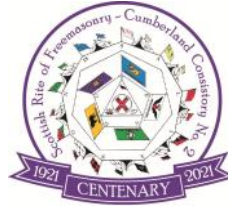


The Perfect Elu

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J.

Valley of Cumberland Orient of Maryland



**Newsletter
Volume 44
Number 1**

Spring 2025

Interest in Lodge and Scottish Rite Membership on the Rise Spring Reunion and Conferral Set for March 22

The Valley of Cumberland conferred degrees on a total of twenty-three new members during 2024, the highest number since 2017 and the second annual increase in new members since the pandemic. This interest has been reflected in area Blue Lodges as well, which are initiating new members at rates not seen for several years.

Membership growth and achievement has been a high priority for Valley leadership and the 2025 officers are redoubling efforts to engage members - both old and new - in our ritual work, social activities, and charitable efforts. We hope to continue to build upon this progress in the year ahead.



The Officers of the Cumberland Lodge of Perfection for 2025: Hon. Mark Weatherholt, 32° KCCH, Senior Warden; Hon. Dwight Metcalf, 32° KCCH, Orator; Hon. James Summerfield, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master; Bro. James Arnold, 32°, Master of Ceremonies; and Bro. Richard Haines, 32°, Junior Warden.

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Want to receive the Perfect Elu and other updates in your inbox?? Sign up at www.cumberlandsctishrite.org

Cumberland Scottish Rite meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm. It's YOUR Scottish Rite and we would like to see you there and fellowship with YOUR Brothers, ...they would like to see you



To this end, the Valley has increased engagement with area Blue Lodges by attending their events and extending invitations to Masons, their guests, and community members to attend Scottish Rite events such as the Robert Burns Supper and Kirkin' of the Tartans, Festival of St. Andrew, Strawberry Night, Scottish Rite Family Picnic, and other social activities. In addition, initiatives to partner with area nonprofit arts and entertainment organizations to host events at the Cumberland Masonic Temple and offering tours to attendees have enhanced the public's knowledge and perception of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.

If you haven't attended a Lodge meeting or Scottish Rite event recently, we invite you to join us in 2025 to reconnect with brothers you may not have seen in some time and to meet some of our newer members who are leading the craft into a new century. We think you'll be pleased with the talent and energy these members are bringing to their lodges and to the Valley of Cumberland.

We encourage you to begin by checking your Lodge calendar and attending an upcoming degree conferral and by taking a look at the Valley Calendar on page two and making a plan to attend our 185th Spring Reunion and Conferral, Ceremony of Lights, or other event this Spring. We look forward to greeting you with a hearty "Salve Frater!"

Valley of Cumberland Upcoming Events

Complete Calendar for 2025 at cumberlandscottishrite.org/calendar-2

MARCH 2025

Monday, March 3	Regular SR Stated Communication - Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Saturday, March 8	Grand Lodge Regional Meeting – Ali Ghan Shrine Club	8:30 am
Monday, March 17	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Consistory	7:30 pm
Saturday, March 22	SR 185 th Conferral & Reunion Lodge of Perfection Opens	Registration 7:30 am 8:30 am
Monday, March 31	Knights of St. Andrew – Initiation of New Members	7:30 pm

APRIL 2025

Monday, April 7	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Monday, April 21	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Chapter of Rose Croix	7:30 pm
Sunday, April 27	Kirkin' of the Tartan – Emmanuel Episcopal Church	10:00 am
Sunday, April 27	Ceremony of Lights & Spring Capping	2:00 pm
April 28 – May 3	Tibetan Monks of the Mystical Arts of Tibet – Mandala and Lecture Series	

MAY 2025

Monday, May 5	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Saturday, May 10	WizBang Cash Bonan\$ – Masonic Temple Fundraiser	6:00 pm
Monday, May 19	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Council of Kadosh	7:30 pm

JUNE 2025

Monday, June 2	Masonic Strawberry Night – Masonic Temple	6:30 pm
Saturday, June 7	Garrett County Celtic Festival	TBA
Friday, June 13	Children's League Golf Tournament	
Sunday, June 22	St. John the Baptist Day – Christ Lutheran Church	10:00 am
Monday, June 30	KSA Burns Committee Kickoff	6:00 pm

JULY 2025

Saturday, July 12	Family Corn Roast – Summerfield Lane, Rawlings, MD	1:00 – 6:00 pm
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Cumberland Scottish Rite

2025 Family Picnic & Corn Roast

Saturday, July 12th @ 1:00 pm

15413 Summerfield Lane, Rawlings, MD

Grilled meats, roast corn, and beverages will be provided.

Please bring a covered dish and enjoy yourself.

All Scottish Rite Masons, family, and friends are welcome!

“It Takes a Valley”

BY: ILL. JAMEY S. HILL, 33°, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SGIG OF MARYLAND



The brethren of the Cumberland Scottish Rite have been hard at work in the quarries of Freemasonry during the past year! As we continue to in this work, we must acknowledge that for too long the success of our Scottish Rite has been left to the care of a few dedicated members. Growing and sustaining the Valley of Cumberland into the next century will require that we all contribute our time, talent, and treasure; it takes a Valley!

I'm pleased to report that we have had several new members step up to take roles in the ritual work, which is quite a relief to me as Personal Representative. Successfully presenting the degree work requires the participation of a large number of members from across the Valley. I am especially grateful for the leadership of our members in Washington and Garrett Counties who have been delivering exceptional presentations of the 4° under the leadership of Degree Captain Hon. Gary Shriver, 32° KCCH, the 18° under the leadership of Degree Captain Ill. Ted Raynovich III, 33°, and to Bro. James Kalbflesh, 32° for taking on leadership of the 30° cast. In addition, Hon. Ben Zamostny, 32° KCCH, has been busily recruiting newer members to prepare for the conferral of the 9°/10° in the Spring of 2026. I'm also pleased that participation in the various casts has grown and stabilized in recent years, with some of our newer members enthusiastically taking on new roles and responsibilities in the ritual work. Kudos also to the properties and stage crew who keep backstage running smoothly under the direction of Bros. David Gornall and Matthew McKenzie! Conferral day is absolutely my toughest challenge as Personal Representative and sometimes it shows; when Director of Works Bro. Mark Lathrop, 32° tells me I need to grab a Snickers, I know it's time to relax and let the men shine in their respective duties!

In the past, the degree teams have been slow to return to the work of busting rocks (that is, memorization and rehearsal) between conferrals. But this year has been different, the fellas have made rehearsal a priority and it showed in the quality of the Fall Conferral. Thanks to Bros. Tim Friend, Jim Arnold, and Jim Kalbflesh for taking on new roles in the degree work. We have had a rough go of it since 2016 when so many members precipitously retired at once, requiring some actors to work in every degree doing double or even triple duty, not to mention a revolving cast of stage crew personnel. We've come a long way! Congratulations to Venerable Master Hon. Michael Kerns, 32° KCCH, and the officers of the Cumberland Lodge of Perfection, Master of Kadosh Bro. Mark Lathrop, 32°, and the officers of Cumberland Consistory No. 2, and all the men of the Scottish Rite of Cumberland on the progress we've made.

On behalf of the Cumberland Scottish Rite, I'd like to thank the many members of The Cumberland Masonic Temple family who spent time over the summer break completing major maintenance projects such as landscaping and hedge removal, repairing light poles, and installing footers for new exterior lighting fixtures. Special appreciation goes to East Gate Lodge's Bro. Jamie Summerfield as well as Worshipful Master Jeff Leaf and the members of Potomac Lodge No. 100 for their commitment to restoring and preserving our historic Temple.

With the elevator replacement complete, fundraising to replenish the Temple Capital Fund in order to complete critical projects like repairing and waterproofing the Temple's deteriorating stone and brick areas is going to be our biggest financial hurdle in a century. Bob Dylan sang that, "while money doesn't talk, it swears," and Brother, he was right! It hurls expletives at us when there is not enough and lulls us into false comfort as it accumulates. Attempts to secure grants for various projects have been unsuccessful and our Grand Ol' Lady cannot wait another winter to effectively seal up the cracks in the foundation, stone porch, steps, and face of the building. The business model we used in the last century made no accommodation for repairs in the budget and now, after 40 years of deferred maintenance, the problem is squarely in our lap and we will need to solve it together. I hope everyone who values and benefits from the Cumberland Masonic Temple will support upcoming fundraising initiatives such as the WizBang Cash Bonanza and encourage those they know to consider the Temple for the event rental needs.

Together, we can achieve economic security for the Temple if we have the understanding and cooperation of our Blue Lodges and Co-Ordinate Bodies. Ascertaining what we need and applying the right strategy to get us there is why we have such talented men on the playing field and bench.

All things considered Brethren, Freemasonry is alive and well in Western Maryland.

Stay strong in the Faith,
Jamey S. Hill, Personal Representative



Nine New Members Welcomed at the 184th Fall Reunion and Conferral Spring One-Day Class Set for March 22



Members of the 2024 Fall Class with Thirtieth Degree Cast. L to R: Hon. Mark C. Weatherholt, 32° KCCH; Bro. James B. Kalbflesh, 32°; SGIG Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°; Bro. Robert E. Edleblute, Jr., 32°; Bro. William Van Gilder 32°; Bro. Mark R. Pelletier, 32°; Bro. Timothy E. Friend, 32°; Bro. Michael A. Gilbert, 32°; Bro. Stephen J. Gray, 32°; Hon. Dwight C. Metcalf, 32° KCCH; Bro. Lary R. Johnson, 32°; Bro. Carliss E. Eby, 32°; Hon. Edward L. Kave, Jr., 32° KCCH; Bro. Max S. Summerfield, 32°; Personal Representative Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°; and Secretary-Registrar Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°.

Scottish Rite Petition Now Available Online

Do you know a Master Mason interested in pursuing further light in Masonry? Encourage him to join the Scottish Rite!

The Cumberland Scottish Rite will hold our 185th Spring Reunion and Conferral on Saturday, March 22. All Master Masons who have been found proficient in the catechism of the 3rd Degree are eligible for membership.

Petitions are available in the lobby of the Cumberland Masonic Temple and online at <https://bit.ly/CumberlandSRPetition> or by using the QR code shown here.



KSA Welcomes New Members and Celebrates Festival of St. Andrew

Venerable Master Mark Lathrop and the officers of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew dubbed the newest Knights during the Chapter's Annual Communication in November 2024. New members pictured here – Duane Bair, Max Summerfield, and James Arnold – as well as Stephen Gray and Timothy Dykes, were elected to membership in the Chapter and recognized during the Festival of St. Andrew. The festival features a menu of wild game provided by members and prepared by Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield.



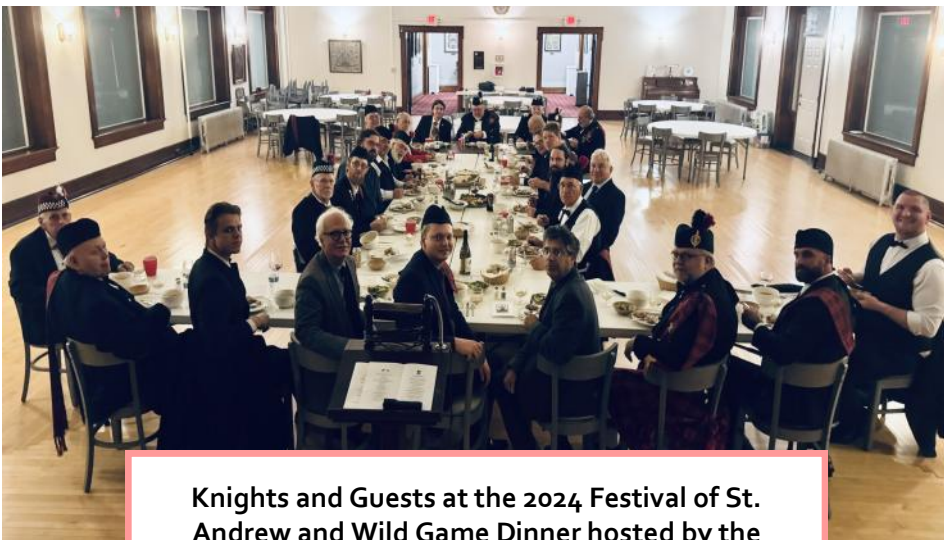
This year's menu included smoked salmon (Dwight Metcalf), turkey pie (Mark Weatherholt), roast pheasant breast with mushrooms and marsala (Jeff Leaf and Jamey Hill), seared goose breast with orange sauce (Bill Hunt),

Pictured L to R: Christopher Dillard, Mark Weatherholt, Tim Friend, Sam Lane, Senior Warden Brett Bean, new members Duane Bair, Max Summerfield, and James Arnold, Venerable Master Mark Lathrop, Jerome Robinette, Chapter Secretary Michael Kerns, Junior Warden Richard Haines, James Summerfield, and Gary Trail.

braised elk roast with garlic and rosemary (John Dawson), as well as Maryland Crab soup prepared by Brett Bean and Scottish Shortbread with Strawberry Preserves and Cream (Mike Kamauff). This annual event, scheduled for the last Monday in November, is free to members and guests but is limited to thirty attendees. Registration will be available online soon at cumberlandsctishrite.org.

Interested in Joining the Ranks of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew?

Membership in the Knights of St. Andrew is open to all 32° Scottish Rite Masons. Knights assist on various committees in the Valley, participate in parades or civic activities, promote fundraising events, and aid



Knights and Guests at the 2024 Festival of St. Andrew and Wild Game Dinner hosted by the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew

in special events. Their flexibility and enthusiasm make the Knights of St. Andrew one of the Valley's most active and desirable organizations. It is an excellent way to nurture and develop future leaders as they learn their organizational and leadership skills, explore the inner structures of their Scottish Rite Centers, and thus gain a deeper admiration for our Order and Brethren who work in Freemasonry as a whole. The next conferral and initiation of new Knights is scheduled for Monday, March 31 at 7:30 pm. Petitions are available in the Temple foyer or can

be downloaded online at cumberlandsctishrite.org/ksa-membership.

Cumberland Masonic Temple to Host Tibetan Monks of Drepung Loseling Program will include Mandala Sand Painting and Lecture Series

The Tibetan Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery return to Western Maryland for an extraordinary five-day residency endorsed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Mandala sand painting has its roots in the tantric legacy of Buddhist India, extending back more than 20,000 years. In Tibetan, this art is called *dul-tson-kyil-khor*, which means “mandala of colored powders.” The lamas painstakingly lay millions of grains of colored sand to create the traditional iconography of ancient spiritual symbols. They begin by drawing an outline of the mandala on a wooden platform. Over the next five days, sands are delicately poured from traditional metal funnels called *chak-purs*. Upon completion, the sands are swept up and placed in an urn. To fulfill the function of healing, half of the sand is distributed to spectators while the remainder is dispersed in a nearby body of flowing water to carry the healing blessing to the ocean; from there it spreads throughout the world for planetary healing.



Mandala Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, April 29 | Noon

The monks consecrate the mandala site with traditional chants, music and mantra recitation.

Mandala Creation Daily Schedule

Tuesday, April 29 | 1-6 PM

Wednesday - Friday, April 30-May 2 | 10 AM-6 PM

Saturday, April 30-May 3 | 10-11 AM

Mandala Closing Ceremony

Saturday, May 3 | Noon

The monks dismantle the sand mandala for dispersal in Wills Creek at Canal Place. Half of the sand is distributed to observers as blessings for personal health and healing.

All events are free and open to the public.

This engagement is presented in partnership with the Allegany Arts Council. CES is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, and receives financial support from the Allegany Arts Council and the City of Frostburg.

Scottish Rite Members Honored at Inaugural Star Gala



McKinley Chapter No. 12, Order of the Eastern Star hosted an inaugural Star Gala at the Cumberland Masonic Temple in February. This event will be held annually to bring the Masonic organizations based at the Cumberland Temple together to celebrate the good work of their fraternity in the community as a joint awards ceremony with each of the lodges and appendant bodies presenting awards to members. In addition to promoting and celebrating collaboration among the Masonic groups at Cumberland, the Star Gala raised \$2,000 to support the Temple's Restoration Campaign.

The Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite presented several members for their dedicated service to the Rite, their lodges, and the preservation of the historic Cumberland Masonic Temple. Bro. Mark Lathrop, 32° (pictured at left with SGIG Personal Representative Ill. Jamey Hill, 33°) was named Scottish Rite Freemason of the Year for his dedicated service in 2024 as the Valley's Director of Work while serving as Master of Kadosh for the Cumberland Consistory and Venerable Master of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew as well as actively contributing to the success of the blue lodges and other

Masonic organizations at the Cumberland Temple.

Other awards presented by the Cumberland Scottish Rite included the 2024 Rising Star Bro. Steve Gray, 32°; 2024 Rookie of the Year Bro. Tim Friend, 32°; 2024 Unsung Hero Hon. James Summerfield, 32° KCCH; and Meritorious Service Award recipients Bro. Brett Bean, 32°, Bro. Chris Ackerman, 32°, and Bro. Tim Friend, 32°. In addition, Hon. Brent Lewis, 32° KCCH and his wife Tammy were named Most Valuable Players by the Valley for their efforts to create and manage the Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament, which has raised more than \$50,000 to support local RiteCare Programs since 2022.

Summer Offers Opportunities for Members, Family, and Friends to Connect

The Summer Season offers many opportunities for our members, family, and friends to spend time together in a casual setting while we take a break from the usual business of our lodges. We hope you'll invite your family and friends to join in the fun and fellowship.

Strawberry Night is a longtime tradition among Masons to celebrate the return of summer – and strawberries! This year's event will be held on Monday, June 2nd at 6:30 pm in the social hall at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. We will provide plenty of fried chicken, strawberries, and ice cream for the affair and guests are asked to bring a covered dish or salad to share.

The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew always enjoy representing the Rite at the Garrett County Celtic Festival in Friendsville, Maryland. The Knights have served as the honor guard for this event for many years and were recognized as the Festival's Honored Clan in 2024. The event is open to the public and the Knights look forward to seeing our members, family, and friends stop by their tent during the festival.

The Cumberland Scottish Rite will participate in divine services in recognition of the Festival of St. John the Baptist at Christ Lutheran Church in Lavale on Sunday, June 22nd at 10:00 am. All Masons, family, and friends are invited to join us for religious services followed by an informal lunch together at a local restaurant.

The Scottish Rite Family Picnic and Corn Roast will be held at the home of Jamie and Linda Summerfield on Summerfield Lane in Rawlings, MD on Saturday, July 12th beginning at 1:00 pm. This is always a wonderful afternoon of food, friends, and fellowship! We will provide fried chicken and other meats. Bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Summer at the Scottish Rite

Cumberland Strawberry Night

Monday, June 2 at 6:30 pm

Cumberland Masonic Temple

Garrett County Celtic Festival

Saturday, June 7 at 9:00 am

Friendsville Community Park

St. John the Baptist Divine Services

Sunday, June 22 at 10:00 am

Christ Lutheran Church, Lavale

Family Picnic & Corn Roast

Saturday, July 12 at 1:00 pm

15413 Summerfield Lane, Rawlings



IT'S A
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OPEN
TO THE
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Masonic Temple, 15 Greene Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

(parking available just off Washington Street)

\$35 ticket includes 12 chances for over \$1300 in cash prizes

\$15 guest tickets also available at the door

Quickdraw 50/50 Drawings Blowout!

Food served 5 - 6pm

Cash Bar Available for Mixed Drinks and Wine

Drawings and Raffle 6 - 9pm

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Only 150 tickets sold—Tickets \$35 per person

Guest Tickets \$15 (not included in drawing)

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT <https://bit.ly/CumberlandMasonic>



4th Annual

Debbie Friend
Memorial Golf Scramble

Sponsored by The Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation

Oakland Golf Club

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Rain Date Saturday, September 27, 2025

18 Hole Scramble

\$400 per Team (Foursome) or \$100 per Player • Lunch Included

9:00 am Registration • 10:30 am Tee Time

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Hole Sponsor—\$100
- Friend of RiteCare—\$250
- SILVER Sponsor—\$1000 (Includes Team Registration)
- GOLD Sponsor—\$3000 (Includes Team Registration)
- PLATINUM Sponsor—\$5000 (Includes Team Registration)

Purchase a Sponsorship or Register a Team Online at
cumberlandscottishrite.org

For more info contact
Jason Finch at 301-616-6500 or Brent Lewis at 301-501-3130

Proceeds Support



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Knights of St. Andrew Deliver \$15,000 to Support RiteCare



Andrew Venerable Master Bro. Mark Lathrop, 32°; and Knights of St. Andrew Secretary Hon. Michael Kerns, 32° KCCH.

The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew and the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation hosted another successful Robert Burns Night campaign to support local RiteCare programs in 2025.

Thanks to the generous support of local businesses and individual sponsors, the 19th Annual event raised \$15,000 for the Valley's RiteCare clinic partner, The Children's League, during the festive celebration of Scotland's Bard.

Pictured L to R: Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation Chair Hon. James Summerfield, 32° KCCH; SGIG Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°; Children's League Executive Director Cathy Growden; Knights of St.