



McAlester Scottish Rite

Orient of Oklahoma, AASR Southern Jurisdiction



www.mcalesterscottishrite.org

Newsletter Date

August 6, 2024

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 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

PUBLIC EDUCATION and the SUPREME COUNCIL

In his Allocution during the 1915 biennial session, Grand Commander George Moore strongly advocated official Scottish Rite support for public education with this statement, "We have in all the States of our great Republic a system of Public Schools designed to educate all children of all the people. I think we cannot render greater or nobler service to the Country then to align ourselves openly and squarely in favor of the creation, the maintenance, the efficiency and the perpetuity of our Public School System."

After the biennial session, the Scottish Rite Masons, especially in the Southern Jurisdiction, picked up on the cause of public education and began to promote the cause. "The New Age" magazine, considered by the Supreme Council to be its official publication with nation-wide distribution, began to include essays and articles to promote public education. (Today, we would say, "it went viral."). The Rite lobbied for the passage of the Smith-Towner bill which created a Department of Education and made the chairman a cabinet position. The Rite pushed for the creation of a "national" university which led to the George Washington University, a non-sectarian school, in Washington, D.C.

However, the road to having an active part in public education by the Supreme Council was not always smooth.

A special session of the Supreme Council was called in the spring of 1920 in which five resolutions were to be presented for vote. Each resolution provided for the funding and implementation of an educational program in the United States.

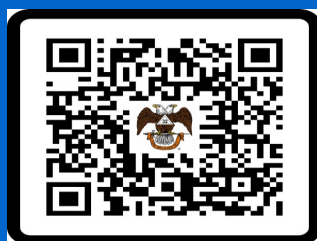
Prior to the session, in executive session, Grand Secretary Cowles and Grand Minister of State Edward Day expressed their displeasure with the activist program for the Rite. Later in the special session all five resolutions passed with two dissenting votes in each election.

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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](#)

PUBLIC EDUCATION and the SUPREME COUNCIL(Continued)

The Fifth Resolution, when put in place created a public and active profile for the Supreme Council in the national educational system.

In articles which was published in "The New Age", the Scottish Rite expressed its case for Masonic public activism.

Also following the special session was the resignation from the Council of Grand Prior Ernest Hussey. He said he felt it was his duty as a citizen and Scottish Rite Mason. He felt that the Supreme Council had overstepped the immoveable boundaries against its principles of official political expression.

With the passage of the bill that established the Department of Education, the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite made the official statement "that it was possible in Masonic protocol because of the Rite's "sovereignty" which meant that it was "unhampered by restrictions against political activity." Between the years 1920 and the 1990's the Supreme Council as the policy maker for the Scottish Rite, S.J., gave unequivocal support to public education.

During, and after, the 1990's with the supposed deterioration of the public school system, Scottish Rite Masons began to see education's problems as state problems, not Masonry's problems. The old energy for the defense of public schools evolved into other causes such as scholarships, speech language clinics and awards of recognition.

And that is where the Scottish Rite has been for the past 40 years.

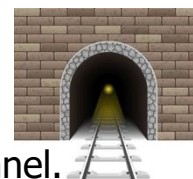
(Resource: "The Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle" by William L. Fox)

JUST FOR A SMILE

My wife wanted to play the violin at our wedding reception, but right before, a string snapped. Her mother made the announcement to our guests: "I'm sorry to say that Amy cannot perform today. Her "G" string broke."

"Families are about overcoming emotional torture."

Anonymous



A pessimist sees a dark tunnel.

An optimist sees the light at the end of the tunnel.

A realist sees a freight train.

The train drivers sees three idiots standing on the tracks!

SCOTTISH RITE ACTIVITY MASONIC ACTIVITY

Mon., Aug. 12; 7:00 pm, Stated Mtg
McAlester Lodge of Perfection
McAlester Scottish Rite Center
Members are welcome.

Wed. Aug. 21; 12 Noon Luncheon
Muskogee Scottish Rite Chapter
Place: Muskogee Masonic Lodge
Basement Dining Room
Use south door

Fri., Oct. 11; 11:30 am; Presentations
Fifty Year Membership Awards
Luncheon; Richards' Ropom
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

Fri. Oct. 11; 6:00 pm; Ducks Fly-In
McAlester Scottish rite Center
Duck "soup" and Hatching
Quack, Quack, QUACK!!!

Sat./Sun., Oct. 12, 13, 2-Day Reunion
McAlester Scottish Rite Temple
Petitions available ON-LINE

October 24, 25, & 26
McAlester Scottish Rite Haunted House
McAlester Scottish Rite Center

Support Your Blue Lodge

THERE IS ALWAYS SOME RISK

I was pregnant with our 8th child and couldn't visit my Mom in the hospital, so my husband went instead.

"There's a risk of sterility if you get that close to someone who is having radiation treatments," a nurse warned.

My husband smiled and said, "I know."



IT HAPPENED 91 YEARS AGO

On July 2, 1931, Admiral Richard E. Byrd received the gold medal of the Kane Masonic Lodge at a dinner attended by 750 members and guests of the "Explorers ' Lodge" at the Hotel Plaza, New York City. The same honor "for predominant achievement in exploration", was conferred upon Admiral Perry many years ago by Kane Masonic Lodge and Admiral Byrd acknowledged the tribute by presenting to his lodge an American flag which he had carried on his flight over the South Pole the previous November.



A congratulatory telegram was received from President Herbert Hoover. It was as follows:

"I am glad to learn that Kane Lodge of Masons in New York is to honor Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd with the Kane Lodge Gold Medal. It is most appropriate that these two distinguished names in the heroic role of great American Arctic explorers should be joined in this honor with this award."

Herbert Hoover

The Oklahoma Mason, July, 1930

Byrd's Masonic history: Raised a Master Mason in Federal Lodge #1 in Washington, D.C., March 19, 1921. Affiliated with Kane Lodge #454. N.Y.C. member of National Sojourners Chapter #3 in Washington, D.C.

FAMOUS QUOTES

--- America has need of thousands of leaders who will never be elected President or even governor of a state or president of a professional society, but who quietly and without ostentation, nevertheless will exert true leadership in the several walks of life."

Harold W. Dodds

--- "Those who give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserves neither liberty or safety."

Benjamin Franklin



A THRILLING EXAMPLE

A few years ago, when Bro. Jerry Grubbs was the General Secretary for our Valley, a trust company notified him that one of its clients had died leaving a will in which our Valley of McAlester, A.A.S.R. was bequeathed approximately \$800,000

Now Bro. Grubbs had only visited with the donor once, in his room at the nursing home. The donor had received his 32nd degree several years before and had never been back to the temple. So, he had many questions about the Scottish Rite, the temple and its philanthropies.

The donor must have liked what he heard. Such generosity is gratifying and encouraging to us. It proves

- (1) that the donor had a good reunion experience and wanted to help preserve the Masonic way of life and
- (2) that in the donor's judgement, our degrees and philanthropic programs were successfully doing just that.

A few lines in the will implemented the donor's wishes.

Wouldn't you like to follow that example? If so, contact your lawyer or trust company and our General Secretary, Mike Ebert, 33°.

(Scottish Rite Masons help children communicate.)

HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

The "Movers and Shakers " of the First Class

#23- William Perry Freeman

(His journey in Masonry)

From a rough beginning of self-education, primarily by experience and extensive reading, Bro. William P. Freeman became the type of man who would naturally be drawn to Masonry. He petitioned and was accepted Tuscumbia Lodge, No. 437 in Tuscumbia, Missouri. Four months later, in June, 1993, he was raised to the degree of Master Mason. Later he moved to the Indian Territory and affiliated with South McAlester Lodge, No. 96. There he worked his way through the chairs and served as Worshipful Master in 1906-07. In 1927 he served the Lodge as Treasurer. Continued on next page



HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

Bro. Freeman's character and interest in Masonry was such the he was quickly chosen for appointments in the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory. His service in this Lodge began in 1906 as the Junior Grand Steward, then on to Junior Grand Deacon and was the Senior Grand Deacon when the Grand Lodges of Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory consolidated in 1909. So, in 1910, he filed for the same office in the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma and was elected. A year later he filed for Junior Grand Warden, won that election and moved on up the line to Senior Grand Warden Deputy Grand Master and in 1914 was elected Grand Master. Following his year at the top, he was appointed to chair a Special Committee to Provide Regulations for District Deputy Grand Masters. He served on the Board of Control, chairman of the Masonic Service Commission and was the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma' Representative to the Grand Lodge of Missouri for several years.

Other Masonic organizations benefited from Bro. Freeman's willingness to serve. When still in Tuscumbia he joined the York Rite Chapter #87, R.A.M. in 1885. After his move to McAlester, he joined the York Rite Council #3, Cryptic Masons in 1903 followed by the McAlester Commandery, Knights Templar.

In 1896 Freeman joined the So. McAlester Chapter of the Eastern Star and served as the Worthy Patron. In 1909 at India Shrine Temple in Oklahoma City, he joined the Order of the Mystic Shrine. That same year he was recommended to the St. Luke Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine and accepted as a member Knight.

Of course, Bro. Freeman was in the Scottish Rite having been in the First Class in May, 1901. This class (the first class) only went to the 14th Degree in the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection. Bro. Freeman completed the Chapter, Council and Consistory degrees to become a Master of the Royal Secret, 32nd Degree, in Guthrie in 1902.

The Scottish Rite in McAlester received charters for the Chapter, Council and Consistory in 1905. It became known as the "Indian Consistory".



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HISTORY: "THE FIRST CLASS" (Continued)

Still in the Scottish Rite, Brother Freeman was recognized for his service to Masonry and his community work by being invested a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. In 1907, he was coroneted a 33rd Degree Honorary Inspector General in ceremonies at Washington, D.C. In 1919 he was appointed Deputy Inspector General in Oklahoma by the Supreme Council and served in that position for two years.

Bro. Freeman was a valuable asset to the Scottish Rite of McAlester for many years as the General Secretary for the Valley of McAlester.

William P. Freeman married Miss Alice Harris of Columbia on Sept. 19, 1881. She died in November, 1917. They had one daughter, Mrs. Elsie Cobb of McAlester.

On May 29, 1932, he married Miss Gladys Eckman, of McAlester, and to them a daughter, Lucy Mae Freeman was born.

Bro. Freeman died at his home on July 9, 1944. at the age of 86. Funeral services were held in the Scottish Rite Temple. Masonic services were conducted by the Grand Lodge officers and eulogy given by M.:W.: Gerald Brown, Grand Master. Burial was at the Masonic Cemetery in McAlester, OK

"A failure is a man who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience."

Elbert Hubbard

Don Jones, 33° Editor

