

New YORK CITY

### THE OKLAHOMA SCOTTISH RITE MASON

Official Publication of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Valley Of Guthrie

JOHN D. CHURCH, KCCH

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S.G.I.G. IN OKLAHOMA Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°

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### FEATURED ARTICLES

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12 SW OKLAHOMA BLUE LODGE **DEGREE TEAM** 

### ON THE COVER

+ Katharine Davidson's watercolor sketch of the proposed leather studded Vestibule Doors c.1926 +

Marion and Katharine Davidson were contracted in 1924 to complete the interior decoration of the Temple. Ms. Davidson's watercolor renderings of the rooms, fixtures and furnishings are beautiful illustrations of her skill and vision for the Temple. Many of the watercolors are on display in our Museum. Read more about Marion and Katharine Davidson in Part 5 of "A Temple Set Upon a Hill" on pages 8 and 9 of this publication.



#### Saturday, October 12, 2019

Breakfast, Snack Bar	
Registration of Candidates	
Class Organization-Egyptian Rm	
Opening Ceremonies	
Introduction to the Lodge of Perfection	
4° Secret Master (Guthrie-Christopher)	
Break	
5° Perfect Master (Kay-McGee)	10:05
Break	10:35
*6° Confidential Secretary (OKC-Crowder)	
Break	11:10
9°,10° Elu of the Nine, Fifteen, (W. OK-McConnell)	11:25am
Lunch (Dining Hall)	
Candidate Education	1:0
13° Royal Arch of Solomon (Norman-Marshall)	1:1
Break	1:5
*14° Perfect Elu (Del City-Hanna)	
Obligation of the 14°	
Break	
Intro to the Chapter of Rose Croix	
17° Knight of the East and West (Duncan-Pulis)	
Snack Break	
18° Knight Rose Croix (OKC-Walker)	4:4
Obligation 15° - 18°	
Candidate Education	6:0
Class Election of Officers	6:1

#### Sunday, October 13, 2019

Breakfast, Dining Hall	
Introduction to the Council of Kadosh	7:1
*24° Prince of the Tabernacle (W Cent Ok-Sheppard)	7:2
Break	8:0
25° Sufi Master (W Okla-Freas)	8:2
Break	
*28° Knight Commander of Temple (Enid/OKC-Heaton)	9:15
Break	10:20
30° Knight Kadosh (OKC-Schoolfield)	10:40
Obligations 19°-30°	11:45
Candidate Education	11:50
Lunch (Dining Hall)	12:00
Class Memorial/Class Picture/Individual Pictures	12:4
Introduction to the Consistory	1:3
31° Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries (Norman/OKC-Cool	k) 1:3
Break	2:4
32° Master of the Royal Secret (OKC-Dixon)	
Closing, New Member Greetings in Atrium	

\*Passport Degrees (6,° 14°, 24°, 28°)

## THE 2019 FALL REUNION OCTOBER 12-13, 2019

#### Friday, October 11, 2019

Candidate Registration 6:00 p.m. - 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 8:30 p.m.

6:30 am	
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am-12 pm	
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5-2:40 pm	
0-3:00 pm	
3:00 pm	

...4:15 pm

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

nights of St. Andrew Processional—Scheduled Friday at 8:30 pm in the Atrium.

ember Education—Member education sessions ll be a part of the activities offered during e reunion. The schedule of sessions will be ailable at reunion. Sessions will be held in Blue om.

e Ladies Coffee will be held Saturday morning 9:00 am in the Pompeiian Room.

ring 2019 Class Patent Presentation—Spring ass pictures and patents presented at 2:00 pm Saturday in the Crystal Room.

otional Q&A with Education Committee will Saturday evening at 8:30 pm in the Crystal om.

embership Committee Meeting - Sunday, ctober 13 at 9:30 am in the small dining room the banquet hall.



Catching up.....

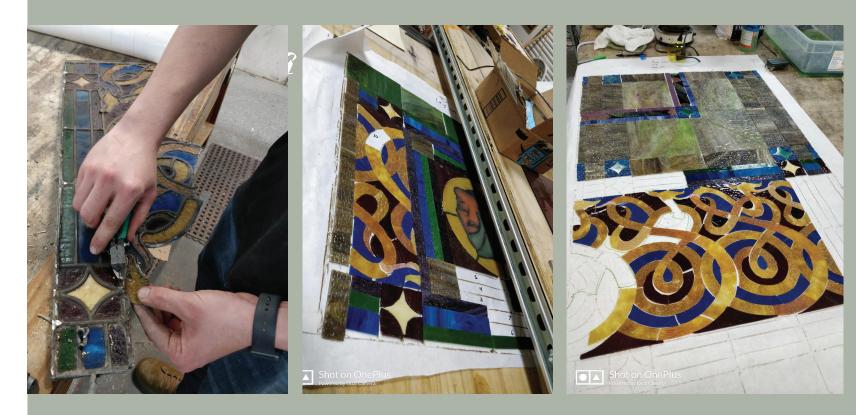
John Church, KCCH General Secretary



Shortly after the spring events were completed in the building, we began the most extensive roof replacement project in our history. If you happened by the Temple this summer, you would have seen cranes, dumpsters and other equipment positioned around the exterior of the building. This project encompassed 11 of the 12 roofs on the building complex, with only the Egyptian Room roof being excluded because it was successfully replaced in 2017. This was a massive undertaking and took almost 3 full months to complete.

This project was critical to the integrity of our building interiors. Numerous leaks throughout were causing damage we could not keep up with and patching the existing roofs simply did not fix the problem.

If you were in the temple during a rainstorm in recent years, you experienced the leaking skylight in the Atrium. Rebuilding the protective roof over the stain glass skylight came with its own set of problems, as you'll discover in the story on the facing page.



Several months of inspections, consultations and recommendations proceeded the actual commencement of the roofing contracts. The most difficult and delicate project was deemed to be the replacement of the protective roof over the Atrium skylight. No contractor was willing to perform this work with the skylight in place, it was simply too dangerous for the crews and the potential for damage to the stain glass too great. The plan was to erect scaffolding up to the skylight on the atrium floor, then remove and store the skylight at ground level to complete the roof. The skylight was one of the first artistic features finished during the construction of the Temple, so you have to remember it has been in place 97 years. It has been cleaned periodically through the years, but had never been removed. After workers removed the first pane of glass it was apparent the plans would need to be changed. The lead holding the glass together was dry, brittle and warped. We were already into late June and we needed to act quickly to resolve the atrium mess before the fall reunion. A plan was devised to ship the removed glass to a firm in Waco, Texas for cleaning, repair and releading. Technicians worked through the Fourth of July holiday to ready the shipment, with the promise of completion before October. The artisans recently shared photographs of the work in progress.

At left, photos of the scaffolding and the removed glass,. Notice the extreme grime buildup on the glass. Above, workers removed the old lead and then placed the clean glass on handdrawn paper blueprints to rebuild each glass pane to its original appearance and size. Below, a pane of glass before, during and after the cleaning and releading process.











The Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason / September 2014



## Update on Clinic Services Provided by Jack Painter, 33°, Advisory Conference Chairman

### Brethren,

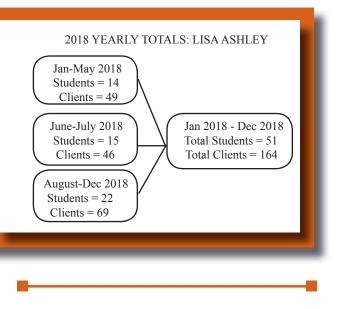
The most important duty of the Foundation Trustees and Advisory Conference Members is to be good and watchful stewards of the Guthrie Valley's financial resources. We accomplish this in a number of ways, firstly by preparing closely monitored annual budgets that the adminstrative staff is charged with maintaining. Secondly, we have to evaluate and determine when our dollars are being used to the fullest potential.

This was the deciding factor when we determined in 2017 a change needed to be made in order to maximize the funds we dedicated annually to Childhood Language Disorders. The decision was made to provide grant funding to the Speech-Language Department at Oklahoma State University. As current Advisory Conference Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the status of our partnership with Oklahoma State University, a partnership which supports our philanthropy of treating Childhood Language Disorders.

Both our former Director, Nancy Wright and our Clinician, Lisa Ashley accepted positions with Oklahoma State University when the partnership was formed. They serve as Clinical Supervisors to University students in the Speech Department. Their duties include oversight of the clinical work performed by the students and evaluations of such. I am pleased that Nancy and Lisa have both expressed their pleasure with this new direction in their careers.

I recently visited with Laura Ketchum, Director of Development for the Oklahoma State University Foundation about our partnership. She stated the University is positively thrilled with the advancements in their Speech Language Pathology Program that our grant is funding. She shared numbers Dr. Ramesh Kaipa, Department Head for the program provided, numbers which highlight the "incredible impact" of our funding.

In 2018, the first year of our partnership, Clinical Supervisor Ms. Lisa Ashley directly impacted 51 students of



the Speech Language Pathology department and 164 therapy clients served by the department! That is over 7 times the number of clients she was able to treat while employed as an clinician in our in-house Clinic.

The University has worked diligently to provide recognition of our gift with signage and printed material using our RiteCare logo. That is very important to me personally, as I do not want us to lose the visibility and recognition as a fraternity for the work and accomplishments we have achieved in the 45 years we have dedicated to the Speech Language Clinic for children.

A recent letter received from the University department included this quote, "Please know how grateful we are for your contribution to our clinical program and to those who have a need for speech and language treatment services. Your gift has made a tremendous difference."

I am pleased to announce the very difficult decision we faced in 2017 has yielded an outcome we can all be proud to own. The

future of our philathropic service is bright and I hope that you as a member will continue to support the clinic services in your charitable giving. Rest assured, our dedication to providing support for the treatment of children wth Speech and Language Disorders is as strong and meaningful as ever.







### Investiture and Conferral Ceremonies Slated for November 3

On November 3, 2019 the Orient of Oklahoma, through the consecration of the Supreme Council, will honor fifteen Guthrie Scottish Rite Masons with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Another seven Guthrie members will receive the Thirty-third and last degree of the Rite in special statewide ceremonies to be held at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple.

The ceremonies, recognizing some of our Orient's most dedicated and devoted Masons, will be performed on the stage of the Guthrie Temple by specially selected teams of some of the best ritualists within the three Valleys of the Orient. The event is open only to KCCH and 33° honor men and tuxedo is required for both the honorees and those who have previously been honored.

After the ritualistic ceremonies have been performed, the men will gather in the Old Legislative Hall attached to the Temple for an Honors banquet commemorating the 2019 Biennial Session of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Members of the Guthrie Rainbow Assembly will serve the banquet; and an honor guard from Trinity DeMolay Chapter will present and escort the new honorees.

The Biennial Honors Day is always the most beautiful event held in the Temple. It is a day where honor men of the Rite come together from all over the state to celebrate the high recognition received from the Supreme Council by their newly elected peers and to share in the fellowship and fraternalism which only such events afford.

For those members who may not have received word of who from their area were elected, the newly elected honor men for Guthrie are listed here. Congratulate those whom you know the next time you see them. The KCCH and 33° designations have been earned.

### **KCCH**

Gordon Edward Beckett William Vincent Edds Thurman Dewane Hale II Don Leroy Nuzum James Ward Rule James Virgil Smith III David Dean Williamson Loren Mark Young

September 5, 2019 Lodge of Perfection Meeting-Frederick Lodge #249 September 26, 2019 Education on the Rite Nite-Vici Lodge #465 September 28/29, 2019 Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunio October 3, 2019 Lodge of Perfection Mtg-Guthrie October 12/13, 2019 Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunio October 19/20, 2019 McAlester Scottish Rite Reur November 3, 2019 Investiture and Conferral

Rex Edward Brown Jeffrey Curtis Hale Paul R. Niehoff Carl Dwight Rehbine John Diego Signorelli Timothy Brian Westmoreland Donald Eugene Wolford

### 33°

Russell Wister Freas Joe Goenaga, Jr. Glenn Harry Kinsley Robert Boyd Sasser John Leslie Stahl John Charles Walker Michael Charles Zura

### 2019-2020 Scottish Rite Calendar of Events

	November 7, 2019 Lodge of Perfection Mtg-Guthrie
	December 5, 2019 Lodge of Perfection Mtg-Guthrie
	January 2, 2020 Installation of Officers
n	March 28/29, 2010 Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunion
	April 3/4/5, 2020 Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion
	April 18/19, 2020 McAlester Scottish Rite Reunion
n	September 26/27, 2020 Tulsa Scottish Rite Reunion
nion	October 3/4, 2020 Guthrie Scottish Rite Reunion
	October 10/11, 2020 McAlester Scottish Rite Reunion

# A Temple Set Vpon A Hill, Part 5

As we near the 100th Anniversary of the ground breaking for our magnificent Temple, this is the final excerpt from our book "100 Years of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Guthrie" as compiled by Frank A. Derr, 33° General Secretary of the Guthrie Valley from 1908-1946 and Robert G. Davis, 33°, G.C., General Secretary from 1986 to 2016.

In April 1924, the James Stewart Construction Company notified the Building Association that the contract providing for the construction of the Temple and dormitory buildings and improvements and remodeling of the old Convention Hall was completed to their satisfaction, with all labor performed, materials furnished and installed and all disbursements and accounts approved and accepted. In total the Stewart Construction Company had been paid \$835,379 for their part of the temple building project.

During the same month, the Association sold most all the furniture that had been used in the old Temple to the Grand Lodge for \$7,500. Some of that furniture is still being used in the museum area of the Grand Lodge today.

All that remained on the Temple project was the artistic ornamentation, stage scenery painting, and the interior furniture and furnishings. The Guthrie Bodies found a very special husband/wife team to carry out this unique worktheir names were Marion and Katharine Davidson.

In December 1924, the Building Association entered into a contract with the young couple for employment. They brought a unique and remarkable mix of creative ability to the end product of the Temple's interiors-an artistic aptitude which is now known the world over.

Marion was an architect; Katharine a rug designer by profession. When the architectural firm of Hawk and Parr was contracted to design the Temple, Marion was already a member of their staff. He and Katharine were residing in Oklahoma City at that time. Marion joined the fraternity after the temple construction was well underway. He was raised a Master Mason in Hiram Lodge #494 on June 2, 1921. He joined the Guthrie Consistory as a member of the January 1923 class, just prior to the move to the new temple.

Marion detailed all the interiors of the temple, blueprinted all the ornamental plaster and wood work. The Building Association decided on the name of each room, then described to Marion what was desired. The principal architect, Parr, counseled with Marion who decided on which finish to be installed. Davidson's blueprints were then turned over to an Austrian named Knee, a graduate in sculpturing of one of the great universities in Austria.

Knee made clay models of the various artistic furnishings to be placed in plaster, which, after receiving Davidson's approval, were made into molds by men hired specifically to cast plaster. An ornamental plasterer named Cased was hired to supervise all of this work and he directed the installation in each room.

Katharine, before marrying Marion, had been employed by Marshall Field and Company in Chicago as a rug designer. Marshall Field was among the most distinguished of all companies in commercial and household interior design. In fact, it is likely that both Katharine and Marion were employed by Marshall Field prior to moving to Oklahoma. In a special edition of the Orbit magazine published in 1972 this claim was made, and a subsequent letter from Marion to J.W. Bickell, who had sent him a copy of the article, did not dispute the statement published by the magazine.

In any event, Katharine's work on the Temple was her first job as an interior decorator of any size and consequence. She was a woman of rather small stature and weight, with a keen vision and a flare for turning a picture in her mind into an artistic reality. She had only to be told what was wanted; she then would proceed to create what we now see in all of the decorations in the Temple's artistic rooms. She was also a watercolor artist by skill. Her approach was simple—she would sit in the corner of a room, place an easel in front of her, facing nothing but concrete walls and steel beams, and literally paint her vision of what the completed room would look like based on her studies of the era or style which had been ordered by the Building Association and architect.

After the firm of Hawk and Parr was contracted to design the Temple, Marion and Katharine decided to move to Guthrie from Oklahoma City. Katharine was not hired to do her part on the interiors until after the Main Auditorium and administrative offices had been finished. As suggested above, to properly apply herself to the job, she spent a great deal of time studying various periods, Hawk and Parr having a library on Ages of Civilization and architectural styles in their Oklahoma City office. She also studied theses subjects in the libraries of Marshall Field (from which came the Pompeiian Room), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (from which came the Adam -style Rooms) and the American Indian Institute in New York (from which came the Indian Room.)

After the walls and ceilings of the various rooms were finished, she designed the furniture, rugs and drapes to be placed in each room. The furniture for each room was designed specifically for the room, none were selected from a ready made stock. She picked the frames, then

firms submitted bids and Marshall Field and Company designed the materials to be used in the various divans, chairs and benches. The tables were done in the same of Chicago, the Davidsons' old employer was declared to manner, as were the desks and chairs in the Writing have the lowest and best bid. The interior furnishings cost Room. Katharine then created the various rugs from her \$62,759.85. The contract included a clause whereby, "It water color board, numbered the tones, then selected the is understood that a final selection of the design for the rugs, nap, tied the numbers from her water color sketches to furniture, floor covering, and drapery material shall be made each strand, sending the sketch, nap, etc. to the weavers to by Mrs. Marion Davidson, and that no change in quality or quantity shall be made on the order of Mrs. Davidson without complete the rug. In working out the sketches covering the walls and the written approval of your Board (Building Association) ... " ceilings, her drawings were made with the tones desired, Although more than a thousand miles away and removed then the sketches were turned over to the painters who from the Temple for over two years by then, Katharine painted on the glass in oil to match, and the wall and still had a major influence over the final layout of the ceiling work were done from the colors on the glass. A part Temple's rooms.

The last room to be completed during the original construction period of the Temple was the library. Being The contract with the Davidsons included securing the the last room to be finished, the Library suffered from financial conservatism during the late days of the temple building project. Several propositions for finishing the library were turned down. During May of 1927, the Building Association, weary of the discussion regarding what to do with the library, ordered Hawk and Parr to design an entirely new set of plans for the room. Parr complied and bids were received and rejected a second time in June. The Board finally decided to contract with Brother Charles Long, a carpenter for the completion of the woodwork on a cost plus basis. But being dissatisfied with his progress, he was informed in November to finish the job, "secure additional help or do anything else necessary to speed up the work!" In December 1927, Wm. H.P. Trudgeon, 33°, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, made a large donation to the Library Fund which allowed the Valley to authorize the Supreme Council's librarian Surprising, the Davidsons did not stay in Guthrie to select and purchase books for the library. It wasn't until October 1929 that the Temple finally announced the Library was completed and ready for viewing. The 14 unique lighting fixtures in the Library, along with the 4

of the Auditorium was done in free hand, as was most of the Pompeiian Room. proper measurements in each room, furnishing sketches in sufficient size and detail so that the painter could follow the work from them on a scaffold; furnish all stencil, ornament and letter designs in full size; and furnish full size drawings, with typewritten directions for each period room. The Temple paid the Davidsons the sum of \$2,285 for this work, in installments as each room was completed. The most expensive room to design was the Atrium, which cost \$500, followed by the Egyptian Room at \$350. The remaining rooms cost between \$75 and \$200 per room; with the least expensive being \$50 for the card room located in the basement. The Davidsons also agreed that, if there was a reason they would have to come to the Temple to make an inspection of the interior painting, they could charge only their expenses and not their time. but a short time—perhaps less than two years. In a letter Marion wrote to Bickell in December 1944, he informed Bickell that "he had never been back to Oklahoma since a flying trip in 1926 ... "Before the building was completed the Davidsons accepted positions with the New York City lights on the front porch, cost \$2,291! With the last artistic room finished, all that was left was the purchase of marble benches for the Atrium and the Temple landscaping plan. Hare & Hare, landscape

Katharine planned the Rose Room, Blue Room and architects from Kansas City designed an elaborate program, which included a sprinkler system that covered the entire 6 acres of grounds. John Furrow of Guthrie furnished 171 trees, 5200 evergreens and 388 perennials, all of which were specifed to be at least 3 to 4 years old. For many years, the Building Committee replanted greenery whenever a plant was damaged or died, and gave much attention to preserving the landscaping of the Temple It was not until 1928 that the contract was finally let for grounds. A full time outside maintenance and landscaping staff was retained by the Temple for 50 years.

interior design firm of Hegaman and Harris. They joined the staff that finished the Rockefeller Center in New York City. Assyrian Room before she moved to New York. Most of the actual painting of the rooms was done by Brother Clyde Upham and Brother Henry Knox. Both were scenery painters. Upham continued with the work until the time of his death, spending many years at it. Knox worked in the scenery department of the stage crew. Bother were paid \$50 per month to paint the rooms of the Temple. the furnishings, rugs and draperies of the rooms. Several



### GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE The James T. Tresner, II, 33° G.C. Memorial Reunion April 5-6-7, 2019

**Row 1**: Steve Hanna, 33°, Class Director; David Williamson, Class Director; John D. Church, KCCH, General Secretary; John L. Logan, 33° Advisory Conference; B.F. Rowland, Jr., 33° Advisory Conference; Jack L. Painter, 33°, Personal Representative to the S.G.I.G.; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33°, S.G.I.G. in Oklahoma; Paul Francel, Class Chaplain; Leif Francel, Class Vice-President; Jake Facile, Class Secretary; Charles Cowden, Class President; Gene McKelvey, 33°, Foundation Trustee; Richard Massad, 33°, Class Director

Row 2: Joe Goenaga, Jr., KCCH, Master of Kadosh; John Stahl, KCCH, Class Director; Timothy S. Nicholson; Lorin Patton; Michael Sentell; Richard Bensinger; Phillip R. Muniz; Mason Wooten; Samuel Johnson; Ash Cary

Row 3: Tim Hopkins; Robert L. Hall; Eric Carter; Jim Burkett; Sascha Herter; Akounato Y. Dable; Jacob E. Dee; Robert C. Card; Miguel A. Novoa

Row 4: Steve Clifton; Johnnie Reed; Mark A. Cress, Jr.; Matthew Vallarino; John E. Coy; James Krantz; Marty Myers; Greggory Watt;

Row 5: Robert D. Thompson; Ray M. Neff; Jerry Anderson; Clay Gunderson; Christopher Koenig; John McCarthy; Not in photo: J. Rick Smith Photograph by Jay McCormick, 32°, Tulsa Oklahoma



The April Reunion brought the annual 50 year member recognition luncheon honoring our newest 50 year members. In the presence of their family members, the following brethren were recognized and awarded their 50 year pins and certificates. (Not shown-Jack K. Collins)

Seated L-R, Paul D. Barber; Rod M. McLaren, Jr.; Carl J. Swanson, 33°. Standing L-R, James L. Ford; Fred S. Ball, III; Gerald E. Chambers; Billy R. Pendleton, KCCH; Joe R. Manning, Jr., 33° S.G.I.G.



A number of class members from the Fall 2018 "Faithful Servant" Reunion returned to the 2019 Spring "James T. Tresner II Memorial Reunion to receive their class pictures and patents. Illustrious Brother Manning explained the significance of the "travelling patent" and encouraged the brethren to continue their fraternal connection first established as members of the Fall Class. After the ceremony in the Crystal Room, the members participated in the tradition of collecting one another's signatures on the patent's margins.





At the conclusion of the 32nd Degree on Sunday afternoon, the candidates exited the Auditorium wearing their prayer caps for the first time. Members in attendance formed a receiving line in the Atrium to welcome and congratulate the newest members of the Guthrie Scottish Rite.

Refreshments were served to all before they began their journey home from the weekend. GUTHRIE SCOTTISH RITE P.O. BOX 70 GUTHRIE, OK 73044

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# SW Oklahoma Scottish Rite Degree Conferral Team



A group of Scottish Rite Masons from Southwest Oklahoma has come together to form a Scottish Rite Degree Conferral Team to assist local Blue Lodges with the conferral of degrees. The team, led by Tommy Merrill, MOH and Don Wolford, KCCH Elect, is comprised of dedicated Brothers that have stepped up to fill a critical need in our rural areas. The inaugural team members were Travis Houska, George Selvidge, David Hill, Don Wolford, Steve McMall, Michael Weixel, Sascha Herter, Earl Cantrell, B.F. Rowland, Jr. 33°, Steve Tuttle and Tommy Merrill.

Their first performance was on Friday, the 19th of July, where they conferred two EA degrees at the Cordell Lodge. The candidates represented Hydro Lodge #230 and Clinton Lodge #339.