

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

Minutes of the Executive Committee
May 17, 2023

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Chair, Executive Committee, IB Phil Harris, 33°, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Brother Mark Stillwell, 32°, gave the opening prayer and IB Phil Harris, 33°, lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. 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
• John Ohrt, 33°	Almoner/DOW	A
• Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Ditmar Chavez, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Doyle Hatfield, 33°	At Large	A
• Mark Stillwell, 32°	At Large	P
• Bayardo Reyes, 32°	Cdr, KSA/Centennial Cmte	P
• Harry Ross, 32°, KCCH	Building Cmte	P
• Scott Lavelle, 32°	Stage Cmte/VMAP	A
• Cameron Davis, 32°	Communication/KM	A
• John Adams, 32°	Hospitality Cmte	A
• Richard Luna, 32°	Membership Cmte	P
• Russell Ward, 32°	IT Cmte	A

Also present were IB Dan Dawson, 33°; HB Chuck Hall, 32°, KCCH; Brother Jonas Barlow, 32°; and Candidate Chance Miller.

The minutes of the April 19, 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 April 1, 2023 was \$9,848.44. During the month of April there were \$1,801.35 in deposits and \$1,992.85 in checks and payments. The balance on April 30, 2023 was \$9,656.94, which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the checking account balance is \$11,325.67.

The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of \$24,016.55 as of April 30, 2023. The perpetual membership account has a balance of \$77,650.98. The Building Fund has a balance of \$5,262.29.

General Secretary's Report:

- For the Grand Master's Reunion on June 3 the General Secretary has four petitions on his desk with possibly one more coming in Friday before the Lodge of Perfection meeting. This does not include the petition for the candidate in Germany. Be sure to include cap and ring sizes on the petition. The Reunion will start at 7:30 a.m. at the Atlanta Masonic Center.
- The General Secretary presented the Scottish Rite JROTC Medals at the Muscogee County School District JROTC Awards Ceremony on April 20.
- Master Tax has completed the audit of our 2022 books with no discrepancies noted. They submitted the 990-N to the IRS.
- The KCCH Investiture will take place at the Valley of Savannah Scottish Rite Center on August 25-26. There will be a dinner cruise on August 25, the Investiture and lunch will take place August 26. The Valley of Savannah is now accepting reservations for the dinner cruise and lunch via their web site.
- Reminder that we are now in summer attire for Lodge of Perfection meetings.

Almoner's Report – In the absence of the Almoner the General Secretary reported that the account has a balance of \$2,149.00. This includes the money collected during the Remembrance and Renewal Service held during the April Lodge of Perfection meeting.

Venerable Master: HB Baron Conklin reminded everyone of the Lodge of Perfection meeting on Friday. Our speaker will be HB Joseph Oelgoetz who will talk about the differences between the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, Scottish Rite.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – HB Harry Ross reported that the air conditioner for the front part of the Scottish Rite Center was blowing warm air and that the temperature was running about 85°. Fire and Ice came out this afternoon and found that the capacitor in the outside unit was out. They repaired it for \$225.00 and the air conditioner is working fine now. He asked Fire and Ice to send us a proposal for an annual maintenance contract. He continues to work on repairing the ladies' room.
- Stage Committee – HB Chuck Hall reported that the Lodge Room and stage are ready for Friday night's Lodge of Perfection meeting.
- Fundraising – IB Dan Dawson asked for confirmation of the dates for the play, "Twelve Angry Jurors". Confirmed for August 11-12 and on August 19-20. Chance Miller will serve as the Director for the play. IB Phil Harris reported that the bourbon fund raiser discussed at last month's Executive Committee meeting will not happen because of logistical problems, plus needing a license to sell

liquor. HB Joe Oelgoetz said he has a fire pit in his office that we can raffle. Brother Bayardo Reyes said that he is still selling 300th anniversary coins, but has sold out of the Centennial coins. Brother Jonas Barlow reported on the fireworks fund raiser for Independence Day. TNT will deliver the fireworks to us either on June 23 or June 26 (they do not deliver on weekends). We are required to start selling within two days of receipt, though we can start selling the same day we receive them if we set up in time. We can sell through July 4. The turn in is 2:00 p.m. on July 6 in Tallahassee. Brother Barlow made a motion that he sign the 2024 fireworks contract now to get special benefits. The motion was seconded and carried.

- Membership Committee – the General Secretary reported on petitions earlier. Brother Richard Luna reported that to date 28 of our Scottish Rite Masons have not paid their 2023 dues and 33 have not paid their 2022-2023 dues. We continue to reach out to them. HB Joe Oelgoetz talked about the Sojourner Report we can use to reach out to Scottish Rite Masons who moved into our area to invite them to our meetings (and perhaps they will transfer their membership to the Valley of Columbus). Supreme Council can provide a Sojourner Report – we will ask for one.
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – no report. The General Secretary announced that the menu for Friday will be a Taco Bar in honor of Cinco de Mayo.
- VMAP – HB Joe Oelgoetz reported that we missed the window for the 2022 VMAP Award. Brother Scott Lavelle has had serious family problems of late which kept him from working on the report. He asked for Brethren to step up to help him with VMAP at least until his family issues are resolved.
- DOW – There will be a practice for the 14th Degree at the Scottish Rite Center on May 31.
- KSA/Centennial Committee – Brother Bayardo Reyes reported that the KSA will meet on June 24 to elect new officers and vote on new members. Initiation and installation will take place at the July Lodge of Perfection meeting. The invitations for the Centennial ceremony and ball are printed and ready to be sent out. So far 19 people have made reservations to attend the ball.
- IT Committee – the Internet was down last month and is now repaired.
- Rite Care – IB Phil Harris reported on IB Gene Jernigan's, 33°, and Brother Robert Bradshaw's, 32°, visit to the Autism Learning Center on May 3. He is working with the Autism Learning Center to mount a large Rite Care logo on their wall in their clinic. The dove shoot fundraiser is on track to be held on September 2.

Meeting schedule: May – HB Oelgoetz will give a presentation on the differences between the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite, June – Cap and Ring ceremony and Flag Day ceremony, July – Knights of St Andrew initiation and

installation of new officers, August – TBD, September – Feast of Tishri, and October - Reunion. RWB Ben Polston, Deputy Grand Master, has accepted our invitation to be our Feast of Tishri speaker. HB Roger Buterbaugh reported that he invited RWB William “Bill” Shepard to be our Feast of Tishri speaker in September 2025 and he accepted. We are set for our Feast of Tishri speakers for 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Old Business: None.

New Business: HB Joe Oelgoetz gave a presentation on the Centennial Project: Enduring Tribute to Our Membership Past and Present. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried for him to give the presentation at the Lodge of Perfection meeting on Friday for approval.

Business for the Good of the Order:

- Brother Bayardo Reyes reported that Fort Benning Lodge #579 is selling 100th anniversary coins, the Lodge will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024. Even though the name of Fort Benning was changed to Fort Moore on May 11, Fort Benning Lodge will not change its name. He is still selling raffle tickets for the Henry Masonic Golden Boy .22 rifle as a fundraiser for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia.
- IB Phil Harris reported that Rose Hill Lodge #484 will have a BBQ butt sale on June 10, they can be picked up at the Columbus Shrine Club. He is also selling Shrine Club raffle tickets for a five-night cruise to Nassau and Bimini in January 2024. The drawing will be July 27, 2023.
- Brother Jonas Barlow announced the Crawford Lodge yard sale next Saturday.
- HB Chuck Hall invited everyone to the Coweta Falls Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Memorial Day Commemoration at Park Hill Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on May 29.

Personal Representative's Comments:

- Recognized REGC Ditmar Chavez, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, in attendance tonight – he is also a Member at Large of our Executive Committee. He said that the Grand Commander appointed him as his Eminent Grand Sentinel and HB Roger Buterbaugh as his Eminent Grand Adjutant.
- Thanked everyone for their support of the Centennial Project.
- Will not be at the June Lodge of Perfection meeting. He will be attending the Triennial as the Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons in Georgia.
- Reminded everyone of the 4th Masonic District Convention at Greenville Lodge on August 19. He will step down as the Convention Worshipful Master.
- The Valley of Columbus is doing well, receiving recognition up the chain all the way to the Sovereign Grand Commander.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be June 14, 2023.

After the closing prayer by Brother Mark Stillwell, IB Phil Harris closed the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh
32°, KCCH
General Secretary