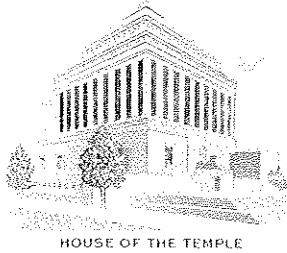


The Supreme Council
MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD
OF THE
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

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ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

May 13, 2010

In re: Dues Increase

Dear Brethren:

In light of the progression of dues in our Valleys, I wanted to answer some commonly asked questions:

Question: Why the need for a dues increase?

It has been approximately ten years since there has been any dues increase in our Valleys. The Valleys in Tennessee have some of the lowest, if not the lowest, dues in the entire Southern Jurisdiction. We are long overdue for an increase simply to maintain our existing programs. Because of our failure to act in previous years, we are now having to look at a more substantial increase than otherwise would have been required. The raise to \$100.00, now or eventually, represents a significant increase from our current dues of \$40.00 per year. However, had we been increasing our dues at a marginal rate, we would be facing a very modest dues increase. In short, we are now paying a price because of our failure to act in previous years.

Question: I am on a fixed income and cannot afford a dues increase; what should I do?

I am very sensitive to the fact that many of our members are on fixed incomes. Due to the demographics of Scottish Rite, our membership is currently weighted toward our older members. That will change as we

continue to lower the age of our new initiates, but it will take time. The real question is how much is Scottish Rite worth to you? If you could afford to give up one Wendy's Number One Combo Meal, one latte at Starbucks, or about two-and-one-half gallons of gasoline each month, you will be able to afford the new dues. There is quite a psychological impact in going from \$40.00 to \$100.00 in dues, and I am very cognizant of that fact. However, when looked at in perspective, we could each make very minor sacrifices if we truly value our relationship with Scottish Rite.

Question: Why should I do this?

For years, Scottish Rite was a growing organization with an ever-increasing number of members. Because of our current demographics and because we have more people passing away than we are bringing into the Rite, our revenue base is decreasing. At the same time, the cost of living is going up and all of our activities and expenses are also increasing. For years before us, our forefathers worked hard and established a strong financial base for Scottish Rite. Although it is difficult to say, to be honest, we have not taken care of our financial situation the way that our forefathers did, and we must now sacrifice to preserve the Scottish Rite which they worked so hard to establish.

Question: Why not use the money from our investments?

Our Scottish Rite Bodies have investments in our Scottish Rite Foundation and in the Scottish Rite Bodies. At the present time all of the Bodies are using interest income from their investments to help fund the operating budget. Accordingly, we are not only not building funds for the future, we are, in some cases, even dipping into the principle of the amounts held in our investments. This policy must stop. We will live on a balanced budget, and it is our desire to let our investments grow for the future. Obviously, if we were to take the body of our investments and use them for operating funds, we would only exist financially for a few years. That is neither prudent nor will it be allowed.

Question: What would this money be used for?


The additional revenue will be used to enhance our Foundation's charitable activities as well as develop investments to relieve the pressure on our operating budgets. Our buildings and facilities are getting older, require increasing maintenance, and we presently have little or no reserves for such eventualities. The only paid employees of Scottish Rite are our Valley secretaries and their staff. All of the other work is done on a voluntary basis, including my own. Each of you have contributed significantly to the past success of Scottish Rite, and I encourage you to continue to do so in the future.

Question: What can I do to help?

Please encourage and support all of your brethren to assist us in implementing this dues increase. While the increase appears to be traumatic at first, when actually examined, it is a very modest amount that each of us will have to forego each month in order to maintain the financial integrity and stability of the Scottish Rite. Our forefathers did it for us, and we should do it for those who come after us.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact your local Valley and they will be glad to assist.

Cordially and fraternally,



Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Tennessee

