



**SCOTTISH RITE**  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

# REPORTER VALLEY OF EAU CLAIRE SPRING 2025



**FALL REUNION CLASS 2024**



## COMMANDER-IN CHIEF'S CORNER

Princes All!

Happy New YEAR to you all! I think some "getting to know you" is probably necessary here. My name is Michael Abernathy, I go by Mike, if you call me Michael, I will think you are my mother. I am the new incoming Commander in Chief, GOD help us all.

I've been a Mason since I was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on September 11, 1980. I was raised by my older brother John on January 13, 1981. Yes, my father Richard and my older brother John were both Masons.

I have been married to my Lady Gail for 43 years, and I have two wonderful daughters, Rebecca, and Jessica, who are thankfully out on their own, pursuing their careers and raising their families. Which in Jessica's case is a rat dog named Ollie.

My masonic career has been very affected by life events. My career took a big bite out of the middle of it and of course life's tragedies reversed my course when my father passed. Then several years later my brother passed, and I found myself wondering what Scottish Rite was about, which they both belonged to.

I decided to join Scottish Rite, to experience what they did, and to find out what the additional 29 degrees were all about. Of course, my father and older brother never mentioned it to me, nor did we have a conversation about Scottish Rite. They were old school, and you did not invite Masons, even your own family, to join something as secret as "Scottish Rite". But I was driven by the desire to know what mysterious knowledge my father was not telling me.

When the blade tapped me on my shoulder upon the conclusion of the 32nd degree, I finally understood. The ring I now wore on my right ring finger, which was my fathers, meant that much more to me.

I've been involved with the Scottish Rite Valley of Eau Claire for over 10 years. I've been at every reunion during that time period. I think that my interest and regular attendance are what have propelled me forward. Hint, hint... I found that you have to come back regularly and participate to get the most out of Scottish Rite.

I have several goals during my tenure as Commander In Chief. First, I want to be more aggressive in reaching out to lodges for potential new members of Scottish Rite. We have so much to offer Master Masons, there is so much more light in freemasonry that they haven't had the opportunity to experience yet. Second, I would like to establish an enhanced mentoring program, to not only get new members involved in something they want to do, but to draw older members back to the Rite. By getting our members back to participate again, or simply come to enjoy the degrees from the side lines I feel that they would get so much more out of the Rite. Throughout the year I am hoping that we reach out to more lodges, gain new members, and have an increase in attendance at the reunions to appreciate the degrees.

Our Valley is progressive. We are thee Exemplarily Valley in the State. We have achieved the Valley of Excellence Award for the past two years. This is a testament to our valley's efforts and that of our member's. With everyone's help we will continue this trend into the future.

I wish to be an open-door Commander In Chief, so when you want to talk, feel free to call me.

Expect a call from me, as I plan to attempt to call each and every one of you, just for a chat and visit.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Spring Reunion (April 5, and April 26, 2025), and may the blessings of GOD be with you and your families! So Mote it Be!

Mike

Michael A. Abernathy

Valley of Eau Claire

Commander In Chief



## **VALLEY OF EAU CLAIRE CENTENNIAL CLASS**

### **FALL 2024**

#### **Row 1:**

**Paul Gilbertson 33°; David Larson 32° (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander); Glen D. Taylor III 32°; Dan Vandenberg 32° (Class President); Joseph O. Barlow 33° (Commander in Chief & Co-Director of the Work); Paul Roe 32° (Class Vice-President); Steve A. Rauth 32°; Ronald C. Hanson 32°; Mike Abernathy 32° (1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander); David Imlah 32° - MSA.**

#### **Row 2:**

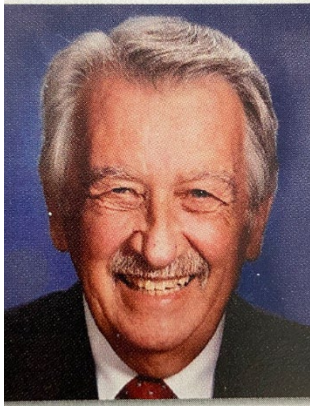
**Rick Schnabel 33° (PCIC); Dan Boerdon 32°; Steven L. Lasure 33° - MSA; Eric D. Gwiazda 32°; David M. Vincent 32°; Oscar W. Lowell Sr. 32°; Christopher P. Van Beek 32°; David D. Dobbs 32°; Donald C. Hanson 32°; Aaren Petersen 32°; and Dan Maguire 32°.**

#### **Row 3:**

**Lyle N. Koerner Jr. 33° (PCIC & Valley Secretary); Jerome Gebert 32° (Valley Treasurer); Nicholas Koerner 32°; Don Miller 32°; Mark Partridge (Most Wise Master) 32°; David Shedivy 32°; Lars Framness 32° (Co-Director of Work); Stephen Britton 32°; Joseph Wadas 32°; Kevin R. Sorenson 33° (PCIC); and Keith Techmeier 32°.**

#### **Row 4:**

**Dan Bourassa 32°; Kenneth Olm 32° - MSA; Jason Hoffman 32°; Ethan Gatewood 32°; Dan Ploenzke 32°; Terry McShane 32°; Rich Moulding 32°; Donald Grande 32°; Paul Draxler 32°; Geno Carlson 32°; Glen D. Taylor II (Thrice Potent Master); Mike DeMar 32°; Jeff Gronski 32°; David Jacobson 32° - MSA; Brad Edstrom 32°; Kevin Schumann 32°; Peter Sterzinger 32°; Steve Klein 32°; Les Paulson 33° (PCIC); Barry Cohen 32°; Chad Svacina 32° and Corey Nowak 32°.**



## **2025 SPRING CLASS HONOREE: LeRoy E. Johnson, 32°, MSA**

LeRoy E. Johnson, 32°, MSA was born May 4, 1942 in Arcadia, WI, the son of Arnold and Nora Johnson. He grew up in Osseo, Wisconsin. He attended Osseo Grade School and graduated from Osseo High School in 1960.

After graduation he attended District One Technical College (now CVTC) in Eau Claire, WI and earned an Associate's Degree in Accounting. After attending technical college, he worked for W. H. Hobbs Supply Company in Purchasing for 27 years. He then worked for Northwestern Motor Company in Purchasing for 11 years, and at Macy's Department Store in the men's clothing department.

In October of 1978 he married Carolyn Neiderhauser at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. They have resided at their current address since 1978.

LeRoy has been a church organist starting in the fall of 1957. He was the organist at his home congregation, Osseo Lutheran Church and Kings Valley Lutheran Church in rural Osseo for many years. In 1978 he resigned from those two churches. In 1979 he became the organist at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eau Claire where he presently is playing.

LeRoy started his Masonic journey in 1991 in George B. Wheeler Lodge #351. He was among the Illustrious Denman G. Kramer 33°, Class in the Fall of 1991. He began playing organ at the Scottish Rite Valley of Eau Claire Reunions and Degree work in 1992 after the passing of Peter Fadness, the organist at the temple. LeRoy is the second in his family to become a Mason. His uncle from Fall Creek, Wisconsin was a member of the Valley of Eau Claire as well. LeRoy was presented with the Meritorious Service Award for the Wisconsin Council of Deliberation, Valley of Eau Claire in 2005. LeRoy enjoys being in the outdoors and working in his yard. Congratulations LeRoy for your recognition of the Class, and thank you for your thirty years of supportive music to our Valley.

Start  
Time

## Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00 AM Donuts and Coffee  
8:30 AM Class Registration  
9:00 AM Ceremonial Opening - All Bodies  
9:30 AM **4th Degree: Builder**  
10:00 AM Discussion of the 4th Degree - Class Members Only  
11:00 AM **5th Degree: Perfect Master**  
11:30 AM Discussion of the 5th Degree - Class Members Only  
12:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM **18th Degree: Knight of the Rose Croix**  
1:45 PM Discussion of the 18th Degree - Class Members Only  
2:15 PM **14th Degree: Grand Elect Mason**  
3:15 PM Discussion of the 14th Degree - Class Members Only  
4:00 PM Reception

Time  
Allocated

Floor

0:30 Main Floor Lounge  
0:30 Office  
0:30 Large Lodge Room  
0:30 Upstairs Lounge  
1:00 Discussion Area  
0:30 Auditorium  
0:30 Discussion Area  
1:00 Small Dining Room  
0:45 Auditorium  
0:30 Discussion Area  
1:00 Auditorium  
0:45 Discussion Area  
0:55 Small Dining Room

Start  
Time

## Saturday, April 26, 2025

8:00 AM Donuts and Coffee  
8:30 AM Class Assembly  
8:30 AM Presentation by Directors of the Work  
8:45 AM **23rd Degree: Knight of Valor**  
9:45 AM Discussion of the 23rd Degree - Class Members Only  
10:30 AM Class Picture  
11:30 AM **27th Degree: Knight of Jerusalem**  
12:15 PM Discussion of the 27th Degree - Class Members Only  
12:45 PM Lunch  
1:45 PM **19th Degree: Brothers of the Trail**  
2:15 PM Discussion of the 19th Degree - Class Members Only  
2:45 PM **32nd Degree: Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret**  
3:30 PM Discussion of the 32nd Degree - Class Members Only  
4:00 PM Reception  
5:00 PM Banquet

Time  
Allocated

Floor

0:30 Main Floor Lounge  
0:00 Large Lodge Room  
0:15 Large Lodge Room  
1:00 Auditorium  
0:45 Discussion Area  
1:00 Auditorium  
0:45 Auditorium  
0:30 Discussion Area  
1:00 Small Dining Room  
0:30 Auditorium  
0:30 Discussion Area  
0:45 Auditorium  
0:30 Discussion Area  
1:00 Auditorium  
1:00 Small Dining Room

# Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Program

## Valley of Eau Claire

### 2025



Named after Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921 to 1932, the Abbott Scholarship Program provides financial support for the continuing undergraduate and graduate education of Scottish Rite Masons, young men and women from Scottish Rite families, and Masonic-related youth groups.

**Eligibility:** Those meeting any of the following criteria are eligible to apply for the 2025 Abbott Scholarship program:

- A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is in good standing.
- A student directly related (bloodline or by legal means) to a current or deceased Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.
- A member of a Masonic sponsored youth group within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (ex - DeMolay International, Job's Daughters, Order of Rainbow for Girls).
- A high school senior, currently accepted at an accredited trade school who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- A high school senior, or undergraduate, or graduate student currently enrolled at an accredited college or university.
- Applications should be submitted to the Valley of Eau Claire.

Go to: <https://scottishritenmj.org/abbott> and you have arrived at the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website. You will see the Abbott Scholarship information and requirements. At the bottom of information click Forms to Download the application.

Applications can also be obtained at the Valley of Eau Claire's Scottish Rite Office, or an application can be sent to you electronically if you contact the Valley's Secretary via email.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE VALLEY OF EAU CLAIRE'S SECRETARY BY April 15, 2025.**

04.05.25

4:00 pm

1 Stick and 3 Stones or 4 stones

**Premium Cigars, Bourbon, Scotch,  
Rye, Whiskey, and Snacks!**



**\$50/\$60**

at the door



*Sticks & Stones*

<https://scottishritevalleyec.ticketspice.com/sticks-and-stones-25>

## Ladies Program

April 26, 2025

Come and enjoy the day with other Ladies at the Masonic Temple. All ladies are invited for the entire day or any part of the day.

8:00 - 9:30 Meet and greet in the 3rd floor lounge of the Masonic Temple. Light refreshments will be available.

9:30 - 12:30 We will be making Sharpie Dyed Tile Coasters. This is something everyone can do. You will not need to be creative, just choose some colors and color your tile. The dying process will do all the work to make the tile beautiful! All supplies will be provided.

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch with the men in the small dining room downstairs.

1:30 - 3:00 Various activities will be available to everyone while socializing and enjoying the company of other ladies.

\*All times are approximate.

Please come dressed casually. There will be time to change before the banquet's social hour.

There will be no cost for the day's activities and lunch. **Please reply if you are attending when you send in your banquet reservation.** Any questions feel free to contact me.

Gail Abernathy

715-523-1174

[gabernathy1174@gmail.com](mailto:gabernathy1174@gmail.com)



# BANQUET

IN HONOR OF THE LEROY E. JOHNSON, 32° MSA CLASS

Main Ballroom – April 26, 2025–5:00 PM

HISTORIC EAU CLAIRE TEMPLE OF FREEMASONRY

CATERED BY WISSOTA LODGE CATERING

The Banquet honoring our new members and their Ladies and recognizing LeRoy E. Johnson, 32° MSA, will start promptly at 5:00 P.M. in the Historic Eau Claire Temple of Freemasonry Main Ballroom. Wissota Lodge Catering (Jack Schulte) has provided fine dining in the Eau Claire area for years and will be catering the Fall Banquet. The Buffet Dinner will feature:

- Mixed field greens, Salad/Dinner Rolls w/butter.
- Grilled Chicken and Pineapple Teriyaki, Chopped Sirloin in a Red Wine Sauce
- Seasoned Green Beans & Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Coffee or Milk will be served and we will again be having our open dessert table(s) featuring our Fraternities best desserts. We encourage you to bring a special dessert for us to try.

All this for \$30.00                      Child Plates (under 12 YO) available for \$15.00

Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, April 20 2025. No Tickets Will Be Sold At The Door. You can reserve either at the office or at: <https://scottishritevalleyec.ticketspice.com/spring2025> however taxes will be charged in addition to the service fee for those utilizing Ticketspice. Those having questions please contact the Valley Secretary at 715-832-7759.

*Live Entertainment including a Five-Piece Band, "The Cut-Aways" is included in the cost!*

Candidates & their Lady do not need to purchase tickets, however must have meal reservations in by April 20, 2025.

Mail With Payment To: Eau Claire Scottish Rite

P.O. Box 345

Eau Claire, WI 54702

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

##\$30 .00 each X # \_\_\_\_\_ Buffet Meals =                      Child Buffet Meal \$15.00 X ##### \_\_\_\_\_ #

Ladies Program(no cost) each X \_\_\_\_\_

Total ==== \$ \_\_\_\_\_





Friday, April 4th, 2025 at 6:00 pm  
Historic Masonic Center 616 Graham Avenue, Eau Claire 54701

Step into your favorite shoes and join us!

Dinner, served at 6:30 pm (chicken fajita bar buffet)  
LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS-GAMES-RAFFLES

For tickets or more information



Tickets \$30 each  
*Purchase before March 28, 2025*

Mail check payable to  
Children's Dyslexia Center  
to the address above, call or e-mail

[upperwisconsin@cdcinc.org](mailto:upperwisconsin@cdcinc.org)

715-598-4986

[www.childrendyslexiacenters.org](http://www.childrendyslexiacenters.org)

# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS OF THE WORK

Hello Sublime Princes. Our Valley is the most active in the state and it's because of the efforts extended by so many of our Valley. If you would like to take part in our degrees, in one format or another, be it acting, directing, staging, sound and lights, make-up, wardrobe etc., please do not hesitate to contact either Lars or myself. There's always work to be delegated! I'm available most any 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 11:00AM-11:25AM Frankfurt time and Lars is available 24/7. Better yet, just drop in on him. His address is....  
Thanks for all you do and see you on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Cordially and Fraternally,

Joe and Lars.

## DIRECTORS OF THE WORK CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Lars Framness (608-695-6677)**

[Lars.framness@gmail.com](mailto:Lars.framness@gmail.com)

**Joe Barlow (715-803-8766)**

[elvishimselfis33@gmail.com](mailto:elvishimselfis33@gmail.com)

