A Night at the Temple - The Grand Annual Banquet

The 62nd Grand Annual Banquet of the Scottish Rite Foundation, was held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 and it was, indeed, a very grand event. Many thanks to Ill. Ken Curry, 33°, President, and the many others who contributed to preparations and observation of Scottish Rite traditions.

In addition to good fellowship, good food, and meaningful orations by Ill. M. Douglas Adkins, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of Texas and M.W. Wendell P. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M.; highlights of the evening included presentation of education scholarships to recent High School graduates, presentation of the Foundation's donation to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and honoring the 2016 Anson Jones Award recipient, Congresswoman Kay Granger.

The fifty-one 2016 scholarship recipients represent the finest, highly talented, most deserving and best prepared young scholars selected from over 300 applications reviewed by the Foundation's Scholarship Committee; Hon. George D. Coon, 32° KCCH, Chairman, Hon. Jeffery W. Baldwin, 32°, Hon. Robert A. Carter, 32°, Hon. James A. Rogerson, 32°, and Hon. Joseph Spencer, 32° KCCH.

One could not miss the sparkle in their eyes when these young folk were asked their plans for the future. What a blessing it is to be a part of.

General Secretary, Ill. H.F. (Sonny) Tull, 33° presented the Foundation's 2016 gift of $15,000.00 to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children to honored guests from the facility in attendance.

The hospital makes amazing differences in the lives of children and their families. The Fort Worth Scottish Rite is pleased to support their efforts by its annual donation.

The Honorable Kay Granger, District 12 Congresswoman, was presented the 2016 Anson Jones Award. Ill. H. Finlay Watkins, 33° delivered background on the Award; and Ill. Robert J. Glasgow, 33° provided the introduction of this worthy recipient.

Congresswoman Granger accepted the award with remarks reminding us that the greatness of our state and this nation are a product of persons with great strength of character and conviction, and challenging us to be those persons during what will become history for the next generations.

Fall Reunion begins October 22 - Have you started recruiting?
UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS

Thursday, July 28  6:30pm  Masonic Education Program

*A History of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital* by Brother Burrel Poston, 33°, D.D.G.M, District 14C, Development Officer, TSRH. Fort Worth Masonic Temple Ballroom. *Dinner followed by the Program.* *(Attendees desiring meal should call 817/335-6004 by Monday, July 25. Additional meals will be available on first come, first served basis. Donations accepted.)* All Masons Welcome.

Saturday, August 20  10:00am  Masonic Education Program / Wichita Falls

*A History of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital* by Brothers Kenneth Curry, 33° and Sonny Tull, 33°, Faith Lodge #1158. *Program with Lunch to follow.* *(Attendees desiring meal should call 817/335-6004 by Tuesday August 16. Additional meals will be available on first come, first served basis. Donations accepted.)* All Masons Welcome.

Thursday, August 25  6:30pm  Masonic Study Group

*Masonic Aprons: Differences, Styles and Symbolism* by Brother Thomas A. Spencer, 32°, KCCH. Fort Worth Masonic Temple, 4M. *All Masons Welcome.*

Saturday, September 17  10:00am  Masonic Education Program

*A History of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital* by Brother Kenneth Curry, 33° and Sonny Tull, 33°, Stephenville Lodge #267. *Program with Lunch to follow.* *(Attendees desiring meal should call 817/335-6004 by Tuesday September. Additional meals will be available on first come, first served basis. Donations accepted.)* All Masons Welcome.

Thursday, September 22  6:30pm  Masonic Study Group

*Northeast Corner Lessons and Symbolism* by Brother Lewis Marchbanks, 32°. Fort Worth Masonic Temple, 4M. *All Masons Welcome.*

**Did you know?..**

...Fort Worth Scottish Rite is available to present an Educational Program to your Blue Lodge
Call General Secretary Sonny Tull 33° at 817-335-6004
or e-mail GenSec@FortWorthScottishRite.org

**Volunteers Needed**

The FWSR First Responders’ Appreciation Breakfast is Saturday, September 24. There are plenty of opportunities to help before, during, and after the hours of 6:00am to 11:00am. Please contact Ricky Cliatt at 817-929-8511.
The 25th Degree: KNIGHT OF THE BRAZEN SERPENT

We tackle here the concept of the pure, celestial, eternal soul of man. It is a belief of great antiquity that the soul existed before union with our bodies; else, argued most philosophers, how could the soul exist after the body if it did not exist before and independent of the body? Such was the teaching in the Mysteries. The serpent was regarded with reverence in olden days as the author of the fate of souls. In coil, with head erect, it was used in the royal ensign of the Pharaohs and was consecrated in the ceremonies and the Mysteries and by the Hebrews and the Gnostics. In rituals of the Bacchus Sabazus, the serpent was flung into the bosom of the Initiate. We of the Scottish Rite teach with vigor the lessons of many philosophies and religions, recognizing the unanimity of aims, ideals and moral lessons, especially a similar mystical death which symbolized the descent of the soul into the infernal regions and then its resurrection to the grandeur of light, truth and perfection.

The 26th Degree: PRINCE OF MERCY

Some things are beyond our jurisdiction. For example, we do not say to a Moslem that whether he believes in the divinity of Mohammed is subordinate to his belief in but One God. We do not call a Hebrew a heretic because he refuses to believe the Messiah was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. We do not say to Christians that Christ was a mere man, whose life story is only a revival of similar older stories. To do any of these things would be irreverent. We utter no such words. We respect all creedal beliefs that do not desecrate the Deity. Masonry belongs to no one sect, no one religion, no one age, no one man. It encompasses and reverences the truth of all. That is why it blossoms into beauty and greatness when tended with an understanding and tolerant touch. Masonry is an exciting treasure chest that can be opened by those who seek the perceptive wisdom, the artistry of divine fire, the pleasure of compassionate companionship. The human structure is brought into the Temple of the Infinite Spirit while conceding that finite man cannot fully fathom the infinite structure. But zest for the search is coequal with the rewards of the trinity of God’s attributes—wisdom or intelligence, force or strength, harmony or beauty.

The 27th Degree: KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE

This Degree revives the old knightly spirit of duty and worship of truth. There was a time when a knight would die rather than utter an untruth or profess an opinion for the sake of mere expediency, profit, or fear of worldly disfavor. He would not color or pervert the sayings or acts of other men; would not speak or argue insincerely nor soil his fair escutcheon under any pretext. All this he would observe whether in or out of his Chapter. Despite all our idealistic endeavors, philosophies of wisdom and restraint and sublime and exalted meditations, there are times and events that call for aggressive action, displays of strength and indomitable will to victory in battles which must be waged to support the virtues we proclaim. Our lives should scorn the base and selfish, and make manifest the knightly attributes of character and charity, truth and honor, rather than be examples of accumulations of wealth and worldly power. This is practical Masonry in action, as when we perform our duties to the poor and helpless, the weak and unhappy, the distraught and infirm.
Another Educational Opportunity

The **Scottish Rite Research Society** was formed on May 8, 1991, when fourteen Scottish Rite Freemasons were granted a charter by the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. The administrative offices of the Society are at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., under the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. Activities and publications of the Society are governed by a Board of Directors, who are all Life Members of the Society, representing Scottish Rite Valleys across the country.

Since its formation in 1991, the Society has become one of the most dynamic forces in contemporary Masonic research, pursuing a publication program that emphasizes quality—both in content and in physical form. The Society has grown to over 4,000 members worldwide since inception. Its publications have redefined the standards of Masonic scholarship. Anyone who is interested in deepening his or her understanding of Freemasonry would benefit from Society membership. One need not be a member of the Scottish Rite, or even be a Mason, to join the SRRS. Life Memberships are available.

The benefits of membership in the Scottish Rite Research Society are many. Some are intangibles, such as the potential for interaction and discussions with the brightest minds in contemporary Masonic philosophy and debate. The most important benefit is the availability of what we all came here for, which is more light in Masonry. This is manifest most particularly in SRRS publications and Masonic conferences.

For more information on the Scottish Rite Research Society visit the website: [http://scottishriteresearch.com/](http://scottishriteresearch.com/)

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**2017 Officer Nominations and Elections**

Election of 2017 Officers for Fort Worth Scottish Rite Bodies will be conducted at the November 2016 Stated Meeting. Those interested in serving as an elected officer must submit their names to the Chairman or a member of the Executive Committee by November 1. All submissions are in confidence. The Executive Committee will present a list of nominations after considering applicants’ dedication, participation, and work in Scottish Rite.

The general areas of responsibility in the four bodies are: Reunions and Degree Work (Lodge of Perfection); Membership Support Programs, Community Relations, and Fraternal Efforts of the Valley (Chapter of Rose Croix); Financial Well-Being of the Valley (Council of Kadosh); and Membership and Education Programs (Consistory).

Officers cannot serve simultaneously in two elected positions and may not succeed themselves in office, but members may repeat advancement in a body’s line of officers or advance through the officer lines of more than one body. For other information contact the Valley Chairman or General Secretary.

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**2016 ROTC and JROTC Awards**

The Fort Worth Scottish Rite Valley and its members congratulate this year’s award recipients and other ROTC and Junior ROTC members who are academically and discipline strong and who stand proudly as young American Patriots.

Seven (7) ROTC awards were presented to college and university recipients, and 42 Junior ROTC awards were presented to high school students.

Our Brother Ricky Cliatt, 32°, is the Americanism Chairman for 2016. Ricky is a Masonic “champion” for young people and has a great heart for the ROTC/JROTC programs. Ricky proudly states his love of country and demonstrates his dedication to our Scottish Rite Valley. “Well Done Ricky”, and a huge “Thank You” to our other Brethren who presented the awards on behalf of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Valley.

*Read more on our website: [www.fortworthscottishrite.org](http://www.fortworthscottishrite.org)*
Fall Reunion 2016 - Call to Action by Steve Maxwell, 32°, KCCH

Time for the 2016 Fall Reunion will be here before we know it!! It is important that we consider several things. First things first, it is imperative that we, as Scottish Rite Masons, see our Reunions as what they are; one of the best ways to increase our membership. So, we must set some achievable goals and project what we want the outcome of our Reunion to be. The goal for this year’s Fall Reunion is 50 candidates.

To achieve this goal of 50 or more candidates, every Scottish Rite Mason needs set his own goal of bringing in at least one candidate. Please, Brethren, let’s get out and travel to our Blue Lodges, make a real effort to visit with all of those eligible for membership, and present to them a gift they will not be able to refuse, the gift of more light in Masonry. Many of you may ask, “What are they talking about?” Well, we are talking about presenting each eligible Mason with the opportunity to increase his Masonic knowledge exponentially through gaining membership in what we call “the University of Freemasonry,” or, in our case, the Fort Worth Scottish Rite.

This membership campaign is a way for each member new and old alike to contribute to our growth as a Valley, a way to pass on valuable information, and also an opportunity for each of us to get more operation. Without a significant increase in membership, we cannot continue operating as an organization. I hope that all of us will make a concerted and maximum effort to actively recruit the Master Masons in your lodges for this most noble of causes; because it is my hope that we all want to continue having Scottish Rite Masonry in Fort Worth.

Secondly, as a Valley, the quality of our degree work has improved dramatically over the last five years. Degree Masters are constantly looking for new members for their degree teams. All of the operating committees need interested members to help us maintain our Valley. Please Brethren, don’t be bumps on a stump or couch potatoes. Get on the ball and let’s see what we can do when we put our minds, efforts, and resources to work. Here are some suggestions for you to consider. Again, make a truly concerted effort to gain new members and maintain them. Become an active member of our Valley, join a Committee or a Degree Team; join the team, don’t just sit on the sidelines. We are all men here, so as a man speaking to you man to man, I challenge each and every one of you to live up to all of your Masonic Obligations, give a damn as to what is happening and come out of the cave and be as active as you are able. If you do what you said you would when you swore your obligations and actively pursued Masonry with as much zeal as you did when you first came into the lodge you, all of our Masonic Brothers, and all of our families would greatly benefit from what our noble craft has to provide in all aspects of life.

Let’s give our best effort to have a successful Fall Reunion, become a caring active member, and actively work toward keeping our Valley, here in the Fort Worth Region, alive and well so it can continue to be a blessing for all of us associated with it. Let’s have a fun and productive Reunion.

There will be a series of prospective member dinners in September. The events are invitation only; reservations required. By September 1, the Scottish Rite Mason should call the office with names and addresses of candidates he believes are serious about joining Scottish Rite. The prospective member and his lady will receive an invitation to join us at no charge; you and your lady can also join us at no charge if your prospective member attends - think carpool! September 17 is the date of the dinner in Fort Worth; dates for dinners in other Regions are to be announced.

Valley of Fort Worth Officers - 2016
Ill. Ken Curry 33°, Chairman
Ill. Sonny Tull, 33°, General Secretary
Hon. Kevin M. Caraway, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master,
The Lodge of Perfection
Hon. Michael L. Haverland, 32° KCCH, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix
Hon. Ernest L. Runyon, 32° KCCH, Commander Council Of Kadosh,
Hon. Amarnath S. Murthy, 32° Master of Kadosh, Consistory
Office Administrators: Ms. Linda Allen, Ms. Laura Reed

To submit ideas, articles and pictures for the Double Eagle, please contact the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Office or submit them to fwsoffice@fortworthscottishrite.org

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Editors: Hons. Jeff Baldwin, 32° & Steve Maxwell, 32° KCCH

Please notify the office with any change of mailing address, phone number or e-mail address.
A Brother Shining Bright

Joe Sherwin, 33\textdegree, stays busy year-round with the Sound and Lighting Crew of Fort Worth Scottish Rite, and has served as its Production Director since 2009. He is Past Master at Ridglea Masonic Lodge 1341, Past High Priest and Thrice Illustrious Master at Ridglea Chapter and Council, and a Past Worthy Patron in the Order of the Eastern Star. Joe also participates in York Rite degree presentations, and is active with the Moslah Shriners and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Joe began his Masonic career at Ridglea Masonic Lodge in Fort Worth thanks to Brother Lew Mullinex, a Past Master there and still active today. In 1974, Joe became a member of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite, which was then working under Letters Temporary to establish a local Consistory. He was recruited into the 7th Degree Team by Brother Mullinex.

Joe was born May 30, 1938 in Port Arthur, Texas. Joe and his family moved to Orange, Texas just before he started school, and lived there until he joined the United States Air Force at age 17.

Joe made a career in the Air Force. He enjoyed the mobility it offered and the opportunity to experience places throughout the world he would likely have never seen otherwise. He retired from the Air Force in 1975 after serving 20 years. During his assignments, he became friends with several men in his unit for whom he developed a deep respect. It turned out they all had one thing in common: they were all Masons! This sparked his interest in the fraternity and he soon asked “How do I join?” His final assignment brought him to Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, where he asked the first person he met with a Masonic ring about his Lodge, as a result of this inquiry; he soon had a Masonic home at Ridglea Masonic Lodge #1341 in Fort Worth.

After his retirement from the Air Force, he went to work for the University of Texas at Arlington in the Facilities Management Department. He worked there for 10 years until 1985.

Joe lost his first wife, Grace, to a medical condition after 38 years of marriage. A few years later, he met and then married Jeanne, a native of Arlington, Texas. Jeanne supports Joe’s involvement in Masonry. In 2011, they traveled together to Washington, D.C. for his 33\textdegree coronation.

Joe is regularly seen at the Scottish Rite offices or in the Sound Booth, and often more than 2 days a week. He and his team are continually working for improved performance, and as Production Director, Joe is always available to Degree Team Masters and Members as they work to perfect their presentations. By Joe’s foresight and efforts the projection, lighting, and other systems were updated and adapted especially for use by Scottish Rite Degree Teams.

Joe may also be found at virtually every Scottish Rite function; and is always willing to lend a hand outside the purview of the Production crew.

Hats Off, and Well Met! to Joe Sherwin, a brother Truly Shining Bright.

Submit your nominees for the next Brothers Shining Bright...
call the office at 817-335-6004. or send an e-mail to fwsroffice@FortWorthScottishRite.org
I Sat in Lodge with You
By Wilber D. Nesbit

There is a saying filled with cheer,
Which calls a man to fellowship.
It means as much for him to hear
As lies within the brother-grip.
Nay, more! It opens wide the way
To friendliness sincere and true;
There are no strangers when you say
To me: "I sat in lodge with you."

When that is said, then I am known;
There is no questioning or doubt;
I need not walk my path alone
Nor from my fellows be shut out.
These words hold all of brotherhood
And help me face the world anew —
There's something deep and rich and good
In this: "I sat in lodge with you."

So you, my brother, now and then
Have often put me in your debt
By showing forth to other men
That you your friends do not forget.
When all the world seems gray and cold
And I am weary, worn and blue,
Then comes this golden thought I hold —
You said: "I sat in lodge with you."

When to the last great Lodge you fare
My prayer is that I may be
One of your friends who wait you there,
Intent on your smiling face to see.
We, with the warder at the gate,
Will have a pleasant task to do;
We'll call, though you come soon or late:
"Come in! We sat in lodge with you!"

Once again death hath summoned a member of our Fraternity, and the golden gateway to the Eternal City has opened with a welcome to home.

The work of ministering to the wants of the afflicted, in shedding light into darkened souls and in bringing joy into the places of misery is completed, and as a reward has received the plaudit, “well done” from the Supreme Master.

Our Departed Brothers

A. J. Barry, Jr., 32° KCCH, April 13, 2016
James R. Berger, 32°, October 9, 2015
Andrew F. Berkley, 32° KCCH, April 4, 2016
Gary W. Bunt, 32°, June 7, 2016
Billy Don Connell, 32°, March 13, 2016
Charlie N. Harris, 32°, May 29, 2016
Gary E. Hill, 33°, April 28, 2016
Charles W. Horton, Jr., 32° KCCH, June 9, 2016
Charles Hounshell, 32°, February 16, 2016
C. T. Howard, 32°, June 1, 2016
Howard H. Langham, Jr., 32°, May 25, 2016
G. Craft Largent, 32° KCCH, June 10, 2016
John C. Lorenzo, 32°, April 23, 2016
Bobby M. Mitchell, 32°, March 18, 2016
Tommie L. Norwood, 32°, May 5, 2016
J. D. Watson, Jr., 32°, April 9, 2016
Ben M. White, 32°, April 26, 2016

Please contact the Scottish Rite Office to report a death, sickness, or distress of any Scottish Rite Mason or family member.
817-335-6004 or fwsoffice@fortworthscottishrite.org
Calendar of Events

Jul 28  Education Program 6:30pm, Temple, (more details on page 2)

Aug 10  BBQ Lunch Club, 12:30pm. Off the Bone BBQ, 5144 Mansfield Hwy, Forest Hills

Aug 18  Stated Meeting 6:00pm. Meal 7:00pm, Temple, *Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price*, everyone welcome

Aug 20  Education Program, Wichita Falls (more details on page 2)

Aug 25  Study Group 6:30pm, Temple (more details on page 2)

Sep 14  BBQ Lunch Club, 12:30pm

Sep 15  Stated Meeting, 6:00pm. Meal 7:00pm, Temple, *Playrites Annual Banquet*, everyone welcome

Sep 17  Education Program, Stephenville (more details on page 2)

Sep 17  Prospective Members Dinner, 6:30pm, Temple (more details on page 5, including possibilities for Regional events)

Sep 22  Study Group, 6:30pm, Temple (more details on page 2)

Sep 24  First Responders’ Appreciation Breakfast, 6:00am to 11:00, at the Temple *(Volunteer now! See page 2)*

Oct 8  Masonic Family Day at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center

Oct 12  BBQ Lunch Club

Oct 20  Stated Meeting, 6:00pm. Meal 7:00pm, Temple, *Feast of Tishri*, everyone welcome

*Oct 22, 29,* and Nov 5

*SCOTTISH RITE FALL REUNION*