



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**March 1, 2025**

**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

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter,  
OKC 11:00 AM McClintocks, Stockyards

### 2nd Monday of the Month

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,  
Meeting at 7:00 pm

### 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple Noon

### 5th Thursday of the Month

McIntosh Chapter Scottish Rite  
6:00 pm Lake Country Dinner

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  
Phillip Johnson, 33°, Member  
Harrison Bartlett, 33° Member  
Chris Botts, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master  
Ron Gregg, Sr, 32° KCCH, Wise Master  
Brian Engleman, 32° KCCH, Commander  
Craig Smith, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED**

Bro. Mike Wright, KCCH was appointed to the position of Membership Chairman for the Valley of McAlester at the Advisory Conference meeting on February 27, 2025. We congratulate Bro. Wright for his new appointment.



Following his becoming a Master of the Royal Secret, Bro. Wright has been a very active Scottish Rite brother. He has served as a Class Director, Past commander of the Council of Kadosh and is an active participant in several of the Scottish Rite degrees. He is a member of the Knights of St. Andrew and the Royal Order of the Duck.

Bro. Wright is a member of Valley Lodge No. 6 of Pauls Valley and a plural member of Wynnewood Lodge and Veritas Lodge (a traditional observance lodge).

He served in the Grand Lodge line as the Grand Marshall during M.:W.: John Carter's year as Grand Master.

Also a member of the York Rite, Bro. Wright is currently an elected Grand officer in the Grand Chapter and Grand Council. He also has worked in several of the York Rite degrees and has served the Norman Commandery in the Senior Warden post.

We appreciate Bro. Wright taking on this responsibility and if we can ever be of help, just let us know.

## **McALESTER SPRING REUNION April 12 - 13, 2025**

In just six weeks the spring reunion will be here. Time to dust off the scripts and review or memorize parts. Then practices need to be scheduled. And much more to be done.

However, the first requirement for a Scottish Rite reunion is **CANDIDATES!** YOU HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE, "Somewhere you know a Master Mason who is wondering about the Scottish Rite." Don't disappoint him. Converse and inform him about the Rite.

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

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

[Online Petition](#)

**Or scan this QR Code**



**Upcoming Reunions:**

**2025**

**April 12-13**

**October 11-12**

**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](#)

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, reach out for help immediately by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988; you can also text HOME to 741741 to access the Crisis Text Line. This service is available 24/7 and can connect you with a trained crisis counselor who can provide support and guidance

## **TALKING POINTS FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES**

**"Master Masons need the Scottish Rite."**

Masonry is mystical and as such is satisfying to the spiritual hunger and thirst of man. In the Blue Lodge degrees, our spirits and minds were stirred as we sought more and more light. There is, however, a hungering and a thirsting for more of what we received in the Blue Lodge.

It is impossible to explain the satisfaction which comes to the spirit and mind of a Master Mason when he receives the Degrees of the Rite. The Scottish Rite appeals to the finest of the spirit, deeply philosophical and the degrees fill the mind with lofty thoughts and pure ideals of holy ambition.

### **More Talking Points**

**How does the Scottish Rite impart Its Teachings?**

The Degrees of the Scottish Rite are grouped into 4 classifications. The Ineffable Degrees, including the 4th through the 14th, are conferred in the Lodge of Perfection and relate to the Temple Jerusalem and to legends familiar to all Masons. The Historical and Religious Degrees, comprising the 15th through the 18th Degrees, are covered in the Chapter of Rose Croix. The Philosophical and Chivalric Degrees consisting of the 19th through the 30th Degrees, expound the chivalric teaching of knighthood and the truths of philosophy, and are conferred in the Council of Knights Kadosh. The pageantry of the Degrees reaches its climax in the Consistory Degrees, the 31st and 32nd. The last two Degrees are ceremonial and official. The last Degrees of the Scottish Rite present the wisdom of the ages.

### **More Talking Points:**

**What are the Scottish Rite Degrees?**

All of the Scottish Rite Degrees are thought provoking; not presented for the purpose of entertainment --- to fill the eyes with color and theater while pleasant sounding dialogue-- but are presented for their lessons, profound lessons which knowledge can be gained. It will be discovered that each degree presents different sidelights or stepping stones, that make for human betterment and as near an approach to perfection as possible.

In the study of Freemasonry, we find as we delve into its mysteries, analyze its precepts and dip far beneath the surface for hidden truths of the Craft that the Rite supplies the only way to become proficient and attain the high degree of Masonic understanding that should be the

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## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

**Thur., Mar. 6**, 11:00am; Luncheon  
OKC Scottish Rite luncheon  
McClintock's Chop House 2229 Exchange Ave., OKC  
Good food; Fellowship

**Mon., Mar. 10**; 7:00pm, stated mtg  
McAlester Lodge of Perfection  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center  
Richards Room; use west door  
All members are welcome



**Wed., Mar. 12**; Birthday  
Bro. Albert Mackey was born on this day in 1807.  
Past Grand Secretary of the Supreme Council.

**Fri., Mar. 14**, 6:30 pm; Ladies Bingo  
Ladies Bingo Night at the India Shrine Center, OKC  
host: Central Okla. Scottish Rite  
Dinner & bingo cards - \$15

**Tue., Mar. 18**; Anniversary  
Order of DeMolay was founded on this date in 1919.

**Wed., Mar. 19**; Luncheon  
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter  
Muskogee Masonic Lodge  
Basement Dining Room Use South door, please.

**Sat., Mar. 29**; National Holiday  
Vietnam War Veterans Day

**Sat.-Sun., April 12,13**; Reunion  
McAlester Scottish Rite Spring Reunion  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center  
Mark your calendars;  
Bring a Master Mason candidate  
Meet old friends; Make new friends.



**More Talking Points:**(Continued from Page 2)

goal of every Craftsman. In this way we are improving ourselves daily, ever learning some new feature of Freemasonry and marveling at its seemingly limitless scope. It matters not so much the amount of ritual work we witness during the various Scottish Rite classes, but rather it is the truths, philosophies and light we have absorbed retained as permanent fixtures in our mental storehouse that count.

The degree teams, the stage and wardrobe workers, the various committees, and the Service organizations all render voluntary service and strive to make all Reunions successful in every way.

**VALLEY DEGREE TEAMS**

**Secret Master....4th Degree**

Lone Grove Team  
John Carter, KCCH... Director

Justin Nipps.....Master of Ceremonies  
Charles Cook.....Master of Ceremonies  
David Tennison, 33° ...Venerable Master  
R. Joe Kirkpatrick.....Adoniram  
Will Warden.....Orator



***"Inflexible as Fate"***  
***"Exacting as Necessity"***  
***"Imperative as Destiny"***

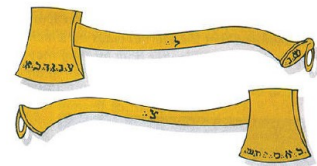
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



**THE 22nd DEGREE**  
**Knight of the Royal Axe**  
**Prince of Libanus (Lebanon)**



In this degree the time is during the Middle Ages and the Candidate is dressed as a Prussian Knight. Early in the Crusades, the Knights had learned about a small Islamic sect called the Druse.

In the ritual of the degree, we learn that the Druses sect was founded in Rome around 1,000 A.D. The doctrines of the small sect came from an amalgamation of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Gnosticism.

This degree explains that the Druses perpetuated an institution originating in Rome about 700 B.C. called Colleges of Artificers which are simply described as operative groups of artisans much as carpenters or goldsmiths. Parallels between these Colleges and Freemasonry exist which have caused some scholars to trace the roots of Masonry to them.

**DUTIES**

Respect labor for its own sake, and do work.

**LESSONS**

Work is the mission of man.

**FOR REFLECTION**

If one finds for himself esteem in his labors, does the prestige associated with his labors matter?

Masonry seeks to ennoble common life. Its work is to go down into the obscure and unsearched records of daily conduct and feeling; and to portray, not the ordinary virtue of an extraordinary life; but the more extraordinary virtue of ordinary life. What is done and borne in the shades of privacy, in the hard and beaten path of daily care and toil, full of uncelebrated sacrifices; in the suffering, and sometimes insulted suffering, that wears to the world a cheerful brow; in the long strife of the spirit, resisting pain, penury, and neglect, carried on in the inmost depths of the heart;—what is done, and borne, and wrought, and won there, is a higher glory and shall inherit a brighter crown.

from "A Bridge to Light"

## HOW OLD IS FREEMASONRY?

Conventional wisdom dates the foundation of Freemasonry to 1717, when the first Grand Lodge was established in England—but that lodge was founded to govern Masonic lodges that were already in operation. The roots of the order go back at least to the late 16th century when a prominent Scottish stonemason named William Schaw, who oversaw the construction of the country's palaces and other royal buildings, issued the first of a series of professional and personal guidelines for stonemasons, including a call to "be true to one another and live charitably together as becometh sworn brethren and companions of the Craft." His guidelines, known as the Schaw Statutes, inspired the organizational structure and code of conduct that would come to define the Freemasons. The oldest existing Masonic lodge (that we know about) was established in Edinburgh around the turn of the century, with minutes dating back to January 1599.



### **HISTORY: "Giants of the McAlester Consistory"**

**Rev. W. Mark Sexson, 33°**

#### **"The Creation of the Order of Rainbow"**

One evening in the spring of `1922, Rev. Sexson had been asked to make an address before the South McAlester Chapter No. 149, Eastern Star. As the DeMolay (for boys) had come under his study and observation during his Masonic activities, he became more and more conscious of the fact that an Order for girls was needed. Principally an Order setting forth some of the truths of Masonry would be necessary. So, in his address, he made a stirring appeal for such an organization. Immediately following his address, Worthy Matron, Mrs. Sarah Church, stated, "We would start it if we had someone to write the ceremony of Initiation." Bro. Rev. Sexson said, "I will write the Ritual." The next day, he wrote the Ritual, giving it the name, "Order of the Rainbow for Girls." He dictated it to the Church (First Christian Church) stenographer, Mrs. Helen Ambrose. He asked the officers of the South McAlester Chapter, Eastern Star, to exemplify the work and furnished them typewritten copies of the Ritual.

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

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

The first degrees were exemplified on a class of 171 girls on April 6, 1922, by the officers of the South McAlester Chapter, O.E.S., in the auditorium of the McAlester Scottish Rite Temple.

The Supreme governing body was formed by Bro. Sexson in June, 1922. He wrote the law governing the Supreme body as well as the law governing the Subordinate Assemblies. At the formation of this Supreme Body, Bro. Sexson was made the first Supreme Recorder. Later he was given the title, Supreme Worthy Advisor, Emeritus.

In recognition of his achievements, Bro. Sexson was nominated and inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in the "Class of 41."

Bro. Sexson passed away in a McAlester hospital, following a long illness. He was buried in the Masonic Section of the Oak Hill Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

(from the I.O.R.G. web site)

***"It is the individual who is not interested in his fellow men who has the greatest difficulties in life and provides the greatest injury to others. It is from among such individuals that all human failures spring."***

***Albert Adle, psychologist***

**Don Jones, 33° Editor**

