

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

Minutes of the Executive Committee  
March 16, 2022

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Personal Representative, HB Joseph Oelgoetz, 32°, KCCH at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. HB Oelgoetz lead the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance is as follows:

• Joseph Oelgoetz, 32°, KCCH	Personal Representative	P
• Phil Harris, 33°	Chair, Executive Committee	P
• Roger Buterbaugh, 32°, KCCH	General Secretary	P
• Robert Lyon III, 32°, KCCH	Treasurer/Cdr, CK	A
• Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH	VM, LOP	P
• John Ohrt, 33°	WM, KRC/DOW/Almoner	P
• Sid Cooley, 32°, KCCH	MK, CC	P
• Harold Culpepper, 32°, KCCH	At Large	A
• Ditmar Chavez, 32°, KCCH	At Large	A
• Doyle Hatfield, 33°	At Large	A
• Mark Stillwell, 32°	At Large	P
• Jonas Barlow, 32°	Cdr, KSA	P
• Harry Ross, 32°, KCCH	Building	P
• Scott Lavelle, 32°	Stage/VMAP	A
• Cameron Davis, 32°	Communication/KM	A
• John Adams, 32°	Refreshments/Hospitality	P

Also present were HB Rossi Ross and Brothers James Davis, Bayardo Reyes, and Steve Smith.

The minutes of the February 16, 2022 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – In the absence of the Treasurer, the General Secretary gave the Treasurer's Report. The Columbus Scottish Rite Bodies checking account (general operating account) had a balance of \$9,095.96 as of February 1, 2022. During the month of February there were deposits totaling \$6,569.14 and withdrawals totaling \$3,636.55. The balance on February 28, 2022 was \$12,028.55, the bank statement and QuickBooks balancing. In March we paid \$5,000 to Storm Pros, the final payment for our new roof. As of today, our balance is \$7,343.51. Our Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of \$19,529.06, after we donated \$1,500.00 to the Autism Learning Center, our Rite Care Partner (check was written in January but not deposited until March). We also paid the Columbus-Fort Benning Shrine Club \$240.00 for the Autism Learning Center clients who attended their Pancakes with Santa Claus last

December. Our perpetual membership investment account has a balance of \$83,459.68.

General Secretary (HB Roger Buterbaugh):

- Fort Benning Chapter #278, OES has requested to conduct a schnitzel dinner fundraiser at our April 15, 2022 meeting. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried that we allow them to hold a schnitzel fund raiser at the Scottish Rite Center but not on our regular meeting night. The General Secretary will ask them to pick another non-meeting date.
- The Muscogee Republican Party requested that they be allowed to hold a meeting in our dining hall on March 22, 2022. They will make a \$150 donation. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow them to meet in our dining room. IB John Ohrt will open the building for them and lock up afterwards.
- The local Children of the American Revolution (CAR) chapter requested that they be allowed to hold a meeting in our dining hall on March 28, 2022. A motion was made, seconded and carried to allow them to meet at no charge. HB Buterbaugh will open the building and lock up afterwards.

Almoner's Report (IB John Ohrt) – there have been no requests for assistance since our last meeting.

Venerable Master – our program for our March 18 Lodge of Perfection meeting will be a presentation by the Columbus Chapter, DeMolay and by Columbus Assembly #15, IORG. Afterwards, we will get an update from the Autism Learning Center.

Committee Reports:

- Building (HB Harry Ross) – the siding on the Springer Opera House side of the Scottish Rite Center blew loose during a recent storm. It was difficult to repair as the siding is brittle. HB Ross was able to reattach it. He continues to work the renovation of the ladies room. Brother Dan Ricketts is not available to give us an estimate for renovation, HB Ross will work on getting another estimate. Due to the cinder block construction of the ladies room outside of the dining hall, we may have to make the restroom in the library the handicap accessible restroom. HB Buterbaugh reported that he has scheduled Columbus Fire and Safety to inspect our fire extinguishers on March 28.
- Stage – no report.
- Fundraising – the Personal Representative appointed Brother Jacob Robideaux as the new Chair, Fundraising Committee. We need a Columbus Raffle License in order to conduct a raffle. IB Phil Harris said he will obtain it. HB Rossi Ross talked about the fireworks stand and the need for volunteers, if we are able to get one. Brother Barlow said there are Soldiers at Fort Benning who need community service volunteer hours. Brother Richard Luna works on Fort Benning, we will ask him to check on the Soldier volunteers.

- Membership Committee – the Personal Representative appointed Brother Richard Luna as the new Chair, Membership Committee. HB Oelgoetz reported that he attended the Rite Way Conference in St Louis, MO last weekend. There was discussion about the membership experience. What can a Valley do to improve membership? A survey found that 50% of Masons join the Scottish Rite for education (More Light), 25% for ritual, and 25% for fellowship.
- Communications Committee – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshments Committee (Brother John Adams) – the menu next Friday will be Irish stew in honor of St Patrick's Day. He is working on a Passover related menu for April since Easter is in April.
- VMAP – HB Oelgoetz reported that the Valley of Columbus submitted our first VMAP last month. It is an excellent strategic planning tool. He commended Brother Scott Lavelle for putting the report together.
- DOW (IB John Ohrt) – Remembrance and Renewal will take place at our April meeting. We will hold our Reunion for our May meeting (May 20-21). We have four left over candidates from the Fall 2021 reunion who confirmed that they will be at our next Reunion.
- Rite Care (IB Phil Harris) – the Columbus-Fort Benning Shrine Club will conduct Pancakes with the Easter Bunny on April 9, 8:00 a.m. to noon, at the Club. Since Pancakes with Santa Claus was such a success we will invite the Autism Learning Center clients to join us. This will be an excellent opportunity for them to interact with an Easter Bunny and to participate in an Easter Egg hunt. There are currently 62 clients at the Autism Learning Center. We donated to them \$6,500 last September (\$5,000 from the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia and \$1,500 from the Valley of Columbus Rite Care Foundation). We donated \$1,500 more last January and will continue to make \$1,500 quarterly donations. IB Harris announced that graduate students will be able to apply for Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia scholarships. We need to start planning our Dove Shoot Rite Care fundraiser for the opening of dove season in September. Brother Jacob Robideaux will take the lead with assistance from IB Harris.

#### Meeting Schedule of Events (HB Torrey Knight):

- March – the DeMolay and Rainbows will be presenting. Also, the Autism Learning Center will give us an update as our Rite Care partner.
- April – Remembrance and Renewal.
- May – Reunion.
- June – HB Knight will ask Daniel Morgan Camp, Heroes of 76 (Fort Benning Chapter #8, National Sojourners) to give its Flag Day presentation. We will also have the Cap and Ring ceremony.
- July – KSA initiation and installation of new officers.

#### Old Business:

- The General Secretary had the locks on the outer doors to the Scottish Rite Center re-keyed. He has issued keys to those Brothers approved by the Personal Representative. If you believe you need your own key to the Center, present your case to the Personal Representative for his approval.
- The General Secretary researched fees for candidates. In 2017, candidates had to pay for their own cap (\$45), hat case (\$30), name badge (\$20), duplicate 32° patent (\$5), ladies certificate (\$5), and lapel pin (\$8). The initiation fee is now \$125 across all Valley's in Georgia. Considering our financial condition, we should look at charging these fees again starting with our Fall 2022 Reunion (we already committed to the four left over candidates that we would provide these items at no additional charge).
- IB Phil Harris presented his analysis of our life membership contributions (copy enclosed). It is support for the Resolution to be presented under New Business.

#### New Business:

- The Venerable Master requests that his Resolution concerning Fees and Dues presented at the last Executive Committee meeting and which had its first reading at the last Lodge of Perfection meeting be voted down in favor of a new Resolution (enclosed). The new Resolution specifies that dividends earned from the Perpetual Membership investment fund be used each January to pay the per capita for life members only. It is not to go into the General Operating Account as has been past practice. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to present the new Resolution at the next Lodge of Perfection meeting for a first reading.
- The Venerable Master presented another Resolution to create a Building Fund investment account (enclosed). Currently donations to the Building Fund are intermingled with other funds in the General Operating Account. A separate account will ensure that Building Fund donations are used specifically for building repair. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to present this Resolution at the next Lodge of Perfection meeting with the change that the \$20 one time contribution for each member of the Valley of Columbus in good standing be held until such time as our General Operating Account has sufficient funds to do so. HB Oelgoetz said he will send a letter to members telling them about the Building Fund and requesting a \$20 donation.

#### Business for the Good of the Order:

- IB Harris reported that IB Bob Poydasheff's Grandson, Stephen, passed away unexpectedly. We need to keep Staci Poydasheff in our prayers as she has suffered three losses in the last year (her daughter, her husband Bob, and now her grandson).
- Brother Jonas Barlow announced that Fort Benning Lodge will confer the Master's Degree on March 28. It was announced that Mount Hermon Lodge will confer the Entered Apprentice Degree next Thursday.
- Brother John Adams announced that Midland Lodge will have a breakfast fundraiser on April 2.

Personal Representative's Comments (HB Oelgoetz) – thanks to all for their hard work in making the Valley of Columbus a success. We are engaged in difficult discussions on difficult issues as we work to make the Valley better. He talked more about his attendance at the Rite Way Conference. He is getting a copy of the slides and will share them with the Executive Committee.

Our next meeting will be April 13, 2022. Note that this is a second Wednesday instead of the usual 3d Wednesday, it is the Wednesday before our Friday (April 15) Lodge of Perfection meeting.

IB Phil Harris closed the meeting with prayer at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Encl.  
as

Roger W. Buterbaugh  
32°, KCCH  
General Secretary