



# McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



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

**Newsletter Date**

**May 13, 2019**

**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:**

##### **May 13th**

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,  
Meeting at 7:00 pm  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

##### **May 15th**

Muskogee Chapter, Scottish Rite  
Masonic Temple Noon

##### **May 30th**

McIntosh County Chapter  
Belle Star Restaurant 6:30 PM

##### **June 5th**

Duncan Scottish Rite Chapter, 11:30 AM,  
Jimmie's Egg, Duncan  
Comanche County SR Chapter dinner mtg.,  
Salsa Mexican Cafe, Lawton

##### **June 6th**

Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Chapter,  
OKC 1100

##### **June 10th**

Lodge of Perfection Meeting,  
Meeting at 7:00 pm  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

##### **June 13th**

Indian Chapter, Scottish Rite Noon  
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

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  
Brett Cable, Venerable Master  
Jimmy Whitfield, 33°, Wise Master  
James Dulin, KCCH, Commander  
Michael Bibee, Master of Kadosh

## **FALL REUNION DATES**

**Saturday/Sunday  
October 18-19, 2019**

### **THE LESSONS OF THE SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES & OUR MORAL COMPASS.**

Almost every time I conducted a Tour of the McAlester S.R. Center, someone would, Invariably, ask, "Why do Masons need this stage and theater stuff?" My answer would always be, "our degrees are performed as plays which teach lessons in Morality, Ethics and Philosophy." Now, my question to us is, "Why?"

As children, we learn most of our first character lessons in the home. Those early lessons stay with us as we make our way into the world, shaping the way we see life and determine whether our lives are lived well. Later as adults, through the various stages of life we must make choices that call the virtues into play. Many of our choices and their implications are guided by our moral compass. As children we learned a real sense of direction in matters of right and wrong. It help to guide with those issues everyone must confront..

The basic assumption of the Scottish Rite degrees is that life is a moral and spiritual journey, and that we undertake it, in the ritual, to find our way morally and spiritually. It, therefore, makes sense for Master Masons to set out on this endeavor of attaining more Light and a course of self-improvement. Thus the Scottish Rite presents its degrees in the hope that in our journey we will stumble on some definite personal virtues which will become our "values".

The Editor

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

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#### Upcoming Reunions:

**2019**  
**October 19-20**

**2020**  
**April 18-19**  
**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

McAlester RiteCare Clinic

## **VALLEY ACTIVITIES**

Meetings held::

The McAlester members of the Central Okla. Chapter met in OKC at the Golden Corral at I-40 & MacArthur on May 2, John Salisbury, 33°, opened the meeting and announced future gatherings of the Central Okla. members. General Secretary Mike Ebert, KCCH, gave an update on Valley activities of membership & the building progress. A short program on "Albert Pike: The Battle of Pea Ridge" was also presented by Don Jones, 33°. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

An Education gathering was held on May 7 at the Hugo Lodge in Hugo, OK. The meeting was opened & introductions were made. All the attendees from the Hugo area were Master Masons and wanted to know more about the Rite. Bro. Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C. talked to the group about the history, degrees and personal reasons to consider the Scottish Rite. Discussion followed the presentation.

**Mon. May 13, 7:00 pm;** LOP Stated Meeting Richards Room in the McAlester S.R. Masonic Center. Open to all McAlester S.R. brethren. Use the West Door.

**Fri./Sat. May 17-18;** Spring Migration Calling All Ducks -- Quack, Quack Quack! Mulberry Rook at Lake McAlester Fly in for Food, Fellowship, Tall Tales Quack!!!

**Fri. June 21, 6:30 pm,** BBQ n Bingo Central Okla. Chapter is the host. India Shrine Center, OKC Catered BBQ dinner by Jones Lodge followed by Bingo and 50-50 pot. no reservation required.



## STORY BEHIND THE MOVIE

"Kramer vs Kramer: was a Dustin Hoffman/Meryl Streep movie about a bitter divorce. During a break in filming, on the courtroom scene Dustin Hoffman approached an actual court reporter reporter who had been hired to sit behind the stenography machine, "Is this what you do?" he asked, "Divorces?"

"Oh, I did them for years," the woman said. "But I burned out . I couldn't do it any more. It was too painful, "she added, cheerfully.. "I really love what I'm doing now."

"What:" Hoffman asked.

"Homicides."



## TEMPLE RESTORATION UPDATE

A. The Contracts have been signed for installing the new boiler and replacement of a roof. the water- proofing of the North Wall is almost completed. The roofers will start after our rainy season.

B. Bro. Wade Massey, 33°, continues to inventory the Library. Some of the excess books are being sold during Reunions. Plans have been made to move the Library to the former Clinic area with new shelving and a reading room.



## TOURS OF THE TEMPLE ARE AVAILABLE

Tours are available Monday through Thursday during the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 PM.

Tours on Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday are available by special arrangement. Call the office: 918-423-6360.

Groups: Call 24 hours before the Tour is needed.  
Masons: Call the office for a time.

A big thank you to our tour guides for all they time they have put in showing off our facilities. They are Mark Halyard, 33°, Bill Erkin, 33° and Randy Roden, 32°.

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### **VMAP: A Program of ACTION!** (Valley Membership Achievement Project)

1. Membership Retention/Engagement
2. Scottish Rite Education for Members.
3. Membership Recruitment
4. New Member Engagement.
5. Enhanced Reunion Experience
6. Scottish Rite Education for Candidates
7. Philanthropy
8. Public Image
9. Degree Conferral Proficiency
10. Officers' Responsibilities & Engagement
11. Valley Organizations

"The McAlester Valley is proud of the work and accomplishments of its members in 2018. This can and, will be, better. "



**Valley of McAlester**  
**Orient of Oklahoma**



## OLD AGE

*"To me, old age is always 50 years older than I am."*, Bernard Baruch

*"Age will not be denied."* Francis Bacon

*"Men of old age object too much, consult too long, adventure too little, report too soon."* Francis Bacon

*"It is not by the gray of the hair that one knows the age of the heart."* Sir Henry Bulwer

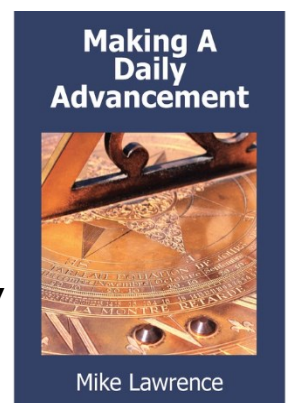
*"It is usual to associate age with years only because so many men and women somewhere along in what is called middle age stop trying."* Henry Ford

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## BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

### **Making a Daily Advancement by Mark Lawrence**

The book is a brief compendium of Masonic facts and tidbits, mostly slanted toward English Freemasonry, but also applicable to American Masonic Practices.



It includes such things as the origin and history of Masonic ritual, customs, and processes as well as the author's personal observations and Masonic humor. The presentation is a thought for each day of the year format which with the standard purpose of helping the reader, "make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge" as well as to stimulate "the desire to " research the topic a little further."



## **SUPREME COUNCIL HISTORY** continued:

A few months before the annual (even year) session the Council approached the idea of purchasing the Little Rock, Ark. home of Albert Pike. G.C. Cowles was not a fan of "such purchases" and the subject was not approached in sessions. Also, the building which had housed Shepherd's Tavern had come up for sale. Several Active Members were in favor of the purchase of this building, but Cowles thought the owner's price was too high. The building was later sold to the Citizens and Southern Bank which agreed to place a historical plaque on the front of the new bank. Later a small monument denoting the location of Shepherd's Tavern we placed on the S.E. corner.

The Supreme Council met in annual session on July 10, 1928 in Portland, Oregon. The Grand Commander began his Allocution on the subject of a history of the Rite being written by Charles Lobingier. After explaining the problems Cowles found with the history, as written, the Supreme Council agreed. After a long discussion, the Council agreed to publish the book, but with certain caveats. (This is recorded on pages 218 & 219 of my source, if you want more information.)

Cowles reported that the International Conference of Supreme Councils that had been scheduled for Buenos Aires in 1927 had been canceled and rescheduled. The new location was Paris, France and the date had been changed to April 30, 1929.

The G.C.'s Allocution ended with the report of a dinner the G.C. had held in March, 1928 at the House of the Temple. He had invited the 33rd Degree Masons Congressmen. (continued on next page)



## SUPREME COUNCIL HISTORY continued:

With about 300 in attendance at the dinner, Cowles used the opportunity to promote the fraternity and the Scottish Rite in particular.

Before ending the session, the Council approved the purchase of a bronze plaque for the bank building in Charleston. Written on the plaque would be these words, "On this site stood the building in which the Supreme Council, 33rd Degree, Mother Council of the World, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry , was founded May 31, 1801, A.D. corresponding to Silva 19, 5561, A.M."

to be continued.

Resource: "The Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle"

by William Fox

*"What did I come to the door of a Masonic Lodge seeking to do? And, above all else, what do I most desire? Two questions worth asking --- over and over again."*

Grand Commander Ronald Seale, 33°

Editor Don Jones 33°

The Human brain  
is an amazing  
organ. It  
functions  
24 hours a day  
from the day we  
are born and only  
stops when we  
are performing  
ritual

