

# MINNEAPOLIS SUN

DIGITAL EDITION

MARCH - APRIL 2024





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**\*Every first Tuesday of the month is the Heads of Bodies and Knights of Saint Andrew meetings**

**\*\*Dinners are every Thursday before the degrees. You can RSVP and pay for your meal by [clicking here](#)**

**[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE FULL CALENDAR](#)**



**Albert Pike**

VALLEY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
ORIENT OF MINNESOTA

VALUED MEMBER SINCE 1873

2011 Dupont Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55405

MEMBER NO. 00001



2022

**COMING TO VISIT?**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD!**



# Minneapolis Scottish Rite Valley

At its core, a Reunion is a chance for Scottish Rite Brothers to come together, reunite with one another, rekindling old friendships, and make new ones.

Our Spring Reunion provides the opportunity to complete the journey to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree.

We extend a courteous and fraternal invitation to all brethren of the Rite in good standing to be present on April 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## TO THE CANDIDATES:

You are about to begin your pilgrimage through the Scottish Rite Degrees, and it may become to you one of the greatest and most inspiring experiences of your life.

It is an opportunity to dive deeper into the ethical teachings and philosophy of Freemasonry.

It is the hope and prayer of the Scottish Rite Brethren that your experience may be rich and significant.

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## TO OUR VISITORS:

We extend to you a Mason's welcome, to meet with us at this Reunion and enjoy the fellowship of the Scottish Rite.

More detailed information will be provided.

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## TO OUR MEMBERS:

Your officers and degree teams will be inspired by your presence and you will benefit by the lessons taught by the Scottish Rite Degrees.

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## REUNION SCHEDULE

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### **Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Evening: 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Degree

### **Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Morning: 18<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Degree

- Afternoon: 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree

All Master Masons and those that will be a Master Mason on April 22<sup>nd</sup> are eligible to petition.

Petitions and Fees are due to the Scottish Rite Office by 1:00 pm, Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Call / email the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Valley Office with questions and reservations.

Call:

612.871.1500

Or email to:

[jackie@aasrmn.org](mailto:jackie@aasrmn.org)

**Reservations are required!**

2011 Dupont Avenue South,  
Minneapolis, MN 55405



# ALARMING CONDITIONS

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

When reading about President Calvin Coolidge, you get a sense that the country had given a collective sigh of relief after coming off the heels of Warren G. Harding, widely considered to be one of the most corrupt Presidential administrations in our Nation's history. When people write about Coolidge, they typically talk about his focus on business, and often gloss over the endeavours his administration and Congress made in tackling the illiteracy problem of the United States of America at that time.

The Supreme Council took a stance when it came to this education issue of the day. The Sterling-Reed Bill mentioned in the below article aimed to increase Federal Aid to state schools. While well intentioned, the [prevailing debates](#) over the Bill showed skepticism that this bill was a massive overreach of federal power. In spite of controversy, the Scottish Rite viewed this education bill as necessary to combating the issue of rampant illiteracy in our Nation. The National appetite for this Bill was nonexistent, however, and it never did pass.

Combating illiteracy is a laudable venture. [Illiteracy has dropped significantly since 1924](#) in the United States. So much that since 1979, we changed our expectations of literacy from merely reading and writing to being equipped for the modern world.



I hope you find this look back in history interesting! The SUN in 1924 did not sign their articles, but it is assumed that it was written by secretary David Waldo Knowlton, 33° I.:G.:H.:..

Mark Evan Prewett, 32° K.:C.:C.:H.:  
Editor for the SUN

**SCOTTISH RITE SUN**  
**MARCH 1924**

We take into consideration that six per cent of the population of the United states making a total of five million people are classed as absolute illiterates and nearly twenty-five percent of our young manhood and unable to read, it is about time for the citizens of this great country to arouse themselves to the alarming conditions relative to what might be termed one of the greatest perils that has ever confronted our Nation. According to the latest available figures, The United states has the highest percentage of illiteracy of the ten enlightened countries of the world.

Germany	.2	Sweden	1.0
Switzerland	.5	Scotland	3.5
Netherlands	.6	France	4.9
Finland	.9	England	5.8
Norway	1.0	United States	6.0

This alarming condition must not be placed entirely upon immigration for of those 5 million illiterates, over 3 million or 62% native born of which number 1,109,875 were of native white parentage. Further statistics show that the illiteracy of the native born of our cities is 1.82%, while that of the rural districts is more prevalent, with the percentage of 7.01 showing how our makeshift rural schools are responsible to a large extent for the existence today of nearly 2 million native born persons you can either read nor write. According to the Federal Census, the basic source of illiteracy data, and illiterate person is one who confesses that he has had “no schooling whatever” and “unable to write in any language.” If anyone declares that he has had even the slightest amount of schooling he is classified as literate so doubtless there are many more who could very easily be placed with the so-called illiterates.

When we are confronted with these official figures we must feel the gravest concern and



realize that it is high time for the nation to interest itself in this vital question and make an effort to eradicate this widespread illiteracy.

Thanks to some of our national educators, Congressmen and others who have the welfare of the nation at heart, there is before Congress at this time, a bill known as the Education Bill, which has for its purpose the creation of a Department of Education in connection with the Federal Government, with the secretary and the president’s cabinet, and authorization of Federal aid for public schools. The proposed bill in its entirety appears elsewhere in this issue and it is the earnest desire that our readers familiarize themselves on this tremendously important measure.

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The greatest lesson that Masonry attempts to teach its votaries is that the Master Mind

**THE SUPREME COUNCIL FAVORS**

- 1. A federal Department of Education with a secretary in the President’s Cabinet, and federal aid for public school purposes, under the absolute control of the states.
- 2. A national university at Washington supported by the Government.
- 3. The compulsory use of English as the language of instruction in the grammar grades.
- 4. Adequate provision for the education of the alien populations, not only in cultural and vocational subjects, but especially in the principles of American institutions and popular sovereignty.
- 5. The entire separation of church and state did not position every attempt to appropriate public monies, directly or indirectly, for the support of sectarian institutions.
- 6. The American public school, nonpartisan, non-sectarian, efficient, democratic; For all the children of all the people; Equal educational opportunities for all.
- 7. The inculcation of patriotism, love of the flag column respect for law and order and undying loyalty to constitutional government.



*The Minneapolis Chapter  
of the Rose Croix Presents:*

## **The Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal and the Mystic Banquet**



*This is the night we honor those Brothers of the Valley who have passed into  
the Celestial Lodge Above and renew our ties as Scottish Rite Masons.  
It is an open event and all are welcome!*

### **Saturday March 23rd**

5:30 pm: Fellowship gathering in Downstairs Lounge

6:30 pm: Ceremony in Auditorium

7:00 pm: Mystic Banquet in the Dining Hall



**\$50 Per Person**  
Dinner will be  
**Sliced Sirloin Tips or  
Champagne Chicken  
with Sides**

Minneapolis Valley  
of the Scottish Rite  
2011 Dupont Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN, 55405

Please RSVP to:  
763-355-4520 or  
[ksullivan17415@yahoo.com](mailto:ksullivan17415@yahoo.com)





# KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

Greetings, Knights of St. Andrew,

Reflecting on my journey within our esteemed order, I recall the humble beginnings that paved the way to my current position. Initially, my involvement revolved around Zoom meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month, lasting a mere half-hour. However, this initial step towards fellowship eventually led to my role as Excellent Master. Along this path, I have been grateful for the guidance and wisdom bestowed upon me by my Brothers, shaping both my Masonic career and personal growth.

Participating in these brief meetings offers a glimpse into the inner workings of our Minneapolis Scottish Rite Valley. It is where we witness the planning and coordination required for events at our facility. As Knights of St. Andrew, we are often tasked with upholding the pillars of our building, one such request as of late has been to uphold our Library, ensuring its accessibility during the prelude on degree nights. I encourage each of you to heed this call and sign up for shifts as outlined by our Secretary.

As my tenure as Excellent Master draws to a close, I am humbled by the lessons learned and challenges overcome. One such lesson emerged from my realization of the importance of delegation, a skill not naturally inherent to me. Through this journey, I have come to appreciate the art of entrusting tasks to others, recognizing its significance within the framework of Masonic leadership.

Looking ahead, our calendar is brimming with opportunities for fellowship and commemoration. I urge all Sir Knights to proudly display their tartans in honor of the



upcoming Feast of Remembrance. Additionally, mark your calendars for April 4th, when we gather for the 29th degree of the Knights of St. Andrew. Let us unite, adorned in our tartans, as we celebrate our shared heritage and commitment to our noble order.

In the spirit of camaraderie and unity, I invite you to stay tuned for forthcoming events, including a welcome night for new Sir Knights and summer outings designed to foster fellowship and connection. Together, let us continue to uphold the principles of our order and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood that unite us all.

Fraternally,

Scott Giannone, 32° M.:R.:S.:

Excellent Master, Knights of St. Andrew

Masonry is useful to all men: to the learned, because it affords them the opportunity of exercising their talents upon the subjects eminently worthy of their attention; to the illiterate, because it offers them important instruction; to the young, because it presents them with salutary precepts and good examples, and accustoms them to reflect on the proper mode of living; to the man of the world, whom it furnishes with noble and useful recreation; to the traveler, whom it enables to find friends and brothers in countries where else he would be isolated and solitary; to the worthy man in misfortune, to whom it gives assistance; to the afflicted, on whom it lavishes consolation; to the charitable man, whom it enables to do more good, by uniting with those who are charitable like himself; and to all who have souls capable of appreciating its importance, and of enjoying the charms of a friendship founded on the same principles of religion, morality, and philanthropy.





# SCOTTIE AWARDS 2024

*Brothers! You are cordially invited by the Minneapolis Consistory to the 2024 Consistory Feast celebrating this year's newest Brothers and honoring the workers of the Valley. This Oscar-style dinner and awards show promises to be a great night for Brothers, their friends and families!*

*Who will win Best Actor? Best Degree Director?  
Which performance will be named Best Degree?  
Do you have the Rite Stuff?*



## Thursday, May 9, 2024

*5:30 PM Social Hour  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Awards Ceremony*

*Prime rib or baked cod  
topped with crab. Salad,  
veggie, potato & dessert.*

**Cost: \$50 a person**

*Scan the QR Code to RSVP and select  
dinner choice or contact Mike Miller at  
[mike.miller5@gmail.com](mailto:mike.miller5@gmail.com)  
612-719-2492*







## THE 6TH DEGREE

“Treasures are expended, that would suffice to build ten thousand churches, hospitals, and universities, or rib and tie together a continent with rails of iron. If that treasure were sunk in the sea, it would be calamity enough; but it is put to worse use; for it is expended in cutting into the veins and arteries of human life, until the earth is deluged with a sea of blood.” -6th Degree, Intimate Secretary

This quote, like much of the rest of the chapter, is borrowed from the book *Discourses on the Nature of Religion...* by Orville Dewey. It is a well-crafted and poignant summary of his view on the wastefulness of war and the suffering that it invokes on humanity. By measuring the treasure spent on causing harm in contrast with things used to build up society; like hospitals, churches and railways, Dewey boldly demonstrates the true sum of the horrors of warfare in his eyes. One might think these starkly anti-war quotes out of place in a book, written and compiled by a military officer and veteran of two wars, as Albert Pike was. But it is perhaps because of his military service he was able to see first-hand the tragedy inflicted by battle, which moved him “to pursue the arts of peace...” later in his life. It makes sense why Albert Pike chose this quote for this chapter, as it would be difficult in my opinion, to make this point any better himself.

Due to the combination of our large economy and our large military, as well as our stature on the world stage, America often finds itself policing the globe. Sometimes this is done by force. Currently, our country sits between two warring factions on multiple different fronts, deciding how we will respond based on our ever-changing political whim. But is this a good use of our limited national resources? Does the subjective good outweigh the objective bad of these actions? When is a war “just” or when is military action



acceptable? Or is peace always the best option? I certainly do not have the answers to these tough questions but as Masons it is our duty to ask ourselves this. As with so many things, by challenging our beliefs we can strengthen our understanding of the situation so that we may make a more informed decision. And isn't that what we came here to do?

M. Justin Thompson, 32° K.:C.:C.:H.:  
Education Chair



This has been an unusual Winter with lack of Winter, but Minnesota DeMolay was able to find snow in the Duluth Area to conduct Winterfest, a weekend of brotherly bonding with movies, tubing, food and arcade games. DeMolay has been having membership open houses and will be conducting degrees in the Spring, you will also see them at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in St. Cloud in April. Membership is for young men 12-21, check out [mndemolay.org](http://mndemolay.org) for more information.

Mark Hailer, 33° I.:G.:H.:

## WRITERS WANTED!

Have an article idea?

Send all submissions to [sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org](mailto:sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org)!

Want to join the Scottish Rite communications committee?  
Contact WB Stephen Kesler, 32° K.:C.:C.:H.: at  
[communications@asrmn.org](mailto:communications@asrmn.org)





Fate gave the word, the arrow sped,  
And pierc'd my darling's heart;  
And with him all the joys are fled  
Life can to me impart.

By cruel hands the sapling drops,  
In dust dishonour'd laid;  
So fell the pride of all my hopes,  
My age's future shade.

The mother-linnet in the brake  
Bewails her ravish'd young;  
So I, for my lost darling's sake,  
Lament the live-day long.

Death, oft I've feared thy fatal blow.  
Now, fond, I bare my breast;  
O, do thou kindly lay me low  
With him I love, at rest!

C. David Barnes - November 19, 2023

William C. Coleman - May 24, 2023

Douglas E. Congdon - January 15, 2024

Daniel H. Ellison - April 7, 2023

Vernon H. Flacksbarth - September 10, 2023

Walter B. Jansen - November 22, 2023

John H. Lindgren, 33° IGH - December 6, 2023

Stephen L. Meeker - March 4, 2021

Kenneth G. Niebuhr - April 27, 2023

Merton W. Shapiro - November 23, 2023

Byron L. Zotaley - January 15, 2024

