



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**January 7, 2023**

**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 Wednesday of the Month

Duncan Scottish Rite Chapter, 11:30 AM,  
Jimmie's Egg, Duncan

### 1st Thursday 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 Wednesday 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

Jack Inman, 33°, Chairman

Mike Ebert, 33° General Secretary

William C. Cox, 33°, Member

Thomas S. Crowl, 33 G.C., Member Emeritus

Wade Massey, 33°, Member

Phillip Johnson, 32° KCCH Member

Samuel Box, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brent Heilman 32°, KCCH, Wise Master

Mike Wright, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Russell Davis 32°, Master of Kadosh



## HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

Now that the holiday season is over, I have been reflecting on the Masonic side of the season.

I was fortunate to attend a Winter Solstice observance held in Guthrie last month. A group of brothers met at Gage's Restaurant where a hearty meal was enjoyed. Following the meal, we retired to the Lodge where we participated in a ceremony in observance of the Solstice. The presiding officer spoke about the history of the St's. John in Freemasonry. He then led the candlelight observance in which all those in attendance took part.

The evening was enjoyed by all. The brothers departed with feelings of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and Harmony.

On December 27th, at my blue lodge's stated meeting, the Secretary led the lodge's observance of St. John the Evangelist Day. He did this by reading a paper that had been written many years ago. The author was Bro. Ed Case, a Master Mason from Shawnee and 33° from the Valley of McAlester. Bro. Case died several years ago but those who knew him, could hear his voice when the secretary read the message.

My lodge has 42 members. There were 15 members in attendance on the 27th and two were new Master Masons. Even years after his passing, Bro. Case is still sharing his wisdom with the youngest Masons.

Our best wishes for good health and happiness are extended to all the Brethren.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



[BeAFreemason.org](http://BeAFreemason.org)



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

#### Upcoming Reunions:

**2023**  
**April 1-2**  
**October 21 & 22**

Masonic Website on 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](#)

# STILL TIME TO PAY!



The sixty-one Brethren who still owe their Scottish Rite 2022 dues have until January 12th to pay. After the Twelfth, the annual reports for 2022 will be sent to the Supreme Council.

If this remains a problem for you, call the Temple at 918-423-6360 and ask for Bro. Mike Ebert, 33°, General Secretary. With his help, your situation may be resolved.

Why are your dues important? By paying dues you personally help children with language disorders and the preservation of our Scottish Rite Temple, "the Showcase for Freemasonry" in southern Oklahoma.

## **V. M. A. P.** **Valley Membership Achievement Project**

### **Number 4 -- The Reunion Experience**

Each reunion consists of the following elements: Formal Opening/Closing, Degree Conferrals, Degree Education, Social Time as a Group Activity, and

- A. At least one Valley reunion each year must consist of more than one day.
- B. A social event is provided before or during the reunion to encourage Brethren to come together in fellowship.
- C. Music is an integral part of a good impression, and is included in Degree presentations.
- D. Each Candidate writes a personal response to the to the legacy question traditionally required by the 5th Degree, and returns the same to the Class Directors or Education Committee before the close of the Reunion, and the response is kept in the member file.
- E. Each Candidate writes their own moral testament concerning religion, politics, and Masonry as required in the 30th Degree and returns the same to the Class Directors or Education Committee before the close of the Reunion and the testament is kept in their file.
- F. The Valley Membership Committee, Class Directors, and Education Committee are actively engaged with Candidates throughout the Reunion experience.
- G. The Valley officially registers ALL Reunion attendees.
- H. The Valley conducts a 14th Degree ring (or suitable substitute), presentation ceremony. Whenever possible, involve family and friends in the presentation ceremony

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## V. M. A. P.

### Number 4 -- The Reunion Experience (Continued)

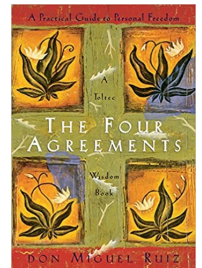
- I. Valley holds reunions in areas away from the Valley's primary facilities.
- J. Valley shows a membership video during the reunion. These are available on the Supreme Council website.
- K. Valley invites all members of a class to a special patent signing ceremony to provide all members of the class an opportunity to sign each other's patents.

and other ceremonies or rituals that may be customary for the Valley's reunions.

## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

This brief review will allow you to make up your own mind whether to read further or say, "no thank you."

### "The Four Agreements", by Don Miguel Ruiz



This book presents Four cardinal rules (agreements) which everyone can practice.

1. Be impeccable with your word.

Eg. speak with integrity, say what you mean, if you make a promise, keep it.

2. Don't take anything personally.

Eg. nothing others do is because of you, when others speak, they are projecting their own reality or dreams.

3. Don't make assumptions.

Ed. note -- you know what happens when you assume.

4. Always do your best.

Eg. you will avoid self-judgement and regret.

(Review by Kenneth Bales)

### Marriage is a Conundrum.

A shopper was passing a couple in the produce aisle and noticed the man fastening a twist tie on a bag of oranges. "Those are gorgeous," she said. "Did you pick them out?"

"I don't pick," he replied. "I just hold the bag open". As his wife stepped away, he muttered, "And sometimes I don't even do that right!"

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Weekly, Wednesdays 9:00 am  
Social Hour; coffee & pastries  
McAlester S.R. Center,

**Mon., Jan. 9;** 7:00 p.m.  
Stated Meeting & 2023 Elections  
of Officers for the four Bodies.  
Brethren eligible for Masters

**Lodge of Perfection,**  
Sr. Warden-- Stephen Gragg, KCCH  
**Chapter of Rose Croix**  
Sr. Warden--Ronald Gragg, Sr. KCCH  
**Council of Kadosh**

1st Lt. Commander--Rodney Ryder, KCCH  
**Consistory**  
Prior-- Bobby J. Peters, 33°  
Officer installation is scheduled for  
the **February, 13th** Annual Mtg of Bodies

**Wed., Jan. 11;** 12 noon; Luncheon  
Indian Chapter of the S.R. Society  
McAlester S.R. Masonic Center  
Use south door.

**Wed., Jan. 18,** 12 noon, S.R. Luncheon  
Muskogee Chapter of the Scottish Rite  
Dining Room of the Masonic Lodge  
Use south door to basement

Orient Spring Reunions  
**March 25,26,** 2023; Tulsa  
**April 1,2,** 2023; McAlester  
**April 14.15.16** 2023; Guthrie

**Jan 25th,** Wed., birthday of Robert Burns  
Poet Laureate of Freemasonry  
Born in 1759  
VALLEY OF JOPLIN, MO  
Robert Burns Night; 2023  
Hickory Hill C.C.  
For Date & Information call: 417 623-3212





## THE MASTER WORD

Though little, the master word looms large in meaning. It is the "open sesame" to every portal, the great equalizer, philosopher's stone which transmutes all base metal of humanity into gold. The stupid it will make bright, the bright brilliant, and the brilliant steady. To youth it brings hope, to the middle-aged confidence, to the aged repose. It is directly responsible for add advances in medicine during the past (150) years. Not only has it been the touchstone of progress, but it is the measure of success in everyday life. And the master word is Work.

Dr. William Osler, M.D.  
"The New Age"

### Mother Knows Best

Randy Pausch, was a renowned computer science professor, but that didn't carry much weight with his mother. After he got his Ph.D., she introduced him to friends by saying, "This is my son. He's a doctor, but not the kind who helps people."

### Where is the Magic when You Need It?

Servers at Disney World's Cinderella Castle, treat you like royalty---literally. After their lunch, the couple's waiter asked, "Is there anything else, My Lord wishes?"

"Yes," the husband joked. "I'd like my wife to treat me like this at home."

He bowed to the wife. "My Lord desires to be treated like a king in his castle. May I suggest a reply?"

"Sure," the wife said. "Tell him he's much time in Fantasyland."



## Office Politics

A hot-air balloonist had drifted off course. He saw a man on the ground and yelled, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

"Yes," the guy said. "You are in a balloon."

"You must work in I.T.," the balloonist said.

"How did you know?"

"What you told me is technically correct but of no use to anyone."

"And you must work in management," the man on the ground retorted.

"Yup."

"Figures. You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to help. And you're in the same position you were in before we met, but now it's my fault."



### A Masonic Moment - What Is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is personal, private and beyond description. We have rituals that we perform, like a play, that remind us of certain moral lessons, and hint at the antiquity of our craft. These are the material manifestations of what we do. They are no longer secrets, yet they remain private in most cases as every group or person has the right to personal privacy. They are the process of what we do. Just as what I do (for a living or otherwise) does not define me as a person, so the manner of what we do, does not define us as Freemasons. My obligations (oaths) make me a Freemason, and the manner in which I live and build my house of character show that I really understand and earn the title of Free and Accepted Mason.

The real secrets of Freemasonry are what happens in you!

No man can see into your mind or heart. No man can tell you how to apply the allegorical lessons of Freemasonry to your life, actions and character. These are the real secrets...it's all about how your mind and conscious uses the information that you are presented.

From Oct 2012 Notice Paper of Lodge Devotion 723 UGLV

## HISTORY: RE-BUILDING THE TEMPLE

### "The Work Progresses"

**June, 1930 Oklahoma Mason**

Brother Richards--you notice I call him Brother Richards, last month it was Mr. Richards-- is making every effort to get the east elevation of the Temple up and the roof over the whole structure, that in case there come stormy days he will not be hindered or delayed but can push things right along getting ready for the Fall Reunion in November. I heard a speech he made to his builders, skilled and unskilled, 2 days before the Fourth. His 4th of July oration though not long, was made in all earnestness. He told the boys that brethren of Indian Consistory were looking forward to having the Temple finished so that they could hold a reunion in it in November, and how necessary it was that every fellow keep on the job to do it. As a result of Bro. Richard's elegance many of the boys who had thought of taking Saturday, the day following the Fourth, off said that they would be back on the job Saturday morning.

Since the Fourth, things have been humming. The concrete floor of the lobby has been poured and is now ready for the terrazzo finish.

to be continued.

*"Certainly, it is Heaven upon Earth to have a man's mind move in Charity, rest in Providence and turn upon the Poles of Truth."*

*Morals & Dogma; 25th Degree*

Editor Don Jones 33°

