

Columbus Scottish Rite Bodies, Inc.
Post Office Box 727
Columbus, GA 31902-0727

Minutes of the Executive Committee
January 18, 2023

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Chair, Executive Committee, IB Phil Harris, 33°, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Opening prayer was given by HB Baron Conklin, 32°, KCCH and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by IB Harris. Attendance is as follows:

• Joseph Oelgoetz, 32°, KCCH	Personnel Representative	P
• Phil Harris, 33°	Chair, Executive Committee	P
• Roger Buterbaugh, 32°, KCCH	General Secretary/MK, CC	P
• Robert Lyon III, 32°, KCCH	Treasurer	A
• Baron Conklin, 32°, KCCH	VM, LOP	P
• Rossi Ross, 32°, KCCH	WM, KRC	P
• Ed Lynch, 32°, KCCH	Cdr, CK	A
• Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH	At Large	A
• Ditmar Chavez, 32°, KCCH	At Large	A
• Doyle Hatfield, 33°	At Large	P
• Mark Stillwell, 32°	At Large	P
• Bayardo Reyes, 32°	Cdr, KSA/Centennial Cmte	P
• Harry Ross, 32°, KCCH	Building Cmte	A
• Scott Lavelle, 32°	Stage Cmte/VMAP	A
• Cameron Davis, 32°	Communication/KM	A
• John Adams, 32°	Hospitality Cmte	P
• Richard Luna, 32°	Membership Cmte	P
• Russell Ward, 32°	IT Cmte	A

Also present were IB Danny Dawson, 33°; IB Paul Wells, 33°; HB Chuck Hall, 32°, KCCH; and Brothers (32°) Matt Burgess, Jonas Barlow, and Jim Davis.

The minutes of the December 14, 2022 Executive Committee meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of the Treasurer the General Secretary gave the Treasurer's Report. The Scottish Rite Bodies checking account balance on December 1, 2022 was \$14,405.48. During the month of December there was \$9,165.24 in deposits and \$3,509.75 in payments. The balance on December 31, 2022 was \$20,060.97, which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the checking account balance is \$14,698.81. The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of

\$33,581.65. The Autism Learning Center has not yet deposited the \$5,000 donation we made to them on July 27. The perpetual membership account has a balance of \$78,968.46. The Building Fund has a balance of \$5,259.70. The General Secretary reported that he has closed out the books for 2022 and has turned over all of the required financial documents and reports to Master Tax for our annual audit.

General Secretary's Report:

- The General Secretary reported on the results of the recent fundraising. We earned \$2,713.98 from the play "It's a Wonderful Life". We earned \$1,560.00 from the grill raffle. We earned \$4,000.00 from our fireworks stand. The fireworks money may change once we receive the final accounting from TNT Fireworks, which should include a refund of our deposit of \$250.00.
- The General Secretary reported that he has paid our insurance bills due this month: 1) \$2,987.00 to the David Caldwell Agency for our property insurance and 2) \$1,666.00 to the Master Insurance Program from Supreme Council for our umbrella, crime, etc. policy.
- The General Secretary suspended 11 Scottish Rite Masons for non-payment of dues on January 5.
- The General Secretary is working on the list of eligibles for Honors. He reminded all that one requirement is to be current in dues per the Supreme Council statutes. If you believe you may be on the eligible list but have not yet paid your dues, do so by the Lodge of Perfection meeting on Friday.
- The General Secretary has completed the eligible list for Double Eagle Awards. The awards will be presented Friday evening during Burn's Night.
- HB Joe Oelgoetz reported at this time that the Valley of Columbus will not be hosting the KCCH Investiture this year. Since the Investiture will be around the same time as our Centennial Celebration, the SGIG felt that we should concentrate our efforts on the Centennial and not the Investiture.
- IB Keel Broom, 33°, has requested that we provide an evaluator for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia scholarship submissions. Brother John Adams volunteered and the Executive Committee approved his selection.

Almoner's Report – IB John Ohrt reported a checking account balance of \$2,509.96 as of December 31, 2022. He read a thank you letter from the Masonic Charities of Florida for our \$500.00 donation towards their hurricane relief fund (encl). He has prepared the annual Almoner's Fund report and will give it to the SGIG at our meeting next Friday (encl).

Venerable Master: HB Baron Conklin, 32°, KCCH, gave an update on his car accident earlier this month. He announced the February LOP speaker as a representative from the American Heart Association. February is Heart Awareness Month and it will also tie in with Valentine's Day. The March program will be about St. Patrick's Day.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – HB Harry Ross was unable to attend but left a report for the Executive Committee. The roof leak over the dining hall is repaired. He is working on repairing the lady's room.
- Stage Committee – No report.
- Fundraising Committee – With so many fund raising projects in the works there was discussion about appointing a Captain for each event rather than have a Fundraising Chair. There is no way one Brother can oversee every fund-raising project. The Executive Committee agreed to this approach. Brother Jonas Barlow volunteered to Captain the Independence Day Fireworks Stand. IB Danny Dawson will Captain our summer play fund raiser (to be held after the Independence Day holiday). IB Harris reported that there is a fire works stand opportunity at the Publix on Macon Road. Does the Valley of Columbus want to run a second fire works stand or move ours to this location? The answer was no to both questions. We will keep the fire works stand at the Walmart on Victory Drive.
- Membership Committee – Brother Luna reported that 36 Brethren are still behind in their dues. He continues to contact them and is reaching out to the Blue Lodge secretaries for assistance. He reminded everyone of the Membership event at Tyrian Lodge #111 on February 11, 2023.
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – Brother Adams reported that he is preparing Shepherd's Pie, haggis, and all the Scottish fixings for our Burn's Night meal Friday evening.
- VMAP – Brother Lavelle was unable to attend but left a report for the Executive Committee. He has drafted the VMAP report for 2022 and will send it out for review. He will then make necessary corrections and submit it.
- DOW – IB Ohrt reported that the Valley of Columbus will portray the 14th Degree at the Grand Master's Reunion on June 3, 2023. IB Wells will lead the effort. HB Oelgoetz said that he has informed MWB Knittel and the Valley of Atlanta that we would like to confer the 14th Degree.
- KSA/Centennial Committee – Brother Reyes presented the proposal from the Bibb Mill Event Center to hold our Masquerade Ball on September 23, 2023 (encl). After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Bibb Mill Event Center to host our Ball and to make the \$1,800.00 down payment to secure the event. Brother Reyes gave an update on the Burn's Night celebration to be held next Friday. Everything is on track, no issues.
- IT Committee – no report.
- Rite Care – IB Harris reported that he is not making much progress with KNP Therapy about our support of the Autism Learning Center. There will be a Rite Care Conference in Warner Robins next Saturday. He will discuss with the SGIG and President of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia possible courses of action.

Meeting schedule: January – Burns Night and Awards Ceremony, February – Heart Awareness Month, and March – St. Patrick's Day.

Old Business: None.

New Business: HB Harold Culpepper's, 32°, KCCH term as an At Large Member on the Executive Committee has expired and he is OK with dropping off the Committee. The Committee appointed HB Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH as his replacement as an At Large member on the Executive Committee.

Business for the Good of the Order: None.

Personal Representative's Comments:

- Burn's Night on Friday night will be a keystone event. The SGIG will attend, along with several VIP's (Dave Baxter, 32°, KCCH, Personal Representative to the SGIG for Middle Georgia and Third Grand Steward, Grand Lodge of Georgia; and Walter Waddell, 32°, Grand King, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Georgia). He asked that we help the KSA Commander as needed.
- The Personal Representative has created a new award, the Lily of the Valley, to honor those ladies who go above and beyond in supporting the Valley of Columbus. The first awards will be given at Burn's Night.
- The windows are open for scholarships from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia and from the Supreme Council. Encourage eligible students to apply.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be February 15, 2023.

After the closing prayer, IB Harris closed the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh
32°, KCCH
General Secretary

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