

# THE OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH RITE MASON

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# THE OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH RITE MASON

Official Publication of the Ancient and Accepted  
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Valley Of Guthrie

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## ON THE COVER

✦ The Italian Renaissance, with its secular and aesthetic influence, is depicted in the Italian Lounge. Originally a smoking lounge for members, the carpet features the most complex design of any in the building. The four tables of Italian Portorro marble were imported from Italy and are copies of tables popular during the Renaissance era. The ornamental plaster ceiling is among the most elaborately coffered in the Temple. The portraits are those of Past Sovereign Grand Commanders of the Supreme Council. The Italian Lounge looks down over the Atrium and makes a wonderful visual tie to the social promenades outside the balcony of the Auditorium.

Cover photo by Matt Anthony, 32°



# CHURCH APPOINTED VALLEY SECRETARY

Inspector Manning recently announced that he has named John Church, 32° KCCH, as the General Secretary of the Guthrie Valley. As General Secretary he will also serve on the Guthrie Advisory Conference. He becomes only the seventh man to fill this role since the Guthrie Scottish Rite was chartered in 1896.

Brother Church joined the Guthrie Scottish Rite in October 1992 and received the KCCH in 2013. He has been an active member of the Southwest Scottish Rite Society in Southwest Oklahoma and has helped with membership recruitment and retention in that area of the state. Brother Church has served as a cast member for the 7th and 30th degrees and worked with the Records/Personnel Committee and the Supernumerary during reunions.

He has served the Grand Lodge in an appointed Grand Lodge Office for the past three years. He has also been very active in the York Rite Bodies. We are confident John will do a good job for the Valley, and we are pleased he has agreed to take on this responsibility in our behalf.



## THOSE THAT HAVE COME BEFORE

The Guthrie Valley has indeed been blessed with continuity of leadership since its inception. Long tenured Secretaries have contributed to this stability and allowed the Valley to prosper.

So who are the men that have proceeded John in this role?

The first General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies was Charles A. Cunningham, 33°. The son of Harper S. Cunningham, Charles was secretary from 1897 to 1908.

In 1908, Frank A. Derr, 33° was named Secretary. Brother Derr would become the longest tenured Secretary, retiring in 1946. His outstanding leadership steered the Valley through the construction of two Temples, two World Wars and the Great Depression!

J.W. Bickell, 33° moved from Assistant Secretary to General Secretary in 1946, a position he would hold until 1962. Bick's work with the Building

Committee before he was even Secretary was invaluable to the construction of the temple.

W. Ralph Howard, 33° was also an Assistant Secretary before being named the General Secretary. Brother Ralph was Secretary from 1962 until his retirement in 1982. He lived across the street from the Temple and was known for the tours of the temple he liked to give.

In 1982, Jack Bernier, 33° was appointed General Secretary and would serve until 1986.

Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C. was appointed General Secretary in 1986. At the time of his appointment, Brother Bob was a Class Director. Second only to Derr in length of tenure, Bob's most important work as Secretary established the tax-deductible endowment fund of the Valley to support the Temple Improvement effort.

John D. Church, KCCH, assumed the General Secretary duties on August 22, 2016. We wish him well and look forward to his first reunion at the helm!

# The "Masters of the Symbolic Lodge" Reunion

Friday, October 28, 2016

Candidate Registration 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Candidate Reception, 6:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Scottish Rite 7:00 p.m.

Knights of St. Andrew Processional 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 29, 2016

Breakfast .....	6:30 am
Registration of Candidates .....	7:00 - 7:30 am
Class Organization-Egyptian Rm.....	7:30 am
Opening Ceremonies.....	8:00 am
Introduction to the Lodge of Perfection .....	8:45 am
4° Secret Master (Guthrie-Johnston) .....	9:00 am
5° Perfect Master (Kay-McGee) .....	10:00 am
9°, 10° Elu of the Nine, Fifteen, (W Oklahoma-McConnell) .....	10:40 am
Candidate Education.....	11:20 am - 11:50 am
Candidate Lunch .....	11:50 am
Member Lunch (Snack Bar).....	12:00 pm
*13° Royal Arch of Solomon (Norman-Marshall) .....	12:45 pm
14° Perfect Elu (Del City-Steddum) .....	1:40 pm
Obligation of the 14° .....	2:30 pm
Candidate Education.....	2:50 - 3:20 pm
Intro to the Chapter of Rose Croix .....	3:30 pm
17° Knight of the East and West (Duncan-Powers) .....	3:35 pm
*18° Knight Rose Croix (OKC-Weed) .....	4:40 pm
Obligation 15° - 18° .....	5:50 pm
Masonic Conversation (Not mandatory for candidates) .....	8:00 pm

Sunday, October 30, 2016

Breakfast, .....	6:30 am
Class Election of Officers.....	7:30 am
Introduction to the Council of Kadosh.....	8:00 am
*20° Master of Symbolic Lodge (Woodward-Kinsley) .....	8:05 am
21° Noachite or Prussian Knight (Enid-Allison) .....	9:00 am
25° Sufi Master ( Western Okla-Freas) .....	9:55 am
*28° Knight Commander of Temple(Enid/OKC-Heaton) .....	10:40 am
Candidate Lunch .....	11:40 am
Member Lunch .....	12:00 pm
Class Memorial/Class Picture .....	12:30 pm
30° Knight Kadosh (OKC-Schoolfield) .....	1:00 pm
Obligations 19°-30° .....	2:00 pm
Candidate Education.....	2:15 - 2:45 pm
Introduction to the Consistory .....	2:55 pm
32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon) .....	3:00 pm
Closing, New Member Greetings in Atrium .....	4:00 pm

\*Passport Degrees

## Other Activities

Saturday, Oct 29

Ladies Coffee .....	9:00 am
10 & 25 year member recognition ceremony.....	10:00 am
50 Year Luncheon .....	12:00 pm

Sunday, Oct 30

Membership Meeting .....	11:00 am
April Class Patent Presentation.....	1:30 pm

## Member Education Sessions

Saturday, Oct 29

Session 1 - .....	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Session 2 - .....	2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Sunday, Oct 30

Session 3 - .....	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Session 4 - .....	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

## Meditation Sessions

Friday, October 28 .....	9:00 pm
Saturday, October 29.....	7:00 am - 7:30 am
Saturday, October 29.....	9:00 pm
Sunday, October 30.....	7:00 am - 7:30 am
Sunday, October 30.....	11:00 am - 12:00 pm





# THE MASTERS OF THE SYMBOLIC LODGE REUNION

SET FOR  
OCTOBER  
29-30  
2016

What a great name for a Scottish Rite Reunion!

As Masons, aren't we all striving to be Masters of our own Symbolic Lodge? Aren't we continually striving to live a life of Virtue and Morality? When you attain mastery over your own conduct, you will be better prepared to lead, and others can learn by your example. Indeed, inspiring others to shape their conduct by your good example is the surest way you can hope to expect to live respected and die regretted. That is our duty and aim as Masters over our life, which is our true symbolic lodge.

On October 29, 30, 2016, Guthrie Scottish Rite will hold its fall reunion as it has each fall for decades.. We will again teach the great lessons in situational and principles ethics. We will explore the nature of religion. We will investigate the forces of good and evil in the world. We will contemplate the meaning of truth. And we will resolve to return to our homes and families as better men; as Masters of our Symbolic Lodge.

A candidate reception and introduction to the Rite will take place on Friday evening prior to the reunion, beginning with pizza at 6:30 pm. Registration begins on Saturday morning at 7 am, followed by the opening ceremonies in the Main Auditorium at 8 am, which is open to our ladies. Immediately following the opening, there will be a Ladies Coffee hosted by Cindy Manning, wife of Illustrious Joe R. Manning Jr. S.G.I.G. The work of the Rite will continue throughout the weekend, with the 32° scheduled to go on at 3:00 pm on Sunday.

The Knights of St. Andrew will open the reunion with the "Procession of the Scribes" at 8:30 pm. on Friday evening. While this ceremony is presented for those who are actually joining this Guthrie temple organization, it is open to the public and is a good way for any brother to think about what knighthood means in the Masonic journey.

There will be candidate breakout sessions, opportunities for questions and answers, and education given beyond what is presented in the degrees. For members, there will be education sessions scheduled throughout the weekend. These are always very interesting. Check out the attached schedule for times and locations. It is an opportunity for members to have their Scottish Rite experience enhanced as they come back to enjoy the reunion with their brethren. Members are invited to attend as many activities as they like, watch as many degrees as they wish, and embrace the wonderful fraternal conversations.

As always, we will have many out-of-state guests with us for the reunion weekend. Be sure and show them your best Oklahoma hospitality. It is what they talk about when they return to their own Orients. We are always glad they are with us. And we know they are glad they came.





# The Real Duties of a Master of the Symbolic Lodge

Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.:C.:

The true Masonic Lodge is a Mystery School, a place where candidates are taken out of the

Photo by John A. Bridegroom

follies and foibles of the world and instructed in the mysteries of life, relationships, and the identity of that germ of essence within, which is, in truth, the Son of God, beloved of His Father. —Manly Palmer Hall, 33°, G.:C.:

The symbolism and structure of a Masonic Lodge is so well known that it is often easy to dismiss its allegorical importance. This is particularly true with those of us who regularly sit in its tyled recesses month after month and contemplate its beautiful ritual language and ceremonial forms. We wholly take for granted that its design and workings are not a matter of mere coincidence. The whole idea of Masonry is to instruct its members about the path of life. The lodge represents the world, and, on a larger scale, the universe. But it also symbolizes the life of the individual Mason. All that exists in life is contained in the mystic teachings of our Royal Art. This is one reason Freemasonry is as relevant today, as in any past century

The arrangement of the officers and the layout of the lodge furniture and jewels are such that, if we learn the symbols and allegories represented by this structure, we can acquire a real understanding of ourselves, our nature, the mystery of life, the purpose of initiation, and a love of God and his plan for our lives.

Inasmuch as the lodge symbolically represents the life of the individual brother; then the Worshipful Master of the lodge represents mankind in its ideal.

He, too, represents each individual brother, just as the universe is reflected in each person. The first lesson we learn as Entered Apprentices is that each person is a model of the universe. This means that each of us indeed has control over our own destiny. Life is not a throw of the dice. We are not intended to be victims, but Masters, over ourselves. But we must pay attention. One of the great purposes of Masonry is to teach us how we go about controlling our life in a way that can affect the noblest of ends.

The idea of attaining mastery over ourselves is not only to aid us in perfecting our own journey; but also that we can lead and teach our fellow men by our own example. To do so requires a lot of work; but the principle work in which we are engaged is to become virtuous men.

The question is why should we care? Why, after all, should we live a moral and ethical life when we all live in such a “dog eat dog” kind of world where everyone seems to be looking out only for themselves? To do the right thing often seems to place us at a disadvantage. Why should we strive for virtue and morality?

The reason is that society will not work if no one strives for some sort of virtue. We must often remind ourselves that the media through which we receive much of our information will tend always to bring us the worst examples of the human condition. But our own life experience informs us that, in fact, most people are honest and will do what they say they will do. If every sale or contract had to be enforced through the courts, if every income tax return had to be audited, if people restrained their impulses for violence only in the presence of policemen; we would all have to live as hermits. Life in groups could not exist.

A certain level of morality is necessary. We shape ourselves by how we think, believe and act. Virtue strengthens us as men, helping us to become the kind



of individual we want to be. The truth is that the honest man is happier, has fewer fears, and lives a better life than the man who must always look over his shoulder, fleeing even when no man pursues him.

We live in gratitude to God to try to live as best we can. It is what the highest nature within us compels us to do. Whenever we intuitively come in touch with our higher self, we are feeling a spark of virtue within us whispering divine counsel. It is nothing less than God's instruction to us. And since it is God's way of pointing us in the right direction, to live on the square of virtue and morality is the least we can do.

The plan and layout of the lodge informs us in all we need to know to become better men; to live in the presence of God's will for us. Knowing that our lodge is a symbol of the construction of our own temple to God, we need only to work out the path which leads us to build as well as we can. We are each the architect, the building material, and the builder of our temple to God.

Our principle work is to strive to bring into balance the opposite lines of force which are constantly at play within ourselves. Each degree we attain, each office we hold, each ritual element we learn symbolizes some virtue to be attained, some divine quality to be manifested, some labor to be worked out, some ruffian or pitfall to be overcome, some teaching that advances our state of mind and being, some awakening of consciousness to an assimilation of our higher, spiritual nature.

We must work with patience and persistence to achieve what is possible in perfecting ourselves as men so that we can make a positive difference in our own life, and the lives of others. Never forget that the structure of Masonry is such that we have to do the work ourselves, with the help of our brothers. As we study, contemplate, and apply the lessons of each degree to the plan of our own life,



the secrets of life itself are revealed to us. That is the key. We are each the solution and the enigma of our own self-improvement.

The 20° is styled the Master of the Symbolic Lodge. It informs us that holding a Masonic office is of extreme importance and is not to be taken lightly. It is not about the titles and the jewels. The Master of the Lodge should be chosen with

the greatest of care because his personality and knowledge of Masonry greatly effects the progress of the lodge. In many lodges, the energy and knowledge of the Master is reflected in the lodge itself. An energetic, knowledgeable, passionate Master will be reflected by the energy, instruction, and passion of the lodge. When a Master chooses to do nothing but while away his time in the chair, the lodge often relaxes with him. But when the Master strives toward the ideals of Masonry, his brethren benefit greatly by his interest and wisdom.

No other way is better in reaching the goal of this degree than meditating on and practicing the 29 Masonic virtues so eloquently illustrated in its ritual instruction—including the virtues of

*Prudence, Temperance,  
Chastity, Sobriety,  
Heroism, Firmness,  
Equanimity, Patience,  
Purity, Honor,  
Fidelity, Punctuality,  
Charity, Kindness,  
Generosity, Liberality,  
Disinterestedness, Mercy,  
Forgiveness and Forbearance.*

But the nine great lights or virtues represented by the geometric points of the tracing board are

*Gratitude to God,  
Love of Mankind,  
Confidence in Human Nature,  
Veneration for the Deity,  
Devotedness to Family and Friends,  
Patriotism,  
Truth,  
Justice  
Toleration.*



The whole ceremony of the Degree aims at making the future Master of a Symbolic Lodge deeply conscious of his duties and the qualities required to discharge them. His task is to prepare men to govern themselves so that they will be law abiding citizens worthy of a free society.

Yet there is one other hidden lesson conveyed in the Degree which is perhaps the most important: We are all Masters of the Symbolic Lodge! As Master Masons, we are charged to:

- *Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself*
- *Forgive your enemy and be reconciled with him*
- *Do not do to others what you would not like them to do to you*
- *Be good, kind, humane and charitable, and console the afflicted*
- *Be faithful to your country*
- *Be tolerant of all political and religious opinions, and do not seek to make converts*
- *Fraternize with all men*
- *Think well, speak well and act well*
- *Do that which you ought to do and let the result be what it will*
- *Take the wise and good as models, and place the sage above the soldier, the noble, and the prince.*

The bottom line is that when we can attain mastery over our own conduct, we will be better prepared to lead, and others can learn by our good example. Indeed, inspiring others to shape their conduct by our good example is the surest way we can hope to expect to live respected and die regretted. That is our duty and aim as Masters of our life, which is our true symbolic lodge!



# Summer Projects Take Shape

Restoration and maintenance continues at the Temple. Since our Spring Reunion, Tim and Mike have been busy keeping up with the massive task of maintaining this fabulous edifice. They have restored the small dining room in the southeast corner of the ballroom. They are renovating the downstairs Ladies Lounge; repairing the plaster on the walls, repainting the entire area, and adding new carpet. This is in addition to the “normal” maintenance the building requires. Below are pictures of the restoration projects in-process. All of the work is scheduled to be finished before our Fall Reunion.

Walls after plaster repair and paint



Floor before refinishing – sanding and protective finish still to be completed

The Ladies Lounge has had the plaster walls repaired, a fresh coat of paint and work has begun on the floors.



## Guthrie Rite Care Language Clinic-Letter from a Past Client's Proud Mother

It gives us a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment when we receive letters from past clients.

Kade is a former client of the Guthrie Rite Care Language Clinic. He was seen for reading therapy for approximately three years. During that time, he made tremendous progress! He recently took his ACT and his highest score was in reading! We attribute his success not only to the increase in his reading abilities we have witnessed but also to the support of his family. They continue to be very supportive and fully participate in his education. His mother recently shared this update with us.

It sounds like Kade has grown into a “well rounded” young man and we are honored to be a part of that!

*A recent note from  
Kade's mom*

*I wanted to give you an update on Kade. He just won an Oklahoma Hall of Fame scholarship for taking an Oklahoma history test! Thank you for all your years working with him. He is doing really well. He currently rows for the Chesapeake Boathouse and also plays club volleyball and sand volleyball. Kade has served two years on two teen boards, spent two summers working with a biologist tracking Texas Horned Lizards, three years as a Redhawks, and now is a Dodgers bat boy.*



*Kade*

## ORGAN CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 17



We are excited to announce that our newest organist, Andrew Schaeffer will present a Christmas themed Organ Concert on December 17 at 8:00 p.m. There will be no cost, however we will accept donations at the door.

Brother Schaeffer presented a beautiful concert last year so we were thrilled when he offered to play again this year.

December 17th is also a “Victorian Walk” night in Guthrie. The concert has been scheduled at 8:00 p.m. so that people may enjoy the Victorian Walk festivities prior to the concert. We hope this will give more visitors an opportunity to hear our wonderful organ.

We would love to see you and your friends in the temple on December 17.



## Meet ..... Chris Ingle, KCCH

*(Editor's Note: I am adding a new feature for our newsmagazine. Each edition will highlight a Brother who works behind the scenes and ensures our candidates have an outstanding experience.)*

This edition will focus on Chris Ingle 32° KCCH. Brother Chris is the Director of the Department of the Stage and the Flight Leader of the Royal Order of the Duck.

As Director of the Department, it is Chris' responsibility to ensure Altar properties, Sound, Lighting, and Scenery are prepared and ready before all 29 degrees. These changes in scenery appear seamless to the audience but behind the curtains Chris directs over 40 members of his crew, who in a matter of minutes have the scenery changed, the stage set and another degree taking place. Bro. Chris and his "crew" work many weekends throughout the year to keep all of the 100+ backdrops and scenery in working order.

Chris is a Perpetual Member of the Guthrie Valley and was invested with the Rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2011. Bro. Ingle is from Pauls Valley and served his lodge as Worshipful Master in 2009. Chris is also plural member with McAlester Scottish Rite.

He is a remarkably creative "outside of the box" thinker. He has designed and built several special effects used on the stage. He fixed the control dampers on the air system for the auditorium, creating several parts needed to restore the system to its full capability—something which we have not had for more than 20 years.

Brother Chris continues to be an integral part of the Guthrie Team and we appreciate everything he does for our Valley. Thank you Chris for making the Scottish Rite a truly memorable experience for everyone who attends our Reunions.



## The Almoner →



The Almoner, David Tennison 32° KCCH, is an elected officer of the Scottish Rite Bodies whose duty it is to dispense the charities of the lodge. A recipient is never aware of the source for the aid, as true charity happens without fanfare or recognition of the source. The various expenditures are an investment made to assist the family by giving them a feeling of security, and knowing that someone cares enough to give their time and money to help lift their worries. This my Brethren, exemplifies the three principle tenets of Masonry – Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Maintaining the Almoner's fund is a duty of each member of the Scottish Rite. When attending meetings, no Brother is expected to leave without making his contribution. If he is present at the meetings, he will hear the injunction by the Almoner regarding the contributions. This is in no way intended to embarrass a Brother, but to remind him of his duty. This fund is also supported by the collection taken in the 14° and at Maundy Thursday Services. Many Brethren who are unable to attend the Lodge meetings have not overlooked this important Masonic duty by including a contribution for the Almoner when they pay their dues.

If you are aware of a Brother in need, you can contact the Almoner at (405) 282-1990 to let him know the situation. Your identity will never be given, and the identity of the recipient is never made public.

### *Please don't go Suspended*

Every year the Grand Architect of the Universe calls home several of our dedicated Scottish Rite Masons. This is an unavoidable fact of life. Losing more of our Brother's to suspension however, is an even larger frustration to our Valley and its ability to meet its budgetary goals. Our 2016 dues are \$80.00 or less than .22 cents per day, or 6.67 per month. I realize that most of the Masonic organizations all have their dues notices sent out in the Fall timeframe, right before the holidays, but we will work with you; the office at the Guthrie Valley can set-up payment options to help you pay these dues over 2 or 4 months. The money goes a long way to cover the costs of operating and maintaining this magnificent Temple we proudly call home.

I understand that sometimes health issues, monetary issues, or other personal issues happen in life and make it difficult to pay dues, I encourage you to call me at the Guthrie Valley office or email me and I will do whatever I can do to help. We do not want to suspend anyone.

Thank you and God Bless each of you



# A REFLECTION ON THE TWO MAJOR RITES IN THE FAMILY OF FREEMASONRY

Robert G. Davis, G.C.



Not long ago, a fellow Mason asked me why the higher Bodies of Masonry (Scottish Rite and York Rite) are not active in the same way as the Craft Lodges. Why

don't they have regularly scheduled meetings, put together a variety of programs, undertake community projects, host family get-togethers, etc. just as in the Blue Lodges? My first response was that I wasn't aware most Blue Lodge did all these things. But the more honest answer is that, like our Craft Lodges, some Scottish Rite and York Rite organizations do the same kinds of things; some do not.

Masonic activity of any kind is largely a function of the vision of those who are actively steering the organization. But there are other important reasons why the Appendant Bodies should not be perceived as duplicates of the Craft Lodge. I do not believe these bodies serve the same purpose as the Blue lodges; thus, they do not need to meet as regularly. We all get our fraternal bonds from our Blue lodge. This is facilitated by our ritual ceremonies, but it is cemented through regular fraternal association with our local group. The Masons in any given community have a sense of identity with other Masons in their group that is unique from their associations with the remainder of the community. This identity is constantly reinforced through the regular meetings and activities of the lodge.

In the Scottish Rite, the mission is totally different. Above all else, it is an educational institution. Its function is to bring more light in Masonry to those who are already Master Masons. It provides the university course in Freemasonry teachings. Its purpose is quite specific although its tasks are broad. It offers a course in Situational and Principles Ethics, Comparative Religion, the Ancient Mysteries tradition, Gnosticism, the Kabbalah, Hermetic philosophy, and Knighthood. And, for the serious student of Masonry, it is entirely centered on the psychology of being.

Since its membership comes from a much larger member base than any one lodge, it can serve its purpose through infrequent group settings which not only teaches, but expands the fellowship of Masonry. Its success does not depend on its fraternal nature; but rather on the attention it gives to serving its purpose in the family of Masonry. When the Scottish Rite does its job well in introducing more light in Masonry through its degrees and education programs, it excites attention and attracts volunteers to its purpose. As its success increases, interest groups within the larger group tend to embrace its services, charities and education; along with its philosophy. These groups often choose to meet more regularly to pursue the intellectual, charitable, and fraternal quests in Masonry. Thus, in the Scottish Rite, there can be active and committed groups within the larger group.

In the York Rite, the ritual experience of Craft Masonry is extended by a more direct association with the Craft Degrees themselves. It also provides a companion role to the Judeo-Christian faith systems in reinforcing the spiritual development of the individual. This Body tends to meet with the same regularity as a Blue lodge, but it does not need to have as broad an agenda. For instance, it does not need to duplicate the many introductory facets of Masonry, nor facilitate a public image about Masonry; or offer charitable endeavors in the name of Masonry, nor create social outings that involve spouses and families. Many York Rite Bodies do all of these things, but they are not the reason the York Rite exists. The York Rite embraces the earliest traditions of Masonry and offers many avenues for member involvement through its various smaller and extant Christian orders of fraternity. Its adherents have little time for social and family activities. Like the Scottish Rite, it



concerns itself with the transformative nature of initiation. Both Rites can specialize much more than a Craft Lodge because they do not have to perform the many tasks a lodge must perform to be successful.

So how are the Rites similar? And how do they differ from each other?

The Scottish and York Rites have shared traditions which greatly add to a Mason's understanding of the essential themes of Freemasonry. Both Rites share the Royal Arch, Sacred Vault, and the Knighthood traditions. In the Scottish Rite's Royal Arch of Solomon (13°), the emphasis is placed on the descent through nine arches, the discovery of the Ineffable Word, and its meaning. In the Royal Arch of the York Rite, the emphasis is on the journey which led to the discovery of the Word, and how the Word is communicated.

Both Rites have three degrees which relate to the Knighthood tradition in Freemasonry. In the Scottish Rite, these include the 28°, 29°, and 30°. In the York Rite, the Knighthood degree are called Orders, and include the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of the Knights of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. The York Rite's Order of the Temple, and the Scottish Rite's Knight Kadosh are the Templar degrees of Freemasonry. It is very compelling to see how the two Templar traditions vary in their teachings. More important, being a knight is one of the archetypes of manhood. Every Freemason has within his genetic makeup an urge to be a moralist, a philosopher, a symbolist, and a soldier of honor. To learn all we can about these two Masonic traditions is a duty of every true Mason.

But there are some important differences in these two major Rites which make both essential to a Mason's complete understanding of the Masonic journey. For instance, the York Rite offers one tradition that can well be argued should have been adopted as a foundational degree in Blue Lodge Masonry. The lessons taught in the Mark Master Degree, worked in Lodges of Mark Masters in England, should be known by every Master Mason. It is necessary to an understanding of Hiram's legacy, the Royal Arch Degree, and essential to a full comprehension of the true mission of Masonry.

Likewise, the Scottish Rite offers three traditions not included in the York Rite—the Elu tradition, the Rose Croix tradition, and the Ancient Mysteries tradition. As Scottish Rite men, we regularly need to be reminded of the importance of the degrees which make up these traditions. They give the Scottish Rite its philosophical and symbolic depth; and make it the college course in Masonic teaching.

The bottom line is that all branches of the Masonic fraternity must ultimately ask the question why every good man should be a Mason? Further, why should he also participate in its related Masonic Bodies?

An honest answer to such an inquiry has two parts. The first is not difficult to articulate. The major goal of thoughtful men is to unravel the mysteries of their own life. This is the ultimate quest of mankind. The degrees of Masonry, beginning with its sublime foundations in the Blue Lodge, and continuing through the degrees of the Scottish and York Rite, teach us how to live, how to respect ourselves and others, and how to reverence ourselves as a sacred immortal being with a profound connection to our Creator and to all of creation. It is the journey of every true brotherhood of men; and the only journey that can bring peace and joy to the world.

But the answer as to why every good man should be a Mason and also belong to its Rites can only be answered by the experience of the thing itself. Some lodges, Valleys, and York Rite Bodies do their job extraordinarily well. Some don't. When we stay focused on our purpose and convey what we possess to our brothers as well as we can, and with the highest sincerity and zeal, the why reason becomes obvious. When we don't, there is little compelling about us.

Fortunately, the Scottish Rite and the York Rite Bodies in Oklahoma are now thriving quite successfully within their well defined and mission-oriented interest groups which comprise their part of the overall Masonic landscape.

Hopefully, the inquiry made by the young man which inspired this essay has been adequately answered. The meetings, activities and programs of the Rites do not parallel those of the lodge. They don't need to. Their role is to dispense more light in Masonry. This is why we say that the Rites complement, rather than compete with, the community Craft Lodge experience.





## WHERE DID MY MONEY GO?

Have you ever dropped an envelope in the mail and then asked yourself, "Who did I send that to?" Well, that is a very good question when it comes to Masonic dues and fundraisers.

As the end of the year approaches, the renewal reminders and fundraising requests will clutter your desktop. You will have plenty of opportunity to write checks, and that's where it sometimes gets tricky.

Every year this scenario happens to some of our members. *Did you pay your Scottish Rite dues? Sure you did. You have a cancelled check for \$80 made out to Scottish Rite. What's that? Did you just get another bill showing it unpaid? How did that happen?*

What happened? A very simple mistake! Your check for your Scottish Rite dues was mailed in the wrong return envelope. For example, the dues payment accidentally gets slipped into an envelope designated for a calendar fundraiser and is mailed to Washington DC rather than Guthrie Oklahoma. You thought you paid your dues but actually your check went to a fundraising effort instead. Usually, we can work with you to determine who received your money—and most of the time it can be recouped. But it is frustrating for everyone.

We have prepared this short checklist to assist you in mailing your payment to the proper place. If you have a spouse that likes to open all the mail and mix it together like a tossed salad, then this may be just the list you need! And if you are unsure about the address for any Masonic Lodge or group, call us and we will assist you, (405) 282-1281.

### When paying your dues:

**To your Blue Lodge** – This will always be addressed to your local Blue Lodge. You will probably have to provide the envelope yourself.

**To the Guthrie Scottish Rite** – An envelope is included with your statement, addressed to Guthrie Scottish Rite, PO Box 70, Guthrie, OK 73044. This is the only address to use when paying your Scottish Rite dues.

**To the York Rite** – This will be mailed directly to your local York Rite Chapter.

**To the Shrine** – India Shrine dues are mailed to India Shrine, 3601 NW 36th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. Akdar Shrine dues are mailed to 2808 S. Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74129.

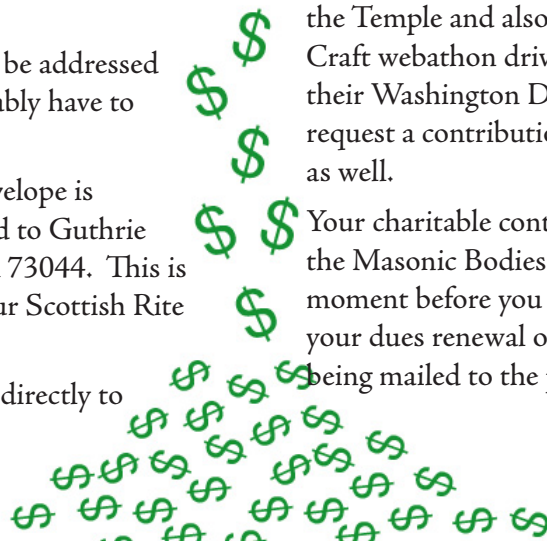
### What is the Scottish Rite Society and why am I paying them?

If there is a local Scottish Rite Society in your area, they meet socially for meals and entertainments. You may get an annual request for a voluntary contribution to help defray the costs of these gatherings. One example of this is the Central Oklahoma Society Chapter. All Scottish Rite Masons in central Oklahoma receive an annual letter detailing the year's scheduled events and requesting a donation. There is even a paper membership card. Use the envelope included with this mailing to make a VOLUNTARY donation to the Society, but DO NOT mail your Guthrie Scottish Rite dues in that envelope.

### Where your money goes if it isn't for dues renewal:

Most fundraising and charitable contribution requests have an addressed return envelope for your convenience. This is really handy—if you are making a contribution. Please never use one of these envelopes to pay dues. Your dues will not be credited correctly. Your dues will instead become a charitable contribution for whichever charity's envelope you use. Some of the most common Masonic charitable contribution requests come from the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. The Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple Improvement Fund conducts an annual fundraising drive. The Supreme Council has a popular calendar fundraiser for the House of the Temple and also conducts the Celebrating the Craft webathon drive to fund the preservation of their Washington DC temple. Your local Lodge may request a contribution or the Shrine and York Rite as well.

Your charitable contribution dollars are as vital to the Masonic Bodies as your dues. Please just take a moment before you seal that envelope to make sure your dues renewal or your charitable contribution is being mailed to the proper group or address.







## GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE "The Way of the Craftsman" Reunion April 1, 2, 3, 2016

**Row 1 -** From left: John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director; David Williamson, Class Director; Adam A. James, Class Chaplain; Dago Rodriguez, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Nathan Seigrist, Class Vice-President; Fiore Carlucci, Class President; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Oklahoma; Charles Stuckey, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; Robert G. Davis, 33° GC, General Secretary; John Logan, 33°; Jack Painter, 33°; Gerald Stegall, KCCH; David Shore, KCCH; Kent Callahan, 33°, Class Director.

**Row 2:** Jason Palmer; Brent Lemmons; Elhrick Cerdan; Julius Gamboa; Adam Kendall; Robert Pustejovsky; Dylan Weddington; Allain Lokey; Travis L. Houska; Andrew M. Schaeffer; Jeff Atwell; John B. Olsen; Ron Humphrey; Brett Wolfe; Edward "Mike" Cline, Jr.; David Soliven.

**Row 3:** James Bowker; David Bailey; Thomas J. Troxell; Robbie L.J. Walsh; David Travis; Jared Frank; Aaron King; John D. Myers; Jeff M. Myers; Robert P. Leahy; Chase D. Webster; Daniel J. Macrelli; Robert R. Davis; Jared Bross; Cameron Hedges.

**Row 4:** Tracy Hammons; Justin McGee; Tann Chesley; Raymond White; Jason Russell; Earl Cantrell; Robert Ward; Jody Hale; David W. Rogers; Tony D. Wooten; Scott Govoni; Josef DeGodoi; Gary Bowser; Shawn Carrick; Jesse D. Smith; Rick J. Moody.

**Row 5:** Timothy Watts; Christopher G. Bishop; Jack Fisher; Jaitton Balcom; Perry L. Applebee, II; Michael Beeson; Monte Ramsey; Eric Rodriguez; Jeffrey Smith; Aaron N. Hambricht; Brandon W.C. Jackiewicz; Matthew A. Bowsher; Travis A. Tripp; Brandon Fry; Matthew J. Matthey.

**Row 6:** Dustin Johnson; William Carter; Craig Byrd; Brent Youngman; Darryl Gaddis; John D. Gates; Kyle D. Petersen; William C. Fife; Robert Fife; Gary D. Rader.

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50 Year members were honored at a special luncheon during the reunion. SGIG Manning presented pins and patents to those in attendance:  
Standing L-R: Marcus A. Gallaway of El Reno, William Burchfiel of Oklahoma City, Roy V. Hackett of Oklahoma City. Seated L-R: Charles T. Jones, Oklahoma City and Hardy U. Roulston of Edmond.

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### ***GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE CALENDAR***

October 6, 2016	Lodge of Perfection Meeting, Guthrie	7:00 p.m.
October 6, 2016	Intrigue Theatre Magic Show	8:00 p.m.
October 14-19, 2016	Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star	
October 26, 2016	Education on the Rite Nite, Coronado Lodge #56, Hennessey	
October 29-30, 2016	Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion	
November 11-12, 2016	Grand Lodge Session	
November 17, 2016	Education on the Rite Nite, Lawton	
December 10, 2016	Masonic Tri-Youth Dance, Guthrie	
December 11, 2016	High School Band Concert	7:00 p.m.
December 13, 2016	High School Choral Concert	7:00 p.m.
December 17, 2016	Organ Concert Featuring Andrew Schaeffer	8:00 p.m.
January 5, 2017	Annual Election and Installation of Officers	7:00 p.m.
March 31, April 1-2, 2017	Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion	