



Valley of Springfield

# Scottish Rite

*Bring the family and a potential candidate (if possible) to the  
Valley of Springfield's*

## *Fall Family Fun Fest*

*Halloween Sunday, October 31, 2004*

*From 1:00 PM to 4:00 at the  
Springfield Masonic Center*

*Hot Dogs – Baked Beans – Chips – Hot Apple Cider*

*Pumpkin and cookie decorating for the kids*

*Entertainment and a few roving historical characters from  
the Scottish Rite ceremonial cast*

*The best of all? There is no cost! It is free!*

*Please call 793-7728 no later than Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for reservations*

*Oh yeah, since this festival falls on Halloween day, be sure to have the  
kids dress up in their costumes!*

**IN MEMORY OF***Wilmer R. Birk, 33°*

It is with a great deal of sorrow that we report the loss of **Illustrious Brother Wilmer R. Birk, 33°**. Willie was born on June 28, 1937. He became a member of the Valley of Springfield on Nov 6, 1982 and served the valley as the Thrice Potent Master of the Sangamo Lodge of Perfection from 1995 to 1997. He received the 33° in 1996. Willie was called by the Grand Warden of Heaven on September 28, 2004. Please join me in extending our sympathy and prayers to Willie's family.

**SPRINGFIELD MASONIC CENTER, INC. NEWS**

**William D. Graber, MSA**, Chairman of the Springfield Masonic Center, Inc. Board of Directors has announced several improvements to the Center. A new sidewalk from the front door of the building to the door at the southwest corner of the dining is being installed. To conform to the building codes of the City of Springfield, a concrete pad for the trash dumpster is being installed. Next spring a fence will

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Valley of Springfield, AASR

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August A. Candioto, Jr., MSA – C-in-C  
Bill W. Martel, 33° - Most Wise Master  
Larry A. Hamlin, MSA - Sovereign Prince  
Gerry L. Williams - Thrice Potent Master

Norman R. Buecker, 33° - Active Emeritus  
Steven L. Walls - Executive Secretary  
Harris H. Hatcher, 33° - Fraternal Secretary  
James J. Moses, Jr., 33° – Treasurer  
Bill W. Martel, 33° – Editor  
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be installed around the pad to conceal the dumpster. The photo gallery of Past Grand Masters from the Springfield Lodges has been hung on the walls outside the lodge room. Electrically, the lighting for the parking lot will be enhanced and a major improvement to the lighting in the lodge room should begin in the next few weeks. This lighting improvement will greatly benefit the valley degree presentations as well as the work of the other Masonic bodies using the building. Bulletin boards have been installed along with literature boards for the display of pamphlets and brochures. Finally, curtains for the lodge room have been ordered.

**ATTENTION WEB SURFERS**

Are you on the web? Check out our new web site at [www.mastermason.com/aasr-springfield-il](http://www.mastermason.com/aasr-springfield-il). **Brent Workman** has put a great deal of effort into the development of our valley web site and the quality shows. The site contains information for just about anything you want to know about what is going on in the valley. It has a page for the progress of the development of the 32° Masonic Learning Center, a monthly member survey, present and past officers, MSA recipients, 33° Masons, the newsletter, etc., etc. Check it out! I am sure you will visit it often to keep up to the minute on what is going in the valley and what is on the horizon.

**32° MASONIC LEARNING CENTER UPDATE**

The planning committee for the development of the Valley of Springfield 32° Masonic Learning for children with dyslexia has finalized its membership and is making plans to move forward with the task at hand...making a Learning Center for Springfield a reality. The planning committee consists for **Norman R. Buecker, MSA, 33°**, **August A. Candioto, Jr., MSA**, **Gerry L. Williams, Larry A. Hamlin, MSA**, **Wendell E. Walch, Steven L. Walls & Bill W. Martel, 33°**, all members of the valley. Pam DeSollar, an educator from Beardstown, rounds out the committee. The committee is currently working on list of financial related questions that will be submitted to the executive director. Once the questions can be answered, the committee will be moving toward the next step, which is selecting an appropriate site for the center. Watch our web site and this publication for frequent updates on the progress of the development.

### FALL REUNION NEWS

The Valley of Springfield held its fall reunion on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with the exemplification of the 6°, 14°, 16°, 18°, 30° and 32° in its usual commendable fashion. One candidate, Robert G. Fultz became our newest 32° Mason. Brother Fultz resides in Atwood, Illinois and is member of Atwood Lodge #651. Brother M. Stanley Stephenson was the top line signer on the petition. Please join me in welcoming Brother Fultz to the Valley of Springfield. Brother Fultz, we charge you to be an active member and a frequent visitor to the valley.

The reunion meals were served by area Rainbow Girls in a most satisfactory fashion. The Friday evening meal was provided by the girls from Springfield and the Saturday lunch was provided by the girls from Jacksonville. Thank you, ladies, for a job well done.

Several awards and honors were also present during the reunion. **Tom Pulcher & Craig Kennedy** were both presented with the valley's Master Overseer Medallion which is present to all members who have witnessed all 29 degrees present by the Scottish Rite.

**Gerry L. Williams** formally presented **J. Thomas Hughes, MSA**, with his red hat and jewel, symbolic of receiving the Meritorious Service Award at the Council of Deliberation in June. **Norman R. Buecker, MSA, 33°**, presented **Franklin E. Cline, MSA**, with his red hat and jewel who also received the Meritorious Service Award in June. Norm also presented **Bill W. Martel, 33°**, with his white hat and jewel which is symbolic of the 33°. The 33° was conferred on Bill at the annual Supreme Council session on September 21 in Milwaukee. Let's congratulate all these gentlemen for these outstanding accomplishments and their tireless service to the valley and our great fraternity.

### SPECIAL MEETING PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY STATED

Watch for further details as the valley is making plans for a special stated meeting in February. The plan currently calls for a dinner for men as well as our ladies. Following dinner, the 26° will be exemplified. While valley members enjoy the degree, there will be a program for the ladies. We are trying to make arrangements for a presentation on dyslexia and 32° Masonic Learning Centers for the ladies. Further details will be communicated once they become final. Watch both the newsletter as well as the web site.

### SUPREME COUNCIL NEWS FROM MILWAUKEE

The 33° was recently conferred on **Bill W. Martel, 33°**, at the Supreme Council session held September 19, 29 & 21 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bill currently serves the valley as the Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, is a member of the finance committee, a member of the Board of Directors of SMC, Inc. and is the chairman of the 32° Masonic Learning Center Planning Committee. He also is the editor of the valley newsletter.

Congratulations to three valley members as they were elected to receive the 33° in Grand Rapids, Michigan next August, 2005. **Franklin E. Cline, MSA, William D. Graber, MSA, & Joseph W. Lucas** will be receiving this high honor. Frank has served the valley as its executive secretary and is currently serving as the Orator of the Consistory Line. Bill is a past Thrice Potent Master and now serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander of the Consistory Line. Bill is also the chairman of the Board of Directors of SMC, Inc. Bill was also the Stage Crew Director for many years. Joe is currently serving the valley as the High Priest of the Council and is Potentate of Ansar Shrine, AAONMS. Great job guys!

### THE 33° EXPERIENCE

And what an experience it was! Words cannot express the feeling one gets from attending the annual Supreme Council session for the first time. Never have my wife and I been treated in such high fashion. People, men and ladies alike, from all over, those who I have never met and may never meet again offered congratulations. Not only to me, but to Linda as well. For three days, in the elevators, in the hall, on the street, in restaurants, everywhere. Most impressively, however, is the Supreme Council's treatment of the candidates' ladies. This session is as easily for the lady as it is for the candidate, if not more so. Actually now, I understand why. If it weren't for the patience and understanding that Linda affords me, my Masonic career could very easily have become a burden rather than the pleasure it has truly been. And I seriously doubt that I would be writing this article now. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to have served the Valley of Springfield and our fraternity in a manner that has made me worthy of having this honor conferred upon me. At the risk of arrogance, I must say that I am glad it was my turn and I look forward to continued service to the valley.

Bill Martel, 33°

**VALLEY CALENDAR**

<u>OCTOBER</u>			<u>FEBRUARY</u>		
19	SMC, Inc.	7:00 PM	1	Stated Meeting	TBD
31	Fall Family Fun Fest	1 – 4 PM		Dinner, 26°, Ladies Program	TBD
<u>NOVEMBER</u>			15	SMC, Inc.	7:00 PM
2	Board of Directors	6:45 PM	<u>MARCH</u>		
	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM	1	Board of Directors	6:45 PM
16	SMC, Inc.	7:00 PM		Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
25	Thanksgiving Day		11	Spring Reunion	
<u>DECEMBER</u>			12	Reunion Continues.	
7	Board of Directors	6:45 PM	15	SMC, Inc	7:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM	23	Feast of the Paschal Lamb	6:30 PM
21	SMC, Inc.	7:00 PM	27	Easter	
25	Merry Christmas		<u>APRIL</u>		
31	New Year's Eve		5	Board of Directors	6:45 PM
	<i>Please Celebrate Responsibly!</i>			Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
<u>JANUARY 2005</u>			19	SMC, Inc	7:00 PM
1	Happy New Year		<u>MAY</u>		
4	Board of Directors	6:45 PM	3	Board of Directors	6:45 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM		Annual Meeting & Elections	7:30 PM
18	SMC, Inc	7:00 PM	17	SMC, Inc	7:00 PM
			30	Memorial Day	



*Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*  
*Valley of Springfield*  
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