



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**October 6 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 Center

### 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, 33° Elect Member  
Stephen Gragg, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master  
John Cunningham 32°, KCCH, Wise Master  
Rodney Ryder, 32°, KCCH, Commander  
Bobby Peters 33°, Master of Kadosh

## **ATTEN--HUT! SCHEDULE CHANGE!**

The Revised Fall Reunion schedule is attached at the end of this Issue. Mainly the changes are for Saturday, Oct. 21. The 17th Degree has been cancelled. The 6th Degree has been added to the Saturday schedule. Please note: the times scheduled for "the work" has changed for Saturday. Degree Directors need to check the new schedule to see if a change involves their Degree. The total number of degrees for the Reunion has not changed. There will still be twelve degrees exemplified.

## **REUNION PRAYER**

"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 opinions and a will,  
Men who have honor---Men who will not lie,  
Men who can stand before a demagogue and  
Damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;  
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty and private thinking."*



The Oklahoma Mason  
Fall Reunion, 1931

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



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



Dr. G. David Donathan, 33° President  
Brett Cable, 32° KCCH Vice-President  
Jeremy Warren, 33°, Trustee  
Bruce Hall 33° Trustee Emeritus  
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](mailto:enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org). For questions or comments email [news@mcasr.org](mailto:news@mcasr.org).

Upcoming Reunions:

2023

October 21 & 22

2024

April 13 & 14

October 12-13

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

**More Candidate Information**

First, if you don't already know, the Temple serves a breakfast at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. As a candidate all meals in the Temple are paid.

You may be wondering what your fee of \$175 pays for. The fee pays for a 2023 dues card, meals served in the Temple, a 14th Degree Ring Pyramid paper weight, an 18th Degree lapel pin and the balance to the Supreme Council for the degrees of the Rite.



The "mission" of the Scottish Rite is to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching an emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Temperance, Charity and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion and dedication to God, family and country.

Your annual dues enable the Supreme Council to provide Leadership Conferences, Masonic books, noted Speakers at meetings and gatherings, the Scottish Rite Journal (a first-class masonic publication) and access to the Scottish Rite Research Society.

In the Valley, your dues support the philanthropy of the Foundation. This includes the RightCare childhood speech/language therapy program, teacher continuing education. and the student scholarship program.

Your dues also help to pay the administrative and maintenance cost of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center of McAlester and reunion expenses, etc.

So, if you have made your decision to become a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and need more info call the Temple office at 918 423-6360 and speak to Mike Ebert, 33° or Cherie Hamilton, Office Manager.

**Just Following Doctor's Advice**

"Express your emotions,"  
Most doctors say ---  
"You'll avoid ulcers  
And headaches that way."

So, when I am angry,  
I slam doors and yell.  
I'M FINE!  
(But my family's  
Not feeling too well.)



## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

\*\*Revised Reunion schedule is attached to the end of this Issue.

**Mon., Oct. 9,** 7:30 p.m., Stated Mtg  
McAlester Lodge of Perfection  
McAlester Masonic Center  
All Members are Welcome

**Fri., Oct. 13.,** 6:30 p.m., Dinner & Bingo  
Central Okla. Scottish Rite Chapter  
India Shrine Center; 3601 NW 36th  
also, the "Feast of Tishri" observance  
Join us for good food, fellowship and Bingo! Open Meeting

**Oct. 18, 1911** -- The Cornerstone of the House of the Temple was laid on this date.

**Fri. Oct. 20;** Pre-Reunion Activity  
11:30 a.m.; 50 Year Membership Awards Luncheon.  
1:30 p.m. Valley of McAlester Advisory Conference Meets.  
6:00 p.m.: Pre-Reunion "Fish Fry" Temple Dining Room,  
Open to all Members and Friends.  
Duck Reunion Fly-In will follow

**Sat. Oct. 21;** McAlester Fall Reunion  
7:00 a.m. Registration  
8:00, Open Ceremonies

**Sun., Oct. 22;** McAlester Fall Reunion  
8:00 a.m. Degrees begin.

**Fri./Sat./ Oct. 27-28;** Haunted House  
McAlester Scottish Rite Temple  
"The Temple is Haunted"  
Tickets are \$10 per person. Available  
during the Fall Reunion, Steve Gragg  
"It will scare the Devil out of you."

**Sun. Nov. 5,** Honors Day  
33rd Degree conferral & KCCH Investiture  
Honor men Only Invitations are in the mail, Now  
Open them and R.S.V.P., please

**Sat. Nov. 11;** Annual Communication  
Grand Lodge of State of Oklahoma  
Where: The Guthrie Scottish Rite Center Guthrie, OK



## A CURIOUS ACCIDENT IN FREEMASONRY

by Jim Tresner, 33°, G.C.

The Scottish Rite's 21st degree and its titles



(Noachite, or Prussian Knight) represents a curious historical accident. Although it is less discussed in Freemasonry today, in the 1700s and early 1800s there was a strong Masonic tradition which placed Noah as one of the Craft's major patrons involved with the preservation of the knowledge of antediluvian arts and sciences during the Flood and its transmittal to the generations which followed. Some systems went so far as to make Noah the central legendary figure rather than Hiram. Freemasons were sometimes called Noachites, or sons of Noah.

In the Degree, the story intermingles with that of the "Vehmgericht", a medieval court headquartered in Westphalia, hence the name "Prussian Knight." It is a strange combination, but it produces one of the most powerful and theatrical Degrees of the Rite. All the elements of high drama are there -- a meeting in the forest at night by the light of the full moon; men of integrity and power forced to confront personal biases they did not know existed within themselves; the ease with which one may fall into dishonor; the power of faith---all this and more takes the stage in the degree. It is a powerful cautionary tale.

The Scottish Rite Journal; 2000

### MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME

*After 30 days of summer camp  
My kids returned to me:  
Nine shredded T-shirts,  
Eight garter snakes,  
Seven pounds of rocks,  
Six filthy towels,  
Five torn swimming trunks,  
Four wet pajamas,  
Three live toads,  
Two cans of worms,  
And a rash from a poison-oak tree.*



## MEMBERSHIP HITS BIG MILESTONE!

Shriner International Mag., Fall 2023



.....Here's a big reason to celebrate: six months of overall positive membership growth for the fraternity, with 85 temples posting positive membership growth. ... Two temples receive charters, creating a fraternity milestone.

*Editor's Note:* I have been told that the 3 Shrine Temples in Oklahoma are not counted among the 85 Temples that had growth in membership. And it is not due to a lack of trying. Perhaps the Scottish Rite and York Rite should try an analysis of the situation. I put this in the Blast because membership is the Rite's problem too.

## TALES FROM THE FUNERAL HOME

-- During my uncle's wake, I saw 2 of his friends peer into the open casket. "Doesn't Stanly look good?" said one.

"He should," said the other. "He just got out of the hospital."

-- Lying in his death bed, the rich miserly old man calls to his long-suffering wife. "I want to take all my money with me," the old man tells her. "So, promise me you'll put it in the casket."

After the man dies, the widow attends the memorial service with her best friend. Just before the undertaker closes the coffin, she placed a small metal box inside.

Her friend looks at her in horror. "Surely," she says, "you didn't put the money in there."

"I did promise him I would," the widow answered. "So, I got it altogether, deposited every penny in my account, and wrote him a check. If he can cash it, he can have it."

-- Most businesses like our credit card machines automatically print, "Thank You, please come again." at the bottom of the receipt. Though one guy called to ask if we could take it off.

"Sure," was the reply, "But do you mind my asking why?"

"It just seems inappropriate," said the caller. "We're a funeral home."



## MASONS AT THE ALAMO

There is a plaque at the Alamo dedicated to the Masonic Brethren who fought there during the siege in 1836" which includes James Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickson, and William B. Travis.

Both Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin were Masons as well.

So was General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who led the Mexican Army against the Alamo and defeated the Texans.

Legend has it that when Santa Anna was captured at San Jacinto and brought before Sam Houston, he gave a masonic sign and that Houston spared his life because they were fellow Masons. Learned historians give three reasons why that is not true.

1. By killing fellow Masons at the Alamo, including many who were unarmed and had already been taken prisoner, Santa Anna had breached all Masonic obligations.
2. Military protocol dictated that he be taken prisoner and not simply executed.
3. As a political figure and military leader, he was more valuable to the Texans alive.

note: (Well, so much for the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress.)

"The Big Things: Freemasonry"

**HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS"** (Continued)

### The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

We continue our discussion of the members of the first class of Scottish Rite Masons who took their Lodge of Perfection degrees in McAlester in 1901.

#### William Costigan

Born: date and location not available

Died: June 30, 1903, McAlester, I.T.

There is not a card or file for William Costigan. The information we have was gained from a search of newspaper and other sources.

Continued on next page



## HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

### The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

#### The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

Bro. Costigan was an attorney and there is documentation indicated that in 1885 he was the Master of the Chancelry for the court in Antlers, I.T. ("Master of the Chancelry" is an officer of the court. In this office he serves as the administrator and Treasurer of the Court when it is in session.)

"William Costigan signed a petition for single state at the celebration for 100 anniversaries of Louisiana Purchase." Source: "The Oklahoma State Capital. (Guthrie, OK), Vol. 15, No. 8, Ed. 1, Friday May 1, 1903

At the time of his death, Bro. Costigan was the City Attorney for the city of McAlester. We are pretty sure of this because of the following news clipping: The Coalgate Courier. (Coalgate, Indian Territory), Vol. 4, Nol 50, Edd. 1 Thursday, July 2, 1903

#### City Attorney took Overdose of Laudanum

City Attorney William Costigan died today at 1:30 from an overdose of laudanum. Mr. Costigan returned home from Oklahoma City Monday night where he went several day ago to take the Shriner degree in Masonry. He was not feeling well and it is thought that he took laudanum to ease his suffering and misjudged the dose --- South McAlester News.

Now with no card or file of membership on record, and no blue lodge either, we do have proof of Bro. Costigan being a Mason. To be a Shriner, which is a matter of record now, he had to be a Scottish Rite or York Rite Mason. That record is in a group of 23 men who became Scottish Rite Masons in 1901.

***"This is the best day the world has ever seen.  
Tomorrow will be better."***

***R. A. Campbell***

**Don Jones, 33° Editor**



**347th Class Reunion Schedule(Updated)  
October 22-22, 2023**

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

11:30 AM...50 Year Awards.....Richards Room  
1:30 PM...Advisory Conference.....SGIG Conf. Room  
6:00 PM...Fish Dinner.....Masons and guests are invited

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

6:30 AM...Breakfast.....Main Dining Room  
7:00 AM...Candidate Registration.....Main Lobby  
Single Candidate Pictures.....Main Lobby  
7:45 AM...Assemble Class.....Class Supervisor  
8:00 AM...Opening Ceremony.....Auditorium  
9:00 AM...Open Lodge of Perfection....Venerable Master  
9:05 AM...4th Degree.....Lone Grove Team  
10:00 AM...5th Degree.....McAlester/Eufaula Team  
10:55 AM...6th Degree.....District 19 Team  
12:00 PM...Lunch.....Main Dining Room  
1:00 PM...12th Degree.....Edmond Lodge No. 37 Team  
2:00 PM...13th Degree.....Bryan County Team  
3:00 PM...14th Degree.....Oklahoma County Team  
4:20 PM...Open Chapter Rose Croix.....Wise Master  
4:30 PM...Approx. Class Dismissal.....Class Supervisor

**Sunday, October 22, 2023**

6:30 AM...Breakfast.....Main Dining Room  
7:45 AM...Assemble Class.....Class Supervisor  
8:00 AM...18th Degree.....Nolen Watson Team  
9:30 AM...Open Council of Kadosh.....Commander  
9:35 AM...19th Degree.....Shawnee Team  
10:25 AM...28th Degree.....Duncan Team  
11:30 AM...Class Picture.....Larry McManus, KCCH  
12:00 PM...Lunch.....Main Dining Room  
1:00 PM...30th Degree.....Shawnee Team  
2:15 PM...Open Consistory.....Master of Kadosh  
2:20 PM...31st Degree.....Durant Team  
3:15 PM...32nd Degree.....Indian Consistory Team  
5:00 PM...Approx. Class Dismissal.....Class Supervisor

**\* *Passport Degrees***