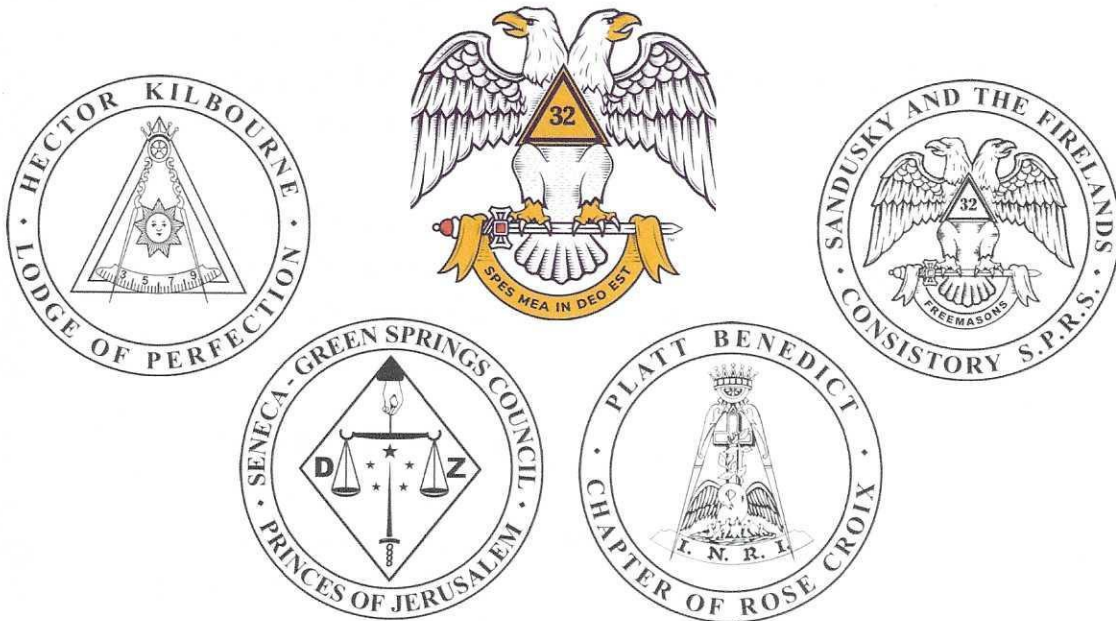


Valley of The Firelands

SCOTTISH RITE™



MEMBER HANDBOOK

Valley of The Firelands

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TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The officers and trustees of the of the Valley of the Firelands welcome you into Scottish Rite Masonry with its new and closer bonds of brotherhood.

There are four separate and distinct organizations, each subordinate to the Supreme Council but withal interdependent, for together they constitute the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

The first body in the Valley of the Firelands is the *Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection*. This body communicates and exemplifies the Fourth to the Fourteenth Degrees inclusive.

The second body in the Valley of the Firelands is the *Seneca-Green Springs Council Princes of Jerusalem*. This body communicates and exemplifies the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Degrees.

The third body in the Valley of the Firelands is the *Platt Benedict Chapter of Rose Croix*. This body communicates and exemplifies the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Degrees.

The fourth body in the Valley of the Firelands is the *Sandusky and the Firelands Consistory*. This body communicates and exemplifies the Nineteenth to the Thirty-second Degrees inclusive.

Each body has its separate corps of officers and is a complete entity, but for convenience and economy these four bodies conduct their business affairs through the Board of Trustees. This board consists of the presiding officers of the four bodies, the treasurer, secretary and three members at large which holds title, control and management of our property for the benefit of the four coordinate bodies in this Valley and their members.

It is our sincere hope that you will find the degrees impressive and helpful, that they will inspire you to greater Masonic activity, that you will gain much pleasure and benefit from the new associations and friendships gained here, that your life will be enriched spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially through your coming among us, that you will become an active and interested member of our great brotherhood and assist in making this world a better place in which to live.

Concept Statement for the Valley of the Firelands

The founders of the Valley of the Firelands instituted the valley in order to address the needs of current or former Scottish Rite members in the Masonic Districts. They acknowledge that a new Scottish Rite valley must be different from existing valleys in spirit and operation lest the new valley suffer the problems currently facing all Scottish Rite valleys.

This statement will present the Core Values of the Valley of the Firelands and the primary operating concept – the Scottish Rite journey – by which those Core Values are demonstrated.

The Core Values of the Valley of the Firelands are:

Leadership

Integration

Restoration

Education

Customization

Leadership

A new member upon receiving the 4th degree or an affiliating member who has yet to receive all degrees is classified as a Master Traveler. The member may then progress through all remaining Scottish Rite degrees but is not required to do so. All members are encouraged to serve on committees of the valley and to serve the valley programs.

Upon completion of all degrees, the member is classified as a Master of the Journey and is recognized for the achievement and entitled to wear the Red Triangle 32 pin surmounting the Double Headed Storm Eagle of Lagash.

Integration

The Scottish Rite is identified as a rite or degree system beginning with the three Symbolic degrees. The Symbolic degrees are foundational for the

degree system of the Scottish Rite. However, the Symbolic degrees are jurisdictionally and historically separate from the degree of the Scottish Rite system.

The Valley of the Firelands will re-integrate the Scottish Rite with the Symbolic lodges within its footprint through various programs and activities such as:

Valley of the Firelands participation in Friendship nights/Mixers

Valley of the Firelands programs and reunions at local lodges

Sponsorship and participation in fundraising, charitable and social programs conducted by the lodges within our valley.

Local lodges will support Valley of the Firelands ritual activities through lodge adoption of degree presentation.

Restoration

The valley seeks to restore that which was lost by examining the development of the Scottish Rite and drawing from that development best practices and tradition. The progressive system of degrees reflects the traditional method of degree conferral. The emphasis on education reflects the goal of making members better men. The use of the black cap recognizes the equality of all members, uniformity in a common purpose and a tangible reminder of our sacred activities. The Scottish Rite was once rich in material culture and the use of caps, jewels, sashes and other paraphernalia among members will restore internal recognition of who can best work and best agree.

The more recent tradition of local lodge or special interest sponsorship of degree work will be restored and encouraged. Ideally, every degree will have a lodge sponsor or an affinity group sponsor such as Senior Demolay, first responder, lawyers, etc.

Less tangible but perhaps most important is the restoration of that fellowship that characterized early Freemasonry based on small groups of men who knew and cared for each other. The small scale of the valley should support this approach. Fellowship events should be designed for an inclusive, quality experience.

Education

The development of the member through use of the Scottish Rite systems of degrees and its philosophies and traditions is the primary purpose of the Scottish Rite. The bare conferral of degrees alone is only the initial introduction of a member to the framework of what the Scottish Rite is. Degree conferrals – through whichever format – will be accompanied by educational sessions developed around the degrees and tailored towards the needs and abilities of the member. Few men are philosophers therefore advanced or esoteric subject matter should be carefully presented.

In order to increase the member's knowledge of the degrees he is asked to absorb, the *post-candoris* education sessions will occur immediately before or after the dramatic work. This will assist the member in retaining and internalizing the meaning and message of the degree. Moreover, the member comes to his own conclusion on the message of the degree by his own analysis using his own viewpoints and world experience.

Customization

Members should be more than a name on a list and a revenue source. The younger generations have grown up with the expectation of “mass customization”. Because the primary purpose of Scottish Rite is development of the man through education the Valley of the Firelands will be able to know its members and tailor programming to their interests.

At initiation or affiliation member's personal data, Masonic experience, interests, skills, capabilities and commitments are assessed and captured within a Member Profile (MP). The Valley of the Firelands through a contact manager will update the member's status periodically. The data is shared internally with the committees responsible for maintaining contact with the member and advising the member of his status and degrees not yet received and opportunities to receive them. The MP will also track the member's support of valley activities, attendance and leadership experience. Mentorships will be established to maintain personal contact with ne Master Travelers during their initial years.

The Scottish Rite Journey

The Scottish Rite journey is a systematic and integrated offering of the 29 Scottish Rite degrees as part of a multi-faceted pathway of Masonic learning and experience which demonstrates the Core Values.

The following is a non-exclusive list of the several purposes and benefits of the Scottish Rite Journey:

1. Re-establish the brand value of the 32nd Degree and Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.
2. Incorporate more scholarly (but accessible) material relating to the degrees and to Scottish Rite history, philosophy and culture as applied to current members.
3. Provide a better understanding of the progressive nature of Scottish Rite.
4. Create a sense of achievement and personal development in members by recognition of journey progress.
5. Relieve demands on limited stage and cast for more difficult productions.
6. Offer all 29 degrees (in dramatic, study or table formats) in a defined and relatively brief period of time.
7. Encourage greater and “flatter” member participation in core valley activities.
8. Integrate social, fraternal and family aspects into the more abstract process of receiving the degrees.

Programming

The valley schedules the complete one-year program in advance. The plan includes degrees, education and fellowship events. This allows better preparation for degree work and describes the journey for the candidate. The plan is evaluated and modified as needed based on experience.

In order to provide members the opportunities to complete the journey in a reasonable time, the valley will advise members of opportunities to travel to area valleys to receive degree work. Conferrals at host lodges are encouraged.

Reunions

Valley events will be based on a quarterly schedule. Quarterly reunions will feature elements of ritual, education and fellowship. For example, a quarterly reunion might consist of an evening or morning session featuring the presentation of degrees (in any of the three formats), member education and an agape dinner. In addition to quarterly reunions, the valley will sponsor and present related fellowship events such as Rite On, Celebrate the Rite, education programs, fundraisers and other mixers.

Degree Schedule

The degrees may be presented in any order. Designated milestone degrees such as the 14th and 32nd will be presented in a special format accompanied by recognition. Moreover, the 32nd degree and the creation of Sublime prince of the Royal Secret will be offered once a year. The 32nd degree will be presented in the context of a heightened event that reflects the high value of the degree and the recognition of those members who have completed the mandatory ten degrees.

Progress in the Degrees

Members will receive recognition at the beginning of their journey and at significant way points during the journey, e.g., 4th degree (**black cap**), 14th degree (**Elu ring**). Upon completion of the 4th, 14th, 15th or 16th, 17th or 18th degrees along with five other degrees of the member's choice and the 32nd degree the **32nd degree lapel pin** will be presented. At the end of their journey, in recognition of the completion of all twenty-nine degrees, the **Red Triangle 32 pin** will be awarded. Related is the 32nd degree event which will be of such quality as to impress the candidate further and reward as well as acknowledge his labor in completing the Core degrees.

Degree Formats

Degrees are presented in three formats: Dramatic, Study and Table.

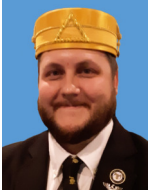
The Dramatic format is the traditional stage presentation in an appropriated venue with appropriate sound, lighting and other properties. Dramatic includes receiving degrees in other valleys which should be encouraged as a social and networking exercise.

The Study format is a participatory group discussion method involving the reading of the degree focusing on the candidate's personal understanding of the specific message and application to his own life and experience.

These are a more developed version of the *post-candoris* sessions currently used in other valleys. We contend that a member gets far more from reading and discussion of a topic than passively watching a stage work. Post-reunion interviews confirm this. This will also require a certain liberality with the possession and use of rituals by members.

The Table format is a new concept. The degree is read in a small group non-stage setting without a requirement for memorization. It is akin to a radio play where the candidates receive the degree primarily through a sense of hearing. Sound effects and limited properties may be used. This has the advantage of better reception of the message by the candidate and allows more members to participate in the portrayal due to reduced memorization requirements. An education session accompanies the degree.

VALLEY OFFICERS



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Hector Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection
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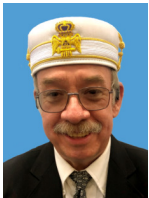
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Secretary
Valley of the Firelands
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III. RWB Joseph C. Radocy, 33°
Deputy's Representative
Valley of the Firelands
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VALLEY OFFICERS – continued

HECTOR KILBOURNE LODGE OF PERFECTION

Michael J. Cooley, Thrice Potent Master
William M. Bevins, Deputy Master
Eric D. Young, Senior Warden
Daniel J. Harr, Junior Warden
Robert A. Lemaster, Orator
Austin Norville, Master of Ceremonies
Will Mitchell, Captain of the Guard

SENECA-GREEN SPRINGS COUNCIL PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

Jeffrey A. Ingersoll, Sovereign Prince
Shawn W. Taylor, High Priest
Tony Wise, Senior Warden
Scott O. Nave, Junior Warden
Anton Smith, Master of Ceremonies
Lon Burton, Master of Entrances

PLATT BENEDICT CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

Robert R. Cook – Most High Master
Cody D. Noon, Senior Warden
Thomas L. Hilton, Junior Warden
Daniel A. Brake, – Orator
Lee Kemerley, Master of Ceremonies
Howard Ellis, Captain of the Guard

SANDUSKY AND FIRELANDS CONSISTORY

Alan W. Bacon, MSA, Commander-in-Chief
Russell E. Beach, 1st Lt. Commander
Lawrence C. Palmer, 2nd Lt. Commander
Max Rowe, Orator
David Dauterman, Chancellor
Paul Lipke-Benn, Master of Ceremonies
Rob Ochier, Captain of the Guard

TYLER OF THE VALLEY

Arnold L. Humphreys, MSA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

III. Steven K. Hessler, 33°

Chairman of the Board

Michael J. Cooley

Thrice Potent Master

Hector Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection

Jeffrey A. Ingersoll

Sovereign Prince

Seneca-Green Springs Council Princes of Jerusalem

Robert R. Cook

Most Wise Master

Platt Benedict Chapter of Rose Croix

Alan W. Bacon

Commander in Chief

Sandusky and the Firelands Consistory

Steve Cooley, 33° Elect

Trustee at Large

III. Jeff Kaple, 33°

Trustee at Large

III. Steven K. Hessler, 33°

Trustee at Large

III. Duane A. Kemerley, 33°

Secretary (non voting)

III. Larry A. Rentz, 33°

Treasurer (non voting)

III. MWB Joseph C. Radocy

Deputy's Representative (non voting)

COMMITTEES

DEGREE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Ill. Duane A Kemerley 33° *Chairman*
Robert Cooke
Eric Young
Cody Noon
Mike Cooley
Leland Kemerley
Howard Park MSA

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ill. Larry A Rentz 33° *Chairman*
Alan W Bacon MSA
Gary A Miller MSA
Anthony Wise

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ill. Steven K. Hessler 33° *Chairman*
Michael J Cooley
Cody Noon
Mark Allred, Jr.
Howard Ellis

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Russell E Beach *Chairman*
Tom Hilton MSA
Lon Burton
Jeff Ingersoll

RETENTION COMMITTEE

Tom Hilton MSA *Chairman*
Scott O. Nave
Russell E Beach

PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Daniel Harr *Chairman*
Doug Kranch MSA *Website Mgr.*
Alan Bacon MSA *Masonic Bulletin*
Scott O. Nave *Event Photography*
Lawrence Palmer

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Gail E Reeder MSA *Chairman*
Arnold Humphreys MSA
Robert Lemaster
Shaun Taylor
Austin Norville
Anton Smith

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Jordan Lawrence *Chairman*
David Dauterman
Ill. Jeff Kaple 33°
Jeff Ingersoll

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Bill Bevens *Chairman*
Ill. William Laughlin 33°
Russell E Beach
Dwight Damschroder MSA
Robert Cooke
Eric Young
Daniel Harr
Anton Smith
Ill. Larry Rentz 33°
Anthony Wise.

FRATERNAL CARE TEAM

Howard Ellis
Leland Kemerley

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE TEAM

Douglas Kranch MSA *Chairman*
Ill. Eric "Rick" Schau, 33°
Daniel Brake

**VALLEY OF EXCELLENCE
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Dwight Damschroder MSA *Chairman*
Ill. Joseph C Radocy 33°

Navigating the Valley of the Firelands Website

www.valleyofthefirelands.org

The Valley of the Firelands Web site is an important tool for keeping you informed about and helping you participate in Valley activities.

The Web site lists all upcoming events and lets you register and pay any fees for those you want to attend. You can also find the most current documents, a membership directory, a list of officers, and pages that let you donate to Scottish Rite charities.

You can direct Masons interested in joining the Valley of the Firelands to our page that will let them fill out a petition and pay the joining fee from their own computer.

The content of each tab (link) located at the very top of the Web site homepage is explained below. Just click on a tab and explore the Valley Web site for yourself!

Membership

- Becoming a member
 - Membership levels
 - Downloadable petitions for membership, demitting, and changing primary valley
- Honors and Regalia
 - Caps, pins, jewels, and the 14th degree ring
- Online Application
 - Apply and pay the joining fee for the Valley of the Firelands via the Web
- Member Handbook
 - Download a PDF copy of the latest Member Handbook
- Membership Renewal
 - Review your VOF information and pay the annual Valley of the Firelands dues via the Web

Events

- Shows all upcoming events of interest to Valley of the Firelands members in chronological order
- Includes date and time, location, dress, accessibility, and itinerary
- Allows members to register and pay online for events as required

Member Portal (Must be logged in to see)

- 32nd Degree Eligibility: Requirements to receive the 32nd degree in the Valley of the Firelands
- Lessons of the Degree: Overview of each degree
- Creating Photo Albums: Instructions on posting you photos on our Web site
- Member Directory: Searchable database of Valley members
- By-Laws: The By-Laws of the Valley of the Firelands
- Standard Operating Procedures: Established procedures for officers and committees

News

- Pictures from Valley of the Firelands events arranged by year

Officers

- Officers and committees of the Valley of the Firelands

Giving

- Accepts electronic donations for NMJ and VOF charities
- Northern Masonic Jurisdiction charities
 - Grand Almoner's Fund (Blue Envelope Appeal for Scottish Rite Masons in distress)
 - White Flower Society (Scottish Rite Widows)
 - Children's Dyslexia Center
 - Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Program
- Valley of the Firelands programs
 - Black Cap Fund (Financial assistance for Masons wanting to become VOF members)
 - VOF Endowment (Interest from this fund provides a stable source of income)
 - General Fund (Used as needed to support the immediate needs of the Valley)
 - Charitable Relief Fund (Used to support VOF brothers in need)
 - Masonic Youth Group Fund (Supports Rainbow Girls, Order of DeMolay, and Job's Daughters)

Web Store

- Facilitates online purchases of selected Masonic commodities
 - The official VOF black blazer, tie and buttons
 - Valley of the Firelands embroidered merchandise
 - Support our advertisers



4° - 14° Degree Summaries

The Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection has the responsibility to confer the 4°-14°. These degrees investigate and contemplate spirituality, and also amplify the Hiramic Legend and lessons from the biblical era.

4th Degree – Builder

A Master Mason seeks divine guidance. **Philosophy:** Brothers grow together in Scottish Rite. **Core Values:** Reverence for God, Integrity, & Service

5th Degree – Perfect Master

Two sons of Aaron, corrupted by greed and ambition, allow the sacred flame to extinguish. **Philosophy:** Trustworthiness is more valuable than life and is the basis for Masonic honor. **Core Values:** Reverence for God, Justice & Integrity.

6th Degree - Master of the Brazen Serpent

When the children of Israel encounter a rough and dangerous journey through the desert, they rebel against Moses and God. **Philosophy:** The answer to the spiritual problems of mankind is faith in ourselves and in God. **Core Values:** Reverence for God.

7th Degree - Provost and Judge

A dispute among the workmen where honesty and justice prevail. **Philosophy:** We should render justice to all mankind. **Core Values:** Justice & Integrity.

8th Degree - Intendent of the Building

Based on the Old Testament story of King David and his assignment to his son, the future King Solomon. **Philosophy:** The degree reminds us that each honor we receive requires attention to a particular duty. **Core Values:** Service, Integrity, & Reverence for God.

9th Degree - Master of the Temple

The Temple of King Solomon is dedicated by priests of many religions. **Philosophy:** We should not be too zealous in executing justice. **Core Values:** Reverence for God & Service.

10th Degree - Master Elect

King Solomon learns of his sentence from which there is no appeal. **Philosophy:** The violator of his obligations to God will not go unpunished. **Core Values:** Reverence for God & Justice.

11th Degree - Sublime Master Elected

King Solomon's tax collector violates the public trust. **Philosophy:** When confronted by corrupt, tyrannical, or illegal behavior on the part of a person in authority, the nation should remain loyal and courageous. **Core Values:** Integrity.

12th Degree - Master of Mercy

Joseph forgives his brothers for selling him into slavery. **Philosophy:** We are taught forgiveness, compassion, and brotherly love. **Core Values:** Justice & Integrity.

13th Degree - Master of the Ninth Arch

The degree dramatizes the dangers encountered as men search for the lost word. **Philosophy:** We are reminded that difficulties and dangers should not deter us from pursuing moral perfection. **Core Values:** Reverence for God.

14th Degree - Grand Elect Mason

The essence of Symbolic Masonry is compiled in lessons of the Lodge of Perfection. **Philosophy:** Members are encouraged to worship God at the altar of their choice. **Core Values:** Reverence for God.



15°-16° Degree Summaries

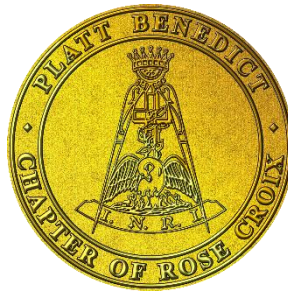
The Seneca-Green Spring Council Princes of Jerusalem has the responsibility to confer the 15°-16° which are referred to as “historical degrees.” These degrees explore the conflicts and politics in the rebuilding of the Temple of Solomon.

15th Degree - Knight of the East

This degree teaches us to emulate Zerubbabel who, even when tempted, would not violate his obligations. **Philosophy:** Loyalty to conviction, fidelity to duty, and devotion to truth are the essences of integrity. **Core Values:** Integrity.

16th Degree - Prince of Jerusalem

The court of King Darius contemplates what motivates man. **Philosophy:** We learn that devotion to truth surpasses secular motivations. **Core Values:** Reverence for God.



17°-18° Degree Summaries

The Platt Benedict Chapter of Rose Croix has the responsibility to confer the 17° - 18° which are referred to as the “philosophical degrees.” Both degrees use the Book of Life to advance the concept of avoiding the mistakes of the past.

17th Degree - Knight of the East and West

The degree dramatizes a picture of human failure, and social and moral behavior. The book of life is sealed. **Philosophy:** We must seek truth in our way of life and should learn from, and avoid, repeating the errors of the past. **Core Values:** Reverence for God & Service.

18th Degree - Knight of the Rose Croix of H. R. D. M.

The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth are used to exemplify the universal principles of life. **Philosophy:** The Book of Life is opened. The new law is a law of love, which all men everywhere may understand and practice. **Core Values:** Integrity.



19°-32° Degree Summaries

The Sandusky and the Firelands Consistory has the responsibility to confer the 19° - 32°. These degrees demonstrate the challenges of social and moral conflicts.

19th Degree - Brothers of the Trail

Along the Oregon Trail in 1840, one pioneer lives up to his sacred obligation to care for his brother. **Philosophy:** A Mason's word is good as gold anywhere in the world where a man's word still counts for something. **Core Values:** Reverence for God & Integrity.

20th Degree - Master Ad Vitam

Benedict Arnold seeks pardon for his treason. **Philosophy:** Treason is a crime over which Masonry casts no mantle of charity. **Core Values:** Devotion to Country & Integrity.

21st Degree - Patriarch Noachite

Knights and Nobles come together to punish crime, reward virtue, protect the innocent, and provide aid to the needy. **Philosophy:** Freemasonry is not a shield for evil-doing. **Core Values:** Justice.

22nd Degree - Prince of Libanus

A brother is introduced to wood cutters who test his willingness to put aside his rank and status. **Philosophy:** Honest work is honorable and noble in the sight of God and man. **Core Values:** Service.

23rd Degree - Knight of Valor

Based on a true incident during World War II and the heroic actions of Four Chaplains. **Philosophy:** This degree teaches us that faith in God will find expression in love for our fellow man, even to the ultimate personal sacrifice. **Core Values:** Reverence for God, Toleration, Devotion to Country & Service.

24th Degree - Brother of the Forest

A Native American petitions for membership in a colonial symbolic lodge. **Philosophy:** The importance of toleration, and Freemasonry is a universal brotherhood. **Core Values:** Toleration.

25th Degree - Master of Achievement

Industriousness is shown through the life of Brother Benjamin Franklin. **Philosophy:** The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealing with one another. **Core Values:** Devotion to Country & Service.

26th Degree - Friend and Brother Eternal

Two officers, while on opposite sides of the Civil War, maintain their Masonic principles. **Philosophy:** Masonic unity and harmony transcend conflict. **Core Values:** Devotion to Country & Integrity.

27th Degree - Knight of Jerusalem

An historic clash between Pope Honorius III and Emperor Frederick II. **Philosophy:** When tensions arise between church and state, one must be governed by his own conscious. **Core Value:** Toleration.

28th Degree – Knight of the Sun

Masonry's transformation from an operative guild to speculative moral fraternity. **Philosophy:** The working tools of the builders' art are used to express unique qualities of moral instruction. **Core Values:** Integrity.

29th Degree - Knight of St. Andrew

An incident in the long wars between Islam and Christianity in Europe is resolved by Masonic teachings and toleration. **Philosophy:** No one religion has a monopoly on truth. **Core Value:** Toleration.

30th Degree – Grand Inspector

A fourteenth century trial in the English civil court during the reign of Edward II is conducted. **Philosophy:** To be attentive, impartial, and equitable in judging others. **Core Values:** Justice.

31st Degree - My Brother's Keeper

While attending St. Andrew's Lodge at the Green Dragon Tavern, Brothers Warren and Dawes come to the aid of an injured brother. **Philosophy:** The degree reinforces our call to service in the fraternity. **Core Values:** Integrity & Service.

32nd Degree – Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret




The degree dramatically teaches us to choose between personal advancement and service to humanity. **Philosophy:** The degree represents the victory of the spiritual over the human in man. **Core Values:** Devotion to Country & Service.

Honors of the Scottish Rite and the Valley of the Firelands

A Valley of the Firelands member's journey through the Degrees of Scottish Rite are marked in several distinctive ways, many of which are unique to Valley of the Firelands. Below are pictures of various accolades that can be achieved throughout your Journey, and a short description on how to achieve each one.

	<p>The Black Cap is a basic uniform component for a Scottish Rite Mason. Once out of fashion, the Valley of the Firelands has returned the black cap to a mark of distinction in Ohio Scottish Rite Masonry. Every Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of the Firelands receives a black cap upon having his membership petition accepted and after witnessing the 4th Degree.</p>
	<p>The 14th degree ring is another custom for Masons who have completed the Lodge of Perfection. It is a plain, flat band of gold, engraved or enameled on the outside thereof with the Hebrew character "Yod" within an equilateral triangle. On the inside of the ring is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Virtus junxit, mors non separabit" which means "Whom virtue unites, death will not separate." The ring is available to Firelands members as part of their 14th degree experience.</p>
	<p>THE 32nd DEGREE: Witnessing the 32nd degree is restricted within the Valley of the Firelands. To witness the 32nd degree, a Brother must have attended the 4th degree as well as 9 other "Core Value" degrees within the degree systems of the Scottish Rite. Portrayals of the 32nd degree are considered special occasions within the Valley of the Firelands, and a member will be invited to a conferral upon completing the above requirements.</p>
	<p>The Red Triangle pin, placed on the member's cap above the double-headed eagle, is NOT granted after witnessing the 32nd degree. This high honor is reserved for VOF Members who have witnessed all 29 degrees within the Scottish Rite. Attending conferrals within other recognized Valleys can be counted towards this requirement—remember to get your passport book stamped!</p>

Honors of the Scottish Rite and the Valley of the Firelands

	<p>The “Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret” Jewel is a pocket jewel worn with your suitcoat jacket. It is awarded by the Supreme Council for any member who has witnessed all 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite twice—encouraging our membership to revisit the degrees as part of a culture of life-long learning and reflection.</p>
	<p>“Master of the Rite” is a lapel pin that is presented to members after they have witnessed their 10 chosen Scottish Rite degrees, qualifying them for invitation to the VOF’s 32nd degree presentation.</p>
	<p>The Firelands Blazer and Eagle of Lagash necktie is a unique custom (preferred wear but not required) of Valley membership. Blazers, ties, and even Scottish Rite buttons are available for purchase through a link on our website.</p>

Honors of the Scottish Rite and the Valley of the Firelands



The three elected officers of Hector Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection (the 4th through the 14th degrees) wear yellow caps decorated with an equilateral triangle.

The presiding officer of the Lodge of Perfection is addressed as “Thrice Potent Master”.

A past presiding officer has a black braid across the crown of his yellow cap.



The three elected officers of Seneca-Green Springs Council Princes of Jerusalem (the 15th and 16th degrees) wear yellow caps decorated with the scales of justice.

The presiding officer of the Council Princes of Jerusalem is addressed as “Sovereign Prince”.

A past presiding officer has a black braid across the crown of his yellow cap.



The three elected officers of Platt Benedict Chapter of Rose Croix (17th and 18th degrees) wear yellow caps decorated with a Red Cross.

The presiding officer of the Chapter of Rose Croix is addressed as “Most Wise Master”.

A past presiding officer has a black braid across the crown of his yellow cap.



The three elected officers of Sandusky and the Firelands Consistory (the 19th through the 32nd degrees) wear caps decorated with the Double-headed Eagle of Lagash.

The presiding officer of the Consistory is addressed as “Commander in Chief”.

A past presiding officer has a black braid across the crown of his cap.

Honors of the Scottish Rite and the Valley of the Firelands



The Meritorious Service Award (MSA) is conferred upon those who have served the Valley of the Firelands with Distinction; limited in number of conferrals, the recipients are named by the Board of Directors and recognized with special honors during the annual Ohio Council of Deliberation, traditionally held each June.

MSA members are distinguished by their wearing of the red cap.



Sovereign Grand Inspector General - The Thirty-third Degree is the highest degree to be granted and is conferred by the Supreme Council. A Brother cannot apply for the Thirty-third degree. Each year at the annual meeting of the Supreme Council, a select few of Thirty-Second Degree Masons are elected to receive the Thirty-third Degree. Nominations for the Thirty-Third Degree are made by the Deputies of each of the fifteen states after consultation with their fellow Active Members. Nominations are then submitted to the entire Active Membership of the Supreme Council for ballot. Following election by unanimous vote candidates await the next annual meeting when the Degree is conferred in full ceremonial form.

Honorary Members of Supreme Council are distinguished by their wearing of the white cap.



The Supreme Council is composed of 49 trustees. They are known as Active Members.

Each of the 15 states within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has an Active Member designated as a Deputy. The Deputy serves as the executive officer for Scottish Rite Freemasonry within his state. He is supported by the remaining Active Members of the state.

Active members of Supreme Council are distinguished by their wearing of the purple cap.

MEMBERSHIP



QUESTIONNAIRE

All members are encouraged to become involved. Please complete this form and hand it to the valley secretary or mail to the Valley of the Firelands, P.O. Box 98 Tiffin, OH 44883. THANK YOU!

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

I am interested in working with the committee(s) I have checked below:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> COSTUMES | <input type="radio"/> REGISTRATION | <input type="radio"/> MAKE-UP |
| <input type="radio"/> TYLING | <input type="radio"/> HOSPITALITY | <input type="radio"/> CLASS MARSHALL |
| <input type="radio"/> PROMOTIONAL | <input type="radio"/> MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | |
| <input type="radio"/> STAGE | <input type="radio"/> LIGHTING | <input type="radio"/> SOUND |

I am interested in participating in the degree work of the Scottish Rite and would like to be considered for:

- ☐ SPEAKING PART ☐ NON-SPEAKING PART

I would prefer to work in:

- ☐ Hector Kilbourne Lodge of Perfection
- ☐ Seneca-Green Springs Council Princes of Jerusalem
- ☐ Platt Benedict Chapter of Rose Croix
- ☐ Sandusky and the Firelands Consistory, S.P.R.S.