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

Minutes of the Executive Committee
July 19, 2023

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Chair, Executive Committee, IB Phil Harris, 33º, at 6:10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. HB Baron Conklin, 32º, KCCH gave the opening prayer and IB Phil Harris lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance was as follows:

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

Also present was IB Dan Dawson, 33º.

The minutes of the June 14, 2023 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 June 1, 2023 was $11,189.67. During the month of June there were $4,119.17 in deposits and $2,556.17 in checks and payments. The balance on June 30, 2023 was $12,752.17, which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the checking account balance is $14,553.00. The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of $24,426.55 as of

June 30, 2023. The perpetual membership account has a balance of $82,797.29. The Building Fund has a balance of $5,364.03.

General Secretary's Report:

- The KCCH Investiture will be August 26, 2023 at the Valley of Savannah. Brothers Jonas Barlow, Scott Lavelle, and Bayardo Reyes will be invested at that ceremony. Information about the River Boat Dinner Cruise, luncheon, and hotel arrangements has been disseminated. The Valley of Columbus will have a congratulatory dinner Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Pirate House Restaurant in Savannah. Any Brethren and their guests remaining overnight Saturday are invited to attend this pay as you go dinner.
- So far 12 pavers have been sold for our paver garden. The last day to order pavers to guarantee that they will be installed prior to our Centennial is July 28. We will continue to take orders after that but cannot guarantee after that date that the pavers will be installed before September 23.
- The General Secretary sent letters to 20 law firms in the Chattahoochee Valley seeking sponsorships for our play, "Twelve Angry Jurors". As of today, none have responded.
- Supreme Council has mailed out 2024 dues notices. Remind our Brethren that Supreme Council includes the 2024 card with the dues notice (they are advanced the card anticipating that they will pay). They still must pay their dues even though they have their 2024 card.
- The General Secretary received the patents for our five new Masters of the Royal Secret. We will present the certificates to them at Friday's Lodge of Perfection meeting.
- The General Secretary asked everyone to be cognizant about running our air conditioners. Our electric bill this month was $952.77, the highest it's ever been. We understand that we are under a heat wave but we must be frugal with our use of electricity.

Almoner's Report: In the absence of IB John Ohrt, the General Secretary reported that the account has a balance of $2,149.96.

Venerable Master: HB Baron Conklin updated the Executive Committee on programs he has scheduled through October. In August we will have a picnic at the Scottish Rite Center for our Lodge of Perfection meeting. We will open, conduct required business, close, and then enjoy a picnic.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – HB Roger Buterbaugh gave the results of his quest for quotes to repair the air conditioner in the Dining Room. Triple A Air does not do commercial work and declined to quote. Air Force Heating and Air said they will have their Commercial Department contact us for a quote – they never did.

Energy Savers said they will order and install the motor but will not give us a quote beforehand. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried to have Fire and Ice replace the motor for the $1,300.00 they quoted. HB Harry Ross reported that the flapper in the men's room toilet disintegrated and he has replaced it. He has pressure washed the brick border along the front of the Scottish Rite Center in anticipation of the installation of the paver garden. The FRP is up in the lady's room and is ready to be painted. The front of the Scottish Rite Center needs to be pressure washed, the pillars on the front porch repaired, and the front door and trim painted. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried to rent a lift to wash the upper part of the front of the building, not to exceed $500.00. He will reinforce the deadbolt on the front door.

- Stage Committee – Brother Scott Lavelle had no report.
- Fundraising – In the absence of Brother Jonas Barlow, the General Secretary gave the fireworks fundraiser report. The Valley of Columbus sold $37, 610.00 of fireworks. We collected and deposited $11,355.00 in cash, then paid TNT $7,677.21 for their part of the cash collected. We are awaiting the final audit from TNT on credit card sales and our check from them. We anticipate that we will realize a profit of $5,600 to $6,000. IB Dan Dawson reported that the cast of the play "Twelve Angry Jurors" is rehearsing. 12 members of the cast are not Masons and three are. Sandy Dawson is working on the costumes. IB Dawson is working on marketing the play, having the set constructed, preparing flyers, and printing tickets and programs. Tickets will be $20.00 each. We will need volunteers the evenings of the play to sell and collect tickets, escort people to their seats, work refreshments, etc.
- Membership Committee – Brother Richard Luna reported that he is still personally contacting the Brethren who are two or more years in arrears or their Lodge Secretary.
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – no report. The General Secretary announced that the menu for Friday will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables.
- VMAP – Brother Scott Lavelle reported that he turned the VMAP report over to Brother Jonas Barlow temporarily until he resolves his family issues. Brother Barlow told him that the report is up to date.
- DOW – HB Joseph Oelgoetz will handle the 33º White Rose Ceremony to honor IB Rosso, 33º.
- KSA/Centennial Committee – Brother Bayardo Reyes reported that three aspirants and one honorary will be initiated into the Valley of Columbus, Knights of St. Andrew at the Lodge of Perfection Friday, along with the installation of the new officers. He has 32 paid to attend the Centennial Ball on September 23; several more Brethren told him that they plan to attend but have not yet purchased their tickets.

- IT Committee – Brother Russell Ward reported that he plans to run a wire from the Internet box in the Secretary's office to the crow's nest in the Lodge Room for a stronger signal to Zoom our meetings.
- Rite Care – IB Phil Harris reported that it is time to make our next $1,500.00 quarterly payment to the Autism Learning Center for the period May – July 2023. The person who promised us the use of his field for the Dove Shoot reneged on his promise. Brother Philip Jones, a member of the Valley of Columbus, and his brother offered us the use of their farm for the shoot and IB Harris accepted. They have 172 acres of fields for us to use that are already planted to attract the doves. They will also provide electricity and porta-potties. Their farm is in Weston, GA, about 55 miles south of us. The shoot will still take place on September 2. HB Joseph Oelgoetz reported that he is selling Rite Care coins for $20.00 each, proceeds going into our Rite Care account. IB Harris reminded everyone to turn in their Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia Henry rifle raffle tickets to Brother Bayardo Reyes by Friday.

Meeting schedule: July – Knights of St Andrew initiation and installation of new officers, August – picnic, September – Feast of Tishri, and October – Reunion.

Old Business: The Executive Committee discussed again the lack of attendance at Lodge of Perfection meetings for Brethren in line for the four bodies. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried that any of the top five officers in each body who do not attend at least 75% of the Lodge of Perfection meetings each November – October will be removed from the line, exceptions approved by the Personal Representative and Chair, Executive Committee. This will be incorporated into our by-laws.

New Business:
- IB Phil Harris appointed a by-laws committee composed of himself, HB Joseph Oelgoetz, Brother Russell Ward, and Brother Bayardo Reyes.
- The issue of the tall grass around the Springer side of the Scottish Rite Center was discussed. HB Rossie Ross said that he will cut the grass once per month.

Business for the Good of the Order:
- IB Phil Harris announced that Rose Hill Lodge #484 will conduct an IB Doyle Hatfield Appreciation Day on August 5 at the Shrine Club. IB Hatfield is in very poor health and we want to honor him now for his contributions to Freemasonry. It will be a Hawaiian luau. The hat was passed and $100 collected to support the event.
- Brother Bayardo Reyes asked for assistance in selling the silver 300th anniversary coins. We still have a lot in the safe and all sales will be a profit to us.

Personal Representative's Comments: HB Joseph Oelgoetz thanked everyone for supporting the Valley of Columbus, we are doing a lot of things right and its being noticed. We have some fun things coming up and asked everyone to support: the KCCH investiture, the Centennial, and the dove shoot.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be August 16, 2023.

After the closing prayer by HB Baron Conklin, IB Phil Harris closed the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh
32º, KCCH
General Secretary