



THE OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY

PUBLISHED BY THE GUTHRIE OKLAHOMA VALLEY

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY — SOUTHERN JURISDICTION — UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Number 1

April 2008

Frederick A. Daugherty, 33°, Memorial Reunion April 4-6, 2008

Mark your calendar now to come to Guthrie the first weekend in April to enjoy the education, fun, and fraternal fellowship that characterizes a Scottish Rite Reunion. This is our annual spring convocation where we stage all 29 degrees of the Rite. Since it is a rare thing for Valleys in the United States to confer all the degrees of the Rite, we always have a number of out of state visitors at our spring reunion.

This year is no exception. The Valley of Anchorage, Alaska, has decided to conduct a joint reunion with Guthrie and is bringing several candidates to the rolling hills of Oklahoma to experience the theater of the Scottish Rite in full form. We are privileged to be host to our Alaskan Brothers and are honored to have Ill. Mitch Miller, SGIG in Alaska, as our special guest. We know there will also be Brothers from Kansas, Nebraska, and Washington with us this time. It's always a special treat for our own members to get acquainted with and entertain our visiting guests. It makes for a special weekend in Guthrie.

We are also honoring the memory of Ill. Frederick A. Daugherty, 33°, SGIG emeritus in Oklahoma, who passed from this life on April 7, 2006. Judge Daugherty was the Chief Judge of the Western District of the United States from 1972 until 1982 and also served as the Commanding General of the 45th Infantry Division during the 1960's. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1969. He served as the tenth Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Orient of Oklahoma from 1983 to 1986.

The Valley will honor Judge Daugherty with a special organ concert on Saturday evening, April 5, 2008. In 2000, he and his wife, Betsy, donated the money necessary for us to restore our large Kimball instrument in the Main Auditorium of the Temple. Built in 1926, it is one of only two concert organs the Kimball company every made.

The reunion begins with candidate registration at 5:30 pm on Thursday evening followed by an introduction to the Scottish Rite and candidate reception in the dining room outside the Temple café. After the introduction, we will have the processional of the Knights of St. Andrew, followed by a special production in the Main Auditorium of one of the Scottish Rite Craft degrees for members/candidates only.

On Friday morning, registration begins at 7:00 a.m. Opening ceremonies will be held in the Main Auditorium at 8:00 a.m., with an introduction to the degrees at 8:45 a.m. The Advisory Conference and Foundation will conduct their business meetings while the Friday morning degrees are being conferred. The work of the Rite will continue throughout the day, with lunch hosted by the Chain Gang in the Temple Café. The evening dinner will be a catered banquet, held in the Ballroom at 7:00 pm, to be followed by a candidate education session.

The degree work will resume Saturday morning at 7:00 am with the presentation of the 17°. Again, breakfast and lunch will be served in the Temple Café. A special luncheon will honor our 50 year members and their families. The



evening banquet in the ballroom will be held at 6:00 pm. After the banquet, our Temple organists, under the direction of Charles Belknap, 33°, will perform an organ concert in the Main Auditorium honoring Judge Daugherty and his lady, Betsy.

The degree work will continue Sunday morning with the class memorial and class picture scheduled before lunch. The afternoon will conclude with the conferral of the powerful and meaningful 31° and 32°. The Reunion is scheduled to be completed by 3:00 p.m. The 16°, 22°, 27° and 30° will be the passport degrees this time.

The Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies look forward to hosting the upcoming reunion on April 4-6, 2008 and renewing old friendships and making new ones.

ATTENTION

The April Lodge of Perfection Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 3, 2008. Please note the earlier time.

**FREDERICK A. DAUGHERTY, 33°
MEMORIAL REUNION
April 4-6, 2008**

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Lodge of Perfection Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Candidate Registration 5:30 - 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 8:00 p.m.
The Scottish Rite Craft Degrees 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4, 2008

Registration of Candidates..... 7:00-7:30 a.m.
Class Introduction to Scottish Rite 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) 8:55 a.m.
5° Perfect Master (Kay-Reuber) 9:50 a.m.
6° Confidential Secretary (Okla City-Blume)..... 10:25 a.m.
7° Provost and Judge (Altus-King)..... 10:50 a.m.
8° Intendant of the Building (Cushing-Dunaway) .. 11:30 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

9°, 10° Elu of Nine, Fifteen(Okla City-Robison) 1:00 p.m.
11° Elu of the Twelve (Okla City-Robison)..... 1:40 p.m.
12° Master Architect (Edmond-Wall) 2:15 p.m.
13° Royal Arch of Solomon (Central Okla-Wells) ... 2:55 p.m.
14° Perfect Elu (Del City-Warmath)..... 3:45 p.m.
Obligation 4°-14° 4:35 p.m.
15° Knight of the East (Lawton-Zura)..... 4:55 p.m.
*16° Prince of Jerusalem (Okla City-Robison) 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

*Candidate Education Q&A 8:00 p.m.
Crystal Room*

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Breakfast 6:00 a.m.

17° Knight of the East & West (Duncan-Lewis)..... 7:00 a.m.
18° Knight Rose Croix (Okla City-Massad) 8:00 a.m.
Obligation 15°-18° 9:05 a.m.
19° Grand Pontiff (Okla City-Minshall) 9:25 a.m.
20° Master of the Symbolic Lodge
(Woodward-Logan)..... 10:20 a.m.
21° Noachite or Prussian Knight
(Lawton-McKenzie)..... 11:10 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

*22° Prince of Libanus (Kay County-Snyder)..... 1:00 p.m.
23° Chief of the Tabernacle (Yukon-Smith) 1:30 p.m.
24° Prince of the Tabernacle
(West Central-Sheppard)..... 2:10 p.m.
25° Sufi Master (West Ok-Freas)..... 3:15 p.m.
26° Prince of Mercy (Stillwater-Graumann)..... 4:05 p.m.
*27° Prince Adept (SW Okla-Hardin) 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

*Organ Concert Honoring
Ill. Frederick A. Daugherty, 33°
7:30 p.m.*

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

28° Knight Commander of the Temple
(Enid-Tresner)..... 8:00 a.m.
29° Scottish Knight of St. Andrew
(OKC-Brown) 9:00 a.m.
*30° Knight of Kadosh (OKC-Berry)..... 10:15 a.m.
Obligation 19°-30° 11:15 a.m.
Class Memorial 11:30 a.m.
Class Picture 11:45 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

31° Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries
(Guthrie-Monroe)..... 1:00 p.m.
32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon)..... 2:10 p.m.

**Passport Degrees*

**There will not be
a One Day Class in 2008**

Regional Lodge of Perfection Meetings to be Expanded!

In May, 2004, the Guthrie Lodge of Perfection took the charters of the four Bodies and journeyed to Ponca City to carry out the monthly business meeting of the Guthrie Valley away from the town of Guthrie for the first time in anyone's memory. It was a huge success. The Lodge held similar meetings in three different communities that year in an effort to stimulate participation in the business of the Valley and to allow more Scottish Rite Masons to enjoy the Scottish Rite without having to travel so far outside one's local area to attend.

For the next two years, the Lodge of Perfection continued its quarterly program of traveling around the Valley. Each time, the attendance at lodge meetings either doubled or tripled the usual attendance when the monthly meetings were held in the Guthrie Temple. Then, in 2007, the officers decided to journey to other communities only during the summer months since the Temple is not air conditioned and the meetings had to be relocated from the normal lodge room anyway. Even in the summer, the attendance at meetings away from the Temple again equaled what had been experienced during the prior three years.

In 2008, the Guthrie Advisory Conference recommended to Inspector Jennings that the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies expand their regional meetings to include holding monthly meetings at various towns around the Valley for six months during the year. This will enable the lodge to visit many more Blue Lodges and the communities in which they are located, and will therefore greatly expand opportunities for local participation in the Scottish Rite. Inspector Jennings concurred.

The Guthrie Bodies will hold its first regional meeting in Enid Thursday, May 1, 2008. The meeting will be held in the new location of Garfield Lodge #501, which is now the beautiful symphony hall of the Enid Phillips Symphony. The hall was once one of the magnificent Masonic Temples erected for the Masons of early day Enid. It will be worth the trip for any brother to travel to Enid in May just to see the building.

But it is also interesting to witness a ritual opening of the Scottish Rite Bodies. This is one of the educational aspects of the regional meetings. In past meetings, when Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Valley Chairman, has asked for a show of hands of those present who had never before seen a ritual opening of a Scottish Rite lodge, almost 50% indicated they had not. That alone speaks volumes as to the benefit of taking the Scottish Rite on the road. This, coupled with the education program that is delivered each time we meet, plus the fellowship of Scottish Rite Masons enjoying an evening together, makes the Guthrie regional meetings a memorable occasion for every Brother who participates.

We look forward to seeing many of our Brethren on the road this year!



Old Masonic Temple, Enid, Oklahoma

2008 OFFICERS OF THE GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE

The annual election and installation of the officers of the four Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies was held on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in the Blue Room of the Temple. Illustrious Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative of the SGIG in Oklahoma installed all officers, administering the charges and obligations as prescribed in the ceremonial forms of the Rite.

The newly installed Masters of the Guthrie Lodges are:



James Hensley
Venerable
Master

Greg Smith,
KCCH
Wise Master



John King,
KCCH
Commander of
Kadosh

James Warner,
KCCH
Master of Kadosh



2008 Lodge of Perfection Officers

Senior Warden.....	Jay Wall, KCCH
Junior Warden	David Tennison
Orator	Glen McCall
Treasurer	Jon G. Gumerson, 33°
Almoner	Bert Wheeler, KCCH
Secretary	Robert G. Davis, 33° G. C.
Prelate	Philip L. Moseley
Master of Ceremonies	J. Dennis Smith, KCCH
Expert.....	Brian Burney
Asst. Expert.....	Burke McCrory
Captain of Hosts.....	A. Dean Monroe
Tyler	Bronnie Campbell

2008 Chapter Rose Croix Officers

Senior Warden.....	Richard Kerr
Junior Warden	Jimmie D. Hartzell, 33°
Orator	Michael Hampton, KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Jack Painter, KCCH
Expert.....	John Barnhart, KCCH
Asst. Expert.....	Woodrow Morehouse
Standard Bearer.....	Jack Randall
Guardian Temple.....	Dana Clark, KCCH
Tyler	Bronnie Campbell

2008 Council of Kadosh Officers

First Lt. Commander.....	Glenn Kinsley, KCCH
Second Lt. Commander	Michael Zura, KCCH
Chancellor	Ed Becerra, KCCH
Orator	Mitchel Witt
Turcoplier.....	Russell Freas, KCCH
First Deacon	Michael Blevins, KCCH
Second Deacon.....	Peter Cosgrove, KCCH
Bearer of the White Standard.....	Michael Witt
Bearer of the Beauseant	Derek Bullock
Bearer of the Black Standard	Jim Jon Carr
Lt. of the Guard.....	Clarence Grigsby
Tyler	Bronnie Campbell

2008 Consistory

Prior.....	Jim McKinney, KCCH
Preceptor	Gene McKelvey, KCCH
Chancellor	Bill McNeil, 33°
Minister of State.....	W. Jim Cloud, KCCH
Prelate	Tom Young, KCCH
Marshal of Ceremonies	John Kirkland
Expert.....	John M. Sloan
Asst. Expert.....	John Robison, 33°
Captain of the Guard.....	Michael Rose
Tyler	Bronnie Campbell

Valley To Offer Newspaper Online

Each year, more and more people are choosing to receive information important to them electronically rather than in print format. The reasons are easy to understand. The information is immediately available; just a mouse click away. One can choose their areas of interest and not be overwhelmed with information and news which does not concern them. One can learn about almost any topic imaginable, and he can stay connected to what's happening in the world. Globalization affects everyone and the Internet is a quick and usually reliable way to keep up with news around the world.

No. The Guthrie Valley is not going to stop distributing its newspaper in print format just because of the Internet. We also realize there are many in our membership who prefer to read something in print instead of burning their eyes on a computer monitor all day.

But for those who prefer to catch up on what's happening in the Guthrie Valley may now find this information by going to our website at www.guthriescottishrite.org and clicking on the *ValleyNews* icon. Beginning with this edition of the Valley newspaper, we will be posting our regular eight page paper online each time it is printed. The paper will be posted the same day it is mailed to the membership.

In addition, we will be posting one page newsflashes from time to time to keep our membership informed on the progress of important Valley happenings such as the Temple Restoration program, concerts, lectures, etc. This should be a big help to those who like to be kept up to date on the administrative and policy matters of the Valley, as well as those who like to occasionally journey to Guthrie to take in the increasing number of public events which are scheduled in the Temple auditorium.

We hope you will use the information that is available at our website. It is one of the more informative Scottish Rite sites anywhere.

Valley Website Now Posts Masonic Happenings Around the World

Welcome to another new feature of the Guthrie Scottish Rite website. It's called *Global Newsnet* and it will inform our members and website visitors about Masonic happenings in America and around the world. It will be a great place to become informed on what Masonry is doing and what people are saying about Masonry today.

It is surprising how often Masonry is mentioned in newspapers around the world. In America, the fraternity does so much in the way of charitable and educational programs that one can pick up a newspaper in almost any state in any given week and there will be an article about some Lodge, Shrine, York Rite, or Scottish Rite group doing something to benefit a community, charity, or cause. We are also seeing an increasing number of television programs with Masonry as a theme.

There are also many articles which cover the public's perception about Masonry; essays which attempt to describe Masonry in history, editorials which suggest Masonry is an organization that used to be important but is now dying, articles about the mystery of Masonic secrets, printed attitudes suggesting we have always been involved in some kind of hidden world order that decides what really happens in the world.

There are even more articles on Masonry from a global and political perspective, especially in European countries where Masonry has historically played a prominent place in politics, government, leadership, and power. There are countries where freedom has been suppressed for decades and even centuries where Masons work in secret to build Masonic lodges and Masonic networks that will lead to revolution and change.

The fact is there is a lot going on in Masonry around the globe. The purpose of *Global Newsnet* is to give you a regular peek at what is being said about us.

Just go to the Guthrie Scottish Rite website and click on *Global Newsnet* to check out the latest information being published on Masonry by the media. We will update the news several times a month. We hope you appreciate this new addition to our website.

50 YEAR RECIPIENTS HONORED AT OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL REUNION



The distinguished group of gentlemen pictured above were honored for their 50 years of service to the Scottish Rite at ceremonies held during the Fall 2007 Reunion. Honorees were recognized at a special luncheon attended with their families. Those present to receive their awards were from left: Jon Gumerson, 33°, Dean Mikkelson, Emory Lane, Robert Earl, 33°, George Gammill, Cecil Sullivan, Billy Bigham, Fred Joiner, 33°, Walter Stewart, and Russell Lewis, 33°.

It's a Small World even in a Small Town

What possible relationship or impact could a Mason in the small town of Guthrie have on Masonry on the other side of the globe; or perhaps on a culture far different from our own? Recently, with the use of tools as functional as an email, and something as simple as a Saturday afternoon tour of Guthrie's Scottish Rite Temple, we were reminded just how small the world really is.

Bro. Gaylord "Z" Thomas and his wife, Linda, agreed to give a special tour (not in the normal business hours) to a group of Iraqi diplomats traveling around the state of Oklahoma to learn about small town governments and the like. While in Guthrie, the diplomats visited with the Mayor and City Manager to learn about municipal government, but also made stops at a few of our most popular museums, including our remarkable Temple.

The Temple tour was expected to be "different" in that an interpreter was to be used, but beyond that, there were no expectations. "Z" and Linda were prepared to be patient and work through

the interpreter, but were not expecting the line of questions that they fielded – about Freemasonry itself rather than about the beautiful building everyone thought they came to see.

There was an obvious and intense eagerness among this group of fifteen elected officials in Iraq to learn about Freemasonry and, moreover, to take it back to their country and get it re-started there. It was an inspiringly intense feeling of excitement that we don't often see for Masonry except in countries where a more secure freedom and sense of equality is so passionately craved. It was a sober reminder of how much we take Freemasonry for granted.

Regrettably, there was not enough time to thoroughly answer every question asked of their "guides," but business cards were exchanged and follow-up emails and web surfing began, along with help from Bro. Dick Fletcher of the Masonic Service Association in Silver Springs, Maryland. The MSA deals with just such inquiries.

An email from one Iraqi gentleman was telling, and from talking with him, you could tell that he knew his country had seen enough "death" and that the introduction of something like Freemasonry was desperately needed. He wanted to join the fraternity then and there; but, of course, time and regulations did not allow it to happen. The tour left the state within a few days.

Through internet research, Brother Thomas was able to put the fellow in direct contact with a Brother who is working with the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of Lebanon, jointly, to start a Lodge in Taji, Iraq, and form a new beginning for Masonry in Iraq. It has been suppressed since 1958.

So, oddly enough, through the Scottish Rite Temple at Guthrie, we were able to assist a group of men to get in touch with the right people to see that Freemasonry is re-born in war torn Iraq on the other side of the world. We will be watching eagerly to see how they progress, keeping them in our daily devotions to Deity.

FALL REUNION WAS A CENTENNIAL EVENT!!!



Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion Oklahoma Centennial Reunion - November 3, 4, 2007

Row One - John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; T. Brian Westmoreland, Class Chaplain; Brian R. Butler, Class Secretary; Donald J. Menefee, Class Vice-President; Christopher A. Ingram, Class President; Joseph C. Jennings, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Oklahoma; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; Robert G. Davis, 33° GC, General Secretary; John Logan, 33°; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director; Steve Hanna, KCCH, Class Director.

Row Two - Bobby Legates; Toby McConnell; Andy Keith Kimbrel; Clyde Jackson; Michael To; Robert deAlminana; Monty LaVon Keely; Ethan F. Hale; Jeff C. Hale.

Row Three - James McElhany; Terry Pedigo; Robert L. Short; Boyd C. Cornett; Gary King; Dustin W. Wallace; Thomas Beatty; Robert Luther.

Row Four - Edward Neal Blackwell; Fredric Lee Wratistlaw; Gilbert J. Taylor; Robert G. Dalton; Jay Mitchell; Darwin Bushor; Brad Shoopman; Russ Cunningham; Woodfin Blair, Jr.; Robert J. Short.

Row Five - Kevin R. Frank; Kirby Adams; Daniel Jack Hendrickson; David Michael Smith; Kenneth Dale Atchley; Michael A. Miller; Ryan Kelly; David A. Renfro; Michael H. LaMar.

Row Six - Benny J. Roberts; Charles T. Duncan; Erik O'Neal; Daniel Foerster; Matthew Anthony; Bob M. Neeley; Robert A. Sloan, Jr.; Matthew G. Solomon, Sr.

© Photograph by Jerry L. Cornelius, 32° KCCH - Tulsa

INVESTITURE AND CONFERRAL CEREMONIES HELD FOR 2007 HONOR MEN

When the Orient of Oklahoma scheduled the traditional honors day ceremony on December 9, 2007, little did we know "Ice Storm 2007" would cause such a disruption of the day's events. Despite the inclement weather, the day's program went on as scheduled. But the treacherous conditions caused some of the designates to miss the splendid event, necessitating a second Investiture and Conferral ceremony to be held on January 12, 2008.

58 Masters of the Royal Secret from throughout the Orient of Oklahoma, including 23 from the Valley of Guthrie, were recognized for their service to Masonry and their communities and were invested with the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. In other ceremonies, 39 Knights Commander, including 15 from the Valley of Guthrie, were coronated with the rank and decoration of Inspector General Honorary, 33° of the Supreme Council.

Those present on December 9th were honored at a formal banquet in the Ballroom. The keynote address was given by our own James T. Tresner, II., 33° GC, a noted Masonic author and book review editor of the Scottish Rite Journal. The newly honored brethren are pictured below.

Newly honored Inspectors General Honorary, 33°, of the Guthrie Valley include:

Tommy Joe Beets
 Truman Boyd Burns
 Ivan Dwayne Dixon
 Willie Hugh Fudge
 Glenn Wray Hardin
 Timothy Rea Heaton
 Gene McKelvey
 George Lewis Nokes
 Donald Ray Reuber
 William O. Simpson
 Robert Dale Smith
 Roy Lee Smith
 Billy Joe Warmath
 Michael Quinton Weed
 Robert Ray Wells

Newly honored Knights Commander of the Court of Honour for the Valley of Guthrie include:

Charles Thomas Anthony
 John Clifton Barnhart
 John Yudell Barton
 Edward James Becerra
 David Lorn Berry
 Robert Lynn Bradway
 Daniel Allen Burchett
 Ronald Lynn Carr
 Michael E. Cox
 Stephen J. Foster
 Russell Wister Freas
 Dewayne Richard Hendricks
 Patrick Jon McKenzie
 John Douglas Osburn
 Gerald Edward Peeler
 Thomas Floyd Rudder
 Philip Morris St. John
 Hal Fredrick Thomas
 Joseph Richard Towers
 Donald Ray Vegher
 John Charles Walker
 James Edman Warner
 Michael Charles Zura



Inspector General Honorary 33° December 9, 2007



Inspector General Honorary 33° January 12, 2008



Knight Commander Court of Honour December 9, 2007



Knight Commander Court of Honour January 12, 2008

THE SILENT CONNECTION BETWEEN DELINQUENCY AND SUSPENSIONS

It is well known that most Masonic organizations require dues be paid in advance of the year actually shown on the member's card. In other words, dues for 2008 were due on or before December 31, 2007. This is the reason dues notices are mailed to all members well in advance of the year to which the dues pertain. This gives members several months to make arrangements to pay their annual financial obligation; and it enables the Valley to collect the per capita tax that goes to its national Body (in the case of the Scottish Rite, the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C.) before it must pay this annual tax on its members.

In 2007, the Valley of Guthrie enjoyed one of the lowest suspension rates for nonpayment of dues in the Southern Jurisdiction. Less than 2.5% of our members dropped out because of nonpayment. That is a low percentage for any fraternal order, and low even when compared with outside civic and religious organizations.

While, on the one hand, we can look at this statistic as something of which to be proud; on the other hand, one must also ask why those Brethren who did drop their membership chose to drop it. It's a valid question. And that's exactly why we asked it. The results are revealing.

The Valley of Guthrie contacts delinquent members by mail each month. In June of each year, we mail a survey requesting reasons members have not paid their dues. These surveys have a 25% response rate; thus we at least know why those who respond have not paid their dues. Of this grouping, the reasons and comparable weight are given as follows:

1. Financially unable to pay, but want to continue their membership - 54%
2. The Dues are too high and members are old and inactive - 27%
3. Unable to give time to the Scottish Rite and are wondering if they should continue as a member - 19%
4. Have been reinstated by a special Valley program and are not interested in continuing membership - 16%
5. Encouraged by friends/family to drop - less than 1%

Of those we hear from who have opted to drop out, the following informa-

tion is also useful to know:

1. Lost interest in the Rite because of inactivity - 75%
2. Member is financially unable to pay, but wouldn't acknowledge it-12%
3. The Temple had a bad address and it was not recoverable - 4%
4. They let their membership drop in all Masonic Bodies - 2%
5. Member is in nursing home and family is not paying dues - 1%
6. Member lives out of state and has no contact with other members ---
7. Member is never contacted except by Temple and perceives no benefits to belonging ---
8. Member does not lose membership in Freemasonry, so has nothing to lose in dropping the Rite ---

These responses indicate one important difference between those who are behind in their current year's obligations and those who have opted to drop their membership in the Rite altogether.

More than 80% of the members who have not paid their dues in any given month are not doing so primarily for financial reasons; while 75% of those who drop out, give inactivity as their main reason.

But in both categories, there are a significant number of members who perceive themselves to be inactive solely on the basis they do not attend. Other reasons given by those who are delinquent appear to relate either to outside forces, such as family member discouragement (which is quite small), or because the Valley has taken some action to reinstate them back into the Rite against their own wishes to no longer belong. The remaining members who decide to go suspended do so primarily from lack of contact.

There are a couple of interesting observations to draw from the survey. The first and most obvious is that the large majority of members who are delinquent don't really want to drop out. Times may be hard, many families live month to month with little or no disposable income left over after bills are paid, some brothers are between jobs, some are on fixed income. The bottom line for a lot of these brethren is that, unless they are personally contacted by Masons who know them,

they are likely telling us they may not be around much longer even with regrets. That becomes a sad and needless loss to the Valley because a number of alternatives are available for assisting brethren with financial problems.

There is another possible difference between the member who is only delinquent and the fellow who dropped out. Those who perceive they are inactive because they are not regularly attending functions are, in effect, making a different value judgment on the worthiness of the Rite when compared with those who do regularly participate. Those who participate regularly receive the lessons over and over again. They are regularly reminded of the importance of the greater cause of the Rite and the essential reasons it was established in the first place. Those who no longer participate tend to lose sight of the bigger cause; the real mission and purpose of the Rite.

Many lose connection with the many lessons of virtue and morality, of ethics and philosophy, of history and symbol interpretation; of the instruction in civil discourse that defines the essential quality of the Rite.

It's a sad thing for a man to lose connection with his fraternity. Perhaps that is our fault as his brothers. But it is a much sadder thing for any man to forget how essential the lessons of the Rite are in promoting and maintaining liberty, equality, toleration, and freedom in the world. Men do what men value; they live what they believe. Our influence is over men and how they choose to live their life. We improve society by improving one man at a time.

The value of Craft Masonry and the Scottish Rite has never been about money; its about the many ideas which are fundamentally important to a free world.

We need to do what we can to help a brother meet his financial obligations to the Rite. Perhaps we also need to regularly communicate with the inactive Brother to help him never forget how important the ideals of the Rite are to the self improvement of the individual and, through his influence, to the preservation of a free world. That's what really matters.

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Mason**

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JOSEPH C. JENNINGS, 33°**

Valley of Guthrie

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ADVISORY CONFERENCE

Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°Chairman
Robert G. Davis, 33° GC Secretary
Charles L. Stuckey, 33° Member
B.F. Rowland, Jr., 33° Member
John L. Logan, 33° Member

GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE
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Scottish Rite Master Mason Degree to be Conferred April 3

For those who come to the pre-Reunion activities on Thursday evening, April 3, they are in for a rare treat. The new member mentorship committee of the Valley of Guthrie is going to “confer” Pike’s Scottish Rite Master Mason degree!

Of course, it won’t be a real conferral using a real candidate, but it will be a reader’s theater production of the Master Mason degree that was adopted by the Supreme Council and published in 1871 by Albert Pike, who served as Sovereign Grand Commander of the Mother Supreme Council from 1859 to 1891.

Many Brethren forget that the Scottish Rite is a system of Masonry which consists of thirty-three degrees, including the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees. The Scottish Rite, being established in America a quarter to half a century after a number of Grand Lodges had

already been chartered along the eastern seaboard and gulf states, gave up its authority to confer the first three degrees in America to keep peace and harmony in the Masonic family. With few exceptions in Louisiana and New York, the Scottish Rite craft degrees are not conferred in the United States.

The production put together by our new member committee will be a heavily edited version of the Pike original, as the original degree was some 250 pages in length. But it will be an interesting and fascinating example of how craft Masonry ties into the continuation of the degrees of the Rite. The production will take place in the Main Auditorium at 8:30 p.m., immediately following the Knights of St. Andrews processional of knights and squires. All Master Masons are invited to attend.

SELL YOUR MASONIC RINGS THROUGH US!

This is just a reminder that if you have old Masonic rings and jewelry, the Guthrie Temple can sell it for you. Many widows and members have given us rings in the past, which we sell in their behalf.

We are getting low on rings for sale and would like to add to our inventory. We need a wide range of sizes and price ranges.

All you have to do is bring it by the Temple or send it to us with your name, address and phone number. If you have an appraisal, it helps. But you decide the price and we list it for you.

When the ring sells, we send you the money. There is no charge. It is done as a service to both our members and their widows.

So, look through your attic or old family jewelry boxes and see if you have anything. Then get in touch with the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. We will do our best to handle the transaction for you.