



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

March 17 2025

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

FIFTY YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



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

A total of forty-six Brethren will be receiving 50 Year Membership Awards this year. Ten of the brethren will be present at a special ceremony on Friday, April 11th to be given their awards by the S.G.I.G., Bro. Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°.

The award recipients have demonstrated a 50-year commitment to the principles of the Scottish Rite as Masters of the Royal Secret, 32° Degree. In recognizing their length of membership, we also honor their adherence to the duties which were sworn to be followed at the altars of the Rite.

The ten brothers who will be attending the awards ceremony at the temple before the reunion are as follows:

Bobby W. Blalock, 32°	Ronald D. Britt, 32°
Thomas R. Galbraith, 33°	Ray C. Jordan, 32°
Gary B. Maddux, 32°	Marcial Y. Mitchell, 33°
Janes E. Morgan, 32°	Russell C. Owen, 32°
Dall R. Peoples, 32°	Edward L. Smith, 32°

The recipients not able to attend the ceremony are:

Clay L. Adams, 32°	William R. Cash, Jr., 32°	Dwayne D. Elmore, 32°
Travis D. Hackney, 32°	Richard Hanks, 32°	David W Hardt, 32°
Dannie L. Hardin, 32°	Terry M. Harrison, Sr.,32°	Carl L. Heflin, 32°
Jack G. Holderfield, 32°	Kenneth R. House, 33°	David O. King, 32°
Abel C. Lackey, 32°	Ronald S. Marly, 32°	Daryl K. McCall, 32°
Harry L. McRee, 32°	Richard E. Miller, 32°	Warren N. Reames, 32°
Martin L. Redwine, Jr., 32°	Roy L. Sellers, 32°	Floyd K. Smith, 32°
Danny L. Thomas, 32°	John A. Titsworth,32°	Ronald K. Washer,32°
George W. Willingham,32°		

Congratulations Brethren and "thank you" for your commitment to Masonry.

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

MEMBERSHIP WORKERS

What does your Candidate get for his degree fee?

- The 4th through 32nd Degrees
- The current years dues card
- A 14th Degree ring pyramid paperweight.
- An 18th Degree lapel pin
- The bi-monthly Scottish Rite Journal.
- Meals at the Temple are no charge.
- The Degree fee may be applied towards the purchase of a Perpetual Endowed Membership if purchased during the Reunion.
- Book, "A Bridge to Light."

What else does their membership offer?

- Access to the latest publications of Masonic books.
- Access to Scottish Rite Leadership Conference.
- The Scottish Rite Research Society.
- The best Masonic speakers at Scottish Rite meetings.
- Participation in the Scottish Rite Reunions as a "Duck", a Knight of St. Andrew, "Chain Gang", Lion of Judah and/or degree work.

The reward of membership is "participation".

(The Spring Reunion degree schedule is attached to the end of this issue of "the Blast")

TO A BROTHER

*Let not the greatness of the lofty scheme
Induce thee - brother by a mystic tie -
To turn aside now, and unwisely deem
That the great triumph doth beyond thee lie.
Assisted by that Light, whose fervid beam
Receives its luster from Eternal Truth
Thou may'st quaff deeply of that crystal stream,
Whose living waters yield immortal youth
And thus endowed with superhuman might,
In life and action prove thy calling LIGHT.*

COME TO REUNION; BRING A CANDIDATE!

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Wed., Mar. 19; S.R. Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Muskogee Blue Lodge dining room
basement level, please use
the south door.
All Masons & guests welcome

Sat./Sun Mar 22-23
Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunion

Sat. Mar. 29; National Holiday
National Vietnam Veteran Day

Thur., April 3, 11:00 am; Luncheon
1st Thursday S. R. Luncheon
McClintock's Chop House,
2229 Exchange Ave. OKC
Our attendance is growing!
Join us for good food & fellowship
Reunion Candidates meals free.
Let's get acquainted.
John Salisbury, 33° Chairman.

Fri, Sat, Sun April 4,5 & 6
Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion

Fri., April 11; Reunion Activities
50 Yr. membership Awards
p.m. Ducks dinner & meeting

Sat./Sun., April 12-13
McAlester Scottish Rite Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Center
Call the Temple Office for
more info. 918-423-6360
Mon.-Thur. 8:00-4:00



DEGREE TEAMS

The 14th Degree; Perfect Elu

Oklahoma City Team

Director.....Bryan Pumphrey, KCCH
Asst. Director...Harrison Bartlett, 33°
Expert.....Craig Smith, KCCH
M. of C.....Kenneth Simond, 32°
Sr. Warden.....Robert Ramer, 32°
Orator.....Kyle Ramer, 32°
High Priest.....Bryan Pumphrey, KCCH
Supernumerary....Moses
Supernumerary....Asst. Expert



"Soldier of Justice, Right and Truth."

This Degree is the last of the Lodge of Perfection, and we have reached the point where each individual Mason must discover the secret of Masonry for himself. This can be done only upon reflection of its symbols, and a wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in the work. Perfect Truth is unattainable, yet we must ever press on, more nearly approaching it. We receive as much of the Divine Light as we are capable of understanding. God has arranged His great purpose so that each man has a work to do, a duty to perform to help in the progress of the great plan for enlightenment and growth. The Mason believes that the sorrows and trials of this life are a part of the plan of God designed to purify and strengthen our souls. Surely a wise and merciful God would not send these things upon His children without some ultimate good resulting. On this life depends our future well-being, and we should so live that death will have no terror for us, but will only be a release from the earth to spiritual realms above.



The 31st Degree INSPECTOR INQUISITOR



In many of the previous degrees and particularly in "Morals and Dogma", references to classic Egyptian religion and philosophy are made, but its only here that we see the elaborate costuming and furnishings from this heritage. The leading feature of the Egyptian religion was its emphasis on eternal existence., reflected clearly in the majestic pyramids, mummification and numerous talismans.

DUTIES:

Judge yourself in the same light as you judge others. Consider both actions and motives.

LESSONS:

The good man is able to portray himself and his actions positively and not simply assert the absence and wrong in his life.

Justice and mercy are two opposites which unite in the great harmony of equity.

To aim at the best but be content with the best possible is wisdom.

FOR REFLECTION:

Is the man a thief who steals a loaf of bread for his hungry children?

This Degree takes place in a re-creation of the Court of the Dead in Egyptian mythology, a place where judgement is rendered on the worthiness of a recently deceased man to enter into the kingdom of the gods. It relies heavily on "The Book of the Dead."

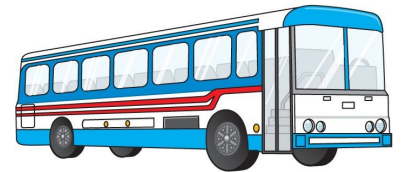
(from "A Bridge to Light")

*Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish,
freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights
to all people everywhere our ultimate goal. —Scottish Rite Creed*



THE TEST

Author: Unknown



Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

Good men search for Freemasonry; Freemasonry makes them better.



HISTORY: "Giants of McAlester Consistory"

III. William Busby, 33°, S.G.I.G. in Oklahoma

Printed in the Davis News on Sept. 25, 1913 at Davis, Oklahoma

"Col. Busby Dies at McAlester"

Col. Wm. Busby, one of the most widely known men of the State died at his home in McAlester Tuesday morning, following a protracted suffering from diabetes. The body will be sent to Parsons, Kansas, for burial.

Col. Busby, who was 59 years old, was a wealthy coal man and public benefactor. He built and owned the Busby hotel and the Busby theater, structures costing \$200,000 and \$150,000 respectively; established the Choctaw Railway and Lighting plant, of which he was president at the time of his death; secured for McAlester its new Carnegie library, now under construction; and was the moving spirit in the construction of the McAlester Masonic temple, said to be the finest structure in the possession of Oklahoma Masonry. He was a 33rd degree Mason.

The obituary above tells us a little about William Busby and that he spent a lot of money and made a lot of money while he was in the McAlester coal business. But it does not really tell us about Busby, the man.

When a man is referred to as "the Father of modern McAlester" people may wonder who he was and why?

As we go into spring, then summer, we hope to enlighten our brethren about the life of William Busby. He was in McAlester for only 10 years but the town was never the same following his death.

(to be continued)

***"Always keep trying, for success may
not be far away."***

S.G.C. James Cole, 33°

Don Jones, 33° Editor



Valley of McAlester 350th Class Reunion

UPDATED SCHEDULE

April 12-13, 2025

Saturday, April 12, 2025

6:30 AM...Breakfast.....Dining Room
7:00 AM...Candidate Registration.....Main Lobby
Single Class Pictures.....Main Lobby
7:45 AM...Assemble Class.....Class Director
8:00 AM...Opening Ceremony.....Auditorium
9:00 AM...Open Lodge of Perfection.....Venerable Master
9:05 AM...4th Degree.....Lone Grove Team (John Carter)
9:55 AM...5th Degree.....McAlester/Kiowa Team (Mike Sexton)
10:40 AM...7th Degree...(PASSPORT).....7th Degree Team (Orlando "Tito" Rodriguez)
11:25 AM...12th Degree.....Edmond Team (Mike Dixon)
12:00 PM...Lunch.....Dining Room
1:00 PM...14th Degree.....Oklahoma County Team (Bryan Pumphrey)
2:10 PM...Open Chapter Rose Croix.....Wise Master
2:15 PM...16th Degree...(PASSPORT).....Prince of Jerusalem Team (Dewayne Hendricks)
3:05 PM...18th Degree.....Nolan Watson Team (Donnie Higginbotham)
4:30 PM...Approximate Class Dismissal.....Class Director

Sunday, April 13, 2025

6:30 AM...Breakfast.....Dining Room
7:45 AM...Assemble Class.....Class Director
8:00 AM...Open Council of Kadosh.....Commander
8:05 AM...21st Degree...(PASSPORT).....Stigler Team (Sam Box)
9:00 AM...24th Degree.....Shawnee Team (Buck Barfield)
10:50 AM...25th Degree.....Broken Bow Team (Brandon Pope)
11:30 AM...Class Picture.....Larry McManus, KCCH
12:00 PM...Lunch.....Dining Room
1:00 PM...Rose Croix Funeral.....Auditorium (Open to the Public)
1:30 PM...30th Degree.....Shawnee Team (Steve Dawson)
2:40 PM...Open Consistory.....Master of Kadosh
2:45 PM...32nd Degree...(PASSPORT).....Indian Consistory Team (Wade Massey)
4:00 PM...Approximate Class Dismissal.....Class Director