



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

June 12, 2023

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 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

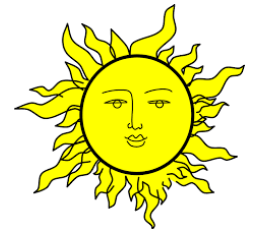
Stephen Gragg, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

John Cunningham 32°, KCCH, Wise Master

Rodney Ryder, 32°, KCCH, Commander

Bobby Peters 33°, Master of Kadosh

WHY ARE THE 2 SAINTS' JOHN AND SOLSTICE RELATED?



In classic mythology, Janus, as solstices doorkeeper, was always depicted with a bunch of keys in his hand. This symbolic attribute is transferred to Saint Peter, as Heaven's door keeper, when Rome becomes Christian. However, the role of solstice keepers passes to Saints' John, probably because the name (Janus and John are close) and their role in Jesus' life:

--John the Evangelist, the beloved disciple, keeps and spreads Jesus words after his death. He is like the seed under the winter soil, ready to sprout. When Jesus death put everyone in despair, the light of his words began to beat the shadows, exactly as in winter solstice. In Christian tradition, John the Evangelist, represents man's praise to God (from men to God, from down to up, from shadow to light, as in the winter solstice.)

--John the Baptist, who announced Christ, Purifying Him with the water of baptism in His best age (30 years old, the beginning of maturity), starts in some way his path to martyrdom and death. In Christian tradition, John the Baptist, represents God's mercy (from God to men, from up to down from light to shadow, as in the summer solstice.)

The well-known Masonic symbol of the point within a circle has a plethora of interpretations. Let's explain four of them: the first is moral, (Masonic Life traced by the Compasses), the second one talks about the Lodge, (the 3 Great Lights of Masonry), the third one is astronomical, (earth movement around the sun), and the last one is religious., (Christ's divine name; God inside the Man).

If you do not wish to receive this email, please send an email to enews-unsubscribe@mcasr.org. For questions or comments email news@mcasr.org.

Upcoming Reunions:

2023
October 21 & 22

2024
April 13 & 14
October 12-13

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](#)

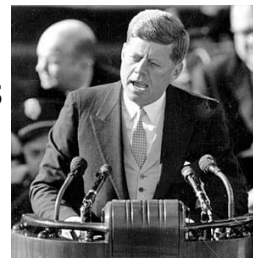
[Scottish Rite, Valley of Guthrie](#)

[Scottish Rite, Valley of Tulsa](#)

[Scottish Rite Research Society](#)

"ASK NOT"

One phrase from the inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy has been frequently quoted: "And so my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you---ask what you can do for your country."



Kennedy's statement was a paraphrase of a statement by President Warren G. Hardin, 33° (a Scottish Rite Mason), at his party's 1916 National Convention where he said; "In the great fulfillment we must have a citizenship less concerned about what the government can do for it and more about what it can do for the nation."

Brethren, on that note, ask yourself, "What can you do for Freemasonry. If you just want to "sit back" and let Freemasonry, come to you, YOU may be disappointed, or not."

"The New Age" magazine

INSULT "QUOTES" BY THE FAMOUS

(Hey, they gave me 30 of these)

--- "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."
Paul Keating

---- "he has VanGogh's ear for music." Billy Wilder

--- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid it wasn't this one." Groucho Marx

---- "He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know." Abraham Lincoln

--- "There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." Jack E. Leonard

IDENTITY CRISIS

"Your mother has been with us for 20 years" said John. "Isn't it time she got a place of her own?"

"My Mother?" replied Helen. "I thought she was your mother!"

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.



Mon, June 12; 7:30 pm. L. O. P.
Stated Meeting
McAlester Scottish Rite Center. Members are welcome.

Wed., June 21; Summer Solstice Longest day of the year.

Fri., June 23; BBQ and Bingo
6:30 pm; India Shrine Center, OKC
Host: Central Okla. Scottish Rite Society
\$15 per person; covers meal & 3 bingo cards
plus a 50/50 drawing Join us for good BBQ and fellowship
and family fun..

Fri.-Sat., June 23,24; Red River Masonic-Con
Chickasaw Hotel & activity center; Sulphur, OK
Friday evening - The Philosophers' Guild
Saturday-Masonic-Com; Four renown Masonic speakers
including Robert Davis, 33°, G.C. Check your OKMasons
for more details

Sat. June 24; St. John the Baptist Day
Blue Lodge recognition of one of the patron
saints of Freemasonry.

Sat. June 24; Freemason Anniversary
Grand lodge of England founded - 1717

Sat - Sun., Oct. 21-22; Fall Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Center
Make reservations now; the Comfort Inn of McAlester is
offering special rate for Freemason attending the Reunion.

PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE

A century ago, it was not uncommon for men to pay what amounted to a month's wages to become a Mason. We know without challenge that today petitions are paying a fee which represents a week's wages at the most ---sometimes only 2 or 3 days!

And when we compare what is paid to civic clubs, country clubs and/or professional organizations, the ridiculously low fees paid to a Symbolic Lodge with the fees paid to other Masonic Bodies (like the Scottish Rite), we begin to see clearly what is wrong. Men are willing to pay for the privilege of Freemasonry, but it should be no surprise why newly raised Masons end up having little or no respect for the Fraternity.

A few years ago, Bro. Arthur H. Strickland had an article entitled, "Who Killed Cock Robin" published in "the Philalethes". The article called attention to the old axiom that what is easy to get is not much appreciated, and it is only because of the vicissitudes of time that we are being "forced" to change.

P.G.M. Dwight Smith, (Indiana) and Don G. Jones, 33°.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S MOST DIFFICULT CHORE

When General Secretaries get together at a meeting or "cigar and wine" gathering, what do they talk about? Just on what subjects do they compare notes?

Is it the 3 nights a week, plus weekends, that they are attending Masonic events? Is it the member who calls about his financial or personal problem. Is it the constant effort to maintain a 100-year-old building? Is it the constant meetings with committees, Boards and subordinate organizations? Is it working with a member to develop a Scottish Rite Chapter or Club in his area? Well, it could be a hundred things that Masons deal with.

But, the most difficult task is this: Encouraging, or pleading, with Brethren to PAY their Dues!

May I request that if you still owe your 2023 Dues to pay it now or call the Temple Office at 918-423-6360. The Office accepts credit cards, cashier checks, personal checks, money orders and cash.

When dues are paid promptly:

"Scottish Rite Masons help children communicate"



THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS

(From The S. A. Masonic journal)

*The Three Great Lights will guide our steps
Through life's uncertain way,
And bring us safe at length to see
The bright, eternal day.
The Holy Book our fathers read
With undimmed faith, today
Make clear our sight that we may know
Its precepts to obey.
With square of virtue, try our acts
And make them meet the test
There is no other cause that leads
To Islands of the Blest.
Between the lines that represent
The Longest, shortest day,
Keep circumscribed by compasses
That we go not astray.
The Three Great Lights will guide our steps
Through life's uncertain way,
And bring us safe at length to see
The bright, eternal day.*



WHAT CAN I EXPECT

Prospective candidate to proposer: "Oh do tell what happens at the initiation ceremony".

Proposer: "Sorry I can't - its a secret"

Prospective candidate: "Come on - I'll be joining in a few weeks. Surely you can tell me something"

Proposer: "Well there are are WALKERS, TALKERS AND HOLY MEN"

Prospective candidate: "What do you mean "WALKERS"

Proposer: "Well they are the men who walk you around in the Lodge".

Prospective Candidate: "What about the TALKERS".

Proposer: "Well they are the people who talk. To you and to other people in the Lodge".

Prospective Candidate: "I see - well who are these HOLY MEN"?

Proposer: "Oh those - Well they are the ones who when they see the Walkers and the Talkers say ... Ohhh My Goddd!!!!!!

HISTORY: FIRST CLASS OF SCOTTISH RITE

MASONS IN McALESTER

If I were to ask you, when was the first class of Master Masons to receive Scottish Rite degrees in the Indian Territory, what would your answer be? If you go to the class register in the offices in McAlester, you would find the first class to be the Alpha Class of March , 1905. That seems logical, but it is wrong. The Alpha Class was the first class to receive all 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite in McAlester. Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection had been given in McAlester before that date.

At this point in our search for the first class, we need to review a little history of Scottish Rite Masons in the Indian Territory. There were a number of Masters of the Royal Secret in both the Oklahoma and Indian Territories before there was any organized bodies there. Grand Commander Albert Pike was a frequent visitor in his early days to the Indian Nations and had kept in contact with his Masonic brothers in the territories. Many of them received their degrees when they visited the nation's capital. In 1889 Brothers Cunningham and Hill were appointed Deputies to the Supreme Council with the power to confer the degrees on individuals. A good presentation on the early history of Scottish Rite Masonry in Oklahoma can be found by viewing "Bringing Scottish Rite Masonry to the Wilderness" by Brother Tom Crowl, 33°GC. It is available on YouTube by [clicking here](#).

Back to our search. In May of 1901 we find a record of a class of 23 Master Masons who received the degree of the Lodge of Perfection (4°-14°) in McAlester. A picture of this class is located at the end of this article and is the first picture in the row of class pictures you will find when going upstairs in McAlester. So, have we found our first class? Not quite!

Brother Edmond Doyle was appointed a Deputy to replace Brother Hill. For reasons not known, in 1901 Doyle cease to be a Deputy for the Indian Territory and Brother Cunningham was made SGIG over both Oklahoma and Indian Territories. While Deputy, Brother Hill had started Lodges of Perfection at Chickasha and Muskogee but neither survived. (continued on next page)



HISTORY: FIRST CLASS (continued)

On February 2, 1901 under the leadership of Brother Doyle, 13 Scottish Rite Masons started the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection #1. Brother Doyle, still being a Deputy at the time, installed the officers. That same evening, the Lodge of Perfection read and approved 14 petitions for the degrees. Present that evening were 11 of those brothers and the minutes state that they "received the degrees fourth to fourteenth inclusive." Among the members of this class was Brother Frank Craig who would one day become SGIG of Oklahoma. Here is your first class!

Your editor (Don Jones, 33°) has long been interested in just who were the men in the picture below. The May 1901 class was the first one to receive the degrees performed in a theatrical format. This was done with borrowed props, costumes and assistance of the Guthrie's Alpha Lodge of Perfection. With the assistance of Wade Massey, 33°, we have begun to research the members of this class and in the following issues will bring you information on some of the more distinguished members of that class



Source: History of Freemasonry in Oklahoma, Oklahoma Lodge of Research, reprint of 1935 M.E. Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma. Picture from McAlester Scottish Rite website.

To be continued

"Today you may see a brother Mason who is not a Scottish Rite Mason. ENLIGHTEN HIM"

Editor Don Jones 33°

