

VOICE OF THE ORIENT

April 2021

Welcome
To A New Year
.....Finally

Arkansas Scottish Rite Educational Series



Valley Of Little Rock

Chartered October 19, 1892

I received an interrogatory from a brother in my Valley to write about exactly why I sought my individual membership. I decided that to be open about motivations was certainly fraternal, but why I specifically became a “Scottish Rite” Mason requires some background information.

I grew up in a strictly Judeo-Christian background, and in my youth, I just couldn't help but ask questions, or ponder the myriads of distinct and separate religions all across the world. It was in high school during a world history class my curiosity was piqued. Unfortunately, I felt as if it were almost taboo of me to seek further light on the topic of other religions.

I found myself, as I searched, growing alone; however, I was still thirsting for answers. Using my mobile device, I would begin to watch multiple videos on various religious topics. One day, I remembered some friends of mine glancing at “what some people were saying about Freemasonry” on the internet. At that point I thought: “Aren't the Masons a society in which men of all faiths, creeds, religions, and political backgrounds come to unite”?

This would not be the only question answered for me; because I repeatedly received recommendations for some recorded lectures by a man named Manly Palmer Hall. These lectures, specifically “Reclaim The Mind”, would have a serious and profound impact on my view of the world around me. The discovery of Hall being a Mason became a serious contributing factor to the books I bought, and the learning of others like Blavatsky, Frank C. Higgins, the works of bro Henry Clausen who himself has lectures available online. Additionally, the study that Hall did on Albert Pike caused me to study some of Pike's life, doing this would expand my mind in a whole new direction. The education that was provided and the world of mystery now opening to me proved that there was something new to learn around every corner.

So, in closing, unlike many others who become Scottish Rite masons only after feeling its influence in the symbolic lodge; I became a mason due to the influence of Scottish Rite Masonry in my personal life before even becoming a mason. It was the teachings of those illustrious Scottish Rite masons that I had studied deeply and revered that spurred me onward and upward toward the light. Having realized that these lessons were not what made them only members of our Rite, but Masons altogether, and it was that realization made me truly seek further light.

Submitted by Taylor Glover, 32°



Stated Meeting
April 13th

Stated Meeting
May 11th

Remembrance & Renewal
June 8th

Stated Meeting
July 13th

5:15 PM
6:15 PM
7:00 PM

Advisory Council
Dinner
Lodge of Perfection

Stated Meeting
August 10th

Feast of Tishri
September 14th

Stated Meeting
October 12th

Reunion
October 29th & 30th

Membership Committee Spotlight

Brethren, we are going to continue the Membership Committee Spotlight, going into 2021 by introducing a man that, most definitely, needs no introduction, Brother Billy Britt. This spotlight's objective is to give all the brothers a little insight as to what, when, and why they became a Freemason. By the end, it is my hope that you know and relate to Bro. Britt as so many of us do here in the Valley of Little Rock.

Like many, Billy was drawn to freemasonry through family connections. His dad was a 50+ year mason who attended Jacob Brump Lodge #160 in Pine Bluff, AR. Billy watched his father live a life of friendship, morality, and love for his brothers. Brother Billy knew this was something he wanted to be a part of as well. The bonding within the lodges between the brothers, the generosity shown between the brothers for oneself and their families, and the love and pride that is shown for our flag and country within the lodges. "The care and concern for family, friends and our fellow man that I found in Freemasonry is what drew me to it", said Bro. Britt.

Bro. Britt was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 22, 2016 at Millcreek Lodge #178 and has left his mark on many lives since that day. After being raised, Bro. Britt has not only served his lodge in many capacities, but also served as Master of the Lodge in 2019. He is a member of many appendant bodies such as the Scottish Rite Orient of Arkansas, Valley of Little Rock where he currently serves as the Junior Warden of the Chapter of Rose Croix, Membership Chair for the Valley of Little Rock, a member on the advisory board, and member of the Sottish Rite Education Committee. Billy was also honored with being asked to join the Knights of St. Andrews in 2018 where he currently serves as the Junior Deacon.

Billy has also made his mark in the York Rite as well. Billy currently serves as Commander – Damascus #7, Thrice Illustrious Master – English Council #14, and King of Lafayette Council #8. The Arkansas Grand York Rite also appointed Bro. Billy to both the Membership and Education Committee along with honoring him with Knight of the Royal Arch at the 2019 Grand York Rite session.

Here are some things many may not know from Billy's personal life. Billy was an elementary school teacher, but not just any teacher. Billy was named Teacher of the Year in 1992 by Monticello, AR. School District and was the winner of the Bessie B. Moore Economic Education Program in which he taught the science of economics to children. Billy was also a K4 Science, Math, and Literacy teacher and served on an abundance of committees that developed programs for the State of Arkansas.

Bro. Billy Britt is a hardworking, extremely involved Mason within the State of Arkansas. I consider myself very fortunate to have met Billy, as I am sure anyone else who has felt the same. He has always been someone you can confide in or share a laugh with and if you ever find yourself in the Valley of Little Rock and run into him it would serve you well to say hello and watch the friendship blossom.

Submitted by Jason Graves, 32°



*Second Tuesday
Dinner at 6:15-Meet at 7:00
712 Scott Street
Little Rock, AR 72203*



Billy Britt, 32°, KSA

Valley Of Fayetteville

Chartered October 22, 1925

2020 In the Rearview Mirror

Greetings Brethren,

WOW!! What a year we just finished! There were lots of firsts that happened this past year. Many, we would like to choose to forget no doubt. From a global pandemic, racial and political divides, and lock downs that have left our fraternity, and lives, in total disarray. The term “New Normal” has been coined. I continually try not to let all of these things affect my enthusiasm for lift and our fraternity, but like many of you, I’ve failed many times. All of our newfound free time over the last twelve months has presented us with an opportunity for reflection on many things in our lives.

With our world spinning crazily in so many directions can leave a person, myself for sure, questioning many things. *Will the world ever return to “normal”? Will we ever get back to the way things used to be? Where can we turn to find answers to our questions?* Our degrees within the Scottish Rite can help to provide some sort of guidance. Our ritual has been developed over time and have been through many other trying times.

Let’s just look at our 18th Degree’s Dark Chamber, in which we find the Temple in ruins. It has been ripped in twain by the hand of empty systems of philosophy that have failed to bring peace and harmony to the world. Many of the true followers are in dismay of the treatment of those who seek after Truth. They wonder if there will ever be any way to recover from such desolation. All would appear to be lost. *“This represents many things – the loss of reason, intellect and the moral sense and the loss of a true conception of Deity.”* (Bridge to Light, p. 136). Also read *“The Lone and Dreary World in Which We Now Live”* (Morals & Dogma, p. 367-369).

Continued.....



Stated Meeting
April 28th

Stated Meeting
May 26th

Reunion
June 23rd

Stated Meeting
July 28th

6:00 PM
7:00 PM

Dinner
Lodge of Perfection

Stated Meeting
August 25th

Stated Meeting
September 22nd

Stated Meeting
October 27th

Stated Meeting
November 24th

2020 in the Rearview Mirror.....continued

In the third chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes, it talks about how there is “a time for everything.” For us this may seem extremely difficult to understand. The things that are presented to us in this section of the degree and in our lives. It may be commonplace to question why there are all the evils in the world. How and why these things happen. But reliance on God’s will prevails.

During the travels in the darkness, we see signs that there may things to come that will help us on our journey. Signs given to us in our everyday lives can go unnoticed. Seemingly trivial encounters with a brother, friend or neighbor, or stranger may give answers that can help us throughout life’s trials. Hebrews 13:2 admonishes us to ***“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*** Our admonishment to keep a watchful eye for these things is difficult to develop, but it can be done. During this period, our guide helps us recognize that there is help in the stars. Help from the Divine in the form of Faith, Hope and Charity.

In Freemasonry, we should look to these virtues as our source of light and knowledge. We can spend countless hours going over the lessons of Faith, Hope and Charity. We now see there is a reason that these are such profound virtues, enshrined within our Rite. Truly applying these to our lives is the true desire, or should be, of all the Craftsman.

*Submitted by Andrew Morrison, 32°, KCCH
Venerable Master, Valley of Fayetteville*



*Igné
Natura
Renovatur
Integra*



*Fourth Wednesday
Dinner at 6:00-Meet at 7:00
1 Masonic Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72203*

Valley Of Jonesboro

Chartered June 17, 1974

Greetings Brethren,

I hope 2021 finds you well and safe. Indeed, 2020 was a dark time for us all and 2021 seems to already be a beacon of light from the unprecedented time of this Pandemic. I am deeply grateful and humbled to serve you as Venerable Master for this Valley. I believe it has already gotten off to an excellent start with our Zoom educational and stated meetings! And I am delighted that we will soon meet in person to begin Masonic business as usual.

This year, I am greatly looking forward to a Reunion that we plan on having in August to showcase to our candidates how beautiful our degrees are and how wonderful the “The University of Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite, really is.

“*LUX E TENEBRIS*” Light out of Darkness, is one of the mottos of our beloved Craft. May 2021 be a year full of light for us all!

Fraternally,

Kyle Rowe, 32°, KCCH
Venerable Master



Kyle Rowe 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection



Stan Sims 32° KCCH
Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix



Matt Davis 32°
Commander
Council of Kadosh



Mike Swindle 32° KSA
Master of Kadosh
Consistory



Stated Meeting
April 12th

Stated Meeting
May 10th

Anniversary Banquet
June 14th

Stated Meeting
July 13th

5:30 PM
6:30 PM
7:30 PM

Advisory Council
Dinner
Lodge of Perfection

Stated Meeting
August 9th

Stated Meeting
September 13th

Stated Meeting
October 11th

Stated Meeting
November 8th



*Second Monday
Dinner at 6:30-Meet at 7:30
2206 W. Washington Ave.
Jonesboro, AR 72203*



2021/2022 Officer Installation

The Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies held their first virtual meeting on Monday, January 11th, 2021 using the Zoom Software Platform for the purpose of installing a new slate of officers for 2021/2022. There were 24 members in attendance with a special guest appearance by our SGIG, Ill. C. James Graham 33°, who served as the installation officer.

Important Updates

In-person Meetings. We are now seeing the number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths decrease significantly. By order of Ill. C. James Graham, 33°, SGIG in Arkansas, all in-person Scottish Rite meetings can begin effective March 1, 2021. Meetings must fall under the guidelines submitted by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas that were approved by the Arkansas Department of Health. This includes such things as mandatory wearing of masks and social distancing.

Please help spread the word about in-person meetings starting back in March. Encourage brethren to attend, but make sure they know about our Zoom software if they would still like to watch from home until they are comfortable venturing out.

Please view our website events page for the latest on whether we are meeting in person or virtually. We will also list if we are having a dinner on the events page as well. You can view that page at jonesboroscottishrite.org/events

Maundy Thursday Service and Spring Reunion Cancelled

Scholarship Fund. During our normal stated meetings, we always pass the hat for our scholarship fund, but did not have the opportunity to do that in 2020 because of Covid-19. Please consider donating to our scholarship fund (maybe at least what you would have contributed in the offering plate).

If you can donate, please try to do so before the end of April. Please make checks to Jonesboro Scottish Rite and mail to:

Eastern Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies
P.O. Box 657
Jonesboro, AR 72403



From the desk of...

*Ill. C. James Graham, 33°, PGM
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Arkansas
Active Member of the Supreme Council
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Who would have imagined that all of us would live through the pandemic that started about a year ago? It has been a difficult time! Although we aren't out of the woods yet, there are glimmers of hope. The number of cases and hospitalizations in Arkansas and around the country are falling. We now have three effective vaccines approved in the U.S. and over 50 million have been vaccinated so far. As more vaccines become available, eventually everyone will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. I have heard from several brethren who have been vaccinated. When it is your turn, I encourage you to get vaccinated as well. Not only will it protect you, but there is some evidence that suggests that it will protect those around you as well by preventing transmission.

Given the fall in community transmission, we will begin in person meetings of the Scottish Rite gain on March 1st. Our Valleys have used virtual meetings over the past few months, and it has been good to fellowship with brethren virtually, but it is just not the same as meeting in person. I've very much missed that fellowship. Breaking bread together, watching the ritualistic opening and closing, heck, I've even missed the reading of the minutes (ok, maybe I haven't miss that too much!!!). But as we slowly but surely get out of this pandemic, let's renew our fraternal ties and rebuild our fellowship. For a time, we'll need to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, particularly at meals when masks are off), and practice good hand hygiene. But as we are taught in the Dark Chamber of the 18th Degree, there are constellations shining that lead our way. In this case, the constellation of HOPE leads us forward. I look forward to being with you at a Scottish Rite or other Masonic meeting in person in the near future!

Fraternally,

Ill. C. James, Graham, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Arkansas



From the desk of...

*W. William R. Frizzell, 33°
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas*



Greetings Brethren,

Thank you is not enough to express my gratitude for the privilege and honor of serving as your Grand Master for the year of 2021. My prayer is that I will serve our fraternity in a manner worthy of what it deserves. Even though the pandemic still has a hold on our activities, I look forward to the year ahead and hope Freemasonry in Arkansas will have a productive and successful year.

Over the last decade, it has been no secret that our fraternity has endured some trying times. Fortunately, over the last few years we have been blessed with leadership which has done a tremendous job to overcome many of the problems, provide more openness and transparency, and hopefully restored trust in the Grand Lodge. Going forward it is going to be important that we collectively, as the Grand Lodge, continue to listen and support each other and our lodges. I hope to continue to build on the accomplishments made by those before me ask for your prayers to do so.

With that said, I want to turn our attention to the future. The time has come for us to return our attention to the things we enjoy about Freemasonry. We work hard as we continue to work hard it is just important that we take time to enjoy Freemasonry. I believe it is time for us to celebrate the fact that we are the greatest fraternity in the world. Time to hold our heads up high and share with others our pride (without arrogance) that we are Masons. We have so much to offer and it is time we started sharing what we enjoy with others. As a starting effort, I have asked each DDGM to work with the lodges in their district to put together some sort of outreach/celebration project that will be fun, include the community and celebrate Masonry. Such things as: a community picnic, fishing tournament, skeet shoot, gold tournament, car show, community appreciation day are just a few examples. Something to get a group of lodges together, involve the community and have some fun. I believe efforts of this sort will go a long ways in showing that Freemasonry is still alive and well, and something worth being a part of.

I could ramble on but space is limited so I will end with this; the bottom line for the year is work hard, show our pride, and most of all, have fun. IT IS TIME WE HAD SOME FUN!!!

Fraternally,

W. Ronald Frizzell, 33°
Grand Master

Arkansas Scottish Rite Foundation Development Programs



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NAMING REGOGNITION LEVELS

AUDITORIUM: \$1 MILLION

BANQUET HALL: \$500,000

LODGE OF PERFECTION: \$350,000

NORTH END FOYER & ATRIUM: \$200,000

FRATERNAL ROOM: \$150,000

ROBING ROOM: \$125,000

Arkansas

Date

☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Work ☐

☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Work ☐

Scottish Rite Valley

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VOICE OF THE ORIENT is published in February, June and September by the Scottish Rite, 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 Scottish Rite in Arkansas. The editorial policy of this publication grants free reign of the Editor, within the lines of Masonic principles and teachings. Articles and pictures submitted become the property of this publication. Permission is granted to the contents of this publication for Masonic purposes, as long as credit is given to the original source.

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Thank You Brother Wyn!

In 2015, Brother Wyn Gardner, 33° of Searcy Lodge #49, accepted the monumental task of putting together an Orient Wide publication that would not only spread the news of what was going on in the Scottish Rite in Arkansas, but bolster the Rite's ability to reach each and every Scottish Rite Mason in our state. We can't say enough about the job Brother Wyn did for our fraternity, and we thank him for his 5 years of service as Orient Editor.



Arkansas Scottish Rite Educational Series

The Scottish Rite, Orient of Arkansas has embarked upon a new journey to explore the depths of our beautiful degrees as well as the talents of our members! In November of last year,

Brother Keith Todd, 32°, KCCH presented a wonderful program of education on the 4th Degree through a virtual Zoom session from Texas, approximately 40 brethren were online for this initial presentation. In January of this year, Brother Gary Miley, 33° gave a program of the 5th Degree and Brother Graham, 33°, SGIG, gave one of the 6th Degree.

We are continuing this series, with the intent of covering each degree. Our sessions will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each odd month. Now that we are able to resume in-person meetings, this series will be conducted in-person and virtually. Please stay tuned for more details and join in!

