



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

Newsletter Date

March 17, 2020

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

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

The Orient of Oklahoma has cancelled the Spring Reunions of the Valleys of Guthrie, McAlester and Tulsa in 2020.

Please inform your Brethren about the decision of the S.G.I.G. and the Valley Secretaries. See the SGIG's notice on the [McAlester Scottish Rite Facebook page](#).

Brethren, the demographic of the Oklahoma Scottish Rite membership has the group that is more susceptible to the COVID-19 flu disease. So, please take the precautions provided by the media and health care professionals.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma sent out a letter on March 14th in which Most Worshipful Bob Peters, 33°, summarized the recommended precautions and steps to take. Please read it carefully. **\*\* See last page of this newsletter for Important Update.\*\***

Other Masonic groups in Oklahoma are currently discussing either the cancellation or postponement of their regional and state-wide meetings

Future Blasts will inform you of these actions as they become known.

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

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:

**2020**  
**October 10-11**

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](#)

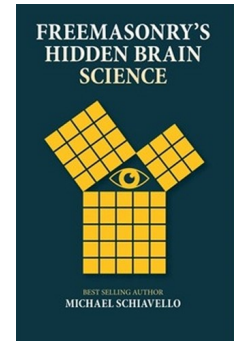
[Scottish Rite, Valley of Tulsa](#)

[Scottish Rite Research Society](#)

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## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

*"Freemasonry's Hidden Brain Science,"*  
by Michael Schiavello



This is a most fascinating book in that it presents the concept of God's, Solomon's Temple, Masonic ritual and symbolism using a variety of numerical, psychological, physiological, and metaphysical interpretations. I don't necessary agree with everything the author espouses, but his ideas do make for interesting reading and are thought-provoking.

Book should be available on-line. Even its cover arouses the curious.

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### **HOW I READ A BOOK**

"When I buy a new book, I read the last page first. That way, in case I die before I finish, I know how it ends."

Billy Crystal

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### **Modern Age**

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. That fly didn't stand a chance.

Share this link below with your friends who have questions about Freemasonry

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



# VALLEY ACTIVITIES



**Notice!!** Just received an e-mail from John Salisbury, 33°, the OKC membership chairman. The 1st Thursday luncheon of the McAlester OKC members has been CANCELLED. Please pass along to the Brethren.

In regard to the monthly meetings as listed on the right side of the front page of the Blast, check with your local officers for any cancellations.

Well, the sun still comes up and the earth keeps spinning. Perhaps you may spend the extra time at home to read one of those books on Masonry that you have intended to read.

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## INSPECTOR INQUISITOR the 31st DEGREE



Now that we have a degree team, (the degree is tentatively scheduled for the fall reunion), just what is it about the degree that causes the "old-timers" look forward to seeing it.

The 31st is a representation of the ancient Egyptian Court of the Dead where all souls are judged before entering the Underworld. (Characters in the degree are depicted in the artwork on the auditorium columns).

The central theme of the degree is Justice. To be a free, a Mason must begin by passing judgement on himself. The Candidate presents himself for the examination. The class participate in the examination also.

Be cautious, Brethren, and respond truthfully.



## SUGGESTED READING.

*"On the Level; Breaking Bread Together,"*

Article in latest S.R. Journal, by by Roger Himmel, 32nd.

About Brother Mason Rudyard Kipling. Kipling, poet, novelist, reporter and past Secretary of the Hope and Perseverance Lodge in present-day Pakistan.

Two of Bro. Kipling's books have been made into movies. "The Jungle Book," and of most interest to Masons, "The Man Who Would be King". (a story of two British Masons with high ambitions.)

Bro. Kipling was not just a dues-paying Mason. He lived Masonry and promoted the fraternity; See [page 8, March-April issue](#)

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## THE 24 RULE

The 24-inch gauge is the first symbolic tool given to an Entered Apprentice. It resembles a ruler that is divided into 3 sections of 8 inches each.

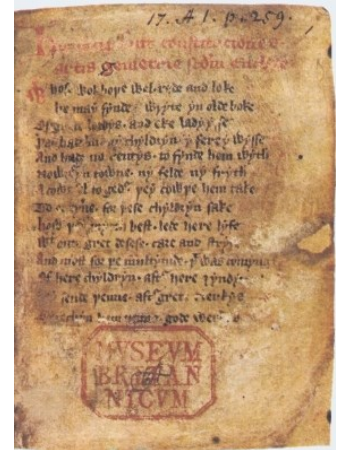
Working stonemasons would have used such a gauge to measure their work, but Freemasons see the 24-inch gauge as a symbol of how to measure the 24 hours of a day.-8 hours of devotion to God and service of others, 8 hours for work, and 8 hours for rest.

Masons -- what is the other tool and its use?



## THE OLDEST MASONIC DOCUMENT

The Regius Manuscript is recognized as the oldest Masonic Document in existence. Written in Middle English, it is an epic poem that is estimated to date from 1390. According to tradition, the Regius Manuscript describes the origins and rules of Freemasonry (although why this would have been documented in a 794 - line poem is anyone's guess).



James Halliwell-Phillips, a mathematician, and Shakespeare scholar, found and translated the manuscript in 1839-1840.

Today it is one of the many Masonic documents in the collection of the British Library in London.

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### HISTORY (continued)

CONVENTION: Indian territory Grand Lodge

The Masonic Lodge of Caddo, I.T. was housed in a small framed "business" block. There was but one street, which ran parallel to the railroad so the buildings faced the street, and the rails.

A freight train engine puffed and wheezed its way up & down the track, switching freight cars back & forth. The street was full of wagons either loaded or unloaded while teams of horses waited patiently. It was a busy scene that greeted two men as they rode down the street.

Continued on next page



## **HISTORY** (CONTINUED)

### **INDIAN TERRITORY GRAND LODGE**

The travelers dismounted at one of the hitching rails, They walked to the nearest café and ate breakfast. Then they asked directions to the Masonic Lodge and headed that way. It was plain to see that by his clothing, one man was a minister, and his companion was a tall, distinguished looking fellow.

Rev. H.E. Buckner, minister and George W. Stidham, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Creek Nation had arrived. It had taken 2 days and a night to ride to Caddo from Eufaula and they were there to attend a Convention of the Lodges of Indian Territory. The Convention had been called by Granville McPherson, editor of the Caddo Star and W.M. of Caddo Lodge #31. Judge Stidham was W.M. of Muscogee Lodge #90 and Rev. Buckner held the proxy of the J.W. of the Muscogee Lodge.

Finding the Lodge door locked, Buckner & Stidham walked to the newspaper office. There, over coffee, they met William Byrd and Augustus Hopping, both from Doaksville. The five men (they were joined by McPherson) walked down to the Lodge. There they met Brothers John Jones, S.W. of Caddo and C.M. Beck, J.W. of Caddo.

At Stidham's suggestion, McPherson called the meeting to order and Rev. Buckner gave the prayer.  
to be continued.

Grand Lodge Formation:  
to be continued.

Source: "History of Freemasonry in Oklahoma"  
Prepared by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch  
Masons of Oklahoma.

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***"The most important advice that I can give is to plan to live a long life."  
Suze Orman, Financial Addvvisor***

*Editor Don Jones 33°*





The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Oklahoma  
[www.gloklahoma.com](http://www.gloklahoma.com)



Grand Master

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March 17, 2020

To all Subordinate Lodges, Appendant and Affiliated Masonic Bodies of the State of Oklahoma.

As I said in my letter of March 14, things are changing quickly! The CDC has issued new recommendations as of today, to limit all gatherings to 10 people or fewer.

Therefore, effective immediately, March 17, 2020, I am cancelling all Masonic and Masonic related meetings and functions until April 10, 2020, at which time we will re-evaluate the situation and follow the guidelines of the CDC at that time. Please understand that this decision was made taking into consideration the seriousness of the virus and all of the scheduling this will affect. The lodge's normal bill paying i.e. :( electric, gas, water and any monthly recurring bills) can be done with the approval of the Worshipful Master.

Also, for the safety and well-being of our Grand Lodge staff, the Grand Lodge office and the Museum and Library will be closed to visitors.

God Bless each of you and God Bless our Fraternity.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail

Bobby J. Peters  
Grand Master