



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

July 19, 2024

Editor : Don Jones, 33°

DO SCOTTISH RITE MASONS HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE?

A letter from a Mom about her son's experience
at our RiteCare Clinic.



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 11:30 AM I40 & Meridian

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
Greg Stiedley, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master
Mike Echols, 32° KCCH, Wise Master
Paul Larcade, 33° KCCH, Commander
Bryan Pumphery 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

"Nearly thirteen years ago. I approached the RiteCare Clinic with trepidation as a mom, a mom scared of what the future held for her son, a mom who was scared of the unknown, a mom who longed to hear the voice of her precious son. I was met at that office with kindness, understanding and reassurance. RiteCare performed an evaluation and it was concluded that speech services were needed. Grant, (the son), began shortly thereafter. He began meeting with his therapist, Ashley, once per week.

Around a year after beginning services, Grant was diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of speech. (CAS). Childhood Apraxia Speech (CAS) is a motor speech disorder. Children with CAS have problems saying sounds, syllables and words. This is not because muscle weakness or paralysis. The brain has problems to move the body parts, (e.g., lips, jaw, tongue) needed for speech. CAS is a complicated disorder that is not well known nor, until recently well-publicized. I had never heard of it myself and therefore began researching. As one can do, when seeking out 'Dr. Google', I really became scared and overwhelmed. I bargained Ashley with questions and concerns at our next appointment, but was met with the calm voice of reason (and expertise in her field), "Just trust me. He is going to be okay."

So, I did, I trusted her and the members of the clinic. My husband and I have taken our son to that little clinic in the corner of the Masonic Temple every week for over nearly 13 years. They invested time and effort into Grant, learned his likes and dislikes, and even got down on the floor and played with him when he was younger in order to help him. They taught him how to move his mouth to make sounds, how to use those sounds to make words, and how to put those sounds together to build sentences. They gave our baby boy a voice (and our teenage son the ability to express his teenage attitude). To this mother who wondered if she would never hear her son utter the words, "I love you, mom," they performed a miracle.

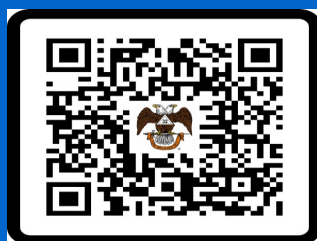
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Dr. G. David Donathan, 33° President
Brett Cable, 32° KCCH Vice-President
Jeremy Warren, 33°, Trustee
Bruce Hall 33° Trustee Emeritus
Advisory Council Trustees
Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° SGIG

You can petition the Scottish Rite for membership online at the following link:

[Online Petition](#)

Or scan this QR Code



SCAN ME

Upcoming Reunions:

2024

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](#)

DO SCOTTISH RITE MASONS HELP? (continued)

I am beyond grateful for Ashley Monks, not only for her expertise in her field also for her compassion and dedication to her clients. Over the years she and I collaborated and even challenged one another in an effort to ensure Grant's needs were met, not only in the clinic, but also at home and at school. I would be lying if I told you I did not tear up on Grant's last day of therapy. There a lot of milestones met and life events that took place over our nearly 13 years at the RiteCare Clinic. I felt as though we were leaving family more so than provider.

Following Grant's diagnosis, Ashley has completed an intensive apraxia training workshop (aka apraxia boot camp) and is now considered an expert in Childhood Apraxia of Speech. The fact that my child was able to receive speech therapy by an expert in his diagnosis at no cost to us is a miracle in and of itself. Unlike many other parents of children with CAS, I never had the stress of fighting with insurance companies to obtain coverage for therapy nor did I have to worry about how I was going to cover the out-of-pocket expenses for therapy.

To say that I am thankful to the members of the Scottish Rite supporting the RiteCare Clinic would be the understatement of the century! To express my gratitude to the Scottish Rite for making speech and literacy services one of the main focuses of the Charitable and Educational Foundation is virtually impossible. Our son's life has been forever changed and for that I am eternally grateful.

Grant's Mom

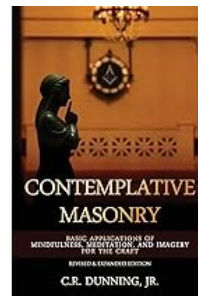
**So, do Scottish Rite Masons help children communicate?
You be the judge.**

BOOKS OF MASONIC INTEREST

"Contemplative Masonry", by C.R. Dunning Jr.

Basic applications of mindfulness, meditation, and Imagery for the Craft

Foreword for this book written by Jim Tresner, 33°, G.C.



"Chuck Dunning takes us on a wonderful and enlightening journey of what has to occur in a man's body, mind and spirit for him to actually improve himself in Masonry. He discusses the motive of inner work in Freemasonry, and he is eminently qualified to do so. He enlightens us with his wisdom and offers us a number of exercises which can lead us to the true treasure of manhood. This book is a must for Freemasonry."

Review by Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEMASONRY?



BeAFreemason.org



SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Sun., July 28; birthday
William Preston was born
on this date in 1742.
Masonic lecturer and author
of Preston's Masonic Ritual

Thur. Aug. 1; 11:00 am. Luncheon
McAlester OKC Scottish Rite Chapter
McClintock's Chop-House
222 Exchange Ave., OKC
All Masons are welcome Good food; Good fellowship

Mon. Aug 12; 7:00 pm, Stated Mtg.
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
All members are welcome

McAlester Scottish Rite
Fri. October 11; 50 Yr. Awards
McAlester S.R. Masonic Center
11:30 a.m.; Richards' Room
Call Temple office for details

Fri. October 11, Pre-Reunion Fellowship Gathering
BeirKraft 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Pizza, and Drinks, Cigars out back

Sat/Sun, Oct. 13 & 14 Fall Reunion
Valley of McAlester Scottish Rite
Accepting petitions now.
Call Temple office for details.
918-423-6360

Support Your Blue Lodge



BASIC AMERICAN MASONIC PRINCIPLES

Dr. Willard Givens, 33°

Our Founding Fathers won liberty and enshrined it in our basic national documents. It will be preserved and strengthened by those of us who love it and who are convinced that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

The American -- Masonic Principles

Roman Proverb -- Great is Truth and it shall prevail.

Voltaire -- I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death, your right to say it.

Rudyard Kipling -- What stands if freedom fails?

Thomas Jefferson -- Unalienable rights are life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
-- All men are created equal.

Abraham Lincoln -- Democracy is government of
the people, by the people and for the
people.-- With malice toward none, with charity
toward all.

Herbert Hoover -- Absolute freedom of the press is
a foundation stone of American liberty.

John Dewey -- The devotion of democracy to
education is a familiar fact.

(from the Grand Commander's Program, 1962)

BROTHERLY LOVE

Brotherly love is not a tangible commodity. We cannot touch it or weigh it, smell it or taste it. Yet it is a reality; it can be creative, it can be fostered, it can be made a dynamic power. The Master who has it in his Lodge and his brethren will find that Lodge and brethren give it back to him. The Master too worried over the cares of his office to express friendliness need never wonder why his Lodge seems too cold to his effort.

Carl H. Claudy



THE WONDER OF THE WORLD

The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world. I hardly know which feeling leads, wonderment or admiration. I have loved the feel of the grass under my feet and the sound of the running streams by my side. The hum of the wind in the tree-tops has always been good music to me, and the face of the fields has often comforted me more than the faces of men. I am in love with this world; by my constitution I have nestled lovingly in it. It has been home. It has been my point of outlook into the universe. I have not bruised myself against it, not tried to use it ignobly. I have tilled the soil, I have gathered its harvests, I have waited upon its seasons, and always have I reaped what I have sown. While I delved, I did not lose sight of the sky overhead. While I gathered its bread and meat for my body, I did not neglect to gather its bread and meat for my soul. I have climbed its mountains, roamed its forests, sailed its waters, crossed its deserts, felt the sting of its fists, the oppression of its heats, the drench of its rains, the fury of its winds, and always have beauty and joy waited upon my goings and comings.

John Burroughs
"The New Age"

FELLOWSHIP AT FALL REUNION

Plans are already underway for fellowship activities at this Falls Reunion. On Friday evening, October 11th at 5:30 PM many of the Brothers will gather at BeirKraft for pizza, libations, and cigars on the patio. They are open till 9:00 PM and many of the Ducks will join us as soon as their meeting is over. Brother Brett Cable has promised that his "Goose and Gridiron", which won 1st Place in the British Brown Ale category this year, will be available. We have been told you do not want to miss this.

Saturday evening after everyone has gone out to eat, we will be having movie night again. Starting at 8:00 PM in the Richards Room we will be showing "National Treasure". Like last spring, pop corn will be provided.

We all know the reunions are work, but they should be fellowship as well. To get the full reunion experience, please join us at these events.



THE ALMONER'S FUND

The Almoner is an elected officer of the Scottish Rite Bodies. He is the disbursement officer of funds donated by the Brethern. At each meeting of the Bodies, the basket of fraternal assistance is passed so that Brethern may have an opportunity to participate in replenishing the Almoner' Fund. This fund may be used for any worthy cause, such as clothing, food, shoes or medical care for the needy. The expenditure of these funds is always done in a proper manner and with great cares.

While the use of the fund is for charitable purposes, it is not a charity. In the 14th degree you were taught that fraternal assistance is an obligation of a brother, not a choice. As such it is not considered a deductible charity by the IRS.

When a request for assistance is made to the Almoner, he looks into the request and presents his findings to the General Secretary. Together they review the request and determine the level of assistance that can be given. The procedure is very streamlined and assistance can be given with a quick turn-a-round.

If you know of a brother or someone in your community who has an emergency, reach out to the Valley Almoner Greg Steidley, KCCH at 918-916-2537 or the office at 918-423-6360. Remember the Fund is for the people in the area of the Valley. The fund does not have a large amount in it and must be replenished by donations from brothers. Brother Greg is always willing to take donations to the fund.

HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

William Perry Freeman

The Early Years

By the age of 10, Bro. Freeman's education had been a few months in a small backwoods school in Missouri. However, he had already demonstrated a self-starter attitude, intelligence and ambition.

He was 10 years old when he when to the county seat and took a job as a printer's devil in a busy printing company. Here he worked at all the tasks of putting out newspapers, forms and hand bills. In his spare time, he undertook a program of self-education by reading text books, literature. and history. As his knowledge increase, he eventually served the printing office as an editor and business manager.



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

(One source writes that Freeman was an attorney and practiced law, but the "Find a Grave" website says he had no college education.)

Bro. Freeman's experiences as a news reporter and editor lead him to have an interest in politics. During 1884-1885 he was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives. In 1886, he was elected clerk of the Circuit Court of Miller County, Missouri. Then ten years after a failed attempt in the race for secretary of state of Missouri, Freeman was appointed clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Indian Territory. This appointment took him to McAlester, I.T. where he resided until his death. He served in the office of clerk until Oklahoma statehood in 1907.

It was after his move to McAlester that Bro. Freeman became interested in banking. He was the president of the First National Bank of Scipio, served as a director for the First National Bank of McAlester, the First National Banks of Calvin and Allen.

In the end his integrity, intelligence and ambition lead him to become one of Oklahoma's wealthiest citizens.

Marriages: On September 19, 1881, he was married to Miss Alice Harris of Columbia, Missouri, who died in November of 1917. They had one daughter, Mrs. Elsie Cobb of McAlester. On May 29, 1932, Bro. Freeman married Miss Gladys Eckman of McAlester. They had a daughter, Lucy Mae.

to be continued,

Next: Freeman's Masonic life and career.

"We might just find that displaying a better picture of ourselves to the world my brighten our own outlook on life."

Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°

Don Jones, 33° Editor

