



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 3

October 2008

Knights of St. Andrew Donate Laptop to Guthrie RiteCare Clinic

The Guthrie Knights of St. Andrew surprised our clinic Director, Nancy Wright, at the recent October, 2008, Valley Reunion when they presented her with a Dell laptop computer for use in the clinic. A laptop is always a nice tool to have. But this is a special computer that will be especially popular to the children we serve in our clinics.

The Knights bought a laptop that has installed software specifically designed for speech and language programs. It includes a glossy high definition widescreen and duo processor, and comes with a small mouse just for small hands. The gift includes a webcam with special editing features which will allow regular and animated pictures, as well as videos of clients so their progress can be recorded. The DVD/RW program will also permit the clinicians to record videos of clients to disc for use in public relations for the Foundation.

The laptop, being portable, will also serve the Guthrie Rite Care clinic in its outreach screening programs, its satellite clinics, and as powerpoint presentations and videos for fundraising purposes.

Nancy was elated with the gift. She remarked; "It has so many uses! I see that it will benefit every aspect of our program!"

We won't say anything more; but the clinic director has a gift for the Knights of St. Andrews too. We'll leave that as her surprise to them!

A big thank you to all the Knights for this thoughtful and generous gift! The Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation appreciates you!

Winners Announced for Academic Essay Contest

It was not widely known among our fall reunion attendees, but the new member mentorship committee announced the winners of the Valley's academic essay contest on Saturday evening of the reunion. The winners were Jim Case and Gaylord Thomas, both of Guthrie.

The academic essay contest is one of many education programs available to Valley members. This particular contest was created and is managed by the Valley's mentorship committee.

This year, the essay question was: *Should the Masonic Fraternity Openly Recruit Members?* Participants could choose either side of this question and write an essay outlining their position, reasoning, and justification for their position.

Brother Case chose to answer "yes" to the question and wrote an eloquent paper defending his position. He sees Masonry as a pathway along which self realization, friendships, and enlightenment should be available to all men of good intentions. He feels "we have spent far too long being the whipping boy for the religious right...our pacifist mantra has outlived its welcome." Case sees many lodges being lost and beautiful Masonic edifices being closed due to inaction brought on by years of isolation from the larger society. He makes a good argument that Masonry no longer has a monopoly on the hearts and minds of men like it did during the late 19th and early 20th century. He decries the old slogan *To Be One, Ask One* as giving men permission to not talk to their wives, or encourage their sons or brothers to join, or discuss their membership in public. He states; "because of se-

Essay Cont. on page 3





George Washington Masonic Memorial October 4, 5, 2008

ROW 1: John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; Ronald Lowell, Class Chaplain; Robert Burnett, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Larry Duran, Class Vice-President; Lloyd Ray, Class President; Joseph C. Jennings, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Oklahoma; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; Robert G. Davis, 33° G.C., General Secretary; Kent Callahan, KCCH, Class Director; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director.

ROW 2: Benny R. McReynolds; Donald R. Himes; Caleb Finch; Gale Garvin; Charles E. Renfro; Boone L. Davidson; Robert E. Rattan; Phillip E. Rattan; Matthew G. Cople; David Hayes.

ROW 3: Gregory Myers; Bryan Bozell; Steven Bozell; Richard Johnson; Daniel Brown; Robert Bassett; Michael Yarbrow; Robert Bateman; Leman Wayne Harris; Tope Ogunyomi.

ROW 4: Mark Luttrell; Jacob Hansen; Shannon D. Davila; John S. Signorelli; Christopher Harrell; Hector Wasdin; Stacy Reddig; Mike Williams; Brandon Crumm.

ROW 5: Leon Hutcherson; K. Steven Rowley; Hollis Davis; Chad Lee; Billy Cox; Adam Blais; Bill Kennedy; Kody Meder; Mark Alan Ray; Lane Folds.

Eleven New Masters of the Royal Secret in Southwest Oklahoma

When one considers that the geographic area of the Guthrie Valley encompasses essentially everything from Texas to Kansas west of I-35, it's all the more gratifying when brothers travel a great distance to make the commitment to become Guthrie Scottish Rite Masons.

What a joy it is to announce that one of the most active member groups within our Valley come from an area most distant from the Temple. With the exception of our Brothers in the Oklahoma Panhandle counties, the Altus area men travel the farthest to participate in our Reunions. It's exciting to inform our membership that 11 Master Masons in the Altus and Frederick area become Masters of the Royal Secret at our reunion held the first weekend of October. This represents over 25% of the entire class of 43 who joined with them that weekend. .

Those who make a long journey to join the Guthrie Scottish Rite add significantly to the main purposes of the Rite. When one thinks about it,

the Scottish Rite has only two fraternal missions—to extend the fraternal experience of Masons beyond the boundaries of our own areas of the state, and to provide more light in Masonry through the teachings we offer in our degrees. When we have brothers from all over the Valley in the temple spending the weekend learning and talking together, everyone goes back home with a much broader fraternal experience than is possible when on never journeys outside the are of his home lodge. When men from all areas of the Valley are present at reunions, the Scottish Rite fulfills its mission to the best of its ability.

One of the great advantages of belonging to the Rite is you only have to make the trip to Guthrie two times a year. This is not much time out of a man's life, considering it is time and again reported to be one of the most enjoyable Masonic experiences of his life.

And here is the bottom line. As Secretary of the Valley, I can attest that

I have not missed a Reunion since 1975. Imagine the men I've met over that number of years! I have made life-long friends in Masonry and these friendships were facilitated simply by my making the commitment to come back to Guthrie over and over again. Now, after all these years, I see brothers at every reunion who have also not missed a reunion in the same 30 plus years. I think you would say we indeed have a very special bond.

That's how Masonry works. For the brethren in Southwest Oklahoma—and indeed, for all 43 of the brothers who joined the Scottish Rite this month, think about what it can mean if you keep coming back reunion after reunion—year after year. I can guarantee you it will change your life!

For now, welcome again to the legacy that is Guthrie Scottish Rite. I truly hope I will have the opportunity to become personal friends with each of you.

Essay

crecy, which helped to propogate the suspicions of our rebellious youth, and mass media, we soon had an entire generation missing from our ranks!

Case believes the recent media and scholastic attention being given to Freemasonry brings much opportunity for lodges everywhere to once again fill their ranks with newcomers.

Gaylord Thomas, on the other hand, argues against open recruitment. He posits that only duly and truly prepared men should knock on the door of Masonry. Thomas cites; "men who come to Masonry because they earnestly want to learn about Masonry will learn; but if he is dragged to the door, like advice not asked for, he will not soak in the full import of the experience of becoming a Mason."

Thomas believes open recruiting is unnecessary. He reasons; *we are currently seeing a surge in interest in Masonry and frankly, we are at great risk of not knowing how to deal with it.* He makes a compelling argument that many lodges do not know what to offer young men to keep their interest once they join. Masonry is not about adding members just to increase income to the lodge, or to do things in the community, or to keep the building up. To Thomas, men should join for the right reasons. And those reasons have to do with the inner drive and effort of self improvement which then enables one to good works in the outside world. This process is not about numbers; but about what one gains from having a burning desire to be a Freemason.

A big thanks goes out to both Jim and Gaylord for their participation and their excellent presentations. Both received a Masonic book of their choice and a free dues card for their involvement. Who knows--their fine articles may well be published in the near future!

The academic essay contest is open to all 32° Masons. Keep your eyes open for the next opportunity to pen your thoughts on contemporary questions relating to Freemasonry!

Perpetual Membership Fee To Increase

Just a reminder that the cost of a perpetual endowed membership in the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma will increase from \$600 to \$750, effective January 1, 2009.

The current fee of \$600 was set by Supreme Council statute a few years ago as the minimum that could be charged for a permanent membership in any Valley. Since all money contributed to a perpetual membership is endowed, it doesn't take a genius to determine that a high annual rate of return is required for a perpetual membership to financially aid a Valley at the same rate annual dues payments do. Thus, the reason for the change.

Those who are currently making payments toward a perpetual membership, or who begin a payment program toward their perpetual membership before December 31, will be grandfathered in at the \$600 level until January 1, 2011. At that time, any unpaid principal will increase to \$750. The grandfather clause applies only to those who have initiated a payment program before January of this upcoming year. All others will be required to pay the new fee of \$750.

If you have been thinking about investing in a perpetual membership in the Valley of Guthrie, this fall would be an opportunity to save 20%. All that is required to become a perpetual member is that you be current in your dues when you make your payment to the perpetual fund. To participate, send a check in the amount of \$600 to the Guthrie Lodge of Perfection, PO Box 70, Guthrie, OK 73044 and mark your memo "PEM."

If you are interested in starting a payment plan, contact the temple and we'll give you the details.

Scottish Rite Orient/National News A Joint Project In 2009

At a recent Orient leadership meeting held with Inspector Jennings, the three Valleys in Oklahoma have agreed to combine a couple of editions of their Valley newspapers with the Scottish Rite Journal during 2009. The joint publication venture was made available to Valleys and Grand Lodges two years ago by the House of the Temple as a way of spreading Masonic news more efficiently across the Southern Jurisdiction.

This year, the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma published the *Oklahoma Mason* as a joint project with the Journal for at least two of its publications. It was a great program for the Rite because it placed the *Scottish Rite Journal* in the hands of all Oklahoma Masons.

The Deputy Grand Master has informed the Orient he does not plan to continue the program next year, at least on a bi-monthly basis. This gives the three Valleys in Oklahoma the opportunity to go together with their own Orient newspaper published as an insert to the Journal.

It has not yet been determined how many times the Orient newspaper will be published, but it is anticipated our membership can expect two or three newspapers to come out with the Journal next year. In addition, each Valley will also publish its own pre-Reunion newspapers since Reunion activities vary so much between Valleys.

To augment communication with our members even further, the Valley of Guthrie will publish an electronic newspaper several times during the year which can be accessed for free on our website. In fact, the news you are reading at this moment is one such publication that will only be available to members on line.

It is hoped the joint publication with the House of the Temple, coupled with our Valley newspapers, supplemented with electronic news will result in our members feeling they are much better connected to the Rite in Oklahoma. We are always happy to share our dreams and accomplishments with all our members.