

# 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 2011

## Harper S. Cunningham Memorial Reunion set for April 1-3, 2011

It is fitting that we should remember the man who established the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma Territory on the centennial anniversary of his passing. Harper S. Cunningham died on March 10, 1911 in Los Angeles while raising money to build the Scottish Rite cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was known as the temple builder of Freemasonry because of his extraordinary skill and vision in seeing to it that Masonic buildings built in the 20th century would be as admired as the cathedrals erected by the stonemasons of the middle ages. He steadfastly believed the Freemasons of today to be the descendents of the operative craftsmen of the 16th and 17th century pre-Grand Lodge era. The Scottish Rite Temples in Guthrie and McAlester are just two shining examples of what man is capable of doing when he has the right vision.

Harper Cunningham was an extraordinary man who led an extraordinary life. We will explore his legacy as we celebrate the beautiful and magnificent pageantry of the Scottish Rite Degrees on April 1-3, 2011. If it has been a while since you have been back to a Scottish Rite reunion, make a pledge to yourself to be with us and participate in what is annually

the biggest event of the year in the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma.

The reunion will begin with the registration of candidates at 7 am on Friday, April 1, followed by the opening ceremonies. All candidates are welcome to come to Guthrie the evening before for an introduction to the Scottish Rite sponsored by our Valley's mentorship group. This will be a chance to informally get acquainted, ask questions, explore the temple, and become immediately engaged in the reunion experience that will unfold over the weekend.

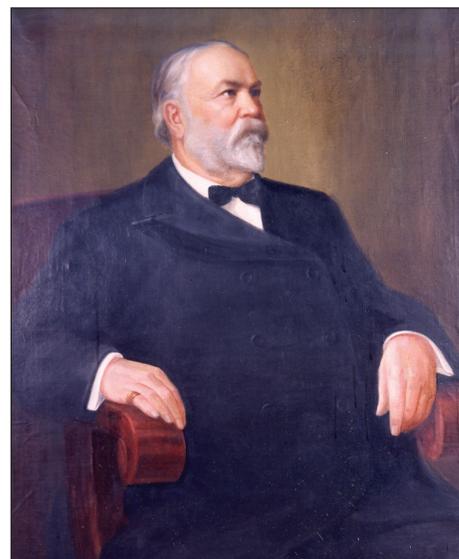
The work will begin on Friday at 8:45 am with an introduction to the Lodge of Perfection degrees. Work will continue throughout the day, with the 16° performed on the temple stage following the Friday evening banquet in the grand ballroom. The festivities of the day will close out with the traditional processional of the squires of the Knights of St. Andrew in the temple atrium at 8:45 pm.

On Saturday, following a hearty breakfast in the temple Café, the degree teams of the Valley will proceed with the conferral of the 17° through the 27°. Again, the Saturday evening banquet will be followed by the production of one of the Valley's most colorful degrees, the Knight Commander of

the Temple, the first of the chivalric degrees in the knighthood tradition.

The activities on Sunday begin at 8 am with the class election of officers following breakfast. The 29th through the 31st degrees will be performed before lunch. The class picture will be taken on the temple steps on Sunday afternoon and the reunion will conclude with the presentation of the 32°, scheduled for 1:30 pm.

As always, there will be a great contingent of visitors from across the United States. The Guthrie Valley invites all 32° Masons to attend and enjoy the work of the Rite. It is the college course in Masonic teaching.



**HARPER S CUNNINGHAM MEMORIAL REUNION  
GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE**

**April 1-2-3, 2011**

**Thursday, March 31, 2011**

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

Candidate Reception 6:30 p.m.

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

**Friday, April 1, 2011**

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 (Okla 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-Hanna).....	4:15 p.m.
Obligation 4°-14°.....	5:05 p.m.
15° Knight of the East (Lawton-Zura).....	5:30 p.m.

**Dinner 6:30 p.m.**

16° Prince of Jerusalem (Okla City-Robison) .....	8:00 p.m.
---	-----------

*Knights of St. Andrew Processional 8:45 p.m.*

**Saturday, April 2, 2011**

**Breakfast 6:30 a.m.**

17° Knight of the East and West (Duncan-Lewis).....	8:00 a.m.
18° Knight Rose Croix (Okla City-Weed).....	9:05 a.m.
Obligation 15°-18°.....	10:10 a.m.
19° Grand Pontiff (Okla City-Minshall).....	10:35 a.m.
20° Master of the Symbolic Lodge (Woodward-Logan) .....	11:30 a.m.

**Lunch 12:10 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 (Okla City-Dick).....	5:15 p.m.
27° Prince Adept (SW Okla-Hardin) .....	5:50 p.m.

**Dinner 6:30 p.m.**

28° Knight Commander of the Temple (Enid-Heaton) .....	8:00 p.m.
--	-----------

**Sunday, April 3, 2011**

**Breakfast 6:30 a.m.**

Class Election of Officers .....	8:00 a.m.
*29° Scottish Knight of St. Andrew (OKC-Ross) .....	8:30 a.m.
30° Knight of Kadosh (OKC-Berry).....	9:30 a.m.
Obligation 19°-30° .....	10:30 a.m.
31° Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries (Guthrie-Monroe).....	10:50 a.m.

**Lunch 12:00 p.m.**

Class Memorial .....	1:00 p.m.
Class Picture.....	1:15 p.m.
32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon).....	1:30 p.m.

*\*Passport Degrees*



**Knights of St. Andrew to  
Produce a DVD About the Rite**



The Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) are one of the newer volunteer organizations within the structure of the Scottish Rite. In fact, it is the fastest growing Scottish Rite service organization in the Southern Jurisdiction. Its popularity is tied to the fact that only "black cap" Masons can join. For those reading this who are not regular attendees at Guthrie reunions, this means that those who have already received honors for service to the Rite, such as a KCCH or 33°, are not eligible for this particular group. Its energy derives from men who are young in the Rite and hungry to participate and make a difference.

The KSA at Guthrie perform many tasks during reunions that are not individually tied to other groups. They were organized to fill gaps in services needed but not assigned to the long standing committees and departments of the Valley. And as they have grown in numbers and resources, they have been able to take on an increasing role of valuable services for the Rite.

Their newest project is the production of a DVD that will be given to every new Scottish Rite Mason. It will tell the story of the Valley and its many volunteer organizations. The filming and interviewing will take place at the April Reunion, with follow interviews as needed to complete the project.

The DVD will be divided into five sections, beginning with a welcome to the Guthrie Scottish Rite and an overview of its purpose and services to Masonry. There will be a section devoted solely to the stage craft support organizations, including lighting, sound, properties and scenery; along with wardrobe and make-up. The new brothers will get to see what happens back stage and upstairs during the production of the degrees.

Another section will explain the reunion support organizations such as the chain gang, class directors, credentials and registration, innkeepers, the KSA, tilers, and the office staff. Then the Valley committees and organizations will be highlighted. This includes some 25 Temple organizations that offer many volunteer opportunities outside the reunions themselves. Examples include the college of the consistory, membership recruitment and retention, temple tour guides, library and museum docents, media productions, memorial services, society chapters, mentorship, and a host of other special interests from skeet shooting to cigar nights.

The DVD will also outline the work of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation, including our RiteCare Clinic program, the teacher training program in multi-sensory phonics, and the restoration of the beautiful Guthrie Temple.

The primary purpose of the production will be to offer a visual tour of the Valley organizational structure with a focus on the reunion experience. There will be an informative voice over narrative that tells the story. The DVD will also feature individual interviews with the many temple volunteers. The purpose of the project is to visually explain why the Guthrie Scottish Rite one of the largest Masonic organizations in the world. It will be an informative gift for our newly made 32° Masons, and should give them a single place to find out the many volunteer opportunities available to them.

The Valley is very grateful to the KSA for taking on this valuable project for the Rite this year.

## New Public Restrooms First Project in Restoration of Grand Ballroom

The Grand Ballroom of the temple's Legislative Hall can seat over 500 people for dining. It is a magnificent space and always fun to experience because everyone who dines there dines in the very spot where the first legislators of the state of Oklahoma met. One can still see remnants of the public galleries overhead. The ornamental plaster ceiling panels inlaid with stained glass are a site to behold. The Georgian Revival style of the grand hall is used for member banquets, festive boards, wedding receptions, and many public gatherings.

The experience of the ballroom is indeed wonderful in every way. That is, until nature calls. Then it is a 650' march, or sometimes race, to the first available public restroom. It could be that, when the legislative hall was built in 1908, indoor plumbing was still an experiment in Oklahoma. But 103 years is long enough to tolerate almost any inconvenience.

Last year, the Guthrie Advisory Conference decided to place on hold our efforts to secure private financing through tax credits for the restoration of the old legislative hall. Instead, it selected to undertake slightly more than \$500,000 in restoration/re-construction needs that are considered crucial to the continuing longevity of the 1908 building. The first project to re-roof a section of the building and repair some scuppers that had been doing a lot of damage over the years is now complete.

The next project calls for the reconstruction of public restrooms immediately adjacent to the north end of the ballroom. The caged area at the east end of King Solomon's Arch which once gave access to the basement dining hall will be converted to a hallway accessing new public restrooms for both men and women. The men's facility will also double as a restroom for those who reside on the first floor of the inn during Masonic functions. The women's restroom will replace a multi-bed room located at the east end of the old building. These new and reconstructed facilities will be a great convenience for every group that leases the ballroom for any type of function. Both will be handicapped accessible and will provide a practical as well as modern use for our 1908 building. While not the most expensive, it may well prove to be one of the most popular improvements we've made in recent years!

## A New Appeal to Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters for an Old Tradition

There are countless windows in the four floors of the old legislative hall. And every one of them must soon be replaced. Of course, we have a plan to replace these windows to the style which is appropriate for a 1908 building. The problem is that each window will cost \$1,000. There are 29 windows in the grand ballroom alone.

There is hardly a person who has walked through the artistic rooms of the Guthrie temple and not noticed that essentially every artistic window includes an engraving of a town or lodge or chapter. The reason for these recognitions is that the Masonic lodges or Eastern Star chapters in each of those communities donated the money for the placement of the original windows that were installed with the temple's original construction.

We would like to bring back this old tradition of cooperation and fraternal good will by asking our active members to go to their lodges and chapters and request them to consider purchasing a window for the old legislative hall. We will place the name of the Lodge or Chapter or town in the stool of the window frame or paint it onto the glass as was originally done on our stained glass windows in the temple. There are as many windows in the old legislative hall as there are lodges in the state. In addition to lodge or chapter recognitions, if a member would like to purchase a window in the name of he and his lady, or in memory of a relative or friend, that option will also be accepted.

The Foundation trustees would like to focus the temple's resources on the restoration of the Grand Ballroom itself. This is a massive project which includes refinishing the floor, repairing the plaster ceilings and walls, and providing new drapery and curtains to make the Grand Ballroom the focal point of all future entertainments. Through the generosity of our brothers and sisters across the Valley assisting us with the windows, we can get the bigger job done in the next few years.

Please consider discussing this project in your lodges and chapters. If you need further information on how the original windows were funded, contact the Secretary at 405-282-1281.

## 2011 Lodge Officers Installed



The 2011 Lodge Officers for the Guthrie Scottish Rite were installed January 6, 2011. Clockwise from upper left, they are:

Glen A. McCall, KCCH, of Edmond, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection;



Jimmy Dean Hartzell, 33°, of Enid, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix;



Edward J. Becerra, KCCH, of Lawton, Commander of Kadosh for the Council of Kadosh; and



William A. McNeil, 33° of Edmond, Master of Kadosh for the Guthrie Consistory.

*For a complete listing of 2011 officers, visit our website, [www.guthriescottishrite.org](http://www.guthriescottishrite.org)*



**Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion  
Sir Christopher Wren Reunion - October 9 &10, 2010**

Row 1, from left: Steven Hanna, KCCH, Class Director; John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; James L. Lowman, Class Chaplain; Jeffrey P. McClelland, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Clifford Cogan, Class Vice-President; Jamie Burnett, Class President; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Deputy in Oklahoma; B.F. Rowland, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG; Robert G. Davis, 33° G.C., General Secretary; Mike Hampton, KCCH, Wise Master; Gene McKelvey, 33°, Master of Kadosh; David Williamson, Class Director; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director.

Row 2: Tommy J. Holt; Patrick W. Calloway, Sr.; Eric Swenson; Lawrence L. Young; Robert L. Solorzano; William Northcutt; William Rankin; Jared Elliott; Mack Eardman; Daniel Fantinel; Derek Meadows; Dennis R. Plunkett; David E. Sparks; Larry D. Butler; Kevin D. Hayden, R.K. Reese.

Row 3: Kevin L. Caver; Steven A. Swift; Christopher K. O'Brien; James D. Teigen; Jim L. Seeger; Martin V. Creagan; William R. Cole; Daniel Hanttula; Jeffery Hines; Bill Edmonds; James Dudley; Dennis R. Kamin; Wayne R. Mitchell; Mitch Darnell; Alan Snider.

Row 4: Kyle Millemon; Earl B. Barnhart; Bobby McGregor; Dave Schell; Thomas E. Holtz, Jr.; Cecil Walker; Kirt Sharp; Wayne Gorrell; Larry Woodcock; Cory Buller; Pat Pittman; Trey Odom; Gregory Brown; Gregory Grayson; William M. Spradlin.

Copyrighted photograph by Jerry L. Cornelius, 32° KCCH - Tulsa, Oklahoma



**Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion  
Winter Reunion - January 8, 2011**

Row 1, from left: William D. Caudill; Jimmy D. Hartzell, 33°, Wise Master; Stephen R. Samples, Class Chaplain; Joshua P. Buxton, Class Secretary/Treasurer; Nathan D. Haley, Class Vice-President; James Hail, Class President; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, Deputy in Oklahoma; Bedford F. Rowland, Jr., 33°, Personal Representative to the Deputy; Robert G. Davis, 33° G.C., General Secretary; John Logan, 33°; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director; Kent Callahan, KCCH, Class Director; John Shah, KCCH, Class Director.

Row 2: Jacob Mack; Adam Phillips; Dustin Chrismon; Mark Bright; Eric Pennello; Mark E. Buchholz; Tim Cook; Stephane Walker; Larry Zook; Perry Whitson; Johnnie Trivette; Harold R. Oliver.

Row 3: Matt Shell; Mark Bruning; Bill G. Perry; James Steury; Todd Mitten; Richard Warner; Stacy Loague; Edward Glover; Robert Sumner; Randy Ellis; Daniel Ellis; Shawn Roberts; Vernon Peck.

Row 4: Nolan Lawless; David W. Kirk; Bruce McEachran; David B. Beard; Oscar Juanes; Patrick Bakley; Craig Cox; Ted Cox; David McDaniel; Jason Cowan; Robert Turner; John Welch.

Row 5: Richard Swindle, Jr., Paul DuBro; Robert N. Crum; Robert J. Gray, Jr.; Jacob Bennett; Peter L. Barnette; Larry Baker; Robert Jameson; David D. Williamson, Class Director.

Copyrighted photograph by Jerry L. Cornelius, 32° KCCH, Tulsa, Oklahoma

## October 2010 Reunion Honored Brethren



Pictured above are the brethren honored in October for their 50 years of service to the Scottish Rite. Bottom from left; Brother Charles Scheffel of San Antonio, Roland Nee of Rush Springs, Paul O. Hatley, 33° of Oklahoma City, Standing: Ronald K. Wonn of Chandler and Henry L. Evans, Jr., of Denton, TX.

## Winter Reunion was Short and Sweet!

The January 8 One Day Reunion was a success by anybody's standards! It was a success bearing in mind that it was held the first week of the year when most people were just barely getting over the holidays. It was a success taking into account it was held in the middle of the winter which, in Oklahoma, can change with the wind. It was a success considering that over 250 members and candidates registered as being in attendance. It was a success to the Valley's membership team because it exceeded their most optimistic expectations.

The special One Day January Reunion was set by the Guthrie Advisory Conference at its October, 2010 meeting in response to a request presented it by Bobby Laws, 33°, Valley membership chairman. Brother Laws indicated that several members of the Valley's membership recruitment team had told him during the recruitment drive for the fall reunion that a number of prospective candidates had indicated they would join the Scottish Rite if they could do it in a day. They just didn't have the time to join during a multi-day reunion. The Conference decided to set a One Day Reunion as early in the year as possible and requested the membership team to re-contact their prospective members and make them aware of the one day opportunity.

Our Valley lodge representatives went to work, but everyone felt if the Valley received 30-35 petitions this early in the year, at a reunion where only the obligatory degrees were to be staged, we would be doing well. The day before the reunion, we had 33 petitions in the office. And we were elated!

Registration on Saturday morning was set for 7 am. As candidates began pouring into the Atrium, it quickly became obvious that a number of men were holding petitions in their hands. By 7:30 am, an additional 16 brothers had submitted their paperwork to join. With two other men who had previously requested we confer the degrees on them as courtesies for other jurisdictions, the winter class totaled 51. The work was excellent, the fellowship grand, and the enthusiasm of all who participated made this special event a great day for everyone.

We look forward to seeing our new Brothers in April!

## Valley Membership Organization to Include a New 11 Member Team

It is generally agreed there is no man better at member recruitment than our Valley membership chairman, Bobby Laws, 33°. Bobby has personally top-lined 100 petitions to the Scottish Rite, and took over the reins as Valley Membership Chair a year ago January. He has done an outstanding job, and we are happy to have his energy and enthusiasm on our team.

Bobby will be the first to admit the western half of Oklahoma is a large geographic area for one man to cover prior to each Valley reunion. There are almost 100 lodges in the Guthrie Valley. Many are small, rural lodges and situated a good driving distance from the temple. Many of these lodges no longer have an active Scottish Rite man immediately available to talk with them about the Rite. It is hard for their newly raised Master Masons to find out about the Scottish Rite, or learn how it relates to the work of the local lodge. It takes a group of men across the Valley to adequately fill in this critically important information and mentorship gap.

To aid in the arduous task of communication and recruitment, the Guthrie Advisory Conference decided at its annual meeting in January, 2011 to give our Valley Membership Chairman some help. It organized an 11 member Valley Membership Committee, naming Bobby as the Committee Chair, and directed the Valley Secretary to work with the new oversight team in promoting communication to all newly raised Master Masons in the Valley.

The geographic area of the Valley has been divided into three and four county segments, with one member of the Valley Committee serving as the Chair of each area. Each committee man will have the same oversight responsibilities within his counties as the Valley membership chairman. Each will strive to set up pre-Reunion membership meetings within his area. The Valley Secretary will be invited to attend and discuss the Scottish Rite, what it is, what it does, and how it relates to what the Master Mason has already learned in his Blue Lodge experience. These events will usually be dinners and will be a kind of "Scottish Rite Friend's Night" patterned after the Blue Lodge Friend's Night model.

Each of the 11 Valley Committee men will also directly communicate with the lodge representatives in their area, and will be responsible for naming/changing lodge representatives as needed, and otherwise keeping the lodges informed about the Scottish Rite Reunions and other activities of the Rite in their area.

The Valley Committee is in the process of being named with the timing of this printing and will be announced to the membership team members as soon as completed. It is expected to be in operation by March, 2011.

## Safeguarding our Future

We may not be able to predict what the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple will look like 80 years from now. But we can make sure the Temple remains in Masonic hands. We can ensure that funds are adequate for its continuing maintenance and restoration. We can guarantee that Oklahoma's most beautiful building will always be one of the central landmarks all Oklahomans and Masons look to for integrity in building and architectural design in every generation. We can promise that Masons in all future generations will feel the same pride our forefathers who built the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple felt when it opened its doors for the first time. We can be sure our Temple will continue to provide one of the best performing arts and lecture venues available statewide for the public and private sectors.

There is only one thing that will make all of this possible 80 years from now. It is legally styled on our books as the Temple Restoration Endow-

ment Fund. The principal is invested and the earnings this investment spins off each year will be used to maintain, restore, and preserve the Temple. Rather than worry about having enough money to support future maintenance needs, the trustees of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation can be able to guarantee funds are available for all future planned programs of preservation.

This endowment is incorporated into the purpose and mission of the Foundation. Since 1988, the restoration and preservation of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple, its grounds, and its major mechanical and electrical systems have been a stated purpose of our 501c(3) charitable and educational organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. All gifts can be tax deductible.

The temple improvement endowment was established to assist Masons and our friends in channeling contributions to preserve the Guthrie Temple. There are hundreds of ways

this can be done. Whether through a gift of cash or a carefully created bequest, annuity, or trust, a benefactor can include the Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation in an estate plan while providing a greater legacy to your survivors and avoiding significant government income and estate taxes.

Each of us has had the opportunity to help insure the preservation of our Guthrie Temple by investing annually in the Foundation. Whether contributing money, valuable property such as jewelry, works of art, coin collections, antiques, appreciated securities, or real estate, your contribution can yield both income and tax savings. If you are interested, contact us and we can explore how it can be done.

Your generosity and loyalty to the causes of Freemasonry can literally safeguard our future. Please consider including the Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation in your will or trust. You will be adding an Oklahoma legacy to your family's name.

### What Do I Do with my Husband's/Father's Masonic Items After He is Gone?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions we get from Masonic widows and heirs of our deceased brothers. As all of us know, being a Mason is a way of life. It is not unusual for most of us to join more than one Masonic organization during our life. Many of us belong to one or more lodges, as well as the Scottish Rite, York Rite and the Shrine. Those of us who belong to the York Rite can also belong to a host of smaller Masonic Bodies that have being a Royal Arch Mason as a requisite for membership.

The bottom line is that we can accumulate a lot of Masonic aprons, jewels, regalia, uniforms and swords. We can also amass a large collection of Masonic books and literature. Those of us who become Masonic collectors can accumulate a house full of antiques and collectibles. A 400 year old fraternity can amass a lot of interesting items.

If you are the widow or heir of a Mason and you find you have Masonic items you don't know what to do with, please remember one most important thing: The fraternity does not want these items to end up in garage sales, estate sales, or antique shops. These items are still considered fraternal property and should continue to benefit those who are members of our fraternity in some way, even after we pass on.

If you would like assistance in this area, please contact the Guthrie Temple staff at 405-282-1281, or email us at [gssrite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gssrite@sbcglobal.net). We have the resources and connections to direct that your husband's, father's or grandfather's Masonic items will be given to the proper organization, museum or place. We can also help you properly dispose of Masonic items that are too worn out to be of more use or value.

## 30 Years of Service to the Guthrie Rite Care Clinic!

If you have attended a Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion in the last couple of decades, you have met or seen Nancy Wright. She is always at the RiteCare booth ready to talk with anyone about the children we serve in our RiteCare clinic. More often than not, one of her "kids" is helping out. The Director of the Guthrie Valley's services to children with communication disorders has been helping kids learn to talk for three decades. Over the years, as our program has expanded across western Oklahoma, Nancy now directs the clinic programs at Guthrie and oversees our satellite programs in Lawton, Ponca City, Weatherford and Woodward. March 1, 2011 marks 30 years of employment with the Guthrie Scottish Rite Foundation and three decades of service to children in central and western Oklahoma. On this occasion, we decided to interview her so she could share some of her joys and experiences with you.

**Ed: Nancy, what was one of your earliest impressions of working in Guthrie?**

Nancy: I became acquainted with the clinic while I was still at OSU. I did my required college internship at the Guthrie clinic. Back then, it was called the childhood aphasia clinic. That was what the Masons named the program, but the clinic was serving a broader range of problems even in the beginning. Jeanette Clemons was the first Director. Her initial work really set the tone for the success of the RiteCare program. She was well known and respected in the industry and she gave the Scottish Rite clinic a good name and a great start. She was an excellent mentor for me as I began my own career.

**When did you become the Director of the Guthrie Clinic?**

Jeanette started her family in 1985 and decided to become a full time mom. I was appointed the Director of the Clinic in 1986. It's hard to believe that was 25 years ago!

I have had a lot of wonderful experiences through these years.

**What has been your greatest joy in the job?**

Getting to know the families of the children we serve and being able to make a demonstrable difference in a child's life is a feeling that is hard to put into words. Many of my students have become my friends. Their families have stayed in touch. My job gives me the joy of an ever growing extended family. I am now teaching some of the kids of the kids I once taught. That is a wonderful feeling.

**What are the biggest challenges?**

We are seeing a lot more children on the autism spectrum. Each autistic child requires its own special treatment. A curricula has to be built for each child individually. These children require great attention and their progress is often very slow. There is also an ever growing need for our services. It seems that language disorders are, to a degree, genetic. There is

so much information available today and parents are more aware that our services exist. Early prevention is more important today than 30 years ago. We receive more referrals over time because of our reputation. While that represents a challenge to us, it is also an honor for us.

**How has the program changed over the years?**

Recognizing that language disorders exist in all communities and our geographic area is so large, we wanted to reach out to families and identify and treat children in communities away from Guthrie. We wanted to recognize the Masons and give credit to them in communities located some distance from the temple. We now have four satellite clinics and they are helping. There is at least a regional contact with our services regardless of where you live in the Valley. Our ultimate goal is that no child will be farther than 70 miles from direct services.

**It certainly seems that our screening program has been widely popular. Any comments?**

Oh yes! There is no other service like it in this part of the state. Other programs, if they exist, charge a lot of money for the screening services. Ours is always free. Each year, we screen 6,000 children for speech, language, and/or hearing problems. For each child we identify in need of services, we send a letter with the results to their parents, with referral sources in their area. Most of the screenings are done in public schools and day care centers. It is a tremendous early intervention program.

**What is the age range of the children you serve?**

We serve children from 3 to 10 years of age. In the satellites, we mainly serve pre-school children, but we will serve those between the ages of 3 and 7. We like to identify children with language delays when they are three years of age. If a child is not developing language skills by 2 ½, we like to at least see them. Early intervention is crucial in treating children. Many problems with language disorders can be diagnosed and treated as early as 2 years of age. One of the wonderful benefits of my profession is that we see so much success. We literally give children a voice.

**What message would you like to give our members at this time?**

The Scottish Rite has such a good reputation among my professional peers. Thank you for providing the financial support required to enable us to directly help children with language and communications problems. We hope we can continue to grow our satellite services. It will depend much on the Masons in the areas our satellites serve. Hopefully, an individual will come forward and endow our satellite clinics. I really like the "Rite Connection" program. Anyone can read the statistics about what we do and how many we serve, but the Rite Connection program puts a face on what

we do. I wish every child in our clinic could be sponsored by a Mason and his wife. I want to thank the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masons for their long term commitment and support of our Rite Care program. When we attend the Valley Reunions, we can so clearly see the love of these men toward what we do. The help we get from the guys in the snack bar and the Knights of St. Andrew is so gratifying. I love all of you!

### The Rite Connection

The average length of time a child receives therapy services is three years. During that time, materials specific to his/her diagnosis need to be purchased. These include books, programs, tests, etc. We try to provide as many materials as possible to take the burden off the families, many who are on a limited income. It is estimated that one child in therapy for three years requires \$500 in materials.

The **Rite Connection** sponsorship program seeks your help as individuals, groups or members of a lodge to make it a success. With a one time \$500 sponsorship, you will be making a significant contribution to young Oklahomans and their future. Sponsorship fees can be paid in 1, 2 or 4 installments.

Each sponsor will have a direct connection with the child being sponsored. In exchange for the sponsorship, the sponsor will receive

- personal correspondence from the child,
- quarterly newsletter with information on the RiteCare programs,
- opportunity to meet with sponsored children at an annual event,
- scrapbook of the child once therapy is completed
- a certificate of sponsorship.

For more information, contact Nancy Wright, Director, at (405) 282-6484, P.O. Box 70, Guthrie, OK 73044 [gritecare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gritecare@sbcglobal.net).



**The Oklahoma  
Scottish Rite  
Mason**

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

**ROBERT G. DAVIS, 33° G.C.**

Editor

**PUBLICATION OFFICE**

Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
P.O. Box 70  
Guthrie Oklahoma 73044  
(405) 282-1281  
gsrite@sbcglobal.net

**DEPUTY FOR OKLAHOMA**

**JOE R. MANNING, JR. 33°**

**Valley of Guthrie**

**ADVISORY CONFERENCE**

- B. F. Rowland, Jr., 33° ..... Chairman
- Robert G. Davis, 33° GC ..... Secretary
- Charles L. Stuckey, 33° ..... Member
- John L. Logan, 33° ..... Member
- Jack Painter, KCCH ..... Member

**GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE**

**CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

Michael Wiggins, 33° ..... President

ORIENT OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 70  
GUTHRIE, OK 73044

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO.1  
GUTHRIE, OK

**Scottish Rite Men Receive Oklahoma Recognitions**

Two members of the Guthrie Scottish Rite have recently been recognized for outstanding leadership and service in their occupations and communities, and as Oklahomans. It is an equal honor for us to also know them as fraternal brothers and friends.

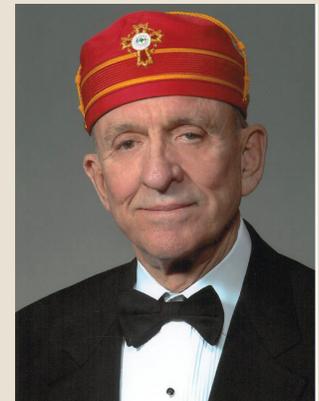
Lew O. Ward, KCCH, of Enid, is one of Oklahoma's most respected oil and gas producers. In November, 2010, Brother Ward was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Lew is a professional engineer and chairman of Ward Petroleum Company. He is a member of the National Petroleum Council and a past president of both the Independent Petroleum Associations of America and Oklahoma. He was Inducted into the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society in 1999. Brother Ward is a member of Garfield Lodge #501 in Enid and was invested with the decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in the Scottish Rite in 2005.

Preston Doerflinger, city auditor of Tulsa, has just been named by Governor Mary Fallin as Director of the Office of State Finance. As the state secretary of finance, he will serve

on the Governor's cabinet and will help prepare the Governor's executive budget and oversee the implementation of the state's fiscal policies over the next four years. Brother Doerflinger is a successful businessman who founded PLD Management, a business and consulting firm in Tulsa. In addition to being a partner in several assisted-living centers and a hospice company, he has also established several health care consulting and supply companies serving nursing homes and assisted care centers across the state.

Brother Doerflinger was born in Bartlesville, raised in Oologah and is a Past Master of Will Rogers Lodge #53 in Claremore. He is a perpetual member of all three Scottish Rite Valleys in Oklahoma, along with the York Rite and Shrine.

We are proud of both of these men for their leadership, accomplishments and recognitions. Those of us who know them also know that Lew and Preston understand that life is a unique gift which is enriched when it is selflessly shared with others.



Lew O. Ward, KCCH



Preston Doerflinger