

The Royal Order of Scotland



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE, U.S.A. CONSTITUTED 1878

JAMES E. WINZENREID
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WILLIAM M. KRATZENBERG
PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY/TREASURER

PO Box 11
CHARLEROI, PA 15022-0011
WEB SITE: www.roosusa.org

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TEL: 724-489-0670
FAX: 724-489-0688
EMAIL: roos2@verizon.net

Dear Sirs:

In conjunction with our Screening & Selection Committee members in Colorado, Sir Jerry L. Fenimore, and in Washington, DC, Sir Michael J. Kastle, we are happy to provide details of the meetings to be held in 2017.

2017 MEETINGS

DENVER, COLORADO SPECIAL MEETING

Saturday, July 29, 2017
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver International Airport
7001 Yampa Street
Denver, CO 80249
Tel (303) 574-3000; Fax (303) 574-9118
see www.roosusa.org for the online reservation link
Deadline for preferred rate: 7/6/17

WASHINGTON, DC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 19, 2017
Washington Plaza Hotel
10 Thomas Circle NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel (202) 842-1300; Fax (202) 371-9621
see www.roosusa.org for the online reservation link
Deadline for preferred rate: 6/18/17

All events will be held at the above hotels, with an exception for the Washington, DC meeting where events starting 10:30 AM - 1:45 PM will be held at the DC Scottish Rite Center, 2800 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20009.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Candidate & Member Registration
12:45 PM	Candidate Orientation
1:15 PM	Candidates Assemble in Preparation for Degrees Members enter Meeting Room
1:30 PM	Officers Piped In for Opening of Provincial Grand Lodge
1:45 PM	Candidates enter Meeting Room for Presentation of Degrees
6:00 PM	Social Hour (Cash Bar) for Members and Guests
7:15 PM	Banquet doors open
7:20 PM	Officers and Distinguished Guests Piped In for Banquet
7:30 PM	Banquet

** Ladies Hospitality Room (in the hotel) 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **

All members must show a valid dues card to be admitted to the meetings. Dress for the meeting/banquet (candidates and members) is a dark business suit. A black tuxedo or Scottish attire is acceptable (but not required). Dress for the ladies attending the banquet is at their option. Please see the enclosed meeting/banquet reservation form for further details.

Annual Proceedings of Meetings (2007—present) can be emailed upon request, free-of-charge.

We are pleased to introduce a series of articles by leading Freemasons. On the back, we begin with the first, submitted by Sir John L. Cooper, III, PGM & Senior Provincial Grand Guardian.

THE ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND AND THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

By Sir John L. Cooper, III, PGM, Senior Provincial Grand Guardian



Freemasonry teaches by symbol and allegory. Both symbol and allegory reach through to the inner spirit of a Mason, helping him shape his life according to the great principles which it enfold. As a part of the Family of Freemasonry, the Royal Order of Scotland has its own peculiar symbols, and at the center of ritual, a celebration of the allegory associated with Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, and the Battle of Bannockburn which occurred on June 24, 1314. According to our ritual, this famous battle in the First War of Scottish Independence caused Robert the Bruce to found the Royal Order of Scotland to commemorate that important victory by the Scots, and the confirmation that Scotland would thenceforth be an independent kingdom.

Our ritual does not, however, carry the story forward to the year 1320. If it did, it would celebrate another great event in the history of Scotland, and of freedom. The occasion for this celebration was the issuance of the Declaration of Arbroath, with similarities to our American Declaration of Independence. Just as our own declaration was signed by fifty-six prominent leaders of the emerging United States of America, the Declaration of Arbroath was signed by fifty-one nobles of Scotland - the supporters of King Robert the Bruce in his efforts to free Scotland from English rule. The copy pictured above is the sole surviving copy of three that were made at the time. Note the seals of the Scottish noblemen appended to the document in the picture, above.

There is one paragraph in the Declaration of Arbroath to which I would call your attention as Knights of the Royal Order of Scotland:

FOR AS LONG AS BUT A HUNDRED OF US REMAIN ALIVE, NEVER WILL WE ON ANY CONDITIONS BE BROUGHT UNDER ENGLISH RULE. IT IS IN TRUTH NOT FOR GLORY, NOR RICHES, NOR HONOURS, THAT WE ARE FIGHTING, BUT FOR FREEDOM – FOR THAT ALONE, WHICH NO HONEST MAN GIVES UP BUT WITH LIFE ITSELF.

To be a Knight of the Royal Order of Scotland is an honor within Freemasonry; but it is also an honor in and of itself. Its members have sworn to uphold the most important principles upon which Freemasonry is founded, and add the important principles which are represented in the allegory at the heart of our degrees - the commitment to the defense of freedom. So while the Declaration of Arbroath is not a part of our ritual, its spirit very much underlies the obligations which we have assumed. "It is, in truth, not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting."

Candidates

Candidates must be invited. Before extending an invitation, recommenders should review the requirements for membership listed on the back page of the "Historical Sketch" or on the ROS website. In addition, the recommenders should inform the applicants they are required to receive the degrees within one year of approval, unless excused by the Provincial Grand Master for a valid reason.

All petitions for degrees must be completed in full, signed by two (2) members in good standing, approved by the Screening and Selection Committee Representative of the applicant's state of residence, and accompanied by a check or money order for the initiation fee and the first year's dues. The fee for initiation is \$300.00. Annual dues are \$50.00. In the alternative, a Life Membership may be purchased for \$600.00. Checks and money orders should be made payable to "The Royal Order of Scotland" and mailed along with the petition to the appropriate Screening and Selection Committee Representative.

All petitions must be received by the Screening and Selection Committee Representative at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date to ensure proper processing. **"No" petitions will be accepted on the day of the meeting.** Upon final approval, the applicant will be mailed a copy of the current Annual Meeting Notice and all attachments, at which time they can make their selection for the meeting they will be attending on the meeting/banquet reservation form.

If you need petitions (revision 3/16) or the "Historical Sketch" (revision 2016), please contact your Screening and Selection Committee Representative or this office.

Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland

Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh, Scotland

Friday, July 7, 2017 at 2:30 P.M.

Following the meeting, there will be a banquet (5:45 P.M.) at the Crowne Plaza Edinburgh - The Roxburghe Hotel (Tel: 800-439-4745 or 011-44-0131-240-5500), 38 Charlotte Square (within a short walking distance of Freemasons' Hall), to which the ladies are invited. We suggest that you contact the Grand Secretary's office, well in advance of the meeting, to make banquet reservations and to determine the required credentials that will be needed for attendance. Sir C. Martin McGibbon, Grand Secretary, 23 St. John Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8DG, Scotland, (Tel: 011-44-0131-556-1222). Dress for the meeting is a black suit, white shirt, black tie, and no gloves. You must bring your own regalia (apron, sashes, star, and garter).

We look forward to greeting you in 2017.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

James E. Winzenreid, R.W. Provincial Grand Master