



VOICE OF THE ORIENT

(SCOTTISH RITE, ORIENT OF ARKANSAS)

Volume 2

1 FEBRUARY 2015

ISSUE 1

Arkansas Scottish Rite at a Crossroads

General Assembly — February 28th

All Scottish Rite Masons in Arkansas are invited and encouraged to attend a General Assembly meeting at 10 am on Saturday, February 28th at the Albert Pike Memorial Temple, 712 Scott Street in Little Rock. The meeting has been called by SGIG James Graham to discuss the financial situation of operating the Albert Pike Memorial Temple. Brother Graham has sent a letter to all Scottish Rite Masons in which he said that it appears that the temple will have to be sold because income from membership dues and rentals is not enough to pay the operating expenses of the building. The officers have put together a plan to rebuild the Scottish Rite membership and save the building. It will be discussed on February 28 and a decision on the future direction will be made that day. Each Scottish Rite member will be asked to make a personal commitment to help rebuild our fraternity and keep the Temple in Masonic use.

The meeting will begin at 10 am on February 28th and will conclude by noon. After the meeting, lunch will be served and the entire event will be finished by 1 pm. It will be a tyled meeting, so please bring your membership card.

Special Offer for Petitioners in 2015

NEW SCOTTISH RITE MASONS—For Master Masons who petition the Scottish Rite in Arkansas in 2015, there is a special offer. The normal initiation fee for the Arkansas Scottish Rite is \$200, but in 2015, those who petition have the option to join the Scottish Rite with the initiation fee waived if they agree to pay their annual dues for at least three years. The 2015 petition form includes this new option! So as you are recruiting new members, be sure to mention this option for 2015.

REINSTATEMENT—Also, the Supreme Council has a special reinstatement program for those who have been suspended for non-payment of dues in which they can petition for reinstatement and pay only current years dues. So, if you have brethren who have lapsed in their Scottish Rite membership, this is a great opportunity for them to petition for reinstatement!

In all cases, our Orient Executive Secretary, Bro. Mitch Hensley, in our office is happy to help. If you need more petitions or have questions about petitioning, call Bro. Hensley at 501-375-5587.

SEE BLANK PETITION ON INSIDE BACK COVER



Statement of Allegiance

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Orient of Arkansas, acknowledge and yield allegiance to The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America (Mother Supreme Council of the World) whose See is at Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and the House of the Temple, Washington, D.C., of which

III. Ronald A. Seale, 33°

Is Sovereign Grand Commander
And

Orient of Arkansas

Presiding Officers

III. C. James Graham, 33°, P.:G.:M.:

Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Arkansas

III. Larry D. Berry, 33°

Personal Representative for
The Orient of Arkansas

III. Harold L. Gwatney, 33°, G.:C.:

Personal Representative Emeritus for
The Orient of Arkansas

Mitch Hensley, KSA

Executive Secretary for
The Orient of Arkansas

III. Robert Jackson, 33°, P.:G.:M.:

Treasurer for
The Orient of Arkansas

III. John Penrod, 33°

Building Superintendent for
The Orient of Arkansas

III. Dick E. Browning 33°, P.:G.:M.:

Personal Representative for
The Valley of Little Rock

III. Wilburn Howton 33°

Personal Representative for
The Valley of Jonesboro

III. Jarrod R. Adkisson 33°, P.:G.:M.:

Personal Representative for
The Valley of Fayetteville

Update Your Mailing Address

Address Update: Have you moved recently, or do you have a Scottish Rite friend who didn't receive this magazine? Do you think your contact information may not be up to date? If so, please visit the website listed below and update your address. If you have trouble or have a question please contact your Valley Secretary, they are ready to help!

<http://scottishrite.org/members/members-programs/>

VOICE of the ORIENT *Is published in February, June and September by the Scottish Rite Bodies, Orient of Arkansas. Any article or views expressed in this publication are those only of the writer and do not reflect the official position of the Arkansas Scottish Rite. The editorial policy of this publication grants free reign to the Editor, within the lines of Masonic principles and teachings. Articles and pictures submitted become the property of this publication.*

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Eagle Scout Banquet 2015

*By Bro Angelo Coppola, 33°
Chairman, Eagle Scout Committee*

On February 27, 2015 the Scottish Rite Valley of Little Rock will once again host a recognition banquet for those young men who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in the Quapaw Council for the year 2014. The recognition banquet began when the ILL.: William Nash, the first Eagle Scout in Arkansas, was the SGIG and has continued to be an annual event. The young men and their families are treated to a fantastic dinner, recognition and awards. Each year the Valley of Little Rock hosts over 300 scouts and their families.

(A special note: Our present SGIG the ILL.: James Graham is an Eagle Scout.)



Jurisdiction of Supreme Council

The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council includes all the territory over which the United States of America exercises domain of powers of government, except the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, which were apportioned by the Supreme Council to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. The jurisdiction of this Supreme Council also includes those countries where it has established, or may hereafter establish, Bodies of the Rite, and over which countries no regular Supreme Council has acquired jurisdiction.

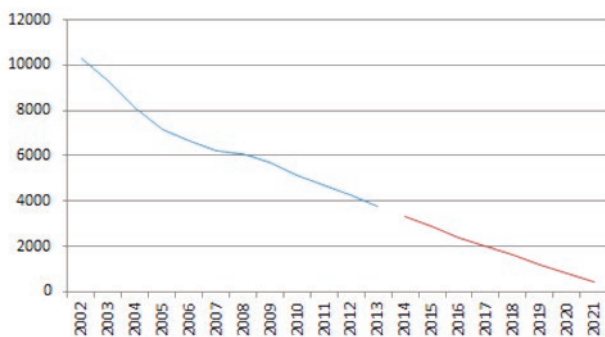
Which Road Will We Take?

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

-- The Road Not Taken, Robert Frost

Brethren, we are at a crossroads in Arkansas Scottish Rite Freemasonry. And just like in Robert Frost's famous poem, we must choose which path to take. In the past 10 years, we have gone from 10,000 members in the Scottish Rite in Arkansas to about 3,500 today. Of course, some of these losses are brethren who have passed away, but the sad truth is that two-thirds of these are brethren who have been suspended for non-payment of dues. As you can see in the chart, our membership continues to decline and if we do not choose the right path, we can see that only a few years are left. And since our Albert Pike Memorial Temple is mostly funded through membership dues, we are at a real crossroads with the Temple as well. Unless we can grow our membership, we will have to sell our Temple.

Orient of Arkansas Membership



Fortunately, there is another path. We CAN do the work necessary to change this trend and bend the line upwards. Some Valleys across the country have turned the corner and have positive membership growth. I believe that is the path we must take, but it will require a real commitment from a group of brethren who look at this and are motivated to make a difference.

From The Desk Of:

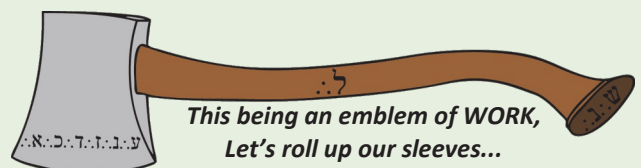
ILL. C. James Graham, 33°, PGM
S.G.I.G. Orient Of Arkansas,
Active Member Of The Supreme Council



I am asking every Scottish Rite Mason to attend a General Assembly on Saturday, February 28th at 10 am at the Temple. We will discuss our plan to grow our membership and produce the income needed to continue to operate the Temple. The future of Arkansas Scottish Rite will be decided that day as each brother decides which path to take. TOGETHER, it can make all the difference.

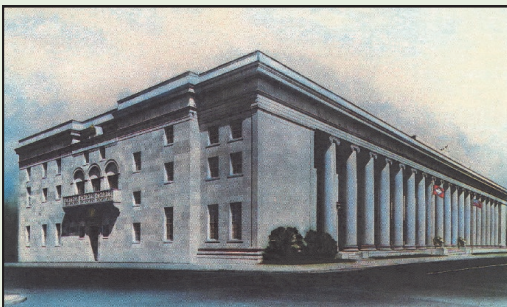
"The future of Scottish Rite Freemasonry rests in the hands of its members. It will be what we make of it: an institution of moral leadership, educational advancement, and philanthropic endeavors or merely a social club with empty titles and vain pretensions. To achieve the former requires the combined and concerted effort of a great many of us and a renewed commitment . . . that our light may so shine before men that they will continue to desire our fellowship and join in our assemblies "

Bridge of Light, p. 327, Rex Hutchins, 33°



The 7 one day reunions, with locations are listed below. Where you see a 2 day reunion listed, a Brother, unable to attend Friday is allowed to complete the reunion by attending the Saturday session only:

March 6-7, 2015 Jonesboro
April 25, 2015 Fayetteville
May 2, 2015 Little Rock
June 20, 2015 Statewide, Little Rock
August 1, 2015 Jonesboro
October 10, 2015 Fayetteville
October 31, 2015 Little Rock



Valley of Little Rock Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 28, 2015

10:00 A.M. Scottish Rite Assembly
Albert Pike Memorial Temple, Little Rock, AR
(All Orient Members)

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

5:15 P.M. Advisory Council
6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2015

5:00 P.M. Remembrance & Renewal

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 2015

6:00 A.M. Breakfast
6:30 A.M. Candidate Registration
8:00 A.M. Opening

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

5:15 P.M. Advisory Council
6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2015

..... Statewide Reunion
Albert Pike Memorial Temple, Little Rock, AR
6:00 A.M. Breakfast
6:30 A.M. Candidate Registration
8:00 A.M. Opening

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

5:15 P.M. Advisory Council
6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Stated Meeting



The Valley of Little Rock

Chartered October 19, 1892

Stated Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month

712 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72203

WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED LATELY???

By William L. Jones, 33°

I managed to make a few of the stated meetings during the summer and became aware of a lot of changes being made. For one thing it wasn't the same old thing at the stated meetings. At one stated meeting, we adjourned to the auditorium to see a Degree that had never been seen in this Valley before. There was an excitement rarely seen. The Lodge of Perfection was almost completely full. And many were first time attendees. The short time of education was provided at other stated meetings and was well received.

So when I learned that there was to be a new format at the Fall 2014 Reunion, I wanted to attend. A Degree was to be presented that had never been presented in this Valley and another that had not been presented since perhaps the early Twenties. In addition, I was especially interested in the new concept of having the candidates as-

semble in the Lodge of Perfection for additional instruction and education. This made excellent use of the down time required to change the scenery for the next degree. I brought my old copy of "Bridge to Light" and basically shadowed the candidates. During the breaks that were dubbed the "Gaps", much was presented, helping me to understand the historical context and relationship of the degrees, one to another.

All in all, over four hours of additional instruction and education was added to the normal degrees by using the "Gaps". More importantly, we were dismissed on time. All this was accomplished by excellent cooperation by all to keep on schedule.

I hope you don't perceive these words as trying to put a guilt trip on you if you weren't able to attend, but you did truly miss an excellent performance and opportunity to learn more about the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. This program is being continued at the 2015 reunions.

Bottom line is things are changing and looks to me like it is for the better, if attendance and attitude is any measure. It seems there is a sense of interest and excitement I have not felt in years. It is almost like I need to go so I won't miss something important.

By the way, several of the new 32nd degree masons attended the November stated meeting, along
(See LATELY???, Page 10)

2015 Officers

Little Rock Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Ill Paul Wilson, 33°
Senior Warden Ill Steven Tiner, 33°
Junior Warden Gary Henningsen, KCCH

Little Rock Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Ill Edward Britton, 33°
Senior Warden Aaron Warren, KCCH
Junior Warden Jim Morehead, KCCH

Little Rock Council of Kadosh

Commander John Strange, KCCH
1st Lt. Commander Ill Charles Ferguson, 33°
2nd Lt. Commander Bobby Bennett, KCCH

Little Rock Consistory

Master of Kadosh Ronnie Frizzell, KCCH
Prior Scott Sells, KCCH
Preceptor Angelo Coppola, 33°

III. Cletis Odell Overton, 33°

(Arkansas' "National Treasure")

Illustrious Brother Cletis Overton is a World War II Veteran that fought the Japanese in the Philippines when he was in his early twenties. Brother Overton was also taken as a Prisoner of War by the Japanese while serving and spent nearly 3 years in captivity while suffering through starvation, dehydration and physical abuse. Of about 62,000 Filipinos and 10,000 Americans, Cletis was one of the unfortunate prisoners that suffered through and survived the infamous Bataan Death March. On August 20, 1944, Cletis and his fellow prisoners were marched down to the local dock and caused to board a Japanese cargo ship. Cletis had been defeated in every-way imaginable; he endured the weeklong Bataan Death March and about 3 years in various prison camps. Even though they had all been treated in the same terrible and inhumane manner and he had watched many of his comrades die or killed, Cletis was still alive, and he attributed this to his unshakable will and faith in God. As they boarded the ship the Japanese forced them all down in a lower level room where they were packed in like sardines. After a while they stopped and 150 more men were loaded onto the ship. After a few more days the ship stopped again and the men were moved to a Japanese freighter, the Shinyo Maru. They were now on their way to Japan and it was well known that there was no escaping if you made it there. On September 7, 1944 there was a loud explosion and Cletis was immediately overtaken by a wave of rushing water. Many things were rushing through Cletis' mind as he fought to keep from drowning, the first thought was to take a big gulp of sea water and end his pain but then he thought about his parents and his family and friends back in Arkansas. But the last thought that went through his mind was that if he died his parents would not know that he had become a Christian and that if he died at that moment, he realized that he had never done anything for the Lord. He promised God that if he survived he would share his testimony of faith every time he shared this story, and he has to this day.



An American submarine had come along and fired a torpedo at the Japanese freighter that Cletis was on, as it was going down Cletis got free from the wreckage and swam to a piece of timber that a few survivors were hanging on to. As he grabbed hold Cletis heard a familiar noise and noticed the water spattering around him, he was being shot at by the deck machine guns as the ship was going down. He dove under water until his lungs could not take it any longer and he surfaced again to find no one left on the timber. Cletis then began his swim towards land but was badly shaken by the explosion and had shrapnel in his shoulder. As he swam he noticed a Japanese man calling for help, Cletis could tell that the man was badly injured and only staying above water with his life preserver. Cletis knew these men were still dangerous as they always carried a bayonet on them and the last thing he wanted to do was get stabbed in the middle of the ocean. As he approached the man he pulled him in closer by the strings of the life preserver until he was right behind him and Cletis grabbed the man, shoving him into the water until he did not move. Cletis took the man's life preserver and swam to land to reunite with his fellow survivors. Of the 750 POW's on the Shinyo Maru only 83 survived it's sinking and 1 died once he reached the shore, Cletis Overton was one of the 82 left and he is still alive today.

After serving his beloved country and surviving so many extraordinary hardships, Cletis went on to serve the Scottish Rite in Little Rock, AR with great distinction for many years. Cletis received the 33rd Degree on 12/13/1969 and is the most tenured 33rd Degree Mason in the State of Arkansas. In the Valley of Little Rock Cletis served from 1972-1975 as the Commander of the Council of Kadosh, 1975-1978 as the Master of Kadosh, 1978-1983 as the Venerable Master and 1983-1986 as the Executive Secretary. Cletis was a great ritualist and worked in many of the degrees, conferring the 32nd Degree and for many years conferring the 33rd Degree on the brethren of Arkansas that did not travel to Washington, D.C. Cletis will be 95 years old on April 7, 2015 and lives in Malvern, AR with his wife Adrienne. Cletis is not only a treasure in Arkansas but he is a national treasure and every Scottish Rite Mason in the world should be proud to call him Brother! I know I am!!



The Valley of Jonesboro

Chartered June 17, 1974

Stated Meeting on the second Monday of each month

2206 W. Washington Ave, Jonesboro, AR 72401

Valley of Jonesboro Calendar of Events

Friday, March 6, 2015 Spring Reunion
7:00 A.M. Coffee & Donuts
8:00 A.M. Candidate Registration
8:50 A.M. Opening, Lodge of Perfection

Saturday, March 7, 2015 Spring Reunion
7:00 A.M. Breakfast
7:50 A.M. Opening, Chapter of Rose croix
12:30 P.M. Open Council of Kadosh
3:40 P.M. Open Eastern Arkansas Consistory

Monday, March 9, 2015
5:30 P.M. Advisory Council
6:30 P.M. Dinner
7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

Friday, April 3, 2015 MAUNDY THURSDAY
6:00 P.M. Extinguishing The Lights
..... Dinner
..... Relighting The Lights

Monday, April 13, 2015
5:30 P.M. Advisory Council
6:30 P.M. Dinner
7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2015
5:30 P.M. Advisory Council
6:30 P.M. Dinner
7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2015
5:30 P.M. Advisory Council
6:30 P.M. Dinner
..... Scholarship Presentations
7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

2015 Officers

Jonesboro Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Ill. Wally Thomas, 33
Senior Warden Daryl Johnson, KCCH
Junior Warden Carl Phillips, KCCH

Jonesboro Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Ill. Byron Ponder, 33°
Senior Warden Ill. Brent Howton, 33°
Junior Warden John Warnock, KCCH

Jonesboro Council of Kadosh

Commander Ill. Ronnie Hedge, 33°
1st Lt. Commander Ill. Gary Tiner, 33°
2nd Lt. Commander Ill. Johnny Savage, 33°

Jonesboro Consistory

Master of Kadosh Mike Noles, KCCH
Prior Ill. Joseph Kirby, 32°
Preceptor Ill. Brent Howton, 33°

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is a common and popular name for Holy Thursday, the first day of the Easter Triduum, and the final three days of Lent before Easter. Coming at the high point of Holy Week or Passiontide, Maundy Thursday commemorates Christ's Last Supper, at which He instituted the Eucharist, the Mass, and the priesthood.

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word mandatum, which means "commandment." Near the end of the Last Supper, after Judas had departed, Christ said to His disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

The name Maundy Thursday is today more common among Protestants than among Catholics, who tend to use Holy Thursday, while Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox refer to Maundy Thursday as Great and Holy Thursday.

The Legacy of a Scottish Rite Mason

The future of Scottish Rite Freemasonry rests in the hands of its members. It will be what we make of it; an institution of moral leadership, educational advancement and philanthropic endeavors or merely a social club with empty titles and vain pretensions. To achieve the former requires the combined and concerted effort of a great many of us and a renewed commitment to learn and live – learn the sublime teachings of religious philosophy, then live them, that our light may so shine before men that they will continue to desire our fellowship and join in our assemblies. The seed is self-improvement and the fruit is moral progress. Each of us must become the Master Interior, the Inward Master, for until we have mastered ourselves our influence over other men can bring no good results.

Good men, Better men
We seek no more, we offer no more
It is enough

Back stage at a Jonesboro Reunion



A Toast to the Flag

Written by John J. Taft
Reprinted from The Sojourner, May/June 1996.

*Here's to the red of it,
There's not a thread of it,
No, not a shred of it,
In all the spread of it,
From foot to head of it,
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!*

*Here's to the white of it,
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it,
But feels the might of it,
Through day and night?*

*Womanhood's care for it,
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it,
Keeps it so white!*

*Here's to the blue of it,
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it,
Constant and true;*

*Diadem gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it,
Brightens the blue!*

*Here's to the whole of it
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;*

*Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red White and Blue!*



In Memoriam

Bro. Raymond J. Sweetin, Jr
Euclid Lodge #130
August 27, 2014

Bro. Bevie L. Machen
Forrest City #195
October 27, 2014

Bro. Clifford B. Allen 32° KCCH
West Memphis Lodge #737
September 13, 2014

Bro. Clyde Pruitt 32°
Chickasawba #134
March 28, 2014

Bro. Thomas W. Callahan 32° KCCH
West Memphis #737
September 15, 2014

Bro. Edgar L. Kelley 32°
Iron Springs #342
March 28, 2014

Bro. Edmond D. Cleaves 32° KCCH
Jonesboro Lodge #129
September 18, 2014

Bro. Roy E. Secrease 32°
Poinsett #184
November 16, 2014

Bro. Paul F. Shenep 32°
West Memphis Lodge #737
September 21, 2014

Bro. Bobby R. Garner 32° KCCH
Chickasawba #134
November 11, 2014

Bro. Billy E. Russell 32°
Chickasawba #134
September 28, 2014

Bro. Leonard A. Rochelle 32°
Crittenden #607
November 13, 2014

Bro. Steven W. Blake 32°
Chickasawba @134
October 14, 2014

Bro. Donald J. McCoy 32°
Nettleton #6576
December 4, 2014





Valley of Fayetteville Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

5:30 P.M. Leadership Meeting
6:30 P.M. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Stated Communication

Saturday, February 28, 2015

10:00 A.M. Scottish Rite Assembly
Albert Pike Memorial Temple, Little Rock, AR
(All Orient Members)

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

5:30 P.M. Leadership Meeting
6:30 P.M. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Stated Communication
..... Remembrance and Renewal Observance

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

5:30 P.M. Leadership Meeting
6:30 P.M. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Stated Communication

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Spring Reunion

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

5:30 P.M. Leadership Meeting
6:30 P.M. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Stated Communication

2015 Officers

Fayetteville Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Patrick Carr, KCCH
Senior Warden..... Ill. Mike Briscoe, 33°
Junior Warden..... Boyd R. Boen, 32°

Fayetteville Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master Ill. Aaron South, 33°
Senior Warden..... Eric Paslick, 32°
Junior Warden..... Scott Nelson, 32°

Fayetteville Council of Kadosh

Commander..... Joe Rouse, 32°
1st Lt. Commander..... Larry Wilson, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander..... Keith Patterson, 32°

Fayetteville Consistory

Master of Kadosh Al Davidson, KCCH
Prior..... Billy J. Holder, KCCH
Preceptor..... Matt Beyers, 32°

The Valley of Fayetteville

Chartered October 22, 1925

Stated Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month

1106 East Masonic Drive, Fayetteville AR 72703

What Does The Scottish Rite Offer??

*Patrick C. Carr, KCCH
Venerable Master, Valley of Fayetteville*

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite offer candidates a great opportunity to increase their search for Masonic Light by studying the twenty-nine degrees that it confers upon its members. The search for Light and perfection is what should lead a candidate for Masonry down the long and storied path of discovery. However, as we have often found, this is not always the case. But how do we encourage our brethren to seek the door of the Scottish Rite to attain these higher ideals of perfection? The fourteenth degree shows us that we should assist and encourage our brethren and by doing this, attain the title of Perfect Elu.

As we have all discovered Masonic membership, and even our beloved Scottish Rite, is at an all time low. I have read different articles and studies that show our membership to be below that of the post World War II levels and these self same articles have speculated that we will never again attain those membership numbers among our brethren again. But what can we do to turn the tide of membership?

I was speaking with a Brother one evening at a practice for the second section of the Masters degree. Upon being asked if I could attend to assist in another practice on the following Wednesday even-

ing, I had to decline my involvement for that particular practice. You see, we have our monthly Scottish Rite meetings at the Valley of Fayetteville on the fourth Wednesday of every month. When I told him this, his response was to inform me that he used to be a Scottish Rite Mason, but he had given up his membership for various reasons. Of course, I just had to inquire as to why he had given up something that is precious to me as an individual. His answer was two-fold in nature.

First, he had decided to quit the Scottish Rite due to never being able to make any of the meetings. This I can totally understand. It can be difficult to make Masonic meetings when we become so involved in Masonry that there is always something to do each and every night of the week, and sometimes, the month. I myself am a member of many various and different Masonic bodies. If I desired it, I could be in attendance at a Masonic meeting almost every night of the week. It does sound like a lot, but I realized that when I joined I would not be a member of a group that I could not give attendance to. When you look at all of those groups, it only accounts for about ten nights per month, and a few more when we have special groups

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meet who only meet on a quarterly basis. So I do realize that it can sometimes be hard to pick and choose which meetings to miss. I also realize that one should not neglect their family or vocation to attend these same meetings. There are times when I have to make hard choices, but my family and my means of income, always have to be on the upper step of those choices. If I truly follow and believe the Masonic principles that we hold dear, then those choices are really not that hard. Family, vocation and God always come first and foremost.

As I have progressed through the Scottish Rite degrees, and spent more time in an in depth study of each one, I realized something. When I was obligated in the thirty-second degree, I swore that I would not neglect the meetings of any body of the Rite without just cause. This was truly a revelation to me. In the past, I had easily skipped meetings without any cause, other than distance. How could I have missed this important part of my obligation? Was I not paying attention to the Master of Kadosh? I will readily admit that it was a mistake on my part. I daresay that we would not neglect our Lodge meetings just because it may be inconvenient to travel for attendance.

I asked this Brother if he had ever attended any of the meetings of the Lodge of Perfection. Of course, he had not. I told him how wonderful the meetings were, and how we had monthly discourses on Masonic study. This was of some interest to him, but he still decided that his demit was going to stand. The next reason attempted to justify his logic for dropping out.

The other reason my good friend and Brother cited was that he never really understood the Scottish Rite degrees in the first place since he went through a one day festival to receive them. When I joined the Scottish Rite, I was obligated to all the degrees that were not shown in full form. I, along with the rest of our class, did witness the fourth, fourteenth, thirty and thirty-second degrees. I was even the exemplar in the thirty-second degree. After it was over, we were led into a room, congratulated on being Scottish Rite Masons, handed a pyramid with our fourteenth degree ring encased in clear lucite and received a copy of Rex Hutchens *A Bridge to Light*. After that we took a class photo and we departed. There was very little that I received of Masonic light on that day, other than the realization that I had just been introduced to what I have come to call Whirlwind Masonry. This is the concept that a Brother can come and in one long day, complete what used to take months and years of study to accomplish. I completely understand the need for these classes, and it is not always a financial need, as I have heard others say. Unfortunately, in some cases, this is the only way that we can get these new Brothers together, and with complete degree teams, confer the degrees upon them. But how can we encourage more study, which will lead them to a more fulfilling experience and launch them upon the study and desire to achieve Masonic perfection?

The answer lies in each individual who applies to the

Scottish Rite, but more especially in the Brother who gives him the petition. We need to make sure that this new applicant to the Scottish Rite understands that the degrees are only the beginning of the journey to discovery. If a Brother comes, attends the degrees, and then leaves without ever spending any time in study or introspection, then he has missed the point entirely. The point of the Scottish Rite degrees is to continue a study and discourse in wisdom and knowledge which can lead to individual Masonic perfection. If we can encourage our new Scottish Rite Brothers to attend meetings, participate in discussions and look closer at the information and knowledge of the degrees, then we may have a hope of never hearing the excuse of receiving nothing of value from a brother again.

As we learned in the fourteenth degree, we need to encourage our brothers. I would propose that we need to encourage them to study and discuss the degrees with other well informed Scottish Rite brothers. No other Masonic degrees spend so much time upon the other worldly religions as the Scottish Rite degrees do. Our Scottish Rite degrees even spend time looking at the religion and wisdom of ancient Egypt for inspiration. I realized a long time ago that all truth and wisdom is from the Great Architect of the Universe. It doesn't matter what religion it is attached to. If it is true and wise, then it is inculcated from Him and the teachings that our Supreme Grand Master inspires. Understanding this, it is easy to spend yet more time in the study of our Scottish Rite degrees and rituals. We need to encourage our newly made Scottish Rite Masons to understand the degrees better by participating in the Scottish Rite.

Understand, I am, and always will be, a Blue Lodge mason. There is nothing that is as important to me, for everything starts and ends in the Blue Lodge. Knowing and realizing this, I also understand the need for the other Rites and bodies that exist in Masonry today. Each one brings its own touch of wisdom and knowledge to those who seek and receive the degrees. But I would propose that we need to help our brothers to understand what they are missing in the Scottish Rite and to encourage them to not only seek the door and receive the degrees, but to truly take their teachings to heart through a study of their meanings. If we can do this I believe that we can impart upon these brothers the wisdom of our Rite and never again hear the doleful words, "I just don't get anything from the Scottish Rite." Let us take our own love and learning from the Scottish Rite to heart and help to make this a reality among the Brethren.



During Fall Reunion
at Fayetteville

Greetings to My Masonic Brethren Throughout the Orient of Arkansas,

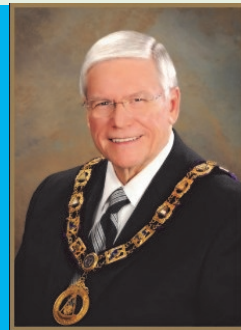
Holiday Greetings to all. I hope each of you had a very enjoyable and meaningful Christmas, and I hope the Masonic Brethren in Arkansas have a successful, pleasant and rewarding year in 2015.

This will be my last article as your Grand Master in this publication. My year has been very similar to most of the Past Grand Masters' terms. There are always some great-things, fine-things, good-things, okay-things, and a few "dog-gone-its," but, when you think about it, that is pretty much what all of our lives consist of, and we just handle things as best as we can and know how to do. To me, the most rewarding thing has been visiting Lodges, participating in some of their events, and discussing matters with the Brethren. As could be expected, a great many of the Lodges have the same concerns, those being operating capital and membership numbers. I'm not sure, but I would think that in the last Century, except for possibly during the 1950s and 1960s, those were usually the top two on the list of our problem areas. What CAN we do? I would suggest that we must be our own "salesmen". We cannot ask someone to be a Mason, and that means we need be something that makes good men interested in asking us about our fraternity. In our times, perception is an all-important necessity for success. In other words, if we want to be, and appear to be, a successful organization in our communities, we have prove it in our appearances. First of all, each Lodge is much like a billboard in its community. Does the appearance of the building make it look



Tidings From the Grand Lodge of Arkansas

M.: W.: George K. Coffman, 33°, Grand Master



like it belongs to a successful organization? Does a photograph ever appear in an article in the local newspaper or is there in a "blurb" in the radio or TV news about Masons doing good work for the elderly, the afflicted, the youth, or the needy? Are any of our Lodge officers interviewed when the Lodge is working on a project that will help the community?

If we want to be successful and well-received in our communities, we are the masters of our own destiny. If we don't do what is necessary to become a viable part of our communities, do we deserve success, appreciation, and the interest of other good men that we can help to make them better? We can't just think and talk about it.....we must do it, and my Brothers, we must start doing it now.

Fraternaly yours,

George Coffman
Grand Master of Arkansas



(LATELY???, From Page 4)

with several others that came for the first time. In any event, if you thought it was going to be the same old thing you will be pleasantly surprised.

On another subject, there are a lot of ways you might want to utilize to pay your dues. I just signed up to have my credit card drafted \$10.00 per month for my 2015 dues. The Scottish Rite is certainly worth \$10.00 per month! And there is also a relatively painless way to get your dues up to date if you have fallen behind.

I am really looking forward to the Spring Reunion. You really don't want to miss it; or the stated meetings. So put your suit on and come on down so you won't miss out!!!

Words To Live By....

- 1]. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" to pull out when in trouble, but a "steering wheel" to guide our journey.
- 2]. So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear View Mirror so small? Our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3]. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes years to write, a few minutes to burn.
- 4]. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, it will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, it can't last long either.
- 5]. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you need a Base of Gold!

6]. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!

7]. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8]. A blind person asked: "Can there be anything worse than losing your sight?" The reply: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9]. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10]. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Leave the rest to God.

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Of Freemasonry

Orient of Arkansas

Petition of

"Please Check One"

☐ **Petition For Valley of Fayetteville**
☐ **Petition For Valley of Jonesboro**
☐ **Petition For Valley of Little Rock**

(Please print or type full name here)

"Please Check One"

☐ **Petition For the Scottish Rite Degrees**
☐ **Petition For Re-Instatement**
☐ **Petition For Affiliation**

Date: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Street No. or P.O. Box and city and state to which mail is to be sent

Zip code

County

Place of Birth: _____ Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____ Wife's Name _____

I am or was employed by: _____ My occupation is or was: _____

(Give name of firm, kind of business, and its location)

(State fully occupation or kind of business engaged in) (if retired, state last occupation)

I am a Master Mason in good standing with _____ Lodge No. _____ At or near _____
under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____ (city or town)
(state)

I have never before petitioned for any Scottish Rite Degrees; if otherwise, state when and where such application was made _____

If petitioning for Re-Instatement please provide Date Degrees received and Date suspended _____

I now respectfully petition to receive the degrees from the 4° to the 32° inclusive, promising always to bear true faith and allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

I. The Supreme Council announces as fundamental principles the following:

"The inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

"The entire separation of church and state and opposition to every attempt to appropriate public moneys— federal, state or local
- directly or indirectly, for the support of sectarian or private institutions."

Do you approve wholeheartedly of these principles? _____

II. Have you ever had or expressed opinions contrary to the foregoing or been affiliated with any organization which has?

If you answer this question in the affirmative, give particulars:

III. Have you ever been a DeMolay? _____

1) I choose to petition for the 4° thru 32° at the regular fee of \$200.00; payable at the time of taking the degrees. This includes the 14° ring pyramid, the English Patent from the Supreme Council, dues for the current year and a copy of "A Bridge to Light" _____

2) I choose, on my honor as a Master Mason, to sign a commitment with the Scottish Rite to pay my dues for at least three years; and dedicate myself to learning more about what the Scottish Rite has to offer. In return the Scottish Rite will waive my \$200.00 initiation fee and allow me to join at no charge. _____

Make check payable to SCOTTISH RITE BODIES. VISA and MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

Sign Here ► _____ Date: _____

(Sign name in full—first name, middle name, if any, and last name—do not use initials)

Recommended By: (Two Masons of the Rite, or W.M. and Secretary of Blue Lodge under seal)

Name: _____

Address/ Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address/ Phone #: _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____

The reinstatement fee for 2015 card is \$120.00

Little Rock Scottish Rite Office, Phone 501-375-5587, 1-888-247-1106, Fax 501-375-5589, 712 Scott Street, P.O. Box 2139, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Affiliation Applicants will also fill in and sign this portion of the petition.

To: The Officers and Members of the Scottish Rite Bodies of which I am Presently a Member Date: _____

Located at: _____

Brethren: I desire to affiliate with the Scottish Rite Bodies located in the Valley Indicated above.

Please issue a CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING (or DEMIT)

And send same to Scottish Rite Bodies, 712 Scott Street, P.O. Box 2139, Little Rock, AR 72203

Sign Here ► _____

Address: _____

SR Chirp App For Smartphones & Tablets

The Scottish Rite Chirp project is a smart phone app exclusively for Scottish Rite Masons, which can greatly enhance member-to-member communication, which our VMAP effort has shown so important to our brothers.

SR Chirp can be positioned by your Valley to assist in the implementation of New Member Engagement, Education for Candidates and Members and Member Retention, as well as other VMAP Subject Areas.

Since its beginning, 1188 Scottish Rite Masons have installed the App on iPhones, iPads, Android phones and tablets. Users come from all parts of the Jurisdiction, and live in places as remote as India.

Some other quick facts:

Even though the number of users is modest at this early stage, between 75 and 100 members use SR Chirp every day, many access it multiple times each day.

Users consistently express enthusiasm for SR Chirp and share insights from their daily lives and Masonic experiences, often with pictures.

SR Chirp enables direct contact and relationship-building between brothers who would never have met in any other way.

Separate Channels exist for each Valley and a special Channel for VMAP discussions.

Your support for this project is needed and important. As more brothers become involved and active, enthusiasm will increase and users will remain active.

Please consider downloading the SR Chirp App from iTunes or the Google Play Store at your first opportunity, and then join in on the fun!

Ill.º Dean Alban, 33º
Director of Membership Services

SR ChirpXMº



Through the Scottish Rite Chirp app, Illustrious Brother Dean Alban, extended a friendly challenge to the brethren of the Valley of Little Rock. At the time we had just a few members that had downloaded the app and he challenged us to reach 20 total by the weekend, which we did in just a few hours. Being impressed by how the brethren had responded, Brother Dean then challenged us to reach 33 total by the end of the next week and if we did so, he assured us that he would send our Valley a book for our library signed by the Ill.º Arturo de Hoyos, 33º G.ºC.º, Archivist of the Supreme Council. Within the next two days we had exceeded that number nearly a week ahead of schedule! I have described the SRChirp App as "Twitter for Scottish Rite Masons", it is a quick and easy way to communicate with any brother throughout the Southern Jurisdiction. Plus each Valley has its own channel for internal communications! This is the future and I hope that each one of us will do what we can to embrace it, so if you haven't already, please download the Scottish Rite Chirp app on your smart phone today....its FREE!

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues with downloading the app and registering it. You will have to have a username and password through the Supreme Council in order to retrieve your credentials.

Sincerely,
Mitchell L. Hensley, 32º KSA

Visit the following link to get the App.

<http://scottishrite.org/members/sr-chirp/>

Scottish Rite Bodies

P.O. Box 2139
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
Bus: 1-501-375-5587
Fax: 1-501-375-5589

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