

Columbus Scottish Rite Bodies
Post Office Box 727
Columbus, GA 31902-0727
Minutes of the Executive Committee
September 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, September 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	P
• Rossi Ross, 32°, KCCH	WM, KRC	P
• Ed Lynch, 32°, KCCH	Cdr, CK	A
• John Ohrt, 33°	Almoner/DOW	P
• Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Ditmar Chavez, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Bayardo Reyes, 32°, KCCH	At Large/Centennial Cmte	P
• Mark Stillwell, 32°	At Large	A
• Harry Ross, 32°, KCCH	Building Cmte	P
• Scott Lavelle, 32°, KCCH	Stage Cmte/VMAP	P
• Cameron Davis, 32°	Communication/KM	A
• John Adams, 32°	Hospitality Cmte	P
• Richard Luna, 32°	Membership Cmte	P
• Jonas Barlow, 32°, KCCH	Membership Cmte	P
• Russell Ward, 32°	Cdr, KSA/IT Cmte	A

Also present was HB Chuck Hall, 32°, KCCH; HB Larry Cox, 32°, KCCH; and Brother Chance Miller, 32°.

The minutes of the August 16, 2023 and August 28, 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 August 1, 2023 was \$17,710.32. During the month of August there were \$12,634.53 in deposits and \$12,307.37 in checks and payments. The balance on August 31, 2023 was \$18,037.48, which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the checking account balance is \$31,856.45. Keep in mind that \$10,000 of this is loans to purchase the new

air conditioner for the dining room and includes Rite Care Dove Shoot money that will be transferred to our Rite Care account. The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of \$24,231.55 as of August 31, 2023. The perpetual membership account has a balance of \$83,625.49. The Building Fund has a balance of \$5,365.25.

General Secretary's Report:

- A record store owner on Broadway received a vinyl record of Masonic music written by Mozart. He would like to donate it to the Valley of Columbus. He has been invited to Friday's dinner and Lodge of Perfection meeting to make the presentation.
- For our next Lodge of Perfection meeting, we will have one petition to vote on, a cap and ring presentation, and the presentation of KCCH warrants.
- The 33° Investiture and Honorman's Banquet will be at the Atlanta Masonic Center September 30, 2023. Information has been distributed about the event. If you need more information, contact the General Secretary.
- To date 60 pavers have been purchased.
- The General Secretary has no petitions on hand for the Fall Reunion. Thus, we need to have a program ready for the Lodge of Perfection meeting. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried to cancel the October Fall Reunion. IB Joseph Oelgoetz, 33°, suggested that we conduct a Veterans Day program for our October meeting. After more discussion the consensus of the Committee was that we should have the Veterans Day program in November for Veterans Day and that the Venerable Master come up with a program for October.

Almoner's Report: IB John Ohrt reported that the account has a balance of \$2,149.96. He has received no requests for assistance.

Venerable Master: HB Baron Conklin reminded everyone that this Friday's Lodge of Perfection meeting will be the Feast of Tishri with RWB Ben Polston, Deputy Grand Master, as our speaker. He will work on a program for October.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – HB Harry Ross reported that a new air conditioner was installed in the dining room today. However, the floor drain is clogged so when we ran the new air conditioner it flooded the floor. He and HB Scott Lavelle will work on clearing the drain pipe. The work on the Ladies bathroom is done. The front steps have been painted, the rail repaired, new porch lights installed, and the sidewalks around the Scottish Rite Center pressure washed. He will paint the front door and trim and the columns before the Centennial celebration. He also plans to wax the floor in the Lodge Room and put new weatherstripping on the two side doors. HB Lavelle said that in washing the front of the Scottish Rite

Center he noted that the porch roof by the overhang is rotting. We will need to fix that as well.

- Stage Committee – HB Scott Lavelle reported that the stage and Lodge Room are set up for this Friday's Feast of Tishri.
- Fundraising – IB Roger Buterbaugh reported that the income for "Twelve Angry Jurors" was \$2,888.00 with expenses of \$244.63. The play made \$2,643.37 in profit.
- Membership Committee – Brother Richard Luna reported that the number of Brethren in arrears for their dues declined from 63 to 46. HB Jonas Barlow reported that he has no current plans for recruitment. Discussion ensued about having a "Brother bring a Brother Night" at a Lodge of Perfection meeting, with the Scottish Rite Mason bringing a non-member Master Mason not having to pay for his meal that night. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the "Brother bring a Brother Night".
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – Brother John Adams reported that he will not be at the Lodge of Perfection meeting Friday night. IB Phil Harris will prepare a dinner of hamburger steak with mashed potatoes and vegetables for him.
- VMAP – HB Jonas Barlow reported that his last submission to VMAP was July 29. HB Scott Lavelle will resume responsibility for the VMAP and will submit the next report.
- DOW – IB John Ohrt reported that the Knights Rose Croix are ready to present the Feast of Tishri Friday night.
- KSA – no report. In the absence of the Commander, HB Rossi Ross, Grand Knight, said he will ensure that we have a sufficient number of Knights attend the Centennial Celebration the morning of September 23 to provide appropriate support.
- Centennial Committee – Brother Bayardo Reyes reported that we have 64 guests to attend the Centennial Ball, and we will have ten tables set up. HB Jonas Barlow volunteered to check in guests as they arrive at the Ball. HB Reyes still has some Centennial coins for sale. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried that we will tell the Bibb Mill Event Center that we will have 70 guests.
- IT Committee – no report.
- Rite Care – IB Phil Harris reported on the Rite Care Dove Shoot held September 2. We had 61 registered shooters. The weather was nice and there were plenty of birds. 28 volunteers supported the Dove Shoot. We raised over \$12,000 in registration and sponsorships, and received \$11,000 in "in kind" donations to include 250 radio spots that played on four PMB radio stations. A special thanks to the Crossroads men who volunteered to come out and help. We have updated the interior and exterior signs at the Autism Learning Center office to include the name of the parent company, KNR Therapy, and the new Rite Care logo.

Meeting schedule: September – Feast of Tishri, October – TBD, November – Veterans Day Program, and December – Installation of Officers and Christmas Program.

Old Business:

- IB Doyle Hatfield passed away earlier today. His funeral will be Sunday in Slocomb, AL. We will conduct the White Rose Ceremony in his honor at the October Lodge of Perfection meeting.
- IB Joseph Oelgoetz is still selling the Rite Care coins. See him if you want to purchase.

New Business: The Executive Committee discussed the Centennial Celebration:

- IB John Ohrt and IB Dan Dawson will address the mulch for the front of the Scottish Rite Center.
- We will set up chairs on the driveway for our senior citizens. We anticipate several attendees in their 80's and 90's will attend and we need to have chairs for them for the ceremony.
- IB John Ohrt will provide a podium and a 10x20 canopy if needed.
- Brother John Adams will provide cold bottled water for attendees. Lunch will consist of Subway sandwiches.
- We will make an inclement weather decision Saturday morning before the ceremony. If it is raining, we will hold the ceremony in the Lodge Room.
- The Sovereign Grand Commander and his wife will arrive at the Columbus Airport at 4:44 p.m. on Friday, September 22 on DL4105. The General Secretary will pick him up and take him to the hotel. He will depart at noon on Sunday.
- HB Bayardo Reyes, Ms. Donna Buterbaugh, and others will depart the Scottish Rite Center as soon as the ceremony is over to proceed to the Bibb Mill Event Center to decorate for that evening's masquerade ball.
- The programs for the Centennial are at the printer.

Business for the Good of the Order: None.

Personal Representative's Comments: IB Joseph Oelgoetz:

- Thanked everyone for attending this evening.
- Thanked HB Harry Ross and HB Scott Lavelle for all the work they have done to renovate the Scottish Rite Center for our Centennial.
- Thanked IB Phil Harris for his work on the Rite Care Dove Shoot.
- Thanked HB Jonas Barlow for the work he has done on the VMAP as he turns it back over to HB Scott Lavelle.
- Has a Valley of Columbus necktie for sale for \$25.00. If you want a tie or Rite Care coin, see him.
- IB Doyle Hatfield's funeral on Sunday will conflict with Brother John House's DeMolay Legion of Honor ceremony scheduled at the same time. Thus, he

knows that some of the Brethren will attend the Legion of Honor ceremony in lieu of the funeral, as we need to support both events.

- Selected Ms. Nora Wells and Ms. Laverne Knowles for the Lilly of the Valley Award. Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Collins will receive Honor Lilly of the Valley Awards.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be October 18, 2023.

HB Baron Conklin gave the closing prayer and IB Phil Harris closed the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh, 33°
General Secretary