



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**March 1, 2023**

**Editor : Don Jones, 33°**

**TIME FOR THE "SPRING" REUNION IS CLOSE,  
Check your Calendars"**

**Saturday & Sunday  
April 1st and 2nd, 2023  
Valley of McAlester**

Things you may need to know:

**A. Candidates** -- Please have your blue lodge dues card available for Registration. Petitions for the Scottish Rite Degrees at McAlester may be obtained from a Scottish Rite Mason, the Temple office at McAlester, (918 423-6360), or downloaded from the Valley's web site.

Degree fee is \$175. The fee must be accompanied with a completed petition. The fee may be paid with cash, check, money order or credit card. Partial payment of \$100 may be paid with submission of petitions and balance paid at registration.

A dormitory is provided for Candidates and Members for \$5 per night. Candidates make arrangements with Temple office for motel vouchers.

**B. Top Line Signers** - Please accompany your Candidates to the Reunion. Please see that petitions are sent to the Temple office prior to the Reunion., if possible. Petitions in the Temple office will reward the Candidate with an attractive 32nd Degree lapel pin.

**C. Perpetual Memberships** -- May be purchased during the Reunion at the Temple office.

**D. Members & Guests Registration**, will be conducted at the Registration Desk in the Front Lobby. near the east door. Please have your current Scottish Rite dues cards ready.

A Schedule of Degrees will be available at the Registration Desk.



**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

Stephen Gragg, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

John Cunningham 32°, KCCH, Wise Master

Rodney Ryder, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Bobby Peters 33°, Master of Kadosh

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

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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

**VALLEY OFFICERS FOR 2023  
INSTALLED AT FEBRUARY MEETING.**

**New Masters:**

Lodge of Perfection: Stephen Gragg, Venerable Master  
Chapter of Rose Croix: John Cunningham, Wise Master  
Council of Kadosh: Rodney Ryder, Commander  
McAlester Consistory; Bobby Peters, Master of Kadosh

**Newest Appointive Officers:**

Lodge of Perfection: David Pollock, Tiler  
Chapter of Rose Croix: Ray Coker, Tiler  
Council of Kadosh: Michael Krug, Sentinel  
McAlester Consistory: Stephen Dawson, Tiler

Other Elected Officers: Orator, Robert Padgett; Almoner, Bill Erwin; Treasurer, Shaun Callahan; Secretary, Michael Ebert; Building Chairman, Jack Inman

The Masters will serve one year on the Sovereign Grand Inspector's General Advisory Conference and are the representatives of the Craft. They will also be responsible for opening the Body of which they are master during Reunions and at all meetings of the Body.

The current Appointive Officers move up one position. Their duties of office are given to them at the Installation

**V. M. A. P.**

**# 1..Membership Recruitment!!!**

Over the past few issues we have covered 9 of the 10 parameters of the Program (in reverse order). We are now at No. ONE!

There are no rules for No. 1. YOU know what is needed.

SO LET'S GO TO WORK & DO IT NOW!!

**YOUNG AGAIN**

--- I walked into a music store to buy a CD of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. I found the hip-hop, R&B, country and jazz sections but no area where I might look for Rachmaninoff.

Excuse me. I said to a young store clerk. "Do you have a classical section?"

After a brief hesitation, she asked, "You mean, ...like Elvis?"



## SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY



**Weekly, Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.**  
Social Hour at the McAlester Temple  
Free coffee and rolls or donuts.  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center  
Masons and friends welcome  
Use south door.



**Thur., Mar. 2;** Scottish Rite Luncheon, OKC  
Meeting - 10:30 a.m.  
Luncheon - 11:15 a.m.  
Golden Corral, I-40 & MacArthur, OKC  
All Masons welcome  
Join us for good food, fellowship  
and, perhaps, Masonic education.

**Sun. Mar. 12,** Birthday  
Albert Mackey born on this  
date in 1807. Served on the  
Supreme Council as Grand Secretary  
during Albert Pike's tenure.  
Author of the "Mackey's Encyclopedia".

**Mon., Mar. 13;** 7:30 pm, stated mtg.  
Lodge of Perfection; McAlester  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center  
Use west door.

**Wed., Mar. 15,** 12 noon, Luncheon  
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter  
Dining Room of the Masonic Temple  
Basement; use the south door.

**Sat., Mar. 18;** DeMolay founded  
Order of DeMolay founded on this  
date in 1919.  
(see article in this issue)

**Sat.-Sun., April 1-2;** Spring Reunion  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center  
McAlester, Okla.

## DEMOLAY CELEBRATES 104 YEARS IN MARCH, 2023

The Order of DeMolay was founded March 18, 1919 by Frank S. Land in Kansas City, Missouri. The headquarters for DeMolay International remains in Kansas City.

The Order of DeMolay is a Masonic organization whose principles are committed to developing and inspiring leadership, team building, and networking for young men between the ages of 12 to 21. Through tried and true methods of teamwork, membership and leadership development, and community engagement, our members stand out against the rest.



The road begins here. For more than 100 years, the DeMolay has helped boys become men of outstanding character through dedicated mentorship and its life skills program.

### YOUNG AGAIN Continued

---- Man, times have officially changed since I was a kid. I was at the mall with my daughter when we saw a man with a patch over his eye. My daughter said to me, "What is he trying to quit?"

( think about it )

---- There was no way I was going to allow my hair to go gray while only in my 30s. So I dyed my hair. Later, I modeled the new look for my husband. "Well, do I look 5 years younger?" i asked.

"No," he said. "But your hair does."

---- A guy sees a beautiful woman at the other end of the bar. He walks up to her and says, "Where have you been all my life?"

"Well," she says, "for the first half of it, I wasn't even born."



## THE DECLINE OF FELLOWSHIP by Dwight Smith, PGM; Indiana

Pisgah Lodge at Corydon, was less than a month old, when the time came for celebrating the Feast of St. John the Baptist in 1817. There was every reason for dispensing with the observance -- the lodge was small, little or no money was to be had, and no doubt it was a busy time for the Brethren, for there were forests to be cleared.

But the minutes tell us that a tiny handful of Freemasons assembled and marched to the court house to hear an oration, "after which in proper order the members and visiting Brethren marched in procession to Me. Boon's and partook a dinner prepared according to arrangement."

Yellowed records of any Lodge a century old and more will describe similar events at which the fine old tradition of the Masonic Feast was kept alive in spite of hardships on the Hoosier frontier. And if the faithful Secretary went on to record the amount spent for a jug of whiskey with which to gladden the occasion, we chuckled indulgently and explain to ourselves rather weakly that times were different then.

\*\*\*\* Times certainly were different. And I am not at all convinced that in the area of Masonic fellowship change has been for the better.\*\*\*

(Question: Do we pay enough attention to the Festive Board?)

### I am Ready for My Last Degree

*An old man lay sick in the Masonic State Home  
His face was as white as the White Sea foam.  
His eyes were dim; his hair was gray.  
His back was bent with the toils of the way.  
He unflatteringly spoke, and I heard him say,  
I'm ready for my last degree.*

*I've come to the end of that level of time  
That leads us all on to that Grand Lodge sublime.  
From whose sacred form none ever returns.  
More light in Masonry there I shall learn  
By an altar where light ever more burns  
I'm ready for my last degree. (continued on next page)*



## I am Ready for My Last Degree

(Continued)

*With the apprentice's gauge I divided my time  
And this I have found amidst life's' great turmoil:  
Time for work, for worship and rest from my toil  
My wages are due in corn, wine and oil-  
I'm ready for my last degree.*



*Each day from life's quarries I've hewn out a stone,  
With the gavel I've shaped them each one alone  
And shipped them alone beyond that bright strand  
To build me a house in that bright better land.  
A spiritual house not made by hands-  
I'm ready for my last degree.*



*I've squared each stone by the virtue square  
And plumbed them all true as I shipped them there.  
With the compass, I've measured the Master's Designs  
And kept in the due bounds with his points and his lines.  
My blueprints are folded-I've answer his signs  
I'm ready for my last degree.*



*A few moments later the old man was dead  
And I fancy I could see his soul as it fled  
Upward and onward to that great door where he gave  
his alarm  
And a voice did implore  
The old man made answer with these words once more:  
I'm ready for my last degree.*



*That night in a lodge free from strife and from storm  
He took his last Degree-his last in due form  
So may I live as to build day by day  
A spiritual house in that land far away  
So when I meet my Grand Master I can say,  
I'm ready for my last degree.*

Author Unknown

## HISTORY: RE-BUILDING THE TEMPLE

(continued)

### "Enters the Scarabeus"

The north and south sides of these towers have been ornamented each with a huge bug, representing the beetle held sacred by the Egyptians. They are the scarabeus or scarabs and are yet found on old Egyptian gems, coins, mummies, obelisks and works of art. The appearance and rapid multiplication of these beetles in the mud left by the subsistence of the Nile gave rise to the belief in their spontaneous generation, and they became the symbol of creation and creative power. In their circular shape and the bright golden tint of their wing case they were thought to resemble the shape and luster of the sun, and they were taken to be one of the forms under which the sun-god appeared. Accordingly, scarabs were cut in stones and employed as seals and amulets. They were bored through their length so that they could be strung like beads, and easily worn on the person. After the commingling of the Egyptians with other races, Gnostics and Christians interpreted the meaning of these gems with their own religious systems. Those of the most ancient period, such as are found on mummies are inscribed with the names of the Kings held in highest veneration., "Thutmose II, and Amorphis III," and frequently with some hieroglyphic symbol. The larger of those have some short religious or historic inscription on their underside.

to be continued

***"Everyone has a plan, until they're punched in the mouth."***

***Mike Tyson, pro boxer***

**Editor Don Jones 33°**

