



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

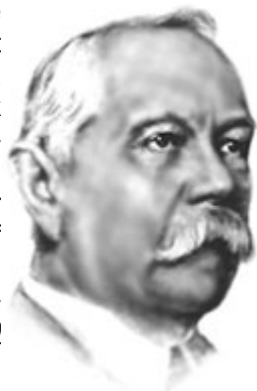
March 2010

Join Us In Guthrie on April 30, May 1-2, and Solve a Murder!

What better way to celebrate the birthday of one of England's best known Freemasons than to hold a "Murder Mystery" in the Sherlock Holmes tradition! The Guthrie Scottish Rite Spring Reunion, to be held on April 30, May 1-2, will honor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of one of the world's greatest, albeit, fictional, London detectives, the quintessential Sherlock Holmes. At the 2010 *Sherlock Holmes Reunion*, we will ponder over whether Holmes was a Mason himself, outline which of the 52 Holmesian stories the Master Detective made reference to Freemasons; and even attempt to solve a murder which will occur in the temple sometime on Saturday of the Reunion.

Of course, it's all in great fun as we celebrate the 151st anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a name long synonymous with Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Doyle created the world's most famous detective in 1886, and joined the Masonic Lodge himself a year later, giving his curious and spiritual mind an opportunity to include Freemasons as characters in his stories. For example, Dr. James Watson, whose name has also been immortalized with Holmes, was a member of Doyle's own lodge. We'll uncover this, and other facets of Doyle's life, as we share together the feast of knowledge and fraternity during our big "Sherlock Holmes" Reunion.

As many members know, this is the only chance Master Masons and Scottish Rite Members will have this year to see all 29 Degrees of the Rite performed on the stage of the great auditorium in the Guthrie Temple. The Valley makes this opportunity available only once each year. We are expecting a large



number of out-of-state brethren to be in attendance this time!

The Reunion will begin with registration of candidates at 7 am on Friday, April 30, followed by the Opening Ceremonies at 8:00. Candidates are welcome to come to Guthrie the evening before for an introduc-

tion to the Scottish Rite sponsored by our Valley's new member mentorship group. This will be a chance for candidates to ask questions, get acquainted with each other, and become immediately engaged in the reunion experience before it officially begins.

The work on Friday will start at 8:45 am with an introduction to the Lodge of Perfection Degrees. Work will continue throughout the day. Following the 15^o, the Valley will host a reception in the Atrium honoring our new Deputy in Oklahoma, Ill. Joe R. Manning, Jr. Dinner will follow in the Legislative Hall at 6:30 pm. The Knights of St. Andrews will then conduct their impressive "processional of knights" in the beautiful Temple Atrium. All brethren and their ladies are welcome to observe this very fraternal and knightly gathering of our younger Scottish Rite men. We will then all retire to the Egyptian Room to watch a classic Sherlock Holmes movie, starring our favorite Holmes detective of all time, Basil Rathbone. The Mentorship committee will also create a scavenger hunt for the candidates, and there will be opportunities to more fully explore a degree of the Rite in a shared dialogue with our candidates.

On Saturday, following a hearty breakfast in the Temple Café, the Degree teams of the Valley will confer the 16^o through the 26^o. There will be temple tours and coffees arranged for our ladies during the day. On Saturday evening, a banquet will be held in the Legislative Hall, after which a Murder Mystery will unfold. The "who done it" will be decided by YOU, our Reunion attendees! You won't want to miss the fun of a good old fashion Holmes mystery; and, who knows, YOU may be the one who solves the crime! A special prize will be given the individual/team that solves the mystery!

On Sunday morning, the work will begin at 7:30 am with the conferral of the 27^o. The Reunion should conclude around 4 pm on Sunday afternoon, May 2.

The Guthrie Valley invites all 32^o Masons to attend and enjoy the work of the Scottish Rite on the first weekend in May. If it's been awhile since you have attended a Reunion, all you need is your current year's dues card. It will be a wonderful time to get re-acquainted with Oklahoma's most beautiful building; and Freemasonry's college course in Masonic teaching.



**THE SHERLOCK HOLMES
REUNION**

April 30, May 1-2, 2010

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Candidate Registration 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Reception 6:30 p.m.

Intro to the Scottish Rite Experience 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 30, 2010

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) 9:45 a.m.

6° Confidential Secretary (Ok City-Crowder) 10:25 a.m.

7° Provost and Judge (Altus-King)..... 10:55 a.m.

8° Intendant of the Building (Cushing-Dunaway) .. 11:35 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) 2:20 p.m.

13° Royal Arch of Solomon (Choctaw-Smith)..... 3:20 p.m.

*14° Perfect Elu (Del City-Warmath)..... 4:15 p.m.

Obligation 4°-14° 5:05 p.m.

15° Knight of the East (Lawton-Zura)..... 5:30 p.m.

Reception 6:30 p.m.

Reception honoring Ill. Joe R. Manning, Jr. 33°

Deputy of the Supreme Council in Oklahoma

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Knights of St Andrew Processional 8:00 p.m.

Sherlock Holmes Movie (Egyptian Room) 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Breakfast 6:00 a.m.

16° Prince of Jerusalem (Okla City-Robison) 7:00 a.m.

17° Knight of the East & West (Duncan-Lewis)..... 7:55 a.m.

18° Knight Rose Croix (Okla City-Massad)..... 9:00 a.m.

Obligation 15°-18° 10:10 a.m.

*19° Grand Pontiff (Okla City-Minshall) 10:30 a.m.

20° Master of the Symbolic Lodge

(Woodward-Logan)..... 11:25 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

21° Noachite or Prussian Knight

(Lawton-McKenzie)..... 1:15 p.m.

22° Prince of Libanus (Kay County-Snyder)..... 2:10 p.m.

23° Chief of the Tabernacle (Yukon-Smith) 2:40 p.m.

24° Prince of the Tabernacle

(West Central-Sheppard)..... 3:25 p.m.

25° Sufi Master (West Ok-Freas)..... 4:25 p.m.

26° Prince of Mercy (Stillwater-Dick)..... 5:10 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Sherlock Holmes Banquet

Murder Mystery – Egyptian Room 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

27° Prince Adept (SW Okla-Hardin) 7:30 a.m.

28° Knight Commander of the Temple

(Enid-Heaton) 8:20 a.m.

29° Scottish Knight of St. Andrew

(OKC-Ross) 9:40 a.m.

30° Knight of Kadosh (OKC-Berry)..... 10:40 a.m.

Obligation 19°-30° 11:40 a.m.

Class Memorial 11:45 a.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Class Picture..... 1:00 p.m.

*31° Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries

(Guthrie-Monroe)..... 1:15 p.m.

32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon)..... 2:40 p.m.

***Passport Degrees**

MANNING APPOINTED DEPUTY IN OKLAHOMA

With the retirement this past December of Ill. Joseph C. Jennings, 33°, as Oklahoma's only Active Member on the Supreme Council, the leadership of the Scottish Rite in our Orient has been assigned to Ill. Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, by the Southern Jurisdiction's Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronnie Seale. Brother Manning takes on the responsibility as chief executive officer of the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma and will be responsible to the Supreme Council for the activities of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Sooner state.

Brother Manning is imminently qualified to assume this important position on behalf of the members of the Scottish Rite in the three Oklahoma Valleys. He has served as Personal Representative to Brother Jennings in the Valley of Guthrie and Chairman of the Guthrie Advisory Conference since 2003. He was appointed to the Guthrie Advisory Conference in 1991. Moreover, his active involvement in the fraternity extends far beyond the Rite. He has distinguished himself in all branches of Masonry. Freemasonry has been a way of life for our new Deputy.

Brother Manning served the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma as its Grand Master in 1985. He currently serves as its Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of England. He is a member and Past Master of Cushing Lodge No. 111, a Past High Priest, Past Illustrious Master, and Past Commander of the York Rite Bodies, and holds the Knight York Cross of Honor in Oklahoma Priory No. 9. He is a charter member, Past Governor, and Past Grand Governor of the Oklahoma York Rite College, and will be installed as the Head of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America later this year. He is also a Past Preceptor of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests in Oklahoma and is currently serving as the Grand Preceptor of this Body nationally. He is a Past Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine for the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines.

In addition, Deputy Manning is a Past Master of the Great Chief's Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees in Washington, D.C. and serves as an officer in the Grand Council, AMD of the United States. He is the Chief Adept of the Society of Masonic Rosicrucians in Oklahoma. He is a member of the Knight Masons of the USA; the Grand College of Rites; Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Great Priory of America, CBCS; Tall Cedars of Lebanon, India Temple Shrine, Sabba Grotto, the Royal Order of Scotland, the National Sojourners, and Heroes of '76.

Our new Deputy has also committed his life to the Order of DeMolay, serving as a Past State Master Councilor, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and Active Member of the International Supreme Council, as well as being President of the Oklahoma DeMolay Trust, and Past Executive Officer in Oklahoma. He holds the Grand Cross of Colors in Rainbow.

Brother Manning is a lifelong resident of Cushing. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Oklahoma State University in 1969 and a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1973. He worked as the Business Manager and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation, retiring in 2008 after 26 years of service to the charities of Masonry in Oklahoma.

Our Deputy served as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives in the 35th through the 38th Legislatures from 1974 to 1982. He served the Governor of Oklahoma as a Senior Member of his staff from 1987 through 1989. He is a Past Chairman of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and Past President of the Governing Board of Prevent Blindness Oklahoma. Brother Manning has been a long time member of the Cushing City Council, having served as Mayor for eight years, and is the current Vice-Mayor. He is also the Vice-chairman of the Cushing Regional Hospital.

We wish our Deputy many years of success as he takes on the leadership of the Rite in Oklahoma. He is accustomed to leadership. We are proud of his commitment to Masonry, and look forward to seeing him and his wife Cindy at the Reunions of the three Valleys for many years to come.



2010 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 7, 2010, in the Blue Room of the Temple. Illustrious Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council 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:



David Tennison of Guthrie is the 2010 Venerable Master of the Guthrie Lodge of Perfection. He is a perpetual member of Guthrie Lodge #35, Albert Pike Lodge #162 and the Guthrie Scottish Rite. David joined the Guthrie Bodies in 2003 and is active on the 4th Degree Team and the Service Knights.



Michael Hampton, KCCH, of Ponca City is the 2010 Wise Master of the Guthrie Chapter Rose Croix. Brother Hampton is a Past Master of Ponca Lodge #83. He joined the Guthrie Scottish Rite in 1993 and received the KCCH in 2005. He is a member of the 5th degree and 22nd degree teams.



Michael Zura, KCCH, of Lawton is the 2010 Commander of Kadosh for the Guthrie Council of Kadosh. He is a Past Master of Mt Scott #540 and Triangle #548 in Lawton. Mike joined the Guthrie Bodies in 1996 and received the KCCH in 2007. He currently serves as Director of the 15th degree.



Gene McKelvey, 33° of Oklahoma City, is the 2010 Master of Kadosh for the Guthrie Consistory. Gene is a plural member of Siloam #276, Amity #473 and India Lodge #551. He is currently the Recorder of India Shrine. Gene joined the Guthrie bodies, in 1986, receiving the 33° in 2007. Gene manages the stage lighting department.

2010 Lodge of Perfection Officers

Senior Warden.....	Glen McCall, KCCH
Junior Warden	Philip L. Moseley, KCCH
Orator	J. Dennis Smith, KCCH
Treasurer	Jon G. Gumerson, 33°
Almoner	Bert Wheeler, KCCH
Secretary	Robert G. Davis, 33° G. C.
Prelate	Burke McCrory
Master of Ceremonies	A. Dean Monroe, KCCH
Expert	Michael Gillespie
Asst. Expert	Gayord Z. Thomas
Captain of Hosts	Damon Devereaux
Tyler.....	Bronnie Campbell

2010 Chapter Rose Croix Officers

Senior Warden.....	Jimmy D. Hartzell, 33°
Junior Warden	Jack Painter, KCCH
Orator	John Barnhart, KCCH
Master of Ceremonies	Woodrow Morehouse
Expert	Jack Randall
Asst. Expert	Dana Clark, KCCH
Standard Bearer	Gerald Stegall
Guardian Temple	Matthew McGee
Tyler.....	Bronnie Campbell

2010 Council of Kadosh Officers

First Lt. Commander.....	Ed Becerra, KCCH
Second Lt. Commander.....	Mitchel Witt, KCCH
Chancellor	Russell Freas, KCCH
Orator	Michael Blevins, KCCH
Turcoplier.....	Michael Witt
First Deacon	Derek Bullock
Second Deacon	Clarence Grigsby, Jr.
Bearer of the White Standard	David Shore
Bearer of the Beauseant.....	Tim Israel
Bearer of the Black Standard	Mickey Cunningham, KCCH
Lt. of the Guard.....	Gene Rodgers, KCCH
Tyler.....	Bronnie Campbell

2010 Consistory

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



GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE REUNION
Albert Pike Bicentennial October 10 & 11, 2009

Row 1, from left: John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; Bryan D. Carlile, Class Chaplain; Trenton Denbo, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Lawrence N. James, Class Vice-President; James Hudson, II, Class President; Joseph C. Jennings, Jr., 33°, SGIG in Oklahoma; Richard Massad, 33°, Grand Master; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; Robert G. Davis, 33° G.C., General Secretary; C. Kent Callahan, KCCH, Class Director; Steve Hanna, KCCH, Class Director.
 Row 2: Richard L. Newcomb, Jr.; Daniel E. Christopher; Stephen W. Gorman; Joe T. Nickell; Gerald A. Craparotta; Francisco DeLaPaz; Donald E. Wolford; Dustin Kerr; David Matthew; Richard Overton; Bradley Hardin; Carl L. Dowdy.
 Row 3: Jimmy Reeves; Chris Pharris; Steve Holekamp; Kevin Hall; Jared Whittington; Donald Winbolt; Jackie Gritz; Rhys W. Gay; Christopher D. Forster; Daryal Toellner; Cody Kenemer; Jay A. Falkner; Judd J. Frith.
 Row 4: Joshua B. Arnold; John Naramor; Joey Lloyd; Gerry Moore; Michael Davenport; Michael Reid; Brandon Williams; Leonard J. Logan; Paul Lamle; Alexander Riseborough; Jay Furrh; Tom Furrh.
 Row 5: Earl D. Claus; Robert G. Wherton; Jeff Cantrell; Terry Pennington; David Alan Engebretson; Justin Craparotta; Justin C. Winbolt; Austin Gillham; Justin McConnell; Glendon Birdwell; Jefferson D. Fluker; Derek Jacobs; Jason Carr; Robert Henson.
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**50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS
 GIVEN AT REUNION**

Inspector Jennings presented 50 year membership awards to J.D. Alexander and James Sheppard. Brother Alexander traveled from his home in Gillette, Wyoming to receive his award at Reunion. Brother Sheppard was presented his award on behalf of the El Paso Texas Valley. A resident of Norman, he is the father of our member Pat Sheppard, KCCH, of Hennessey. We were pleased to honor these fine men and their families at a luncheon on Saturday.



CLINIC GIFTED WITH LAPTOP

The Guthrie Knights of St. Andrew continued their support of our RiteCare Clinic by presenting the clinicians with a laptop to be used for therapy and client interaction. This is the second such gift from the KSA to the Guthrie RiteCare program. Clinician Lisa Ashley and Clinic Director Nancy Wright expressed much gratitude for the group's generosity.



**Valley of Guthrie - Orient of Oklahoma
33° Inspectors General Honorary - 2009**

**Seated, from left: Johnny Gale Sheets, John Edwin King, Joseph C. Jennings, Jr., 33° S.G.I.G.,
Don Clayton Fevurly, Edgar David Snyder.**

**Standing, from left: Philip Roland Smothermon, David A. Sutton, Harvey Wayne Kaylor,
Frederick Marshall Dittmar, Jimmie Edward Pilgrim, Ronald Joe Minshall.**

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**Valley of Guthrie - Orient of Oklahoma
2009 Knights Commander of the Court of Honour**

**Seated, from left: Larry Jackson Paden, James Russell Booth, Mark Allen Critchfield, Ronald Edgar Wray, Joseph C.
Jennings, Jr., 33° S.G.I.G., Donald Lewis Wray, John Michael Cunningham, Frank Wayne Davis, Owen Henry Major.**

**Standing, from left: Jimmie Alvin Kiser, Philip Lyle Moseley, Alvin Dean Monroe, Jr., Glen Alexander McCall,
William Lee McClendon, Gary Lee Thompson, Fred Charles Ross, Mitchel Ray Witt, Don Alan Killough,
Joe Goenaga, Jr., Michael Alan Rose, Robert Boyd Sasser, Richard Eugene Kerr, Gary Lee Riggs.**

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ISAACS NAMED TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

We would like our membership to meet Elwood M. "Ike" Isaacs, KCCH, a member of Guthrie's Audit Committee. Brother Ike was appointed to the Valley's Investment Committee when he moved his residence from Bartlesville to Norman in 2008. He is a dual member of both the Guthrie and Tulsa Valleys and has always had an affinity for organizational finances. Many of our active members already know Ike through other Masonic organizations. He serves as Treasurer of almost every Masonic Body of which he is involved. He's a man who is just plain good with numbers.

In addition to his role as a member of the Valley's Investment Committee, Brother Isaacs was appointed to the Valley Audit Committee at the annual meeting of the Advisory Conference held this January. The Audit Committee is one of the most active committees of the Valley. Its members come to the Temple almost every week to review the bills presented for payment. And with a building the size of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple and a Childhood Language Disorders Clinic on site, there are always plenty of bills to pay. We are excited to have Brother Isaacs come on board in this important Valley capacity.

Brother Isaacs is retired from Phillips Petroleum after 32 years of service. He was a corporate director of petroleum products transportation of Phillips. In addition to his active involvement in Guildhall Lodge #553, he is very active in the York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry. He and his wife Linda have two grown children, Mark and Mary.

BOBBY LAWS TO HEAD VALLEY MEMBERSHIP EFFORT

To date, MW Bobby Laws has top-lined 89 petitions for membership in the Guthrie Valley. You will notice this article is being written in the present tense. That means he's not yet finished working on his own record. It's easy, then to understand why, in January, the Guthrie Advisory Conference appointed him as the Membership Chairman for the Guthrie Valley. He now has the entire western half of the state in which to promote Scottish Rite Masonry.

Bobby may well be the highest living petition getter of our time. And if you know him, you know he does the same thing in the Blue Lodge and in the York Rite. Maybe it has something to do with him being a retired Chief Master Sergeant. Perhaps it's because he has seen a lot of the world and knows the value of organizations which teach and promote civil liberties and individual freedom. Maybe he just doesn't have anything else to do with his time.

Whatever the reason, Brother Laws has a passion for Freemasonry. Anyone who is around him very long just can't help but take in a bit of that passion for himself. Bobby



cares about men; he cares about their circumstance in life; and he wants them to experience the best that life can offer them. Perhaps that is the real reason he loves to talk to men about Masonry.

The Guthrie Valley is fortunate to have a Past Grand Master as its membership chairman. The success of the Scottish Rite always depends on the success of Blue Lodge Masonry. No one has a better perspective on what makes Craft lodge Masonry successful than one who has sat as the head of the fraternity in the state. Brother Laws will be visiting lodges as he has always done. He will be contacting Brothers asking them to help bring Master Masons in their area into the Rite. He will be talking with Brothers who are in financial distress, and offering the Valley's assistance. He will be assisting with dues collection, and helping the office staff at Guthrie keep the Valley membership records current on all members.

But most of all, Brother Laws will be doing what he has always done--promoting Freemasonry; inviting men to experience the joy of fraternalism, and helping them get the most they can out of their Masonic experience. He does all of this because he knows that's the Masonic thing to do.



SUPREME COUNCIL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOCUS—MEMBER RETENTION

One would not commonly think membership retention to be an organizational leadership issue. Participation, involvement, commitment, and retention are, in the big picture, a matter of individual choice. Each Mason ultimately decides for himself what value the organizations in which he belongs has to him personally. Short of offering a no cost fraternity to every member, there is no magic organizational fix to member retention.

But that doesn't mean the leadership at the Valley, Orient, or national level should not be concerned about member losses. Like it or not, the pure size of our Masonic buildings, the investment we have in regalia and properties, and the management of our large member pools necessitates a certain amount of revenue be secured every year. That revenue can only come from members. And it must also be shared between the Valley and its national headquarters. This makes member retention a leadership issue. Member retention is just another way of categorizing member satisfaction. It really does come down to the value each member places in his Scottish Rite membership.

This is why the theme of this year's national leadership conference of the Scottish Rite is titled "Membership through Leadership." It boils down to reinforcing awareness that our members are the single most important element of our organization, and their contentment with the Rite ultimately determines their tenure.

The 2010 Scottish Rite Leadership Conference will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans hotel on April 16–17. The conference will examine how active leadership can be employed to stem the tide of membership losses at the Valley level. It will explore how leadership directly affects membership. And the conference promises to bring forward a new slate of programs each specifically designed to put real world tools into the hands of today's Scottish Rite leaders—Rite Now!

The Oklahoma Valley Secretaries and Board Chairmen will attend the conference, and look forward to bringing ideas back that can be shared with our local Membership teams. It is an important leadership imperative that every member feel a sense of enjoyment and commitment to the Rite, even if he is unable personally to be involved with meetings, travel, and regular associations with his fraternal fellows. There are different ways to be satisfied with the organizations in which one spends his life. From a leadership perspective, it is essential that these ways be communicated effectively to every member—Rite Now.

EDUCATION ON THE RITE NITE RETURNS FOR 2010

This popular Scottish Rite education program is continuing for 2010. Join us each month for an enlightening evening.

"EDUCATION ON THE RITE NITE" 2010

3/10/2010	"The Influence of the Past Upon the Present" 19°	Del City #536
4/22/2010	"The Ultimate Objective" 28°	Perkins #92
5/6/2010	"We are a Mystery to Ourselves" 26° Regional Lodge of Perfection Meeting	Frontier #48 Stillwater
6/3/2010	"Oh! To Build the New Jerusalem" 15° Regional Lodge of Perfection Meeting	Mt. Scott #540 Lawton
7/1/2010	"The Virtue of Work" 22° Regional Lodge of Perfection Meeting	Ponca #83 Ponca City
8/5/2010	"The Trials which Man Faces in Order to be Good" 16° Regional Lodge of Perfection Meeting	Britton #434 Oklahoma City
9/16/2010	"How Imperfect our Idea of God!" 17°	Altus #62
10/28/2010	"The Lessons the Age of Iron Left Us." 29°	Norman #38
11/17/2010	"The Great Political Truth" 30°	Oklahoma City #36

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

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Mason**

Official Publication of the
Ancient and Accepted
Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Orient of Oklahoma

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**DEPUTY IN OKLAHOMA
JOE R. MANNING, JR., 33°**

Valley of Guthrie
INSPECTOR GENERAL
ADVISORY CONFERENCE

Chairman

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

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Vale, Frater
by Jim Tresner

It can be a hard thing when your working relationship with a friend changes. For years now, I've had the pleasure of working with Ill Joseph C. Jennings, Jr., Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Oklahoma. So his retirement is something I feel at a personal level, and the only way I can write about it is at a personal level.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about him is his understanding that Tulsa, McAlester, and Guthrie are three different Valleys, with different strengths and different opportunities. Sometimes, S G I G s try to take a cookie-cutter, one size fits all approach to governing the Rite. Ill Brother Jennings understood that only by allowing each Valley to exploit its own strengths and compensate for its own weaknesses could it begin to reach its potential. That freedom has been very important. In essence, he empowered the Valleys to find their own paths, and that freedom has paid dividends.

It has paid other kinds of dividends as well. The financial position of each Valley is stronger than it was before, in spite of the difficult financial times through which we have passed.

In some cases it has been painful. It must have hurt the members of the Tulsa Valley to sell their temple and move to other quarters. But the result has been a financial security unknown for many years; and the restaging of the Degrees to fit the space, using electronically-generated scenery, has allowed them to do some very exciting things and to rethink the presentation of the Degrees in a powerful manner.

But then our Illustrious Brother understands theatre, and understands that the Degrees are theatre. I have never had the opportunity of seeing his portrayal of John the Baptist (which is said to be very good) but I have seen his one-man show of a Mason in the American Colonial period, talking about the Masonic meetings of the time, and it is outstanding.

It has been a good run. I've been able to watch the candidates during the opening ceremonies when he talks with them. I've seen the lights come on in their eyes as he connected with them and involved them in the program which was to come. That is no easy task.

I've watched as he went backstage during the Degrees, and I've seen every-

one---stage hands, actors, and Directors of the Work---try just a little harder because we knew he cared, and that he cared about the quality of the work shown to the Candidates. He has improved the quality of the work in all three Valleys, and he has done it by leading, not pushing, people to try their best.

And I have appreciated his voice of reason. Like any other organization readjusting itself to the realities of the world, Freemasonry is seeing some uncertainty, some lack of sureness of direction. It's easy, under those circumstances, to "go off in all directions at once." It's even easier to shoot from the hip. And so it is a great service to the Craft to remain calm, deliberative, and thoughtful. We have all benefited from that.

And so, Illustrious Brother Jennings, thank you for all you have done. Enjoy your very-well-earned retirement. It has been a privilege to work with you.

