



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**November 23, 2020**

**Editor : Don Jones, 33°**

## **M.:W.: Robert G. Davis, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.**

CONGRATULATIONS to Most Worshipful Davis on his election to the highest office of Craft Masonry. The Fraternity in Oklahoma is fortunate to have such a leader and dedicated Mason in its highest office. We wish M.: W.: Davis a successful year.



Congratulations also to M.:W.: Bobby Peters for his year. M.:W.: Peters had, possibly, one of the toughest years of any past Grand Master. But he "took COVID by the horns" and led the Craft over uncharted waters.

Thank you, Bobby.

### **McALESTER S.R. MASONS HOLD GRAND LODGE OFFICES**

Junior Grand Warden - elected John Carter, KCCH, Creekmore #74 Madill

Appointed:

Grand Junior Steward - Mark Condit, Healdton #23

Grand Historian - Kenny Sivard, Goodwater #148

Grand Sword Bearer - Mike Wright KCCH, Valley #6

Grand Chaplain - Jason Smith, Duncan #50

Congratulations brothers!

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



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



#### **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

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

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[Upcoming Reunions:](#)

**2021**  
**April 17-18**  
**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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## **THINGS WE THINK ABOUT (even though you may not)**

By now, every member of the Valley should have received a "dues" notice. Please pay special attention to the items that request your donation too. This is important.

As you know the scholarships and the RiteCare programs are financed by the Charitable & Educational Foundation of the McAlester Scottish Rite. If you can, at least, donate \$5 to those programs, it will be appreciated.

You may not know, but the I.R.S. looks at the number of contributors to our Foundation as well as the income & expenses. Why is this?

The I.R.S. figures that if a Foundation is doing its job, it is worth the support of the Members who own the Foundation. In other words, 100 donations of \$5 means more than 5 donations of \$100.

So Please consider the addition of \$5, \$10 or more with your dues.

As 32nd Degree Masons, we help Children Communicate.

## **KNOWLEDGE**

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candle by it."

"If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?"

"New ideas can be good or bad, just the same as old ones."

## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY Continue in the time of COVID

**2nd Monday of each month.** Lodge of Perfection stated meeting. Valley of McAlester. In the Richard's room of the S.R. Center. Masks are required. 7:00 p.m.

**First Thursday** McAlester luncheon in OKC. Next meeting, in January, 2021. Gold Corral, I-40 and MacArthur, OKC 11:30 a.m. .



Disaster Relief: the Scottish Rite Foundation, S.J., is collecting donations to be distributed to assist brothers and their families affected by the various recent disasters around the U.S. You can donate at <http://www.scottishrite.org> or at the [Scottish Rite Store Page](#)

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### **ACTIVITY IN OTHER VALLEYS**

During the recent annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, the Sioux City Scottish Rite with other Masonic organizations donated a check for \$100,000 to the Iowa Food Bank Association. This was a combined effort of the Masons to help with Iowa families during the COVID pandemic.

The Valley of Rochester, MN has organized a "365 Club" to continue funding its RiteCare philanthropy. Only one dollar a day for a year, \$365, - or more, Members are recognized with a beautiful RiteCare medallion,

The Orient of Georgia has a web page that features Masonic philanthropy from Masonic organizations throughout the state.

The Masons make a video of their project or event, send it to the Orient office and the video will be a feature on the page. There already is quite a collection of videos, many showing youth groups. It is a way of showing the rest of the world what Georgia Masons are up to.

"And the beat goes on"



## WICHITA , KS SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE BUILDING IS SOLD!

I apologize for not catching this sooner but this just recently appeared on the Wichita web site. (Don)



In March, 2019, after over 100 years, the Wichita Scottish Rite Bodies sold their beautiful building.

The Temple building was purchased by the Beaty Capitol Group, L.L.C. in affiliation with the Templelive Vista, L.L.C.

However, the Scottish Rite took a lease so that it and the Masonic lodges and affiliated bodies could still use the building.

The buyers intend for the building to be a venue for the arts and musical programs. Tours of the Temple will still be available.



### **THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA GRAND LODGE** **ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, 2020.**



The Grand Lodge, lead by M.:W.: Bobby Peters using the latest technology, held a successful meeting. By all accounts, it went relatively smoothly.

With almost 500 Masons registered on Zoom, the business of balloting and other business was successfully conducted. It was a testament to the ability of our fraternity in Oklahoma to adapt to almost any situation.

All the resolutions were passed with exception of the one that would have provided a "cipher key" for the entered apprentice and fellowcraft degrees.

There should be no doubt that using Zoom probably saved many Masons from the COVID virus.

Most of the business was done on Saturday and the Officer Installation and Grand Master's Apron Presentation were done on Sunday.

Congratulations to all who participated. You made it work.

## WHY TURKEY ON THANKSGIVING?

(From the "Old Farmer's Almanac")



Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830's an 8-10 pound bird cost a day's wages. Even though turkeys are affordable today, they still remain a celebratory symbol of bounty. In fact, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edward Aldrin ate roast turkey in foil packets for their first meal on the Moon.

# Happy Thanksgiving

*Be safe and, even in the midst of a pandemic, we in the U.S.A. have much to be thankful for.*

## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**from W.W. Groom, 33°**

Christ came to establish a kingdom, a kingdom of love, of truth, of righteousness. He came to show us that all men are brothers and brotherly love should prevail among them. He seemed to have failed. The life journey that began at Bethlehem, ended at Calvary. Twenty centuries have passed since the angels' song startled the watching shepherds, yet today we are appalled at the prevalence of hatred, lawlessness and error. But the failure is only seeming. In reality the Gentle Christ is achieving the greatest triumph of history.

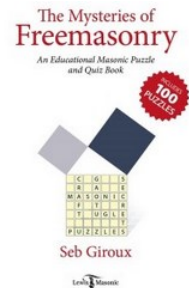
The Kingdom of Christ does not come with pomp and spectacle, but slowly, unobtrusively but irresistibly in the hearts of men. As growing intelligence, broadening sympathy and deepening love irradiate the souls of men, so Christ's kingdom grows. Faith and hope see its gradual and certain conquest of the world. To help its realization we celebrate the significance of His birth and of His Kingdom there will be no end.



TO ALL from the Staff and the McAlester Scottish Rite



## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST



### "The Mysteries of Freemasonry: An Educational Masonic Puzzle and Quiz Book" by Seb Giroux

Reviewed by George Marshall, Jr.

At first, Bro. Marshall refused to review this book, but curiosity and his love of puzzles changed his mind.

The book consists of a potpourri of 100 questions, puzzles, quizzes, and games divided into 6 categories: Puzzles (Crossword, word search, maze and deduction); Myths (you decide whether the statement is true or false); Spot the Mason (identify a famous Mason from the clues given); pub quiz (multiple choice) Did you Know? (interesting, peculiar, or unexpected Masonic facts), and Are You Worthy? (some tough Masonic questions). The author is an English Freemason, and after reading his biography, I expected the book to be slanted principally toward English Masonic usages and practices. I was mistaken. Of the 100 questions, fewer than 25 are related exclusively to English Masonry. The rest are general in nature, and a few pertain to American Freemasonry.

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### EDUCATION FROM "READERS' DIGEST"

"Give a sentence about a public servant," the teacher instructed her 2nd Grade student.

"The fireman came down the ladder, pregnant." he answered.

"Hm.....do you know what pregnant means?"

"Yes, " said the boy, "It means carrying a child."

An elementary school teacher who shares her classroom stories on Facebook, recently posted the following, "Question of the day: 'Miss Kasa, Do you work?'"

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## EDUCATION FROM "READERS' DIGEST"

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A Sunday School teacher was teaching her class one Sunday and the topic was "Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ."

"What did Jesus do on this day?" she asked.

There was no response so she gave her students so she gave a hint. "It starts with the letter R."

One boy blurted, "Recycle!"

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## OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers (continued)

The first case of Spanish flu in Oklahoma City was reported on September 29, 1918. By October 4, the number had grown to 1,249 cases across twenty-four counties. To compound the issue, twenty nurses, half of the staff, at University Hospital had contracted influenza. The city commissioners of Oklahoma City made the decision on October 9 to close all schools, theatres, churches, and ban all public meetings. The day before, P.D. Walker, mayor of McAlester, had issued a similar proclamation closing schools, churches, and public buildings. That city even saw the establishment of an emergency hospital in the manse of its First Presbyterian Church. There were 291 flu deaths in Pittsburg County alone that October. In Oklahoma City, with people falling ill and dying in their homes, the police were turned into ambulance drivers, delivering the most serious cases to whatever hospitals were available.

Convincing Oklahomans, and Americans at large, that Spanish flu was serious proved to be a challenge. One Oklahoma City newspaper reported "There has been some slight difficulty in holding the public in leash.

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# OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers

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A few institutions have violated the closing order..." Officials in Oklahoma went on to say "...the greatest obstacles in dealing promptly and effectively with the epidemic was the slowness of the general public in realizing the extreme seriousness of the situation." Even the penalty for spitting on the sidewalk was increased to jailtime. While the quarantine and closures in Oklahoma only lasted a month, other densely packed cities were not so fortunate. In January of 1919, two thousand San Franciscans turned up for a public meeting of the Anti-Mask League. The group passed resolutions declaring the city's mask requirement "contrary to the desires of a majority of the people."

One will note, the bans on gathering in Oklahoma targeted public occasions. The Masonic Fraternity is a private institution and arguably not under the purview of such measures. However, the leadership of the Fraternity at the time seems to have been comprised of wise men. On October 10, 1918, Grand Master Joseph W. Morris issued the following circular:

To all Constituent Lodges A.F. & A.M. of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma.

Brethren: Owing to the prevalence of the contagion known as the Spanish Influenza, and to aid the Health Authorities of the state in checking the spread of this disease, it is my order as your Grand Master that you cease all Masonic gatherings and suspend all lodge meetings, except in great emergency, until the State Health Officers by order permit general gatherings throughout the State of Oklahoma.

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# OKLAHOMA FREEMASONRY DURING THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918

by T.S. Akers

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A The Worshipful Master of each body will see that his brethren are duly notified and I suggest that the substance of this order be furnished your home or County paper for publication.

The effects of the virus were felt across Masonry in Oklahoma. Jabez H. Mann, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, took office in April of 1918 and noted in his 1919 address that he made few official visits to the constituent Chapters, three to be exact and all after February, owing to the Spanish flu. Interestingly, the Triennial of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, the Cryptic Rite, proceeded as scheduled in September of 1918 at Baltimore, Maryland. Oklahoma's Deputy Grand Master Sydnor H. Lester was in attendance. In the realm of Templary, Grand Commander Charles S. Highsmith had postponed inspections of the constituent Commanderies owing to the war and suspended them altogether once influenza took hold.

(To be continued)

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*2020 has been a tumultuous year for our nation and our world. I could only come up with the following prayer to end 2020.*

*It follows:*

***"May the blessings of Heaven come upon us and all "peoples". May Brotherly Love prevail and every Moral and Social virtue sustain us." Amen  
So Mote It Be***

***Editor Don Jones 33°***

