norwich Chapter of Rose Croix and served as Most Wise Master in 2000. He also was enlisted as an officer in the Consistory and served as Commander-in-Chief for the years 2006 to 2008. Although he lives some distance away, he enjoys participating in the degrees of the Valley.

In 2007, he was approached by Ill. James Spencer, 33^o and urged to apply to fill a position on the Board of Governors for the Scottish Rite 32nd Degree Children's Learning Center in Waterbury. In January 2008, Charlie was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Learning Center, which, though located in Waterbury, serves children throughout the state.

Charlie is also a proud member in perpetuity of New London Chapter No. 58, National Sojourners and is a member of Fort Trumbull Camp, Heroes of '76, where he participates as often as his schedule allows.

Charlie's interests outside of Masonry include hunting, fishing, skiing and traveling. For the past 7 years, Charlie has been engaged part time as a Mobile Disc Jockey and provides music for middle school dances as well as for birthday parties, weddings and get-togethers.

Lodge of Perfection to Present *Secret Master* after the 4^o

On Saturday, February 14, 2009 following a breakfast at 8:00 AM and the presentation of the 4^o, *Master Traveler* at 9:00 AM, King Solomon Lodge of Perfection will present the play, *Secret Master* which follows the format of the 1955 ritual of the Fourth Degree of the same title. Brother Bill Milton, 32^o, MSA, will reprise the role of King Solomon as will Brother Cliff Brautigam, 32^o, MSA, in the role of Zadok along with several other brothers who have participated in this memorable degree in years gone by. Join us for a time of fellowship at breakfast to welcome our new candidates as they begin

their Scottish Rite journey which will be capped by this bit of nostalgia.

Chapter to Present The Feast of the Paschal Lamb

Once again, Norwich Chapter of Rose Croix will present the semi-public *Feast of the Paschal Lamb* on Thursday evening, April 16, 2009. A dinner will precede the 7:30 PM ceremony at 6:30 PM. *The Feast of the Paschal Lamb* is a symbolic ceremony observed by Chapters of Rose Croix as a Memorial Service honoring our departed brethren who have laid down their Working Tools in the time since our last observance. Please plan to join us for this extraordinarily moving presentation. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST AND SHOULD BE MADE BY APRIL 9, 2009. Please make your reservations with our Valley Secretary, Frank Rebmann by calling (860) 442-0556 or e-mail: frankrebmann@ct.metrocast.net. Please specify the total number in your party AND the number of ladies in your party.

Abbott Scholarships

Applications for the Abbott Scholarship Program, available from the Secretary, must be received before April 1, 2009. Abbott Scholarships are available to children or grandchildren of Scottish Rite Masons who are (or were, if deceased) members in good standing. Also eligible are members of youth organizations sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity located in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Completed applications should be returned to the Valley Secretary at 17 Riverhead Lane East Lyme, CT 06333.

Schedule of Events for Spring 2009

(All events will take place at the Preston Masonic Center unless otherwise indicated)

Mon, Jan 5 - Executive Council – 7:30 PM

Mon, Feb 2 - 4° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Mon, Feb 9 - 12° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Thu, Feb 12 – Executive Council – 7:30 PM

Fri, Feb 13 – Degree Set-up – 9:00 AM

Sat, Feb 14 – TPM Reception & Breakfast at 8 AM; 4° at 9 AM followed by the play, *Secret Master*
Sat, Feb 21 - 12° Rehearsal – 8:30 AM

Mon, Mar 2 - 14° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Thu, Mar 5 - 12° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Fri, Mar 6 – Degree Set-up – 9:00 AM

Sat, Mar 7 – TPM Reception at 8:00 AM; 12° at 9 AM followed by 14° with Lunch at 12 noon

Mon, Mar 23 - 18° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Tue, Mar 31 - 16° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Fri, Apr 3 – Degree Set-up – 9:00 AM

Sat, Apr 4 - SP/MWM Reception at 8:00 AM; 16° at 9 AM followed by 18° with Lunch at 12 noon

Mon, Apr 6 - 28° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Mon, Apr 13 – FPL Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Thu, Apr 16 – Feast of the Paschal Lamb – Dinner at 6:30 PM and Ceremony at 7:30 PM
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Sat, Apr 18 - 28° Rehearsal – 8:30 AM

Sat, Apr 25 - 28° Rehearsal – 8:30 AM

Wed, Apr 29 - 31° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Thu, Apr 30 - 32° Rehearsal – 7:30 PM

Fri, May 1 – Degree Set-up – 9:00 AM

Sat, May 2 – CinC Reception at 8:00 AM; 28° at 9 AM followed by 32°; Dinner at 12 noon followed by 31° at 1 PM

Mon, May 4 – Executive Council – 7:30 PM

Thu, May 14 – Annual Joint Meeting of All Bodies - Dinner at 6:30 PM; Meeting at 7:30 PM

Thu, Jun 11 – Player’s Club – 6:00 PM

(Location TBA)

Mon, Jun 22 - Executive Council – 7:30 PM

Tue, Jun 30 – Scholarship Awards – 7:30 PM
(Refreshments following)