

2020

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH RITE
CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO



AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the of Scottish Rite Cathedral Association of Chicago Thursday, August 27, 2020

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| I. Call to Order | Daryl W. Selock |
| II. Read the Meeting Call | David R. Koss |
| III. Appointment of David Martin as Parliamentarian | Daryl W. Selock |
| IV. Acceptance Minutes from the
2019 Annual Meeting of May 16, 2019. | Daryl W. Selock |
| V. Annual Reports:
Executive Committee
Finance Committee
House Committee
President's Report
Executive Secretary Report | Angelo S. Deserio
Andrew A. Keppy
Michael W. Behm
Daryl W. Selock
David R. Koss |
| VI. President merges into the
Annual Meeting of the Almoner's Fund | Daryl W. Selock |
| Almoner's Report | James W. Patton |
| President merges back into the
Annual Meeting of the Association | Daryl W. Selock |
| VII. Election of the Board of Directors | Daryl W. Selock |
| VIII. President Confirms the Seating
of the Four Presiding Officers as Directors
of the Corporation | Daryl W. Selock |
| IX. Adjournment | Daryl W. Selock |

ANNUAL REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

Illustrious Active Emeritus & Deputy Representative, Fellow Presiding Officers, Fellow Board Members, Illustrious Brothers, and the amazing brethren of this great Valley:

It has been my honor to serve the Valley of Chicago and the Van Rensselaer Lodge of Perfection as your Thrice Potent Master for the past year. With the other officers of the Executive Committee, the Board, and the office. We have continued to try new things to grow and strengthen our Valley. While many of the changes and decisions have been difficult, they have all been made in the hopes of strengthening our Valley now and in the future.

I look forward to serving both on the Scottish Rite Cathedral Board and as Thrice Potent Master for one more year, in greatest hopes of providing YOU, the member, with the best experience you can ever achieve while being a Scottish Rite Mason in the Greatest Valley in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

We on the Executive Committee agreed to promote a more transparent and open Valley, sharing our new ideas, promoting officer education and new, exciting, and fun ideas to promote our Valley.

Even though the current situation with this global pandemic has limited our chances to get together and enjoy one another's fellowship and company, we are still planning for future events and opportunities.

I would like to take the time to thank the officers of the four bodies of the Valley for their support and new ideas for moving us into a positive direction. Officers, Brothers, Friends, your support, and efforts were not unnoticed and were very much appreciated by me, the Executive Committee, and the Board.

Brethren, you should all take pride in the actions that we accomplished this past year to continue the growth and progress of this Valley. Continue to answer the call, when asked to participate, be it on a committee, a special event, or a degree conferral, YOU are the future, and from where I stand the future is bright.

If this Valley, continues to work as one unit, with the goals of membership, involvement, participation, and brotherhood there is no one who can stop us.

I yield my support to the officers, leaders, and members of this Valley for years to come.

Fraternally Submitted, July 29, 2020,

Angelo S. Deserio

Executive Committee Chairman

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Finance Committee Report

It is my pleasure to report on behalf of the Finance Committee for the previous year.

The committee reviews the statements from our investment consultants, DiMeo Schneider, monthly and then meets with them quarterly in person. During these meetings, we look at the performance of our investments, analyze how our investment performance is impacting the budgetary needs of the Valley, and listen to recommendations from DiMeo Schneider on asset allocation and underlying portfolio managers. The committee then takes our suggestions to the Board of Directors.

The Valley has an external audit done every year, and our audit is available for members to view at any time in the office during normal business hours. The Board also appoints an internal auditor to review the monthly financial transactions, and I have performed that duty for the previous year.

The Valley also had an external auditor complete a forensic audit and work with our office to recommend processes and controls.

As we are all aware, this has been a very challenging year, especially with our market investments. I would like to thank committee members Andy Hassan, William Tienken, Bruce Zimmerman, and Daryl Selock, as well as our Treasurer, Wallace Dunn, and Deputy's Representative Michael Ehle, for their advice, counsel, and commitment of time during this past year. With their steady guidance and judgment, we were able to make slight adjustments to capitalize on the extreme volatility the markets related to the economic shutdown, avoid panic and drastic losses, and maintain our balances to the benefit of the fraternity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew A. Keppy

Finance Committee Chairman

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House Committee Report

To the Officers, Directors and Members of the
Scottish Rite Cathedral Association - Valley of Chicago

In 2019-20 the House Committee and Cathedral Board continued their comprehensive plan at managing and maintaining our building and grounds considering short-term and long-term goals. By recognizing our facility needs, we worked our plan on addressing immediate improvement needs, on-going maintenance, and long-term systems replacement costs. We focused on the identified facility and outdated technologies. We continue to have on-going maintenance plans as well as small and large-scale capital improvements that will be required in future years.

The following summarizes what we accomplished in 2019-20:

Site Maintenance.

In addition to regular maintenance, our site maintenance plans included the following:

- There are some trees in the conservation area that have been identified as diseased and may need replacement. We are working with a conservationist to continue assessing the trees.
- Irrigation was installed at the front monument at the corner of Lake Street and Medinah Road. This improvement will allow the foliage to present a beautiful representation of the Cathedral without the cost of manual watering.
- Pavers were replaced in the parking lot walkways. After 8 years the bricks had started to deteriorate. The replacement was done to protect against tripping hazards as well as stopping further degradation.
- Additional landscaping improvements have been deferred into 2020-2021.

Building Maintenance.

Very few significant building repair or maintenance projects were required in 2019-2020. Within the building, our focus was on identifying improvements needed for updating our security and audio/visual systems.

- Security system improvement. A new vendor and security system were implemented including camera upgrades. The new system and maintenance contract have streamlined security allowing a higher degree of monitoring.
- A new IT company was contracted to replace outdated servers and provide support and maintenance of systems. They also provide routine audits and recommendations for future needs.
- Audio/Visual improvements. Phase I of improvements to our A/V systems were made reprogramming the system and replacing outdated control pads. The new system allows for a reliable and user-friendly system to be used in the Board Room, Dining Room, Bar, and Lodge.
- A new projector was purchased for the Lodge to replace failed equipment.
- A state-of-the-art lighting system was installed to allow the lighting team to preprogram lighting for degrees and enhance presentations with a wide array of colors.
- A vendor was secured to upgrade the phone system and provide support to utilize all the options available.

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House Committee Report continued...

Future Large-Scale Improvements.

The following improvement needs were identified and scheduled to be completed within the next three years:

- Audio/Visual improvements. Additional improvements to our A/V systems will be made in multiple phases over the next 3-5 years, depending on fraternal needs and equipment longevity.
- Patio slab repair. All options were carefully studied. A cost effective and longstanding solution was determined. The vendor has been secured and will be scheduled in the 2020-21 fiscal year, weather permitting.
- Patio wall repair. Proposals have been received to repair the patio wall and cap stones. This work will be coordinated with the concrete slab repair for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- Parking lot resurfacing. The parking lot asphalt surface is planned to be redone in 2022.
- Grand Hall and Lodge Room repainting. Planned for 2022-23.

Long -Term Budgeting.

The House Committee and Board continue to allocate monies to a Future Replacement Fund to address long-term and higher-cost items. While some of these expenses are anticipated to be several years from now, designating funds for the work now and every year will lessen the financial impact on the larger cost items.

The budgets for future work include:

- Parking lot resurfacing
- Grand Hall and Lodge repainting
- Roofing repairs and replacement
- HVAC and refrigeration equipment repair and replacement
- Carpet replacement
- Technology upgrades
- Landscape improvements
- Lighting upgrades to efficient LED

Brethren, our facilities are healthy with relatively few issues. We believe our approach that focuses on responsible maintenance, regular improvements and long-term budgeting for our facilities will help our building and grounds serve us well for many years to come, and the Valley of Chicago will continue to be the envy of the Northern Jurisdiction.

Thank you to all who have given your time to help preserve and improve our wonderful facilities.

Fraternally,

Michael W. Behm
House Committee Chair

ANNUAL REPORTS

President's Report

To the members of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Association. It is with pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report of the President of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Association of Chicago. As I told you back in January in our winter edition of the Scottish Rite News, many things were happening behind the scenes to keep the operations of the Valley running smoothly. That was an understatement, considering shortly thereafter we found ourselves in the midst of a Global Pandemic.

However, it is important to note all that we were able to accomplish during the year. A careful review of the daily operating procedures of the Valley was conducted and certain policies and procedures were put in place to improve efficiency in the performance of office tasks and responsibilities. Additionally, an outside consultant was hired to perform an audit of our financial practices. From this audit, additional processes and controls have also been put in place. This year the Board also laid the groundwork for a revised employee evaluation system focusing on the accomplishment of pre-established goals to evaluate employee performance versus a subjective analysis of performance.

A review and update to our Strategic Plan took place this year and the Board of Directors adopted a revised Strategic Plan for the Valley. The Strategic Plan helped us recognize our strengths and weaknesses, revisit our core values, and will allow us to re-align our short term and long term goals to meet the ever-changing needs of the membership. I would like to thank Bruce Zimmerman and his committee for their work in preparing the revised document. I hope that this revised Strategic Plan will allow us to better serve the members of the Association as we move the Valley forward into the future.

This year, the Board also adopted a Strategic Plan for the Library and Museum. Although, not its own charitable entity, the Library and Museum still serve a valuable benefit to the membership. This year the staff completed the inventory of our arts and artifacts and we received a revised appraisal of value. I do want to recognize Antwane Lee, Amanda Wolf, and all of the Museum and Library volunteers who serve behind the scenes to keep the Museum and Library running smoothly.

This year has turned out to be an incredibly tough time for some of our members and I would like to commend the Almoner and his team for their dedication thru the Pandemic. When faced with a crisis, the Almoner and his team developed a comprehensive Almoner's Fund Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19. As part of this plan, the Almoner's team and other member volunteers immediately went to work making wellness calls to members, providing a dedicated email address and phone number for members to call back for confidential Almoner's assistance. The Almoner's team met weekly to discuss changing trends in their assistance and how the needs of the members changed as weeks and months went by. Understanding the need for a timely response from the Almoner's Fund during the crisis, the Almoner's team was able to provide immediate assistance to members in the form of gift cards and grocery delivery. This year the Almoner also had a successful Covid-19 Assistance Fund Raising Campaign raising over \$17,000 to assist those in need. I wish to thank everyone who contributed to this campaign. Some of you even contributed more than once this year, and I thank you. To further assist local residents impacted by the Pandemic, the Almoner's Fund and the Cathedral Association made donations in the combined amount of \$5,000 to local Charities and Food Pantries.

ANNUAL REPORTS

President's Report continued...

I would like to commend Dave Koss, Executive Secretary, and his office staff for their smooth transition to remote working during the stay at home order. As priorities changed and work shifted, the staff's flexibility allowed them to successfully perform not only their normal duties but also those duties imposed upon them by the Pandemic.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the continued efforts of our Board Committees; Admin, Executive, Finance and House. These committees work tirelessly behind the scenes making sure that the operations of the Association continue to run smoothly throughout the year. Thanks to all who dedicate their time and talent in the success of their respective Committees.

I also wish to thank the Board of Directors for their continued support of the organization, for their continued leadership and for allowing me to serve the Association as its President. With that, I will leave you with the words of Brother Theodore Roosevelt, "I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest."

Daryl W. Selock
Board President

BOARD ELECTIONS



Donald E. Esser

Donald E. Esser was born on February 23, 1957, in Detroit, MI. He is a member of Landmark Lodge No. 422, Joliet, IL, and is an active member in many other Masonic bodies including the Medinah Shrine, York Rite and El Jaala Grotto. Don was instrumental in developing the Dyslexia Center Walk-a-Thon that is today their largest fundraiser for the Center. He currently sits on the Learning Center Board of Directors. Don is an enthusiastic volunteer with many masonic charities. He became a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago as part of the Spring Reunion Class of 1996 and is a life member. He served as Thrice Potent Master of the Van Rensselaer Lodge of Perfection from 2017-2019 and is a current member of the Scottish Rite Cathedral Association's Board of Directors. Don was presented the Valley Award by his peers in recognition of his outstanding service for the Valley of Chicago in 2008. He was also honored with the Meritorious Service Award in 2012.

When Don is not volunteering or attending masonic activities he enjoys working as a process engineer and facility manager for a metal finishing company and attending Parkview Christian Church in Orland Park with his fiancé Diane.



Antwane O. Lee

National Staff Member, 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree

Antwane Lee is a licensed architect and has practiced in the profession for over twenty years. He is an active member of the American Institute of Architects and is a certificate holder of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Over the course of his career, Antwane has led large-scale, multi-million-dollar construction projects. He currently works at Globetrotters Engineering as a Senior Project Architect and Project Manager. Several of his projects have won local and state design awards.

Along with his architectural career, Antwane is involved in the real estate community. He served as President of the Chicago Real Estate Council in 2012. As a member of the Urban Land Institute, he sat on the Program Committee in 2004-2008. He has also been active in the Illinois Self-Storage Association.

In his free time, Antwane volunteers for several organizations. He is active at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago where he plans events on archaeology and art. As a lover of African art and history, he is active at the Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago (ECAC) as a Museum Committee member and the Yoruba Arts Foundation. Antwane has taken the lead on the development and construction of a museum at the ECAC which will be one of the only museums run by Africans in the United States.

As a Freemason, Antwane served as Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix at the Scottish Rite from 2018-2020. He is a member of Oriental Lodge No. 33. He is also the Chair of the Museum and Library Committee at the Scottish Rite where he has provided leadership over the last five years. As Chair, Antwane has been instrumental in implementing policies and procedures, organizing and archiving the collection, creating displays for Reunions and events, and working towards making the Valley of Chicago a preeminent hub for the preservation of Masonic history.

Antwane lives in the Ukrainian Village neighborhood in Chicago.

BOARD ELECTIONS



Bruce H. Zimmerman

With a long career as a business and volunteer leader, Bruce would now like to bring his deep and varied organizational experience to the Cathedral Board of the Valley of Chicago, AASR. Bruce is semi-retired, while still serving on the faculty of Dominican University in River Forest.

With an MBA in Marketing and Strategy, Bruce has led and contributed to many new marketing concepts and programs, both in corporate and not-for-profit environments, that have penetrated new markets and brought in new customers/participants. His expertise includes strategic planning, program design and implementation and risk analysis.

Bruce currently teaches two required Undergraduate Seminars at Dominican University: a Senior Level course on Ethics and a Junior Level course on Balancing Work and Leisure. Through these seminars, he is able to coach and mentor his students as they approach starting their careers.

His 30+ years of volunteer board and officer experience includes: Local Boy Scout Councils; his synagogue and Victories For Men NFP.

Personal Involvement and Recognition

- Valley of Chicago Oriental Consistory Officer
- 32nd Degree team
- Library Committee
- Initiated Masonic Film Festival, Lunch & Learn and Feast of Tishri Observance
- Junior Warden and past Secretary of Illumination Lodge No. 5
- Member of A. O. Fay Lodge No. 676
- Member of Medinah Shriners
- Frank S. Land Preceptory, DeMolay Legion of Honor
- IL Grand Lodge, Society of King Solomon
- Past President, Temple Jeremiah Men's Club
- Past Scoutmaster, Troop 50, Deerfield
- Member, Masonic Scouters Association and Daniel Beard Masonic Scouter Award Recipient
- National Staff Member, 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree

Bruce lives in Deerfield with his wife Laura and has three adult children, a daughter and two sons, both Master Masons. His passions include travel, regular cycling and an occasional golf game.