

Columbus Scottish Rite Bodies
Post Office Box 727
Columbus, GA 31902-0727
Minutes of the Executive Committee
December 13, 2023

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Chair, Executive Committee, IB Phil Harris, 33°, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. IB Harris gave the opening prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Attendance was as follows:

• Joseph Oelgoetz, 33°	Personnel Representative	P
• Phil Harris, 33°	Chair, Executive Committee	P
• Roger Buterbaugh, 33°	General Secretary/MK, CC	P
• Robert Lyon III, 32°, KCCH	Treasurer	A
• Baron Conklin, 32°, KCCH	VM, LOP	A
• 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
• Bayardo Reyes, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Mark Stillwell, 32°	At Large	A
• Harry Ross, 32°, KCCH	Building Cmte	A
• Scott Lavelle, 32°, KCCH	Stage Cmte/VMAP	P
• Cameron Davis, 32°, KCCH	Communication/KM	A
• John Adams, 32°	Hospitality Cmte	P
• Richard Luna, 32°	Retention Cmte	A
• Jim Davis, 32°	Membership Cmte	P
• Matt Burgess, 32°	Chair, Fireworks Cmte	A
• Russell Ward, 32°	Cdr, KSA/IT Cmte	P

Also present were IB Dan Dawson, 33°, HB Chuck Hall, 32°, KCCH, and Brother Jacob Robideaux, 32°.

The minutes of the November 15, 2023 Executive Committee meetings 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 November 1, 2023 was \$13,781.79. During the month of November there were \$3,127.18 in deposits and \$2,990.51 in checks and payments. The balance on November 30, 2023 was \$13,918.46 which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the

checking account balance is \$14,135.02. The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of \$25,826.28. The perpetual membership account has a balance of \$83,227.82. The Building Fund has a balance of \$5,192.20. The General Secretary received the per capita bill from the Supreme Council for \$6,900.00. He will pay it before the end of this month.

General Secretary's Report:

- The General Secretary mailed suspension notices to 17 Brethren who are three or more years in arrears in their dues. The Chair, Retention Committee is also contacting them. The Almoner's Fund paid the per capita for five Brethren.
- Reminder, body heads are to notify their top five officers about the 75% attendance policy before January 31, 2024.

Almoner's Report: The General Secretary reported for the Almoner. The current balance in the Almoner's Fund is \$1,869.96 after paying \$720.00 in per capita for worthy Brethren.

Venerable Master: HB Baron Conklin was unable to attend.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – no report.
- Stage Committee – HB Scott Lavelle reported that unauthorized people are turning the lights on behind the stage and leaving them on when they leave the Center, so he is cutting them off at the breaker box. The stage area needs to be secured, items are being moved to unknown locations and are coming up missing. Discussion ensued about what audio equipment do we need to purchase so we will no longer have to borrow HB Chuck Hall's equipment. Think about it and we will make a decision at our February 2024 Executive Committee meeting.
- Fundraising – The General Secretary reported that we made \$1,802.75 from our radio play, "A Christmas Carol". 152 people attended. HB Jonas Barlow could not make the meeting, but sent us a text that fireworks will be delivered to our stand at 8:00 a.m. on December 28, 2023. We will sell fireworks December 28-31.
- Membership Committee – Brother Jim Davis reported that he is awaiting the results of our Strategic Planning meeting to prepare his recruiting slide deck to present to the Lodges.
- Retention Committee – no report.
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – Brother John Adams reported that dinner at Friday's Lodge of Perfection meeting will be prime rib.
- VMAP – HB Scott Lavelle reported that he is finalizing the 2023 VMAP report. It is due no later than February 24, 2024.

- DOW – no report.
- KSA – HB Rossi Ross and Brother Russell Ward reported on Burns' Night to be held January 19, 2024. The haggis and napkins, as well as the glasses, have arrived to the Scottish Rite Center. They are still working on the program. Tickets will be \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, and \$75 for three. The meal plan will not cover the price of the tickets. The Knights will collect the money at the door. HB Bayardo Reyes is receiving the RSVP's. The event is being posted to our Facebook page.
- IT Committee – no report.
- Rite Care – IB Phil Harris reported that 55 Autism Learning Center clients and family members attended Pancakes with Santa on December 2. The Center currently has 29 clients. The issue is finding qualified administrators to evaluate client candidates which must be done before they can be admitted into the Autism Learning Center. There are many candidates but not enough evaluators. Columbus State University is developing a program to train people to evaluate clients for admission into the program. Hopefully that will speed up the admission process.

Meeting schedule: December – Installation of Officers and Christmas Program, and January – Burns' Night.

Old Business: The Personal Representative prepared a budget for purchasing awards (presiding officer jewels, Lily of the Valley pins, etc.). The estimated cost is \$333.48 per year. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried to spend up to \$350 for the awards.

New Business:

- We will need two new at large members to replace HB Torrey Knight, who will become our Treasurer, and Brother Mark Stilwell, 32°, whose term expires this month. The Executive Committee approved HB Dan East, 32°, KCCH and Brother Steve Smith, 32°, to serve on the Committee.
- Due to the number of Executive Committee members absent this evening we will defer our Strategic Planning Session until our January 2024 Executive Committee meeting. Everyone is asked to think about the questions and be prepared to discuss at our next meeting.

Business for the Good of the Order: IB Phil Harris invited everyone to attend the Rose Hill Lodge #484 installation of officers on December 16. The Valley Association of Past Masters will meet immediately prior to the lunch and installation.

Personal Representative's Comments: IB Joseph Oelgoetz:

- Brethren are asking to be administrators on the Columbus Scottish Rite Bodies Facebook page. The answer is no – we are losing control over content as someone recently posted an item inappropriate to our page. We will have two administrators, anyone who needs temporary access (such as for our fireworks sale) will be granted advertiser rights, which will be revoked as soon as the event is over.
- The next Executive Committee meeting will focus on our strategic planning objectives. Be prepared to discuss.
- We will look into purchasing a large TV to hang on the stage for presentations. This will include looking at the logistics, such as where it would be plugged in.
- HB Baron Conklin will be our Lodge of Perfection Prelate for 2024.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be January 17, 2024.

HB Ditmar Chavez gave the closing prayer and IB Phil Harris closed the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh, 33°
General Secretary