

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

Minutes of the Executive Committee
March 15, 2023

The Executive Committee was called to order by the Chair, Executive Committee, IB Phil Harris, 33°, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. IB Harris gave the opening prayer and 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	A
• Rossi Ross, 32°, KCCH	WM, KRC	P
• Ed Lynch, 32°, KCCH	Cdr, CK	A
• John Orhrt, 33°	Almoner/DOW	P
• Torrey Knight, 32°, KCCH	At Large	P
• Ditmar Chavez, 32°, KCCH	At Large	A
• 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 HB Chuck Hall, 32°, KCCH and Brother Jonas Barlow 32°.

The minutes of the February 15, 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 February 1, 2023 was \$12,230.20. During the month of February there was \$1,064.00 in deposits and \$2,759.92 in payments. The balance on February 28, 2023 was \$10,534.28, which balances with the bank statement and QuickBooks. As of today, the checking account balance is \$10,955.33. The Scottish Rite Foundation account has a balance of \$28,581.65 as of February 28, 2023. The Autism Learning Center deposited the

\$5,000.00 check we presented to them six months ago on February 2, 2023. The perpetual membership account has a balance of \$76,497.38. The Building Fund has a balance of \$5,260.97.

General Secretary's Report:

- Fuller Fire and Safety inspected our fire extinguishers this afternoon and they all passed.
- Swift Navigation installed the additional antennae and new equipment. We have fulfilled our contract with them.
- Since we were so successful with our Valentine's basket raffle last month we will continue with basket raffles at each Lodge of Perfection meeting with the money received going into our general operating fund. In those months when we do not have a basket raffle, we will have a 50/50 raffle. Though we will support the Amaranth and the OES, they will need to check with us before they bring a raffle item to the Lodge of Perfection meetings (and not just show up with the item). The Executive Committee concurred.

Almoner's Report – IB John Ohrt reported a checking account balance of \$2,509.96 as of February 28, 2023. He has not received any requests for assistance since our last meeting.

Venerable Master: The Venerable Master was absent. IB Norm Blankenbeckler, 33°, will give a program at Friday night's Lodge of Perfection meeting about the High Priest's breastplate. A reminder that we still need official photos of the body heads for our hallway.

Committee Reports:

- Building Committee – HB Harry Ross continues to work on renovating the ladies room. He thought he would be finished by now but the recent cold temperatures have prevented him from applying the covering on the walls. He will have to wait until it warms up before he can finish. He still requests input from the Brethren on what all we can do to beautify the Scottish Rite Center for our Centennial celebration next September. The Executive Committee discussed the bricks and plaque to be installed to commemorate our 100th anniversary. IB John Ohrt will check on getting a permit to construct it.
- Stage Committee – Brother Chuck Hall reported that the Lodge Room is set up and ready for IB Blankenbeckler's presentation on Friday.
- Fundraising – TNT will deliver our fireworks for the Independence Day sale to us on May 23; there will be no need to go to Tallahassee to pick them up. Brother Jonas Barlow is the fireworks fund-raising Captain and will oversee the set up. Brother Mark Stillwell reported on the possibility of having a blue grass and BBQ fundraiser. It will cost us \$5,000 up front to get a commitment from the bands. We will need at least five bands. He recommended that we forget the blue grass

and BBQ fundraiser because of the high cost of getting it started with no guarantee on what we can make (for example, if it rains the day of we will lose customers). After discussion the Executive Committee concurred.

- Membership Committee – Brother Jonas Barlow said we have one petition so far for the Grand Master’s Reunion with five more in the pipeline.
- Communications – no report.
- Hospitality/Refreshment Committee – no report. The General Secretary reminded all that the menu for Friday will be corned beef and cabbage in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. The menu for April will be sirloin beef tips, mashed potatoes with gravy, and kernel corn at the request of the General Secretary. It was recommended that we add the menu to the meeting announcement each month so the Brethren will know what to expect to eat.
- VMAP – no report.
- DOW – IB John Ohrt reported that the 14th Degree Team started rehearsing for the Grand Master’s Reunion. Rehearsals have gone so well that the next one will be May 3. He will work with HB Rossi Ross in conducting the Remembrance and Renewal Service in April.
- KSA/Centennial Committee – see enclosed. Brother Bayardo Reyes opened the floor for discussion on what to charge for the Masquerade Ball on September 23. After discussion a motion was made, seconded, and carried to charge \$100 per person or \$175 per couple.
- IT Committee – no report.
- Rite Care – IB Phil Harris reported that there will be a Pancakes with the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt for the Autism Learning Center clients. It will be April 8 starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Columbus Fort Benning Shrine Club. The Foundation will cover the cost of \$5.00 per client and family member. Currently the Autism Learning Center has 75 clients. The Foundation Dove Shoot fundraiser will take place the opening day of dove season at a new location, a field in Marion County.

Meeting schedule: March – the High Priest’s breastplate by IB Blankenbeckler, April – Remembrance and Renewal, May – TBD, June – Cap and Ring ceremony, and July – Knights of St Andrew initiation and installation of new officers.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Discussion started on Brethren who never attend meetings as they progress through the chairs of the four bodies, expecting to automatically advance each year until they reach the East and then start attending the meetings. The Nominating Committee should look at the attendance of the body officers, and consider removing those who do not attend Lodge of Perfection meetings or support the Valley before they reach the East, replacing them with active Brethren. We will continue this discussion at future meetings.

Business for the Good of the Order: IB Phil Harris gave an update on our corporation status, noting that corporations are to own and manage real property and not to manage the four bodies.

Personal Representative's Comments:

- Asked everyone to think of ways to add fun and fellowship to our meetings. One new thing we have started is having dessert after the Lodge of Perfection meeting to give everyone plenty of time to visit with each other.
- There will be a Valley of Columbus fishing trip May 26-27 in Panama City Beach, FL. On May 26 we will attend the Valley of Panama City Lodge of Perfection meeting. The fishing trip will start early in the morning on the 27th. The boat can hold 12 fishermen. Cost is \$205 per person for eight hours of fishing.
- Let's look at having a Christmas party in addition to the Lodge of Perfection meeting in December.
- Do we want to hold any cook outs?
- In preparation for our Centennial celebration, looking for ideas on how to spruce up our front lawn.
- Asking all to e-mail their Masonic resume to the General Secretary, who will keep them on file.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be April 19, 2023.

After the closing prayer, IB Phil Harris closed the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger W. Buterbaugh
32°, KCCH
General Secretary

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