



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

January 6, 2021

Editor : Don Jones, 33°



Masonic Center Hours:

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM(closed Noon to 1:00) Monday–Thursday,
Closed on Fridays
305 2nd St.
McAlester, OK 74501
918-423-6360

Upcoming Events:

1st Thursday of the Month

Duncan Scottish Rite Chapter, 11:30 AM,
Jimmie's Egg, Duncan
Comanche County SR Chapter dinner mtg.,
Salsa Mexican Cafe, Lawton

1st Firday of the Month

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter,
OKC 11:30 AM I40 & Meridian

2nd Monday of the Month

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,
Meeting at 7:00 pm

2nd Thursday of the Month

Indian Chapter, Scottish Rite Noon
McAlester Scottish Rite Cente

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite
Masonic Temple Noon

Note: Scottish Rite Chapters and Societies,
be sure to notify the office of any changes in
meeting place and times.

Advisory Council and Officers

D. Larry Roberts, 33 Chairman
Mike Ebert, KCCH General Secretary
Jack Inman, 33, Member
William C. Cox, 33, Member
Thomas S. Crowl, 33 G.C., Member
Michael Sexton, KCCH, Venerable Master
John Carter, KCCH, Wise Master
Shaun Callahan, KCCH, Commander
Douglas R. Worden, 32°, Master of Kadosh

"THE FUTURE AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE."

Yogi Berra

It seemed to me that those words by the wise baseball player Yogi Berra are appropriate to the present day as we enter January, 2021.

With the coming year, the United States faces many issues: Presently, they face a terrible pandemic and the problems it has caused to our health care system; Today we heard many of our leaders discuss our National Security and cyber warfare. Along with unemployment, a much-slowed economy causing many business to close, and on and on.

And our fraternity, the Freemasons, seemed to be headed on an unstoppable downward spiral. We ask, "Will a nineteenth century philosophy survive a twenty-first century paradigm shift?"

Now our Country and our Fraternity have new leaders to help solve our problems. Oklahoma Masons have a new leader in Grand Master, M.:W.: Robert G. Davis, 33° GC. Brother Davis is an internationally known Masonic scholar and author. He is well known for his wit and ability to introduce successful programs. He certainly is aware of the problems of Freemasonry; But, will his solutions bring about a change in direction to "up" rather than "down". Will his ability to solve problems extend to Oklahoma Masonry. Well, "the future ain't what is used to be." We must adapt, adapt, and adapt.

Charitable & Education Foundation

R. Bruce Hall, 33 President
Dave Donathan, 33 Vice-President
Jeremy Warren, 33°, Trustee
Advisory Council Trustees
Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° SGIG

If you do not wish to receive this email, please send an email to enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org. For questions or comments email news@mcasr.org.

Upcoming Reunions:

2021
April 17-
October 23-24

Masonic Website of Interest

Supreme Council 33 Southern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Supreme Council 33 Northern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Grand Lodge of Oklahoma

Scottish Rite, Valley of Guthrie

Scottish Rite, Valley of Tulsa

Scottish Rite Research Society

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MASONS AND CITIZENSHIP



On one day during the holidays, the subject of "being a good citizens, was a topic of discussion. It intrigued me that the subject should be brought up in our current climate. And being good citizens is important to being a Mason. Why?

Because the Mason's duties as a citizen are given to him in our First Degree , the Charge of the Entered Apprentice.

It says: " In the State, you are to be a quiet and peaceful citizen, true to your government, and just to your country, you are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to just and legal authority and comply with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live."

Personally, I do not know of any Brother who is not a good citizen. But the above is a simplification of the qualities of citizenship.

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF BEING A GOOD CITIZEN?

- Obey the law/respect authority.
- Contribute to Society and common Unity/perform civic duties.
- ___ Loves his (her) country, patriotism.
- Courtesy and Respect the rights of others.
- Be trustworthy and honest.
- Tolerance
- Accountability
- Moral Courage
- Keep yourself well-informed, be vigilant, be a leader and a mentor

MASONIC ACTIVITY

Many of the Blue Lodges are beginning to do degree work. Check with OKMason.com to see for times and lodges. Remember: M.:W.: Davis Edicts for COVID precautions are still in force.

Thursday, Jan. 7. CENCELLATION

McAlester Membership Luncheon
for OKC. See you in February.

Saturday, Jan 9, 9:00 a.m.
District 26 School of Instruction
Host: Heavener Lodge #154

Monday, Jan. 11; 7:00 p.m.
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
Stated Meeting.
Richards' Room, use west door.

Monday, Feb. 8, Annual Meetings
McAlester Scottish Rite Center
1:00 p.m. - Advisory Conference
7:00 P.M. Lodge of Perfect89h
Election of Officers
Chapter of Rose Croix
Election of Officers
Council of Kadosh
Election of Officers
McAlester Consistory
Election of Officers
Lodge of Perfection
Installation of all Officers

It is important that ALL Officers of the Bodies be present.



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org

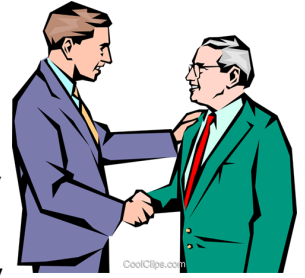




GOD GIVE US MEN

"A time like this demands Strong Minds,
Great Hearts, true Faith and ready hands,
Men whom the lust of office does not kill,
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,
Men who possess opinion and a will,
Men who have honor-- Men who will not lie,
Men who can stand before a demagogue and
Damn his treacherous flattery without winking,
Tall Men, sun-covered, who live above the fog
In public duty and private thinking."

(The Oklahoma Mason, Nov. 1931)



2020 DUES OWED BY 75 BRETHERN

As citizens we pay federal taxes, but how often do we see streets of Washington, D.C? We pay state taxes, but visits Capitol for most of us, are rare too.

So, in line with this thought, we submit that many of us pay our dues, but find it inconvenient to visit the Scottish Rite temple which embodies our membership.

Further contemplating this situation will show that taxes support the type of government we believe in. Similar contemplation will brighten our views of the Scottish Rite in that our "taxes" (or annual dues) to the Scottish Rite will provide the financial strength necessary to maintain the Fraternity and its philanthropies in the jurisdiction of the Valley of McAlester.

Brethren, a deadline of January 15 has been set for the reports to go to the Supreme Council. You have until then to avoid Suspension of your Membership!

Temple phone is 918-423-6360. Open Monday through Thursday.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

A car belonging to a pregnant patient was broken into. The only stolen item was a wine Bottle in a brown paper bag. It turns out, that's Where she was keeping her urine sample, which she brought in to be tested.



"THE SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL"



Note: The Journal is continuing its series of the "Bible Study for Freemasons." We encourage you to take time to read the short articles.

They can be very enlightening in regard to the source of Masonic Symbols and usages. Page 4 of the Jan./Feb. issue.

Master Craftsman Program

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman program is a correspondence course designed and administered by the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council.

Group studies are now available on USB. Visit the Store for details at: www.scottishritestore.org. or call 10866-445-9196.

OBLIGATORY DEGREE TEAMS

4th Degree, Secret Master Lone Grove Team

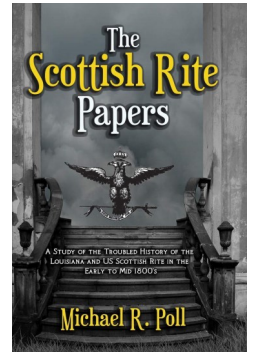
Clay Roberts.....	Director
D. Larry Roberts, 33.....	Asst. Director
Dr. Court Roberts., KCCH...	Master of Ceremonies
Clay Roberts.....	Venerable Master
R. Joe Kilpatrick.....	Adoniram
John Carter, KCCH.....	Orator



BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

"The Scottish Rite Papers" by Michael Poll

This book is a study of the troubled history Louisiana and U.S. Scottish Rite in the early to mid-50's of the 19th Century.



The author, Michael Poll, is a Professor of Journalism at the University of California/Berkley. His books frequently concern the socio-cultural impact of people on a society.

This book and others are available from the [Cornerstone Book Publishers](#).

CRAZY SCIENCE

*** Gold walked into a bar. The bartender yelled, "AU, get out of here."

*** Did you hear about the Higgs Boson that walker into the Catholic Church?

It couldn't have mass without it.

*** Two atoms are walking down the street, when one of them suddenly says, "Oh no, I lost an electron."

"Are you sure?" the other one replied.

"Yes, said the first one said. "I am absolutely positive!"

*** Why is a radioactive cat hard to kill?
Because it has 18 half-lives.

I know these are "corny", but Hey, so is whiskey & you drink it.



FOUR MEN AT THE TABLE

It chanced upon a winter's night, safe
shelter tered from the weather,
The board was spread for only one,
yet four men dined together.
There sat the man I meant to be in
glory spurred and booted,
And close beside him to the right,,
the man I am reputed.
The man I think myself to be, a seat
was occupying
Hard by the man I am really am, who
to hold his own was trying.
And though beneath one roof we met,
None called his fellow brother.
No sign of recognition pass --- They
knew not one another.

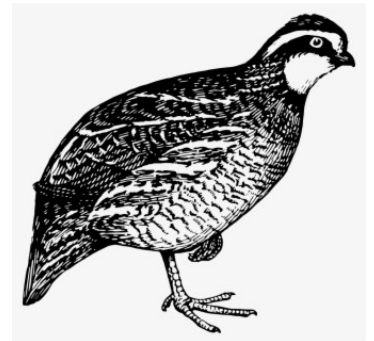


RESOURCEFUL MOM

I waited in line to enter the Space Mountain ride at Disney World along side a woman and her son. The boy wasn't tall enough to go on the ride, but his Mom had a solution. She took a pair of high heels from her backpack and forced him to wear them.

THE PARABLE of "THE QUAILS"

Ages ago a flock of more than a thousand quails lived together in a forest in India. They would have been happy, but that they in great dread of their enemy, the quail catcher. He used to imitate the call of the quail; and when gathered together in answer to it,



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THE PARABLE of "THE QUAILS"

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he would throw a great net over them, stuff them in to his basket, and carry them away to be sold.

Now, one of the quails was very wise, and he said: "Brothers! I've thought of a good plan. In the future, as soon as the fowler throw his net over us, let each one put his head through a mesh in the net and then all lift it up together and fly away with it. When we have flown far enough , we can let the net drop on a thorn bush and escape."

All agreed to the plan. The next day when fowler threw his net, the birds all lifted it together in the way that wise quail had told them, threw it on a thorn bush and escaped. While the fowler tried to free his net from the thorns, it grew dark, and he had to go home.

This happened many days, till at last the fowler's wife grew angry and asked her husband, "Why is it that you never catch any more quail?"

Then the fowler said: "The trouble is that all the birds work together and help one another. If they would only quarrel, I could catch them fast enough."

A few days later, one of the quails accidentally trod the head of one of his brothers, as they alighted on the feeding ground.

"Who trod on my head?" angrily enquired the quail who was hurt.

"Don't be angry, I didn't mean to tread on you," said the first quail.

But the brother quail went on quarreling. "I lifted all the weight of the net! You didn't help at all," he cried.

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THE PARABLE of "THE QUAILS"

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That made the first quail angry, and before long all were drawn into the dispute. Then the fowler saw his chance. He imitated the call of the quail and cast his net over those who came together. They were still boasting and quarrelling, and they did not help one another lift the net. So the hunter lifted the net himself and crammed them into his basket. But the wise quail gathered his friends together and flew far away, for he knew that quarrels are the root of misfortune.

(Here is one of the basic truths of citizenship: In our common affairs we pull and lift together, or we perish.)

From "The Moral Compass"

OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by **T.S. Akers** (continued)

The suspension of Masonic activity in Oklahoma not only prevented degree work, it also prevented the election of officers for the coming year of 1919. The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma was slated to meet in February, which caused Grand Master Morris to seek the opinion of his constituent lodges on such an assembly. In a letter dated January 20, 1919, Morris stated:

The advisability of assembling the Grand Lodge in February, necessitating the congregating of hundreds of our best citizenship for a period of ten days with the realization of its possible and probable result, has been a subject of very grave and important concern in the mind of your Grand Master.

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OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers (continued)



While bans on gatherings had been lifted across Oklahoma, Freemasons chose to be cautious about returning to their activities, and rightfully so. In his letter, Morris directed the Lodges to immediately convene in Special Communication to vote on whether to postpone the convening of the Grand Lodge for sixty to ninety days. On February 12, it was announced that ninety-five percent of the Lodges were in favor of such a postponement and the Grand Lodge was not convened until April 29.

The third wave of influenza in early 1919 even reached President Woodrow Wilson. Weakened by a 103-degree fever, intense coughing fits, and diarrhea, he began to suffer from severe confusion during the Versailles Peace Conference. It was later found that many influenza patients also had cognitive or psychological symptoms. It is also believed that the Spanish flu either potentiated or lowered one's resistance to encephalitis lethargica, a disease which attacks the brain and renders its victims catatonic. Encephalitis lethargica became most virulent in late 1918 and abruptly vanished around 1927. The influenza strain of 1918 ceased human circulation sometime before 1933, further linking the two maladies. The lessons of the potential lasting effects of the Spanish flu on an individual have not been entirely forgotten. The U.S. military is currently disqualifying anyone for service who was hospitalized due to COVID-19, owing to the lack of information on the effects of the new virus. It is worth noting that the pathology of COVID-19 is quite similar to that of the Spanish flu of 1918

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OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers

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The Spanish flu itself did not simply vanish in 1919. Infections continued, but the virus lost its lethality. Exposure to the virus in the first or second wave helped individuals develop an immune response in the third wave and the strain simply became seasonal influenza. As previously noted, the virus ceased human circulation in the late Twenties or early Thirties; but it became widespread in American swine herds after its 1918 appearance. The H1N1 flu strain, of which the 1918 strain was, is of course more commonly known as the Swine flu, and the year 2009 saw a pandemic of this very strain. As has been illustrated, close quarters enhanced the spread of the Spanish flu and without effective drugs for treating it or a vaccine, temporary bans on public gatherings were essential. Studies have shown that such preventative measures in 1918 were successful in lowering the number of influenza cases. Today, we call this social distancing to flatten the curve, the curve being the number of COVID-19 infections over a span of time. Oklahoma's Masonic leaders made the right decisions to protect their membership in 1918. It appears that Oklahoma's Masonic leaders are again taking appropriate measures to protect their membership with the cancelling of all Masonic activity for a period of time, a prohibition on such fraternal activities that bring men into close contact, and mandating the wear of face coverings to prevent the spread of the virus. There are lessons to be learned from 1918 and for some, those lessons are not lost.

***"...the Master Architect who created us
all and who always prefers that we
strengthen one another, regardless of our
differences."***

G.C. James Cole, 33

Editor Don Jones 33°