



Shenandoah Valley Chapter No. 76

Order of the Eastern Star

GLORIA MILLER, PM
Secretary

TRACEY PENCE
Worthy Matron

RUSSEL PENCE, PP
Worthy Patron

STARLIGHT NEWS

Mid Year 2024-2025

STATED MEETINGS

Join us for our Stated Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Light refreshments and fellowship at 6:30pm on the second floor. The elevator is located at the back of the lodge. We thank Worshipful Master, Russell Pence for having the light fixed at the back door! if you would like a ride contact Sisters Tracey or Gloria, arrangements will gladly be made for you.

Canceled – in September the members voted to cancel the November 5th stated meeting due to it being election day.

Initiation – Two petitions were read in September. One for affiliation and one for the Degrees. We anticipate having initiation at our December 3rd stated meeting. Please join us.

SECRETARY'S DESK

Due to the increase in Grand Chapter fees, at the June stated meeting the members voted to raise Chapter Dues to \$30.00 beginning in 2025. Dues notices will be sent this fall and are due by December 31, 2024. If you have questions, please contact our Secretary, Sister Gloria Miller.

SUNSHINE

Sister Suzanne Shifflett and her husband, Scott welcomed their grandson in April. Sister Tracey Pence retired in June, however, she'll be substitute teaching. No rocking chair for her. Brother Brian Bosley is anticipated to be District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 6 on November 9th. We anticipate two new members joining the Shenandoah Valley family this fall. Brother Marty Eagleson is anticipated to be Worshipful Master of Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 on December 21st.

CARES AND CONCERNS

Please keep Sisters Ann Silcox and Jill Cunningham in your thoughts and prayers. Prayers for comfort and healing are extended to the sick, and heartfelt sympathy to the grieving. If you know of others in need of uplifting, contact Sister Shirley Bosley, Chairman of Sunshine, Sickness & Distress or Sister Tracey.

PHILANTHROPIC

Lifesaver Special Project: The "Lifesaver" program is designed to help families with person's who wander away due to cognitive or other issues. A special unit is placed on the person with a transmitter which is monitored by local Sheriff and Police departments. If a person wanders away they can be located quickly and returned home safely. The units are about \$300 each, but are provided at no cost. However, the monitoring is \$30 a month. At the September stated meeting the members voted to have Sister Gloria contact the Rockingham County Sheriff's office about the possibility of the chapter sponsoring a family in need and covering the monthly monitoring cost.

Valley Open Doors – in September the members voted to collect requested items for Valley Open Doors. Men's and Women's underwear, undershirts, hats, gloves and full size toiletries. No socks please, the company, *Bombas* is providing socks.

OES Service Dogs Committee – in September the members voted to donate \$100.00 to the “Paws-itive Difference” fundraiser benefiting Service Dogs of VA.

WAYS & MEANS

One-day Conferral – in May Shenandoah Valley Chapter served lunch during the one-day conferral when several area Masons were raised at Mount Jackson Lodge No. 103.

VA Trappers Expo – in June Worthy Matron, Sister Tracey, rallied the members and we served the trappers breakfast, lunch and/or an early dinner for 3 days at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.

Ruritans Dinners – In July Shenandoah Valley Chapter served dinner to the Weyers Cave Ruritans. We’re serving a second dinner on September 12th.

CHAPTER BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

All Shenandoah Valley Chapter No. 76 members should have received the proposed amendments to the current chapter bylaws by postal mail. If you have not received a copy please contact Sister Becky Eagleson, Bylaws Committee Chair.

Please review the proposed changes carefully. If you have any questions contact Sister Becky or any committee member. The amendments will be voted on at the **October 1st stated meeting**.

UPCOMING JOINT EVENTS

Two annual public events that Rockingham Union Lodge and Shenandoah Valley Chapter members participate in together are just around the corner!

Trick-or-Treat (HDR Skeleton Fest) – Saturday, October 19th from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the lodge. Sister Dawn and Brother Chris Neil are our Ghouls coordinating the event. They are requesting that Lodge and Eastern Star members donate candy for the trick-or-treat. Bring your booty to our October 1st meeting or you can make a monetary donation and they’ll get it for you. Please contact Sister Dawn.

Hot Chocolate, Cookies & Parade (HDR Winter Wonder Fest) – Saturday, December 7th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the lodge. We provide hot chocolate, coffee, cookies and give tours of the building, (including the Blue Lodge and Eastern Star rooms) and then watch the Harrisonburg Downtown Parade. This is a busy event that needs several member’s support, but it’s also fun meeting members of our community. Sister Ann and Brother David Silcox are the Elves coordinating this event. If you wish to help, donate cookies or a monetary donation for cookies please contact Sister Ann.

2024-2025 SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER OFFICERS

Worthy Matron	Tracey Pence	Marshal	Kara Vance
Worthy Patron	Russell Pence, PP	Organist	Sandy Clatterbuck, PM
Assoc. Matron	Jill Cunningham, PM	Adah	Becky Eagleson, PM
Assoc. Patron	Eric Cunningham	Ruth	Dawn Neil, PM
Secretary	Gloria Miller, PM	Esther	Sandra Irby
Treasurer	Maria Miller, PM	Martha	Karen Short, PM
Conductress	Suzanne Shifflett, PM	Electa	Jan Lambert
Assoc. Conductress	Shirley Bosley, PM	Warder	Chris Neil
Chaplain	Brian Bosley, PP	Sentinel	Mary Pence

MASONIC LADIES' NIGHT

Thursday, September 26th at 6:30pm, a joint Masonic Ladies Night will be held by Rockingham Union Lodge No. 27 and Eureka Lodge No. 195 at Houff Community Center in Bridgewater. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be purchased by contacting Russell Pence. Widows are complementary and you should be contacted by your husband's respective lodges.

Blue Ridge Food Bank Collection – Rockingham Union Lodge is collecting non-perishables food for the Blue Ridge area food bank. If you want to donate bring your non-perishable food to our October 1st meeting.

IORG BLUE RIDGE CLUB

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls has an Official Club in Harrisonburg and Waynesboro; the IORG Blue Ridge Club. They currently have two young ladies and an adult Advisory Board. They hope to Charter a new Rainbow Assembly next year. A young lady between the ages of 11 and 20 can become a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Girls aged 8 to 10 can be "Pledges" and can participate in activities, but not attend meetings yet. If you know young ladies who would be interested joining, learning leadership skills and serving their community while having fun and meeting new friends; or if you would like more information, contact Sister Dawn Neil.

Blue Ridge Club Breakfast – Saturday, September 21st from 8:00am to approx. 10:00am, the IORG Blue Ridge Club is having a breakfast fundraiser at Rockingham Union Lodge. Donations are requested and appreciated. Come support our Masonic youth, enjoy a yummy breakfast and fellowship.

Blue Ridge Club Movie Night – Saturday, October 12th at 6:00pm. The IORG Blue Ridge Club is having a statewide fun activity at Rockingham Union Lodge and all are invited! There will be Shirley's popcorn, snacks, drinks & maybe pizza too. The movie is the original "Mary Poppins". To RSVP contact Sister Dawn Neil. See you there!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Starlight News and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Tracey Pence, WM and Russell Pence, WP

***"The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes
from the summer cottons into its winter wools."
- Henry Beston***