

The Supreme Council
MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

JAMES D. COLE, 33°
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IN VIRGINIA



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ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

January 30, 2008

To all Officers and Members of Valleys
Situated in the Orient of Virginia:

My Brethren,

Scottish Rite is important to each of us. We can each recall experiences we have enjoyed while in the company of our Brethren. Of course, sometimes the sands of time allow us to perhaps drift away from some of our friends. Unfortunately, like all human beings, we have probably not communicated very effectively among ourselves. Far too often, our Valleys have lost track of some of our members and they have lost track of us.

We must do our best to stop this erosion in our Brotherly bonds. To that extent, I am taking steps to try to improve our efforts, particularly as it relates to retaining members who have, for various reasons, fallen behind in their dues. Far too often, we have simply missed opportunities to help, aid and assist these brethren, because we have not had, or have not taken, the time to simply talk to them. Having reviewed our records of recently suspended members, I am acting out of Brotherly affection to give our relationship with them one more chance.

Therefore effective immediately, I am directing the following actions:

1. Any member suspended on or after December 1, 2007, through the date of this Order and who was, at the time of their suspension, in arrears less than two years in their dues, is hereby reinstated and the vote of their suspension is hereby set aside.
2. Effective immediately, no Valley body may vote on the suspension of any Virginia Scottish Rite Mason without my prior documented approval. In order to obtain approval for such suspension efforts, the following must first be documented to my satisfaction:
 - a. Written or electronic communication shall have been given to me, including the name of each member subject to suspension;
 - b. Documentation of the communication efforts to reach each member must be provided, which must include telephone or personal contact. In order to assist in this effort, I will also personally select a number of these members to contact a

second time, as an additional effort to salvage our special relationship with these fine men.

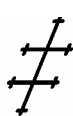
3. Current members are encouraged to assist in this effort by joining a special Valley Telephone Committee. At the Orient Workshop on March 22, 2008 in Richmond, each Valley will provide me with the names of at least three members who have agreed to serve on a Committee to personally contact any Brother whose dues are in arrears.

Brethren, I am doing what I can as Sovereign Grand Inspector General to work on this problem. I now call upon every Virginia Scottish Rite Mason to join me. Certainly there may be other ideas that can be useful in improving our membership relations. I encourage you to contact me with these ideas. More importantly, I encourage you to do your part. Each of us can talk to someone concerning our feelings about Scottish Rite.

Every single obligation we have taken as Masons to care for our Brothers is limited by our knowledge of their needs! How can we live up to our obligations if we do not COMMUNICATE with one another? Please take a few minutes today to find a Brother and talk to him.

May you be blessed you as you think about others.

Sincerely and fraternally,



James H. Cole



Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Virginia