

The Provincial Grand Lodge, U.S.A. The Royal Order of Scotland

EDWARD H. FOWLER, JR.
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER
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Dear Sir and Brother:

February 12, 2009

A Special Meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel, 600 Marriott Drive,, Nashville, Tennessee, 37214, Telephone Number (615-889-9300), Fax Number (615-889-9315). The degrees will be conferred in full ceremonial form followed by a social hour, and banquet which will be held at the above named hotel. Sleeping rooms are available at a preferred rate by calling the hotel direct.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, 2800 Sixteenth Street, North West, Washington, DC 20009, Telephone Number (202-232-8155). The Degrees will be conferred in full ceremonial form. It should also be noted that parking is available at an entrance in the rear of the building. Following the Annual Meeting a Social Hour and Banquet will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005 Telephone Number (202-842-1300), Fax Number (202-371-9602). A limited number of sleeping rooms are available by calling the hotel direct. Our Annual Meeting precedes the Biennial Sessions of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction.

A Special Meeting will be held in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel-Allentown Airport, 3400 Airport Road Allentown Pennsylvania, 18109, Telephone Number (610-266-1000), Fax Number (610-266-1888) The degrees will be conferred in full ceremonial form, followed by a social hour and banquet which will be held at the above named hotel. Sleeping rooms are available at a preferred rate by calling the hotel direct.

We strongly recommend that room reservations for any of the above meetings be made at least sixty (60) or more days in advance in order to obtain the favorable rate and that you request a written confirmation. Dress for the meetings (candidates and members) is a dark business suit, the same dress is also appropriate for the banquet. A black Tuxedo or Scottish Attire is acceptable (but not required). Dress for the ladies attending the banquet is at their option. It should be noted there are no afternoon activities planned for the ladies on the days of any of the above meetings.

With respect to all of the above meetings, candidate registration and verification of prepaid banquet reservations will take place at the hotel sites listed above between 10:30 A.M. and 1:15 P.M. except for the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC with Registration taking place at the Scottish Rite Facility as noted above. The meetings will all begin promptly at 1:30 P.M. All members must show a 2008-2009 dues card or a life membership card before they will be admitted to the meeting and members must also register with the Provincial Grand Secretary. Also, at each of the above meetings there will be a reception (cash bar) preceding the banquet beginning at 6:30 P.M. The head table will be piped into the banquet room and the program will begin promptly at 7:30 P.M.

All banquet reservations must be made on the appropriate reservation slip enclosed, herewith, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting in order for the office to confirm the count with the hotel. The candidate's banquet fee is complimentary; however, an advance reservation must be made with our office. If the candidate will be accompanied by his spouse or guest, the banquet fee is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). The banquet fee for members is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per reservation. Cancellation of a banquet reservation will be granted if the ROS Office is notified no later than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.

All petitions for degrees must be completed in full on the current form, signed by two (2) recommenders, who are members of ROS in good standing, be accompanied with a check or money order (no cash) for the appropriate amount, and have the approval of the Screening and Selection Committee Member or Chairman (per the enclosed listing) of the state of residence of the applicant. All petitions must also have the approval of the National Officers (Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary.) The fee for initiation is Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00). If a Life Membership is desired, the Fee is an additional Six Hundred Dollars (\$600). Payment should be made by check or money order to The Royal Order of Scotland and mailed to the above address. In addition, please be advised the initiation fee does not include the first years dues. The annual dues for the new members initiated in 2009 will be billed separately following the conferral of the degrees and their remittance is payable upon receipt. Also, be reminded that "no" petitions will be accepted on the day of the meeting. When extending invitations for membership in ROS, the recommenders should inform the applicants they are required to make arrangements to receive the degrees within a one year period from receipt and final approval of the petition, unless the ROS Office receives in writing a valid reason for a delay. If this procedure is not followed the applicant's petition will be declared "null and void". Recommenders should also thoroughly review with the applicant the requirements for membership as listed on the back page of The Brief Historical Sketch Pamphlet or our web site prior to extending the invitation.

All petitions must be received in this office using the current form no later than ten days (10) prior to the meeting date to insure proper processing. If the applicant does not have the required qualifications or the information on the petition is incomplete, the petition form will be returned which will take additional processing time. Upon final approval the applicant will promptly be mailed a copy of current Annual Letter.

We are requesting that petition forms not be copied. If current forms are needed, please contact the Screening and Selection Committee in your jurisdiction or this office and they will be promptly forwarded to you. Please bear in mind the applicant must be invited, he cannot apply for membership in this organization. He must also meet our membership requirements. The above mentioned process represents a general procedure for processing petitions; however, this may vary in some states. If you have questions, contact your Screening and Selection Committee Representative or this office.

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In addition, we encourage you to consider hosting a Special Meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge in your jurisdiction. If there is interest, we suggest you contact your Screening and Selection Committee Representative or this office for further information.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland will be held on Friday, July 3, 2009. The meeting takes place at Freemasons Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh, Scotland at 2:30 P.M. Following the meeting there will be a reception and banquet at The Sheraton Grand Hotel, Festival Square, Edinburgh, EH3 9SR to which the ladies are invited. If you are interested in attending, we suggest that you contact Sir C. Martin McGibbon, Grand Secretary, 23 St. John Street, Edinburgh EH8 8DG, Scotland. Telephone (011-44-131-556-1222), Fax (011-44-131-556-0040). Contact with the Grand Secretary's Office should be made well in advance of the meeting in order to make banquet reservations and determine the required credentials that will be needed, if any for attendance. Dress for the meeting is a black suit, white shirt, black tie, and no gloves. You should also check with the Grand Secretary to determine if you will be required to bring your own regalia for the meeting. We also recommend that travel arrangements and hotel reservations be made well in advance because this is a popular travel time in the United Kingdom and Europe. We have also been advised that The Right Honorable Earl of Elgin and Kincardine has advised that he wishes to retire from his office at this meeting. The leadership of this Order will therefore, be passed to Sir Archibald Donald Orr Ewing who recently completed his second term as the Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Lord Elgin has served as Deputy Grand Master and Governor of this Order for forty (40) years and has been a member of Grand Lodge for over Sixty (60) Years and his Father also served in this office for many years. It is intended that an appropriate presentation will be made to Lord Elgin in view of his outstanding and devoted service to this Order. The members are invited to participate with a suggested contribution of at least \$30.00 or more if you so desire. If any of the members wish to be included, please send a check to our office made payable to The Royal Order of Scotland and marked as a contribution and we will forward the names and amounts to the Grand Secretary. All contribution checks must be received in our office no later than June 1, 2009. It is also intended that our Provincial Grand Lodge will be making a contribution toward Lord Elgin's presentation.

The Grand Lodge of The Royal Order of Scotland has also reprinted the two (2) volume hard bound (Robert Strathern Lindsay's History of the Order and George Draffen of Newington's The Second Hundred Years) into one hard bound volume. The price of this book is Twenty-eight Dollars (\$28.00) per volume (including postage) and can be purchased by sending a check to this office made payable to The Royal Order of Scotland with a notation on the check concerning this book, together with your current mailing address. We in turn will accumulate the orders, and will provide the Grand Secretary's Office with a listing of same together with a pound sterling bank draft. The books will be mailed directly to each member from Scotland. If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Please be advised that Annual Dues in this Provincial Grand Lodge are payable in advance prior to September 1st. All members were mailed their dues cards and notices for the current year (2008-2009) in mid August, 2008; however, some members have not to date remitted their dues for either the year 2007-2008 in the amount of Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) or for the year 2008-2009 in the amount of Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) or both. Please be advised it is our policy that if the Annual Dues Payment for this two (2) year period are not received on or before August 31, 2009 those members will be suspended for non-payment of dues. If your dues are in arrears and for some reason you no longer wish to be a regular member, we strongly recommend you remit your dues in full and request a "demit" in writing. By following this procedure, if you wish at some later date to return to regular membership, you will only be required to remit your dues for the current year in which you are restored. If you request to be placed in "demit status" however, you will not receive any further mailings nor will you be able to attend any meetings. If you are suspended for non-payment of dues and wish to return to regular membership, you will be required to remit the total dues for the years in which you were suspended. We are asking that you review your individual dues record. If you have not to date paid your Annual Dues, you should promptly remit same. Bear in mind the dues revenue is used for our current operating expenses, including the Annual Fees payable to the Grand Lodge. Also, the reminder letters that are subsequently mailed regarding late payment of dues do incur additional postage expense. If you have specific questions regarding the status of your Annual Dues, please contact this office.

It is very important that you promptly notify this office when there is a change in your mailing address. Those members whose mail is returned and marked either "temporary away" or "address unknown" will be removed from the mailing list until we receive a current mailing address. In addition, if you know a member who has passed away, please notify the office so we can correct our mailing list accordingly. Please bear in mind all of the above incurs additional postage expense.

Please visit The Royal Order of Scotland Web Site at www.yorkrite.org This site is maintained at no charge by Sir Dan Pushee, our Provincial Grand Web Master. Your feedback and comments will be greatly appreciated. Our e-mail address is roos2@verizon.net

The Provincial Grand Lodge of the USA is a 501 (c) 3 organization; therefore, members who wish to make a contribution are encouraged to do so and they are deductible for tax purposes.

On behalf of the officers of The Provincial Grand Lodge of the USA, I wish to extend to the members and their families a Healthy, Happy, and Prosperous New Year. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at one or more of our meetings.

Faternally

Edward H. Fowler, Jr.
Provincial Grand Master (USA)