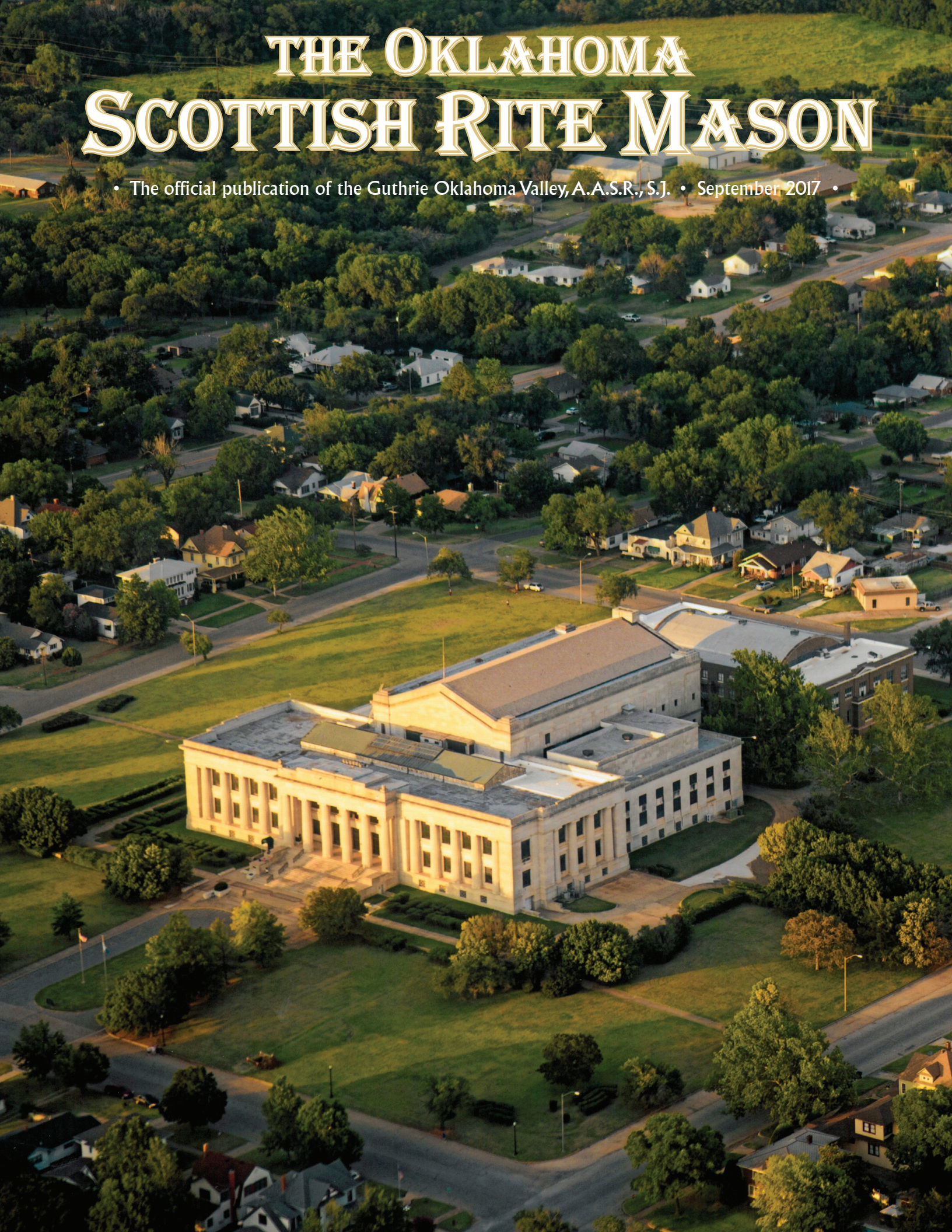


THE OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH RITE MASON

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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 Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Center ♦

The Temple was built on the model of the classical Greek temple of antiquity, and was officially entered on the United States Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It sits on the acreage originally set aside in the land run of 1889 to be the future capital site of Oklahoma. After a vote by the citizens of Guthrie to authorize the sale, the property, including the 1908 Convention Hall building was acquired from the City of Guthrie in 1919. Ground was broken on the new construction in 1920. For more about this historic sequence of events, visit the story on page 8.

Cover photo by Julie Ayers



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BEHIND THE SCENES

THE “LIVING STONES REUNION” SET FOR OCTOBER 7-8, 2017

On October 7-8, the Guthrie Scottish Rite will hold its fall reunion as it has each fall for decades. This Reunion will be the 410th Reunion held by Guthrie. It is titled “The Living Stones Reunion.” We will once again learn the great lessons in situational and principle ethics, to explore the nature of religion, and investigate the forces of good and evil in the world. We will contemplate the meaning of truth.

A candidate reception and introduction to the Rite will take place on Friday evening prior to the reunion, beginning with pizza at 6:30 p.m. Registration begins on Saturday morning at 7 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies in the Main Auditorium at 8 a.m., which is open to our ladies. There will be a Ladies Coffee immediately following the opening ceremonies, 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 3:05 p.m. on Sunday.

The Knights of St. Andrew will have their “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 schedule on page 4 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 in the Spring Reunion, the old cafeteria will be back in operation for breakfast and lunch. The Knights of St. Andrew will be serving a great breakfast on Sunday while Chefs Frank Hasson and Bill Clure serve up their wonderful meals for lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

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 Temple will not be completed until every living stone is there. And then what? The next thing will be that which our Masonic friends make so much of, and which we make so much of namely: the glorification of the temple.

Charles Taze Russell

The Living Stones Reunion

Friday, October 6, 2017

Candidate Registration 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Candidate Reception 6:30 p.m.
Intro to the Scottish Rite Experience 7:00 p.m.
Knights of St. Andrew Processional 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Breakfast (Snack Bar) **6:30 a.m.**
Registration of Candidates----- 7:00-7:30 a.m.
Class Introduction to Scottish Rite (Egyptian Room) ----- 7:30-8:00 a.m.
Opening Ceremonies -----8:00 a.m.
Introduction to the Degrees-----8:45 a.m.
4° Secret Master (Guthrie-Johnston)-----9:00 a.m.
Member Education Session-----**9:30 a.m.**
5° Perfect Master (Kay-McGee)----- 10:00 a.m.
*7° Provost and Judge (Altus-King) ----- 10:40 a.m.
Candidate Education (Your Legacy) -----**10:20 a.m.**
Lunch (Dining Hall)-----**11:55 a.m.**
Luncheon for 50 Year Invitees -----**12:00 p.m.**
*12° Master Architect (Edmond-Wall) ----- 12:55 p.m.
14° Perfect Elu (Del City-Steddum) -----1:55 p.m.
Lodge of Perfection Synopsis-----2:45 p.m.
Member Education Session-----**3:00 p.m.**
Candidate Education (Misuse of the Working Tools) -----**3:05 p.m.**
Introduction to the Chapter Rose Croix-----3:35 p.m.
16° Prince of Jerusalem (Okla City-Foster)-----3:40 p.m.
18° Knight Rose Croix (Okla City-Weed)-----4:40 p.m.
Chapter Rose Croix Synopsis -----5:50 p.m.

(Saturday evening activities optional for candidates)

Masonic Play “Defense of the Ruffians”-----**7:00 p.m.**
Masonic Conversation-----**8:00 p.m.**

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Breakfast (Dining Hall) **6:30 a.m.**
Class Election of Officers-----7:30 a.m.
Introduction to the Council of Kadosh-----7:45 a.m.
19° Grand Pontiff (Okla City-Minshall)-----7:50 a.m.
*26° Prince of Mercy (Okla City-Beagle)-----8:50 a.m.
27° Prince Adept (SW Okla-Grigsby).....9:35 a.m.
30° Knight of Kadosh (OKC-Schoolfield).....10:30 a.m.
Council of Kadosh Synopsis.....11:30 a.m.
Lunch (Dining Hall)..... **11:35 a.m.**
Class Memorial12:20 p.m.
Class Picture.....12:35 p.m.
Candidate Education (The Key to the Mysteries) -----**12:50 p.m.**
Patent Presentation Spring 2017 Class-----**1:30 p.m.**
Individual Candidate Photos -----1:20 p.m.
Introduction to the Consistory -----1:45 p.m.
*31° Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries (Norman/OKC-Cook) -----1:50 p.m.
32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon)..... 3:10 p.m.

**Passport degrees 7°, 12°, 26°, 31°*

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS

Friday

Meditation (Rose Room)----- 9:00 p.m.

Saturday

Meditation (Rose Room)-----7:00 - 7:30 a.m.
Ladies Coffee (Pompeiiian Room) ----- 9:00 a.m.
Member Education Session 1 (Blue Room)----- 9:30 a.m.
10 & 25 year member recognition ceremony (Crystal Room)-----10:00 a.m.
50 year luncheon -----12:00 p.m.
Meditation (Rose Room)----- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Member Education Session 2 (Blue Room)----- 3:00 p.m.
Meditation & AOR Business Mtg (Assyrian Room)----- 9:00 p.m.

Sunday

Meditation (Rose Room)-----7:00 - 7:30 a.m.
Member Education Session 3 (Blue Room)----- 9:30 a.m.
Membership Meeting ----- 11:00 a.m.
Meditation (Rose Room)-----11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Member Education Session 4 (Blue Room)----- 1:00 p.m.
April 2017 Class Patent Presentation (Crystal Room)----- 1:30 p.m.

Catching up.....

Good News/Not So Good News . . . As we are entering the last 1/3 of this calendar year, we are pleased to announce that over 93% of the members of the Valley of Guthrie have taken care of their annual financial obligation to the Rite. It means a lot when members pay their dues in a timely manner. That is the good news!

The bad news is, while it may not seem like much, the remaining 7% who have not yet paid their current year’s dues are impacting the Valley by creating a \$22,000 deficit in the annual income to the Lodge of Perfection budget. If you have not yet paid your 2017 dues in the Scottish Rite only because you haven’t yet gotten around to it, or you feel like your share of the total will not be missed, please reconsider. If you are not in a financial bind and there is no other compelling reason why you have not yet sent your dues to the Valley, please do so today! The other members of the Guthrie Valley will appreciate you joining them in their commitment to the Rite. It would truly help all of us. Thank you for your continued support of our Masonic organization. It means so much to so many.

The work on the Temple is progressing. Since our last newsletter we have been busy repairing and repainting the ceiling and walls in the Writing Room which suffered water damage from a roof leak. We replaced the large valance and curtains on the stage in the Main Auditorium due to a cable breaking and causing the valance to fall and break the frame. We have repaired/replaced the security lights on the roof of the Temple, all while keeping up with the lawn maintenance; which on 10 acres of land is quite a chore.



GUTHRIE MEMBER NAMED S.G.I.G. IN TEXAS CONGRATULATIONS ILLUSTRIOUS WIGGINS

It is not often that a Valley can boast of two members in key leadership roles with the Supreme Council A.A.S.R. But that is exactly what we can do in the Valley of Guthrie.

At the recent Biennial Session of the Supreme Council in Washington, D.C., Michael L. Wiggins, 33° was named S.G.I.G. for the Orient of Texas. He joins Ill.: Joe Manning, Jr., 33°, Oklahoma’s S.G.I.G. as one of the 33 active members of the Supreme Council.

Brother Wiggins had been serving as the appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council for Texas since January 1, 2017.

Ill.: Wiggins was a Charter member of Guildhall Lodge No. 553 when it was set to work by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma in 2002, and served as Worshipful Master in 2007. As a Past Master of both a Texas Lodge and an Oklahoma Lodge, he is a plural member of the Grand Lodge of Texas and the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. He is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Brother Wiggins is an endowed member of the Guthrie, Houston and Dallas Scottish Rite Valleys. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1985, was invested with the KCCH in 1995 and coronated a 33° in Guthrie in 2005. He served as Venerable Master of the Guthrie Lodge of Perfection in 2001 and was President of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation from 2005-2016. He and his wife Tanya are long-time supporters of our Childhood Language Disorders program.

He has also served as Venerable Master for the Dallas Lodge of Perfection. Before his appointment as Deputy, he was the Personal Representative for Education of the S.G.I.G. in Texas.

We are proud to call him one of our own, offer our support, and wish him the best in this new leadership role!



Michael L. Wiggins, 33°

THE JOURNEY OF THE STONES



by Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C.

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”
Rev 3: 12

There are many references to stones in the lexicon of Freemasonry. The first tools given an Entered Apprentice are the twenty-four-inch gauge and common gavel. We are told the gauge is an instrument of time. We are instructed the gavel is used to hone rough stones into a state that can be made usable in building. The interpretation we are to draw from these tools is that there must be a relationship between time and building. In the attending historical lecture, we find that the stones prepared for Solomon’s Temple were hewn, squared, and numbered in such a way that, when fitted, each part joined together so precisely that they had the appearance of being the handiwork of God rather than man. Again, there is an implication that creating anything of beauty and stability requires an investment in time.

We are then admonished the movable jewels of the lodge are the rough ashlar, the perfect ashlar, and the trestle board. Once more, the teaching is that a thing of extraordinary beauty and excellence often begins in a rude and imperfect state and comes to perfection only after designs have been tested and laid down, using time honored techniques employed by master craftsmen.

In the subsequent degrees of Masonry, we encounter a variety of stones—the unhewn stone, the cornerstone, cubic stone, the pyramid, the stone of foundation, keystone, capstone, the stone that was rejected, the cube of agate. And just as each of these stones has a special meaning in actual building, or as metaphors for construction—each also contains a secret; and all are tied to time. Collectively, they represent the craftsman’s journey of life.

Perhaps this is why Freemasonry’s origins are often traced to the Medieval stone-guilds. The guilds were a stone working industry with built in quality control mechanisms that ensured all craftsmanship would be an earned right, rather than a bequeathed benefit. Craftsmanship was both an art and a science born from the labor of time.

Although the power of our operative ancestors eventually waned, and Freemasonry became an institution more concerned with moral development than physical building, the methods of mentorship, secret instruction, study, and fraternal bonding bequeathed by our operative forefathers delivered a model for a different kind of learning, focus, and stewardship. We became a club for personal and spiritual development which uses stone working as a metaphor for life. Our peculiar group of men are to see their life as a stone to be carved and shaped



***We start with
the one “stone” in
the quarry...we
shape it and mold
it and smooth it
by the thoughts,
actions and deeds
of our life.***

into something deeply meaningful and beautiful, just as a sculptor finds an angel in a block of stone.

We start with the one “stone” in the quarry that we actually do have control of; we shape it and mold it and smooth it by the thoughts, actions and deeds of our life. Over time, we become better enabled to be the right exemplars of how men should think and act and live. We build a better world by first improving ourselves as individuals. Albert Pike said; “It is to single men that all the great works of man are owing.” What he meant was that the greatest achievements of history are often the result of the creative genius of single men from whose example the world desires to emulate, with deeds and progress.

This image of the ashlar is powerfully seen in many jurisdictions by the placement of a rough ashlar and a perfect ashlar in a visible place in every lodge. It is a reminder to each brother that he is a stone taken from the quarry of his own beginnings, and is fully capable of forming and improving himself in such a way that he becomes a part of, and an accomplished fit with a larger society that is itself improved by his example. This is how societal improvement comes to be. This is the aim of our society of men. The rough ashlar reminds us of who and where we are in life; the perfect ashlar shows us the refinement we are supposed to achieve with our life. The two together teach us that we have a job to do on ourselves; and that work can have enormous impact on our society and on building a more tolerant and loving world.

You see, terrorists, murderers, rapist, hate groups, and others who choose to commit inhumane acts against their humankind are not consciously shaping the building stones of their life, or their society. Rather, they are tearing down, stone by stone, life by life, doctrine by doctrine. Every day, such cruel and brutal examples of men engage in a battle of fear, ignorance, and intolerance within themselves and against others.

Masonry teaches that one does not erect a good life by choosing to always be a rough ashlar, to do nothing about ourselves and the human condition. Rather, we are to live an example that others will want to emulate; always taking concern for the one stone in the quarry that we can actually control and shape, slowly knocking off the corners with the common gavel as we shape our perfect ashlar, while allowing each to shape his own ashlar at his own pace.

This is the venue for toleration. It is not through might, but through education, instruction, contemplation and enlightenment that we can make fanaticism and intolerance powerless.

We are engaged in the work of life. Our life is supposed to be a profession of our Masonry. If we make it so, we will earn the good will of mankind—and our reward will be perpetually good.

This is how Masonry contributes to the world. When each Mason sees himself as a living stone in building an edifice whereby God and humanity can encounter each other; when each Mason does his share to genuinely improve himself as a more enlightened human being; then our united efforts can change everything for the good.

It all begins with our own conscious awareness that we are building a temple of improvement within ourselves. It is a temple erected to God. Thus, it is worth our time to make sure we are shaping it well. It is the real purpose of our life.

As Masons, we are intended to be spiritual temples that will mirror the divine, eternal purpose of Solomon’s temple. You see, the construction of our own temple, like the construction of King Solomon’s temple, is a way of life. In fact, it is life itself.

And we are the living stones.

A Temple Set Upon A Hill

In just three short years, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the ground breaking for this magnificent Temple we call home. It is amazing that our Masonic leaders during the last 100 years had the foresight to preserve and protect the original design and craftsmanship. How often today do we see century old structures totally stripped of their beginnings and “modernized” beyond recognition. We should be proud we have not chosen that path and our Cathedral*, dedicated to the Grand Architect of the Universe, remains in all its 1920s glory.

Beginning in this edition of “The Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason”, we will reprint excerpts from our book “100 Years of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Guthrie” as compiled by Frank A. Derr, 33° General Secretary of the Guthrie Valley from 1908-1946 and Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C., General Secretary from 1986 to 2016. This issue will detail the acquisition of the ten acre property.

**When first constructed, it was commonly referred to as the Scottish Rite Cathedral.*

In 1908, the citizens of Guthrie voted a bond issue, of which \$150,000 was used to build a Convention Hall in Guthrie. When Guthrie was originally settled, it was made up of four separate but contiguous town sites. One of these town sites was called “Plat of Capital Hill.” It was a tract of land 680 feet square, four city blocks containing 10.62 acres and marked “Capital Park.” That tract was conveyed to the city of Guthrie by a Trustees Deed, dated July 31, 1890, from the Townsite Board.

The City of Guthrie built its Convention Hall on the east side of the Capital Park and the State Legislature used it until the state capital was moved to Oklahoma City in 1910.

In the spring and summer of 1911, the leaders of the Methodist Church in Oklahoma and Texas were very anxious and pushing to locate a new Methodist University in Oklahoma so that classes could commence in September, 1911. With Guthrie Convention Hall basically unoccupied and deteriorating, the citizens of Guthrie were very anxious to have the new university locate in Guthrie. It seemed like a perfect setting. It had a large and ready structure, the town was centrally located, and it was willing to convert the short-lived seat of state government to a center for education.

In two short months, an agreement was reached to locate the university in Guthrie and commence classes for the period from September 1911 to June 1919. In part, the University agreed to raise \$200,000



in endowments over a four year period, and another \$10,000 in ten years; and further agreed to build a new building on the property at a cost of \$50,000.

The City of Guthrie agreed to extend streets and utilities to the proposed university addition and to permit the university to use the convention hall without rent until their new building was erected.

With the agreement in place, Methodist University immediately began using the Convention Hall for offices, classes and dormitory rooms.

When the announcement was made, the people of Guthrie celebrated with the ringing of bells and blowing of whistles. But by February of 1912, the bubble had burst. The fulfillment of the agreement between the University, the City and the citizens of Guthrie was deemed “practically impossible.” It was a travesty of unfulfilled promises and dreams. Most of the pledges made to the university were never paid and almost all the money received for the endowment was spent in operations.

A new agreement was drafted in hopes that a more realistic partnership might be arranged. But the University refused to sign it and demanded that Guthrie convey simple title of the Convention Hall and the four block area to it. In May 1913 the citizens of Guthrie voted to authorize the City Commission to convey the title to Methodist University in consideration of \$1 cash, with an obligation that the University had to raise a permanent endowment fund of \$250,000 within three years of January 1914 and then “maintain perpetually a university of high class and grade in said city of Guthrie.”

The deed was placed in escrow, but never delivered. A private citizen filed suit claiming the City did not have the authority to convey the property. Eventually, the Supreme Court of Oklahoma did rule in the City’s

favor. The delay meant there was no real assurance until January 1916 that Methodist University could become the legal owner and, by then, the Methodist Church had almost decided it did not want to keep the University in Guthrie. To make matters worse, it was so small and weak and financially unstable the people of Guthrie were not really excited about keeping it anyway.

The May 1919 class would be the last to graduate. It would take a popular fraternal movement to rescue the Convention Hall building and bring credit back to the City of Guthrie.

Guthrie Citizens Agree Scottish Rite Masons Should Own Capital Park...

By 1919, it could be said that the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masons were in the right place with the right need at the right time. After two expansions to the original temple downtown, efforts to add more space were not feasible.

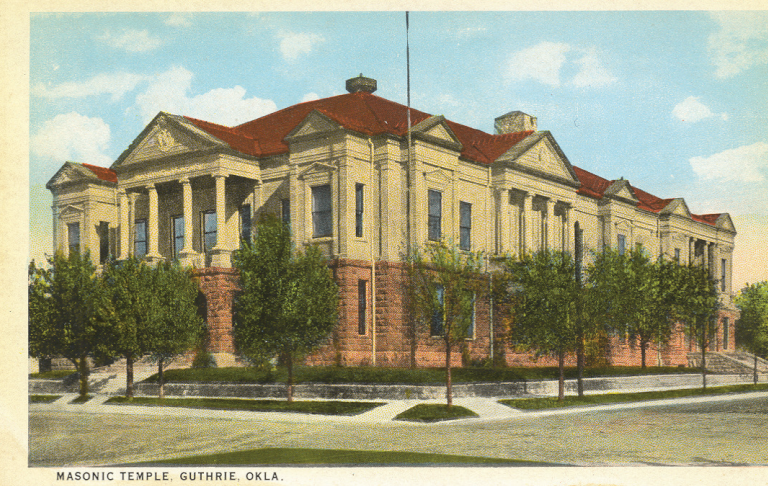
When Convention Hall was vacated by the Methodists, a grand opportunity fell into the hands of the Guthrie brethren. The Bodies needed more land upon which to conveniently expand as growth dictated, and it needed a Temple floor plan that was laid out on a much larger scale than the first Temple was able to provide.

Fortunately, the Guthrie Bodies had an important connection to Methodist University, and to the land it gave up. His name was Anton H. Classen, and he became one of the most optimistic builders Oklahoma would ever know. It would be largely upon his good judgment and final decision that the Guthrie Bodies would decide to erect the spacious cathedral which has now become the admiration of the Scottish Rite everywhere.

Classen had been a member since 1899 and was a member of the class that initiated the Council of Kadosh. In addition, he had been a major proponent of the University supported by the Methodists.

When Methodist University announced in May 1919 it would not hold classes in the fall of that year and would abandon the campus, it didn’t take long for the Guthrie Scottish Rite leadership to set in motion a new opportunity. Anton Classen contacted H.T. Swearingen, President of the Building Association with a recommendation that the Scottish Rite Bodies consider the Capital Park as a possible location of a new temple. Swearingen met with Frank Derr and negotiations began immediately with the city fathers to determine if there was any interest in transferring the property to the Masons.

The city fathers were more than ready to negotiate. The Methodist University dream had become a fiasco. The city had little hope that anything profitable and beneficial could come from further investments in the Capital Park property. The University was about to leave the Convention Hall building in a state of



“BE IT RESOLVED THAT WHEREAS, the rapidly increasing membership of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Guthrie has clearly demonstrated the insufficiency and inadequacy of the Scottish Rite Temple at Guthrie for the purpose of exemplifying degrees and caring for the membership and their immediate families as well as the ever increasing body of candidates; and, WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite Bodies of Guthrie, Oklahoma are at present financially able, without increasing burdensome or embarrassing obligations to increase the temple facilities suitable to the accommodation and entertainment and comfort of its now large and rapidly increasing membership; and, WHEREAS, the necessity for the immediate supplying of a greater and more commodious home for the Scottish Rite Masons of the Valley of Guthrie; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Masonic Building Association of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma be, and is hereby directed and authorized and empowered to proceed forthwith towards the furnishing of a more adequate and commodious Temple at Guthrie, Oklahoma, which shall be sufficient to satisfy the needs of Scottish Rite Masons, and said Masonic Building Association is hereby authorized and empowered to satisfy said need in such a manner as their judgment shall be for the best interests of Scottish Rite Masonry, in addition to present resources, if necessary to anticipate revenues, borrow money, make notes, or create debts, and that the said Masonic Building Association be, and is hereby empowered to use such means and methods as may in their judgment, be necessary to carry out the objects of this Resolution.”

deterioration that would make the building unattractive to other possible tenants.

The City made an offer to Derr and Swearingen, which Derr forwarded to the Building Association. The plan was to essentially deed the property over to the Scottish Rite Building Association at no cost, with the provision that the Scottish Rite make certain improvements thereon. Swearingen suggested Derr take a resolution to the Guthrie membership requesting their support of the proposition. Derr used the May 1919 Reunion to launch the proposal. A large class of 439, along with a great number of members, had gathered for the degrees on Monday and, after all the work had been completed on Thursday, May 15, all present were requested to remain while a vote was taken on a set of resolutions to build a larger temple.

Brother George Rittenhouse, 33°, Oklahoma City, presented the resolution and asked the class to vote on the same. Seconding speeches had been arranged by brothers from Enid, Tulsa, Okmulgee, Pawhuska and Bartlesville. Others vied for the privilege of doing so. Every hand was “raised as high as possible when the ‘Aye’ vote was called.” The resolution adopted was as shown on the previous page.

When this resolution was presented to the City of Guthrie, along with the offer of the Scottish Rite Masons to accept the proposal to take the Convention Hall and the property as their new home, the city was less than one month in announcing and placing on the ballot a proposition to the citizenry that the ten acres and the building be deeded to the Masons. Of course, the plan had its usual opponents, as well as its enthusiastic advocates. The various Clubs of the city took up the discussion and overall community sentiment turned in favor of the proposal. Obstacles to carrying out the plan were removed and the results were expressed in a Resolution, approved by the qualified electors of the City of Guthrie on June 17, 1919. That resolution shown at right, was presented to the Guthrie Bodies on the following day, outlining the conditions of the transfer.

The vote of the four Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies being nearly unanimous, the Board of Directors of the Masonic Building Association took up the proposal the next day.

On June 20, 1919, the Guthrie Scottish Rite paid \$1.00 over to the City of Guthrie and accepted all unredeemed insurance premiums on Convention Hall, thereby accepting the assignment of the property and

building to the Guthrie Valley. Plans began immediately to secure an architect and proceed with the work.

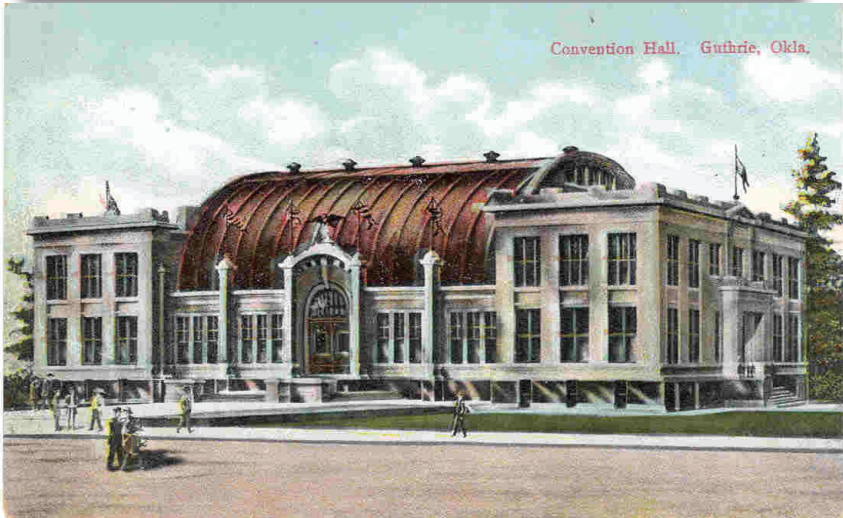
No one could have envisioned in 1919, just how singular the undertaking would become in the annals of Scottish Rite Masonry in Oklahoma.

Resolution

“WHEREAS, the qualified electors of the City of Guthrie, at an election held on the 17th day of June, 1919, by a majority vote of the qualified voters voting, at said election, authorizing the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Guthrie to tender, by warranty deed, to the Masonic Building Association for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma, for fraternal, benevolent and charitable purposes,

A tract of land six hundred eight (680) feet square, containing ten and sixty-two hundredths (10.62) acres, located within that part of the City of Guthrie known as Capitol Hill and bounded as follows: On the north by Cleveland Avenue; on the west by Capital Boulevard; on the south by Harrison Avenue and on the East by Drexel Boulevard, known and designated on the official plat of the City of Guthrie as ‘Capital Park’

together with the building and improvements thereon in consideration of one dollar (\$1.00) and the erection and maintenance by the said Masonic Building Association for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma, of building and improvements of the value of not less than \$500,000 and pending the completion of said improvements the Masonic Building Association for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma to keep up insurance on the building now on said tract of land; maintain and keep in good condition said ground; and said deed to be delivered to the said Masonic Building Association for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Oklahoma upon written acceptance of said deed on the terms herein provided...”



Investiture and Conferral Ceremonies November 5



On November 5, 2017 the Orient of Oklahoma, through the consecration of the Supreme Council, will honor seventeen Guthrie Scottish Rite Masons with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Another seven Guthrie members will receive the Thirty-third and last degree of the Rite in special state-wide ceremonies to be held at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple.

The ceremonies, recognizing some of our Orient’s most dedicated and devoted Masons, will be performed on the stage of the Guthrie Temple by specially selected teams of some of the best ritualists within the three Valleys of the Orient. The event is open only to KCCH and 33° honor men and tuxedo is required for both the honorees and those who have previously been honored.

After the ritualistic ceremonies have been performed, the men will gather in the Old Legislative Hall attached to the Temple for an Honors banquet commemorating the 2017 Biennial Session of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Members of the Guthrie Rainbow Assembly will serve the banquet; and an honor guard from Trinity DeMolay Chapter will present and escort the new honorees.

The Biennial Honors Day is always the most beautiful event held in the Temple. It is a day where honor men of the Rite come together from all over the state to celebrate the high recognition received from the Supreme Council by their newly elected peers and to share in the fellowship and fraternalism which only such events afford.

For those members who may not have received word of who from their area were elected, the newly elected honor men for Guthrie are listed here. Congratulate those whom you know the next time you see them. The KCCH and 33° designations have been earned.

KCCH

Robert Clayton Bruce
Troy Lee Collier
John Michael Espen III
Jason Edward Marshall
Matthew Dean McGee
Brian Alan Reiswig
Michael Eugene Ryan
John Mark Sloan
Richard A. White

Robert L. Carr
Robert Sean Cook
Ronald Frank Lowell
Richard C. McConnell
Woodrow Wilson Morehouse
Joe Marlan Rough
Christopher Michael Sheehan
Garrett Ray Stegall

33°

Edward James Becerra
Carlos Don Bollman
Robert Lynn Bradway
Ronald Lynn Carr
Benjamin Franklin Clark, Jr.
Steven Ernest Hanna
Harris Frank Powers

Bobby L. Laws, 33° Named Grand Cross at Supreme Council Session

Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, S.G.I.G. in Oklahoma is pleased to announce that Bobby L. Laws, 33° has been awarded the Grand Cross from the Supreme Council A.A.S.R. This prestigious designation belongs to less than 100 living Scottish Rite Masons in the Southern Jurisdiction and is reserved for those who have performed exceptional, extraordinary and prolonged services to the Fraternity and or humanity,

Bobby joined the Guthrie Scottish Rite in 1976, received the KCCH in 1983 and the 33° in 1991. He has served the Scottish Rite and Oklahoma Masonry for 41 years and has never “retired” from Masonic service. In fact, over 100 of the 143 Master Masons he has brought to the Guthrie Scottish Rite were top lined after he received the 33°!

Brother Laws is the fourth Guthrie Valley member to be honored with the Grand Cross. Other recipients are James Tresner and Robert Davis of Guthrie and the late Joseph S. Lewis of Ponca City.

Brother Laws will be formally recognized for this honor at the Investiture and Conferral Ceremony on November 5th. Congratulations Brother Bobby!



BRIAN PIERSON, 33° NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Brian Pierson 33°

The Guthrie Charitable and Educational Foundation is happy to announce that Brian Pierson, 33°, has been named as the President of the Foundation. Brian has served as a Trustee of the Foundation since 1991. Brian will lead the thirteen member board charged with overseeing the operation and distribution of the Foundation funds.

The Charitable and Educational Foundation is the principle philanthropic entity of the Guthrie Scottish Rite. It provides scholarships, care for children with learning/language disabilities and other charitable endeavors of the Temple.

Brian is a life member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite, having joined in 1984. He received the KCCH in 1989 and was coroneted a 33° in 1993.

Brother Pierson serves as Supreme Inspector for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Oklahoma. He and his wife Janna have three adult children.

He is currently the Senior Vice-President and General Counsel for Bancfirst Corp. in Oklahoma City.



CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT SLATED FOR DECEMBER 16, 2017

It's time to mark your calendars. The annual Guthrie Scottish Rite Christmas Concert featuring Bro. Andrew Schaeffer 32° is coming on December 16th at 8:00 p.m. Come out and listen to beautiful Christmas songs expertly played on our grand Kimball Organ. Andrew is an accomplished musician who is currently pursuing his Doctorate degree in Organ Music and is the Director of Music for the First Methodist Church in Edmond. If you have not heard him play, you are in for a treat. This is a free concert open to the public so grab your friends, family, and neighbors and come out for what will be an very enjoyable start to the Christmas Season.

Andrew Schaeffer, 32°, Organist



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

First we want to thank the Brothers who so generously donated to outfit our auditorium with a new Video System. Over \$16,000.00 was raised to purchase state-of-the-art projectors, as well as a new laptop computer to interface with them. This new system will greatly enhance the Reunion experience for our candidates and our members.

Having said that, we have a couple of projects on the horizon for which we will be sending out an appeal for funds. As you are surely aware, operating and maintaining a Temple of this size is a massive undertaking and takes a large amount of money. We have been blessed to have members answer our appeals for donations in the past and we hope that you will continue to feel that your donations are being put to good use by the Temple leadership. We want to give a brief overview of several of the big projects that are upcoming.

Our Stage elevator has been out of order for a couple of years. We have had four different elevator companies draft quotes to repair and bring it up to the current code. The lowest estimate is a little over \$118,000 to comply with all the requirements in the state elevator code. This elevator is essential for some of our more "veteran" members in order for them to continue to take part in the degrees.

We have not completed the window project in the old Legislative Hall. All the windows on the East side have been replaced; the first floor windows on the west side have been replaced. The windows on the north and south side as well as the 2nd and 3rd floor windows on the west side still need to be replaced. Current estimate is around \$150,000.

Our beautiful Kimball organ is in need of preventative maintenance. The organ is a delicate instrument that must be maintained in order to continue its use. The University of Oklahoma Organ Institute is working with us to continue the maintenance and preservation schedule.

The day-to-day upkeep and maintenance of the Temple consumes an already stretched budget and leaves very little room for some of these larger projects. That is why we must send out appeals to the membership to ask for donations to help us continue to renovate and maintain this beautiful edifice.

While I am asking for help, we need volunteers who are interested in helping out in the old cafeteria during reunions. We need some energetic brothers who would like to assist in the meal preparation and serving of the lunchtime meals. We have just reopened the cafeteria for lunch and it was a resounding success. But we need to get a group of men who are willing to step up and help keep this going. If you are interested please give the Temple a call.

Again I'd like to thank everyone for the support you give to the Guthrie Scottish Rite. We could not do it without you.



GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE
 “THREE CENTURIES REUNION”
 MARCH 31, APRIL 1-2, 2017

ROW 1: David Spradlin, Class Chaplain; Coy Hayes, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Russell Aduddell, Class Vice-President; William F. Shephard, Class President; Matt McGee, 32° Wise Master Chapter Rose Croix; John D. Church, KCCH, General Secretary; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Oklahoma; Charles Stuckey, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; B.F. Rowland, Jr., 33°, Jack Painter, 33°; John Logan, 33°; Timothy Israel, KCCH, Commander of Kadosh; John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; Richard Massad, 33° Class Director

ROW 2: David Williamson, 32°, Class Director; Michael Carbone; Tyler Wooten; Clyde A. Lee; Scott Eatchel; Albert H. Blackledge IV; Lawrence Falk; Derrick M. Nelson; Marvin Reese; Kenneth E. McLain, II; William C. Wetzel; Greg Robinson; Michael Savage; Todd Gilliland, Steve Hanna, KCCH, Class Director

ROW 3: P. Nigel Brown; Richard Huff; Jeramie Tipton; John Witt; Jared D. Shipman; George J. C. Murphy, II; Paul Kastner; Timothy H. Gray; Shawn Tidwell; Daniel J. Dodson; Jason D. Laurence; Travis A. Houska.

ROW 4: Guy K. Haas; Cody Presley; Doug Carr; Bob D. Calvert, Jr; Darrin C. Oglesby; Jeremy Cole; John C. Whittington; John G. Bishop; Keith Young; Brodee Nucci; George McQuary; John W. Wallace; Shawn A. Beagle.

ROW 5: Jacques O'Connor; Elliott White; Robert W. Spears; Donald Hill; Nathan Sullivan; James Oates, III; Aaron Moore; Troy Dennis; Brian W. McCracken; Timothy Ishmael; Zac Hurst; Vernon Neuenschwander.

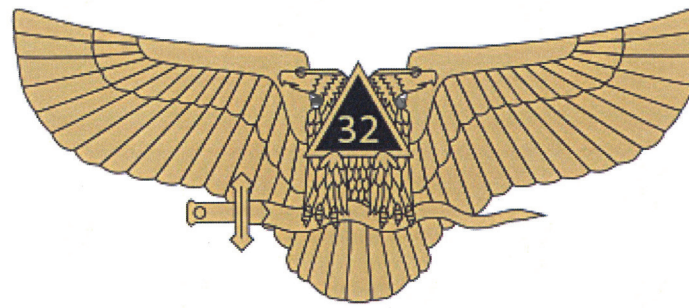
ROW 6: Mike Weixel; Walter Birdsong; Brandon Stovall; William Lloyd Smith.

Photography by Jay McCormick 32°
 Tulsa Valley



Fall 2016 Class Patent Presentations

Members of the October 2016 class returned to the Spring Reunion to receive their 32° Patent and class picture, presented by Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° S.G.I.G.



**Valley Membership
 Achievement Program (VMAP)**

VMAP is a grassroots-developed and driven project with the mission of helping each Valley ensure that every Scottish Rite Brother is provided with the best possible member experience and value for his membership.

It was designed to provide every Scottish Rite candidate, member, and leader in the Southern Jurisdiction with a useful working tool for planning and promoting a well-rounded series of Valley activities to engage and involve every member in the life and work of their Valley. In other words, VMAP was and is designed to help every Valley provide its members with a superior Scottish Rite experience.

VMAP is not a contest between Orients or Valleys, but is an opportunity for each Valley to describe their programs and tell how and why they work. The VMAP program is in its third year and the Guthrie Valley has been recognized as fulfilling the requirements of the program for each of the previous two years. Our Valley's VMAP Chairman Ill. Jack Painter 33°, has done an outstanding job of keeping us on track and ensuring we focus on the proper areas to ensure that we complete each required task.



Jack Painter, 33°

Behind the Scenes

With The Temple Staff

Shirley Waner and Nancy Powell are the two ladies who keep this Valley running on a day-to-day basis. Both have served over thirty years in the Guthrie Scottish Rite office. These two ladies handle every administrative aspect of the Valley; from paying bills, maintaining financial records, collecting dues payments, updating the database, keeping us on budget, publishing the newsletters, coordinating meals for the candidates and 50 year members' luncheon, etc.

While reunions may seem to run seamlessly, you can bet that these two ladies are the reason things run so smooth. They handle candidate registration, members paying their dues during reunions, tracking the Passport degrees, as well as handling the hundreds of questions arising throughout the weekend.

Their dedication to the Scottish Rite is evident in everything they do. I am truly blessed to have inherited such a dedicated, professional staff with which to work. Next time you're at the Temple stop in and tell them thank you for all they do.



Shirley Waner and Nancy Powell

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“EDUCATION ON THE RITE NITE”

2017

Education on the Rite Nite has been a hugely successful program since it was instituted by the Guthrie Valley in 2010. It has now expanded, with Education Nites being offered by the Tulsa and McAlester Valleys in Lodges in their geographic region, but the program is exactly the same. For that reason, we are including other Education dates that might be of interest to our members. If you have not visited an Education on the Rite Nite evening, we encourage you to do so. It is open to all Scottish Rite Masons. It is an opportunity for you to learn more about the Scottish Rite degrees in an informal setting and affords the listener the ability to ask questions and discuss the significant teachings and symbolism of the degree. If you would like to be added to the email reminder list, just let us know at gsrite@sbcglobal.net.

9/7/17	Regional Lodge of Perfection/Council of Kadosh <i>“The Cedars of Lebanon” 22°</i>	Cordell
9/20/17	Offered by McAlester	Duncan
10/18/17	Offered by McAlester	Pauls Valley
10/19/17	Chapter Rose Croix Meeting <i>“A Profound Insight into the Ancient of Days” 12°</i>	Cushing
11/15/17	Offered by McAlester	Shawnee
11/16/17	Guthrie Consistory Meeting <i>“The Templar Tradition in Freemasonry” 30°</i>	Oklahoma City #36