



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

April 24, 2024

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

WELCOME TO THE SCOTTISH RITE!



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

McClintock's Chop House

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

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 Pumpherly 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh



McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies
Thomas S. Crawl, 33° Grand Cross Memorial Reunion
April 13-14, 2024

Left to Right
Row 1: SA Pete Laughlin, 32° (Spring 2023 Class/Tuba Courtesy); Paul A. Madariaga-Class President; N. Wade Massey, 33°-S.G.I.G. Personal Representative; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°-Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Oklahoma; Michael A. Ebert, 33°-General Secretary; Brent L. Smith-Class Vice President; Mark McFadden, KCCH-Director of Work
Row 2: Randy Nestler, 32° (Spring 2023 Class/Tuba Courtesy); Jimmy D. Singleton; Tony E. Logue-Class Secretary; Robert J. Thompson-Class Chaplain; Shawn P. Simon-Class Treasurer; Kody L. Toney-Class Orator
Row 3: Kenneth Givard, Jr., 32°-Class Supervisor; Bryce C. Reading, 32°-Class Supervisor; Justin C. Alexander-Class Historian; William O. Claborn; Randy L. Cornelius; Calvert B. Reading, 32°-Class Supervisor; Kevin Pope, KCCH-Class Director

We offer our congratulations to the ten Master Masons who became Scottish Rite Masons 32°; Master of the Royal Secret; at the McAlester reunion honoring Thomas S. Crawl, 33°, Grand Cross. We hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as your Brethren did in performing them.

At this point I like to express my enthusiasm for the Rite and hope to pass it on. However, there are none that can say it better than our own M.W. Robert G. Davis, 33, Grand Cross; P.G.M. The following is the first paragraph of the "Forward" Bro. Davis wrote for the book "The Bridge Builders Guide," by Kyle G. Ferlemenn.

"One can never have too many resources when it comes to interpreting the lessons imbedded within the degrees of the Scottish Rite. There are so many lessons. The Scottish Rite is not called the college course in Freemasonry because it has imposing temples scattered about the urban landscape. It is an advanced field of Masonic study. There are many lessons to be heard. It is a course in principles and situational ethics, comparative religion, the ancient mysteries, the traditions of manhood, and the psychology of being. Like any other knowledge tradition, the value one gains from its lessons expands dramatically as these are applied in life. The Scottish Rite, more than any other discipline focuses in the nature of freedom: individual, religious, political, and spiritual liberty. The moral, social and spiritual development of the individual is the foundation criteria for freedom. Thus, the importance of the Rite should never be taken for granted."

So Mote It Be

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:

2024

April 13 & 14

October 12-13

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](#)

"THANK YOU" REUNION WORKERS

The Brethren who showed up in McAlester for the Reunion had many decisions to make; before that weekend. Like: "I preferred to go fishing, but it was too windy;" "I would rather have watched the Masters golf;" "I told my kids we would go to Frontier City next weekend;" "I'll mow the lawn Sunday evening;" "and on and on. But they chose to be at the Reunion' working, cussing, hurrahing, visiting, renewing friendships, eating at Pete's and hey! it was fun!

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the stage crews, degree teams, and all the different departments it takes to bring the Scottish Rite message to the candidates.

Special thanks to Bro. Morris Chiles, 33° and the kitchen team. Your work in providing wholesome meals helps keep the energy glowing.

Thanks to the members of the subordinate Bodies of the Valley eg. Ducks, Chain Gang, Knights of St. Andrew, Lions of Judah, and the service departments of the Temple.

It takes all of us to give out candidates the best experience possible. And Brethren, your goals are generally met more often than not.

The next reunion is in October. Plenty of time to correct any mistakes and to refine our product. We already have a good start. Let's finish 2024 at the top!

2023 MEMBERSHIP MAN OF THE YEAR

By obtaining six candidates who completed their Scottish Rite degrees in 2023, Bro. Paul Larcade, 33° is named "Membership Man of the Year, 2023". Larcade is from Muldrow, OK and a member of Bruton Lodge No. 30. When he replaced his father, George Larcade, as the Backstage Director, it meant a "Larcade" had held that job for nearly 50 years. He is also serving as the 2024 Commander of the Council of Kadosh.



Bro. Larcade will be recognized for his accomplishment and receive, from the Lodge of Perfection, a Scottish Rite wrist watch at the fall reunion in October.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Thur. May 2, S. R. Luncheon
McAlester Scottish Rite Chapter
McClintock's Chop House
222 Exchange Ave., OKC
excellent menu; good fellowship
All Masons and friends' welcome!

Mon. May 12; 7:00 pm, stated meeting
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
McAlester S.R. Masonic Center
Richards' Room; west side
Members are welcome.

Wed. May 15; 12 noon, S.R. Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Muskogee Masonic Lodge
Dining Room (basement)
Use the South Door
good food and fellowship

Fri. May 31; Anniversary
The Supreme Council, 33° was
founded on this date in 1801.

October 12-13, 2024 Fall Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Center
Petitions available on web site.

The McAlester Valley's web site has been updated. Check it out for the latest info.

Support Your Blue Lodge

DAD JOKE

Dad: What is the difference between a piano, a tuna, and a pot of glue?

Me: I don't know.

Dad: You can tuna piano but you can't piano a tuna.

Me: What about the pot of glue?

Dad: I knew you'd get stuck on that.



BROTHER EARNS A PERPETUAL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP

Between 2012 and 2022, Bro. Orland Rodriguez, 32° secured 20 candidates who completed the Scottish Rite degrees. For this effort, Bro. Rodriguez received a Perpetual Endowed Membership from the Lodge of Perfection. He is a member of the Apache Lodge No. 223.

The presentation of his certificate and PEM lapel pin was presented by Cherie Hamilton, Office Administrator and witnessed by Donald Jones, 33° and Kish Thomas, 33°.

?? ALPHA CLASS

From: The Oklahoma Mason
W.W. Groom, Secy.

The ninety-nine members of the class taking the degrees of the Scottish Ritein the Valley of McAlester in November 17-24, 1930 named itself THE NEW ALPHA CLASS. This was complimentary to the first class taking the degreestwenty-five years ago.

The number taking the degrees in the Alpha Class 25 years ago was 96, only three less than finished in the New Alpha Class. Thus, the number in both classes is practically the same. In the future they will be designated Old Alpha Class and New Alpha Class. (end quote)

Editor: Okay, the construction of the present Temple was completed and the first class, the New Alpha Class, had 99 candidates. The year 1930 was the first year of the coming "economic depression." Let us go forward one year to the Valley Reunion of 1931.

W.W. Groom, Secy. "The Oklahoma Mason:"

Another reunion has come and gone. In many respects we consider it one of the most successful we have ever had. In numbers it was not large, it is true, but in the spirit manifested by class and members alike it was second to none. end quote

Editor: The class of November, 1931 had 55 candidates. As to Bro. Groom's leading comment, "Been there, said that."

And this was just the first full year of the depression! It would get worse.

Was it worse than our current class sizes? Bro. Groom would really have a dismal outlook if he had only known the future of Freemasonry and what is happening today.



LIFE

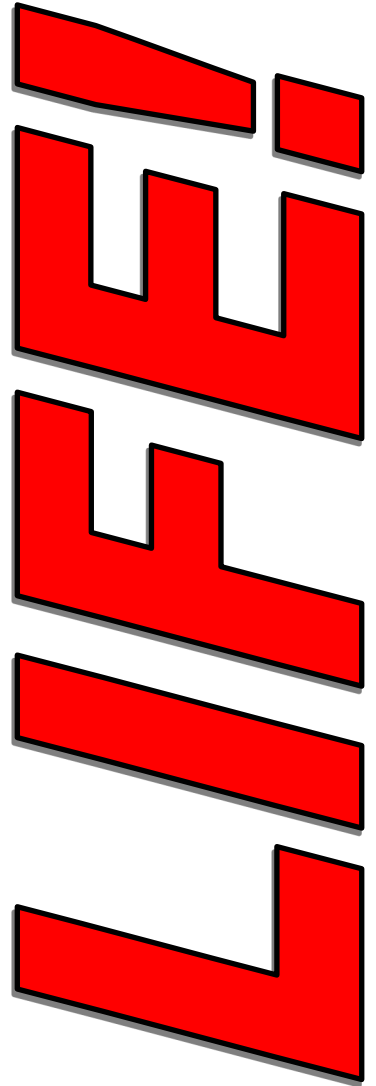
*To the preacher life's a sermon,
To the joker it's a jest;
To the miser it is money,
To the loafer life is rest.
To the lawyer life's a trial,
To the poet life is a song;
To the doctor life's a patient;
That needs treatment right along.*

*To the soldier life is a battle,
To the teacher life is a school;
Life's a good thing to the grapher ----
It's a failure to the fool.
To the man upon the engine
Life's a long and heave grade;
It's a gamble to the gambler,
To the merchant life's a trade.*

*Life's a picture to the artist,
To the rascal life's a fraud;
Life is perhaps is but a burden
To the man beneath the hood.
Life is lovely to the lover,
To the player life's a play,
Life may be a load of trouble
To the man upon the dray.*

*Life is but a long vacation
To the man who loves his work;
Life's an everlasting effort
To shun duty to the shirk.
To the heaven's best romancer
Life's a story ever new;
Life is what we try to make it ---
Brother, what is life to you?*

Humbolt Trestle Board



OKLAHOMA WELL REPRESENTED AT RITE WAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN KANSAS CITY



Oklahoma was well represented at the "Framing the Future" Rite Way Leadership Conference in Kansas City on April 19-20th. Ten Oklahoma Scottish Rite Masons participated including SGIG Joe R. Manning Jr. 33°. Representing the McAlester Valley were General Secretary Mike Ebert, 33°, Personal Representative Wade Massey, 33° and Brother Preston Doerflinger 33° who also serves on the Advisory Conference for Guthrie.

Highlights of the conference included a Keynote Address by Sir Night Jeff Bolstad, 33° R.E. Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, USA and at town hall meeting with Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°.

Of particular interest was getting to hear the experiences of other Orients in the Southern Jurisdiction, what was working for them and what was not. Everyone left feeling it was a worthwhile endeavor.

HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers" of the First Class

Boone Williams

Born: October 9, 1872, Rienzi, Mississippi

Died: January 12, 1930, Vinita, Oklahoma



Boone Williams was born to Benjamin Franklin Williams and Mary, "Mollie", Boone Williams. He must have been a quick learner, because he began his career in politics at the age of ten.

Continued on next page



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

In 1882, at ten years of age, he became a page in the Mississippi Legislature for U. S. Senator Thomas P. Gore. In the meantime, Boon's father had been elected sheriff of Acorn, County, MS and held the office until 1887 when he died. Following his father's death and at the age of 15, Boone was appointed to fill the unexpired term. The court approve his appointment and he succeeded his father as sheriff.

When the term expired, Boone moved to Chattanooga, TN and worked as an abstract officer. Two years later he moved to West Virginia where he took charge of a coal mining company. The year 1893 found Bro. Boone working as a bookkeeper for the J.J. Mercantile in Lehigh, Indian Territory. Once established in Lehigh, he and other prominent men founded one of the first banks in the Choctaw Nation. Later the bank became the First National Bank of Lehigh.

It was after the passage of the leasing act in 1904, that Boone and others began to secure leases from the Creek Nation on the famous Glen Pool land under the name of Indian Territory Oil Co. But Federal authorities did not recognize their claim. Then Boone turned to Ex-Governor of Kansas, Humphrey, to secure leases on zinc land located in Ottawa, County, OK. This project had to be abandoned due to the lack of machinery and the expense of purchasing it.

"There is no doubt that our Brother Boone Williams was ambitious, aggressive and intelligent, but his best years wear still in the future." (The story of Boone Williams will be continued in next issue.)

"Duty is the one great law of Masonry; Inflexible as Fate, Exacting as Necessity, Imperative as Destiny."

4th Degree

Don Jones, 33° Editor

