

# Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware, June 30, 2018

Illustrious and Dear Sovereign Grand Commander:

In compliance with Article 122, Section 12, of the Constitutions of our Supreme Council, I am pleased to submit my report as Deputy for the state of Delaware for the year ending June 30, 2016.

## *Necrology*

Illustrious Nathan Zahn, 33°, passed on September 12, 2017. He received the 33° on September 1, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He served the Grand Lodge of Delaware as Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, 2015-2016. Nate always read the Hebrew version of the Ten Commandments at every conferral of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree.

Illustrious James E. Turner, III, 33°, passed on December 28, 2017. He was coroneted a 33° on September 23, 2003 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He served the Valley of Wilmington as Thrice Potent Master of the Wilmington Lodge of Perfection, 1992-1993. Jamie was recognized as our “first responder” to the tragedy that occurred in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Illustrious Donald Davis Thomas, 33°, passed on May 22, 2018. He was coroneted a 33° on September 26, 1979 in Chicago, Illinois. He served the Valley of Wilmington as Thrice Potent Master of the Wilmington Lodge of Perfection, 1978-1979. He was crowned an Active member of Supreme Council in 2000 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was Deputy for Delaware 2002 – 2003 and served the Grand Lodge of Delaware as Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, 2004 – 2005. On September 29, 2006, he became an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council.

It is also important to note and remember the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award who was called from his labors and crossed beyond the veil to our Father’s House.

Distinguished Winvert J. Matthews, 32°, M.S.A. (June 1998) died on October 2, 2017

In addition to these Illustrious and Distinguished brothers, there were also another fifty-eight Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret 32° who were separated from us this year by death. Every one of these brothers was an important part of the Scottish Rite.

## *Membership*

Membership is always a primary focus. We emphasize providing a strong fraternal experience for both new members and our existing membership. Although this creates a number of challenges, the formula is showing some strong results. This year there have been twenty-one new candidates in the Delaware Consistory. Although encouraging, it only represents 30 percent of our deaths and NPDs, which is a drop from the previous three years. Our demographics are still heavily weighted towards the senior end of the scale. This situation is further exacerbated by the reality that membership in the Grand

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Lodge of Delaware is also on the decline. The Delaware Consistory continues to work with the Grand Lodge of Delaware and is still exploring ways to support the Grand Lodge beyond our financial assistance in reducing their printing, mailing and installation cost. There is no doubt that our only product and our only hope is to provide a superior fraternal experience to a broad range of men. It appears that the Grand Lodge of Delaware has some interest in the *Path Forward* program.

## *Almoner's Fund*

The Delaware Consistory continues to provide assistance through our Almoner's Fund to brother master masons in Delaware. Although our fund is not large (we took in about \$3,000 and spent about the same). It has so far, been able to fulfill most of the requests received for support and relief in our state. During this year, we necessarily made two requests to the Grand Almoner's fund for Brothers desperately in need and received \$26,500 from the Grand Almoner. The membership, in Delaware, has been very generous in their support of the Almoner's Fund.

## *Valley of Lower Delaware*

The Valley of Lower Delaware has been an active participant in the activities of the Delaware Consistory. Their repertoire of degrees is growing as is their skill at giving wonderful presentations. This year they presented for the first time the Fifth Degree, Perfect Master, and repeated another great Reunion at Jefferson Lodge in Lewes, Delaware. It was another success and the day was dedicated to the memory of Illustrious Nathan Zahn, 33°, and recent Grand Master. Attendance was again SPRSs from both the Valley of Wilmington and the Valley of Lower Delaware. The reunion was a complete success and the Valley of Lower Delaware is an asset to the Scottish Rite family in Delaware.

## *ICE Activities*

The Scottish Rite in Delaware is fully committed to the concept of Inspiration, Convenience and Enjoyment (ICE). We encourage members to bring their families and friends to our events and the results are very positive. This year we held the following events:

- On December 16, 2017, the Consistory provided a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater for the *Christmas Miracle* preceded by a dinner at one of the famous eateries in the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania area. Delaware Consistory budgeted for one bus full and we covered half the cost for the 54 participants.
- Delaware continues to use membership events, or mixers, to attract brothers who have not yet joined the Scottish Rite. Families are also invited and these events are held at local restaurants.

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- One of the four Scottish Rite Business Meetings was held as a dinner event with families also invited. The participation at these events is very significant. This year's attendance averaged approximately 90.
- A worker's appreciation event was held at the Deerfield Country Club to recognize everyone, with their families, who had worked for the Rite to make this a successful year and we hosted nearly 100 members and their ladies.
- A reception and dinner were held for the Grand Master at the Felton Fire Hall in Felton, Delaware. The Delaware Consistory invited the Grand Master and his staff, all past Grand Masters, all sitting Worshipful Masters in Delaware, all Scottish Rite line officers from both Valleys, all 33° honorary members and MSAs from both Valleys. A lot of fried oysters, a lot of chicken salad and a lot of fraternal memories were on the menu. We try to make this a fun event and ban long speeches but allow some words from the Deputy and Grand Master. This year Most Worshipful Brother John Marrinucci, Grand Master (an Air Force brat) gave a very short but moving talk about how important the donations made by the Scottish Rite to the Support Group at the Dover Air Force base. During his childhood, he was the beneficiary of similar programs at other Air Force bases.
- The eleventh annual Scottish Rite Golf Tournament to benefit the families and children of deployed service members from Dover Air Force Base was postponed from its original date due to the course being underwater from the rain received in May. It was held instead on June 15<sup>th</sup> and was still successful. This event is managed, run and staffed by the Valley of Wilmington's Council of Princes of Jerusalem.
- Equity Council, the social branch of Wilmington Council Princes of Jerusalem, marked the milestone of 90 years of monthly meetings with a gala at Tyler's in Pike Creek. It is noteworthy that they have had to cancel only three meetings in all of those years. It was a packed house and all but a few shut-ins were there. Equity Council numbers among its members, all officers and past officers of the Wilmington Council Princes of Jerusalem and their families. They graciously accept the Deputy and Active as members. To celebrate this achievement, they had the Grand Master of Masons in Delaware as the keynote speaker. What an event for the nearly 50 attendees!! And here is to 90 more years Equity Council.
- Delaware Consistory hosted a Gala Reunion on April 7, 2018. At this Reunion, we were blessed to have the new Sovereign Grand Commander, David A. Glattly, and Lady Monica join us. The event was held at The Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. The day started with a luncheon for the members and their families. Brief words of welcome were given by the Deputy with an introduction of the Deputy Grand Master Donald E. Rosenberry and Lady Judy followed by introduction of Sovereign Grand Commander Illustrious David A. Glattly, 33°, and Lady Monica. In the afternoon, the ladies were given a tour of the casino facilities, instruction in at least one game of chance and some "try it out" money. The men attended a

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presentation of the 31 and 32 Degrees. in the Casino's theater. There were twenty-one new candidates who received their SPRS. The evening started with a social hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres. We then moved on to a formal dinner; dessert featured a white chocolate disk bearing the 32° emblem. There were a few presentations, most notably we presented the Sovereign Grand Commander with a special humidior representing the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. We also presented Commander Glattly with a beautiful ice sculpture of the 32° emblem; however, he had trouble getting it to cold storage before it melted. We had a dance band and everyone enjoyed themselves well into the evening. The event was attended by one hundred and fifty-six people. The candidates and their ladies were our guests and the ladies were called forward to "pin" the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree pin on their significant others.

### ***ROTC/JROTC***

Both Valleys in the state were active in presenting the Scottish Rite Americanism Award to cadets in ROTC and JORTC programs in Delaware. This year being a new Deputy, I only had an inkling of what was required for this task, but Brother James M. Brady, 32°, M.S.A. stepped up to the plate, helped to organize the various visits and covered more than half of them himself. Consequently, we had a representative at every presentation of the Scottish Rite Americanism Award.

### ***Abbott Scholarships***

The Scholarship Evaluation Committee continues to do outstanding work. I would like to thank Ill.·. Ricky Swalm, 33°, and his committee for their work and dedication.

### ***Appreciation***

As the Deputy, I need to thank Ill.·. James T. Elliott, Jr., 33°, the Active Member in Delaware, for the guidance and help he has provided to me during this emergent transition from his leadership. Again, Active Emeritus Member Ill.·. Albert R. Marshall, 33°, has been an invaluable resource to provide advice, support and help during this transition. I would also like to recognize our other Active Emeritus Members of Supreme Council Ill.·. Warren F. Schueler Sr., 33°, and Ill.·. Donald D. Thomas, 33° (who as noted above was a great loss this year). I extend my continued best wishes and warmest fraternal regards to Warren and my sincerest condolences to the Thomas family.

*Sincerely and fraternally,*

Herbert J. Atkinson

*Deputy for Delaware*