



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

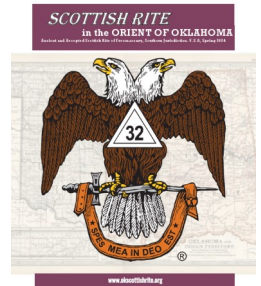
Newsletter Date

February 26, 2024

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

NEW ORIENT MAGAZINE MAKES ITS DEBUT

If you haven't received yours in the mail, you will soon. This magazine is a great leap in communication for all the members of the Orient of Oklahoma. Please read the letter on the inside cover from our S.G.I.G. Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°.



The magazine will furnish news from each Valley. Several other Orients have good Orients periodicals, eg. "The Louisiana Trestleboard."

According to Bro. Manning, this first issue is an excellent tribute to our friends and Bro. Mason, Junior and Marcia Roland. They truly were a couple that cannot be replaced.

The McAlester portion of this first issue of the "Scottish Rite in the Orient of Oklahoma: is about another beginning.

Our Bro. Trasen Akers, Valley Curator, has written a wonderful article about Walter Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt was the architect of our current Scottish Rite Temple in McAlester. For those of you who are history buffs, this is a "must read."

Our congratulations go out to the Brethren who published our new Orient magazine and to the leadership of our S.G.I.G., Joe R. Manning, Jr., 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

Wade Massey, 33°, Chairman

Mike Ebert, 33° General Secretary

William C. Cox, 33°, Member

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

Phillip Johnson, 33°, Member

Harrison Bartlett, 33° Member

Greg Stiedley, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Mike Echols, 32° KCCH, Wise Master

Paul Larcade, 33° KCCH, Commander

Bryan Pumphery 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



You can petition the Scottish Rite for membership online at the following link:

[Online Petition](#)

Or scan this QR Code



[Upcoming Reunions:](#)

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](#)

MASTER MASONS: COMPLETE & SIGN YOUR SCOTTISH RITE PETITION ONLINE!

The Supreme Council has just made it easier for a Master Mason to petition for the Scottish Rite. By "clicking" on the link below a prospective candidate will find the list of Qualifications for Membership and other information. Then just follow the instructions and answer the questions. At the end there is a space for the candidate's signature.

[Online Petition](#)

The Supreme Council will take it from there. Just remember: the Valley is McAlester, the Orient is Oklahoma and the fee is still \$175.00

Brethren, a suggestion; put this link on a piece of paper or business card. Keep it handy for you next candidate. This way you don't have to fuss with finding or obtaining a paper petition.

Only six (6) weeks to Reunion!

Publisher Note: The link and a QR code is in the left margin of this page. It will be there on all future issues. Share this issue with a master mason who is interested in joining our rite.

MORE LIGHT IN MASONRY (What's the cost?)

Talking Point: When we talk to our Master Mason brethren about the Scottish Rite, we have plenty to say. Our Scottish Rite degrees teach and emulate the principles of Love, Tolerance, Charity and Truth while actively enhancing social, moral and spiritual values. Any questions?

Well yes; what does it cost? What is the "degree fee"? Glad you asked!

The degree fee in the Orient, of Oklahoma is \$175.00. But the candidate gets MORE than this back in value when he takes the degrees. How is that?

The candidate gets a current year's dues card, a 14th Degree ring pyramid, an 19th Degree lapel pin, the book: "A Bridge to Light", and free meals at the Temple. All this comes within a few dollars of \$200.00. And the candidate gets the enjoyment of weekend the degrees exemplified on the large stage, colorful costumes and good fellowship.

There, brethren, you have an answer for when the prospect asks, "What does it cost?"

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Thur., Mar. 7, 11:00 a.m., Luncheon
---ATTN: NEW LOCATION & TIME---
McAlester OKC Scottish Rite Chapter
McClintock's Chop House,
2227 Exchange, Ave., OKC
All Masons & Friends welcome
Good Food; Fellowship; private room

Mon. Mar. 11, 7:00 p.m., Stated Mtg
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
Richards' Room; west side
All Members are welcome

Tue., Mar 12; Birthday
Bro. Albert Mackey was born on this
date in 1807. He Was an officer of the
Supreme Council and author of
Mackey's Masonic Encyclopedia.

Mon. Mar. 18; Order of DeMolay
founded on this day in 1919.

Wed. Mar. 20; 12 noon, Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Muskogee Masonic Lodge, Dining
Room; use south door.

Sat./Sun., March 23-24
Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunion

April 5,6,&7; 3-Day Reunion
Guthrie Scottish Rite Center

Sat./Sun., April 13-14;
McAlester 2-Day Scottish Rite Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Center



M.:W.: JOHN CARTER, K.C.C.H. INSTALLED IN OFFICE OF TREASURER.

M.:W.: John Carter, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma, 2024, was recently installed in the office of Treasurer for the Scottish Rite Valley of McAlester and the McAlester Charitable & Education Foundation.



M.:W.: Carter's term in office began immediately after his installation.

M.:W.: Carter resides in Madill, OK. He led an active Masonic life since his retirement from school administrator. He is a member of Creekmore Lodge No. 74. M.:W.: Carter is also a recipient of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Medal of Honor.

In the Scottish Rite, he has received the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and is a Past Wise Master for the McAlester Chapter for Rose Croix. He is the Director of the Fourth Degree and is an actor on several other degrees. M.:W.: Carter is also an active York Rite Mason.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Carter. We know the Valley will be well served.

GREG STEIDLEY, K.C.C.H. IS THE NEW ALMONER FOR THE MCALESTER VALLEY.

Bro. Greg Steidley, KCCH was recently installed in the office of Almoner. Bro. Steidley replaces Bro. Bill Erkin, 33°, who retired after serving faithfully for many years.



Brother Steidley is a resident of McAlester, OK. He is a member of Staples Lodge No. 117 at Kiowa, OK. He is also serving on the Audit Committee in Valley Administration. Brother Steidley is serving this year as the Venerable Master of the McAlester Lodge of Perfection.

Bro. Steidley is also a York Rite Mason and a member of the Knight of York Cross of Honor.

Congratulations to Bro. Steidley and thank you for accepting this important Valley office.



HAS FREEMASONRY BECOME TOO EASY TO OBTAIN?

by Dwight Smith, PGM

"A few months ago, I took advantage of a fifty-year presentation occasion to write a Masonic editorial. The recipient of the Award of Gold had petitioned a Southern Indiana Lodge in 1911 when he was making \$10 a week an apprentice printer. The fee for the degrees was \$20. He thought enough of Freemasonry to empty his pay envelope twice.

A century ago, it was not uncommon for men to pay what amounted to a month's wages to become a Mason. We know without challenge that today petitioner are paying a fee which represents a week's wages at the most -- sometimes only two or three days!

When we compare the nominal dues paid to a Lodge of Freemasons with those paid to a service club, a trade or professional organization or a country club, we begin to get a fair idea of the source of some of our troubles."

The Editor: We are all aware that the dollar doesn't buy much anymore. The Lodges and other Masonic Bodies only became aware of this a short time ago. Too late. It's hell to play "catch-up" and even though many Masonic lodges and other bodies have raised dues, the increase only covers the "per capita". This leaves little or nothing to pay the expenses of having a building or paying rent. M.:W.: Smith has more on this subject in the next issue of the Blast.

The Truth Fairy

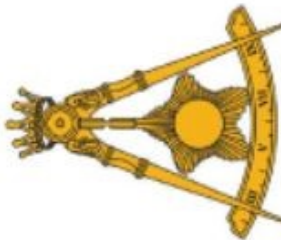
Michele was sobbing. She had a baby tooth pulled the day before, and when she looked under her pillow next morning, she discovered the Tooth Fairy had not left her any tooth money.

Her mother said, "You're a big girl now; you don't still believe in fairies, do you?"

"No," Michele replied, "But I still believe in money."

Energy Crisis Solved

The small boy excitedly told his Dad, "Wow! You should see the new lawn mower the man across the street has. It doesn't need gas or an electric cord or anything to work -- all you have to do is push it."



95 YEARS AGO, IT HAPPENED.

From "The Oklahoma Mason", March, 1929

The Masters of the McAlester Scottish Rite bodies have let the contract for rebuilding the Temple to J. H. Frederickson & Co. of Oklahoma City, and work will soon be underway. Stone and steel, and mill work is being now gotten out for the builders, and construction will begin soon after the spring Reunion which begins May 13, 1929.

A special effort is being made to get a large class for the coming reunion, NOT LESS THAN 500, so the Masters say it is understood that the class will be named ALPHA BUILDING CLASS. The first class held in the present Temple was named Alpha Class, so the new Temple is to be honored by the class being called the ALPHA BUILDING CLASS.

HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

Stephen Woodruff, (S.F.) Lane

Born: March 31, 1860, Mt. Vernon, IL

Died: June 16, 1932, Siloam Springs, AR

Stephen Woodruff Lane first came to the Coalgate area in 1890 when the town was still just a tent city, working as a desk enumerator for the U.S. Govt. Census. After working the Coal County area he made the decision to locate in Indian Territory. And later in 1898 after Coalgate was incorporated, Mr. Lane served as the town's second mayor.

His first employment was with the Perry Brothers Mercantile store in Coalgate. After a couple of years, he made the decision to go into the drug store business. After the establishment of his first drug store, he and Mr. J.L. Bruce opened a 2nd store. referred to as "No. 2" it was located in the small community of Cottonwood. In the years that followed two more stores were opened in Pittsburg and Blanco.

Continued on next page



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

It was during those busy years that he married Miss Harriet A. Shaw from Lehigh. From their marriage came two children, a son , John and a daughter, Mary.

The year 1898 was a busy one for our Brother Lane. He opened his first drug store, got married and started a family and served as the mayor of Coalgate. Later, in 1901, he helped organize the Citizen Bank and Trust of Coalgate and was the banks first vice-president.

Bro. Lane was an active Freemason. When the first Masonic Lodge was created in Coalgate, he served as its Worshipful Master. In 1901, he was in the first class of the Scottish Rite Masons at McAlester Lodge of Perfection. He completed his Scottish Rite degrees later and must have been active. In 1919 he received the 33rd Degree Honorary Inspector General in ceremonies at Washington, DC. His was member of the Mystic Shrine at the Bedouin Shrine Temple in Muskogee.

Bro. Lane operated his drug store business until 1929 when he moved the family to Siloam Springs, Ark. where he died on June 16, 1932. Mrs. Lane died in Tulsa on June 12, 1946 and is buried at Siloam Springs.

(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 and Dogma

Don Jones, 33° Editor

