Spring 2017 Reunion Welcomes 23 Candidates

The Fort Worth Valley held its 2017 Spring Reunion on March 4th, 11th, and 18th. Twenty-three (23) candidates were welcomed into the fraternity, receiving their 4th through 32nd Degrees in presentations that themselves included many new Degree Masters and actors.

Honoring Ill. Gerald F. Hollingsworth, 33°, the Reunion was full of purpose and promise. The weather was good, the meals provided by our Rainbow Girls and caterers were superb, and all agreed, our candidates are an outstanding addition to the Valley of Fort Worth.


Reunion Director, Ill. Joe Sherwin, 33° and Class Director, Hon. Mark Paris 32°, KCCH provided firm yet flexible leadership necessary for incorporating several changes to the programming and candidate mentorship. And, as always, the dedication of members of the Stage, Sound and Lighting, Wardrobe, Prompting, Registration, Stewards and Red Coat committees, and members of the Special Parts and Merchandise teams are vital to the success of every Reunion.

What’s New at Scottish Rite for 2017?

As usual, we have enjoyed several months of Stated Meetings, great dinners, and programs that bolster and encourage our Scottish Rite experience and brotherhood. In January, the newly elected and appointed officers for 2017 began implementing new management policies and procedures to improve taking a team approach to conducting the business of our Valley. These changes will reinforce a value system that encourages greater participation, improved outreach, and support of our fellow Masons, our brothers in the Scottish Rite, their families, and the community at large. The teams consisting of committees paired with a Body or Officer will enhance planning and sophistication of programming.

We hope you can Join us at the Grand Annual Banquet on June 3. This is one of the most exciting days every year for Fort Worth Scottish Rite!

Reservations Required. See Page 2.

Need more Raffle Tickets? This year’s proceeds will help make next year’s Scholarships and Hospital Donation possible.

Call the office at 817-335-6004 for information.
Scottish Rite Dormitory, known affectionately as SRD since 1922, is situated on seven expansive and gorgeous acres just one block north of The University of Texas at Austin. Close to the hustle and bustle of UT, SRD has maintained the elegant traditions of the past and blends them with modern amenities to provide a special place where the whole person is considered and supported. SRD’s friendly staff is available to help with every need, from the routine maintenance repair to emotional support in times of stress or joy.

Scottish Rite Educational Association is a non-profit corporation and is a Masonic institution. As per the Charter, Scottish Rite Dormitory was built to provide a home-like atmosphere for young women attending The University of Texas at Austin. The primary objective of Scottish Rite Dormitory is to promote the spiritual, mental, and physical development of our residents during their stay at SRD. This business philosophy started in 1922 when the doors opened and continues today. The Board of Directors are represented by one member from each of the nine Texas Scottish Rite Valleys. The Executive Committee members are Austin Scottish Rite Masons.

We have accumulated some few donations to forward; make your contribution today and we can send a more meaningful gift as the Dormitory welcomes students this Fall. Cash; or check to Fort Worth Scottish Rite / memo: Dormitory Donation; call 817-335-6004 to pay by credit card.

**Make Your Reservations Now for the Grand Annual Banquet**

Saturday June 3, 2017. Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Reception at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm

In Honor Of

Ill. M. Douglas Adkins, 33°, former SGIG in Texas, the 2017 Anson Jones Award Recipient and the 2017 Fort Worth Scottish Rite Scholarship Recipients.

Also, presentation of annual donation to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Tickets: $30.00. Call 817-335-6004 or come by the Office.

You can pay at the time you make your reservation or pay on the 3rd. Credit Cards Accepted.

**UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS**

**Masonic Study Group**

June 22, 2017 6:30pm Fort Worth Temple


**Masonic Education Program**

July 27, 2017 6:30pm Fort Worth Temple


**Masonic Education Program**

August 19, 2017 9:00am TBA: Wichita Falls or Gainesville


**Masonic Study Group**

August 24, 2017 6:30pm Fort Worth Temple

*Visiting Other Lodges; Receiving Visitors in the Lodge.* Presented by Hon. Thomas A Spencer, 32° KCCH. All Masons welcome. Casual Dress. Light Snacks Available.
Michael L. Wiggins, 33°, PGM, appointed Deputy in Texas

Brother Wiggins is a seventh generation Texan, having worked in the oilfields during his youth. In Fall 1975, he enrolled at Texas A&M, graduating with honors in 1979. From 1979 to 1987 Mike worked for various oil and gas producers, returning to Texas A&M and completing his Master of Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in 1998 and 1991, respectively.

From 1991 through 2005, he taught at the University of Oklahoma. Beginning in 2006, Mike’s work in petroleum reservoir management and improved oil recovery took him to every continent but Antarctica. On August 1, 2014, Brother Wiggins was named President of all Mid-Con Energy entities.

During his career, he has been active in his professional society and also distinguished himself as an Adult Leader of the Boy Scouts of America, assisting Meals on Wheels with Thanksgiving Day deliveries for 10 years running, and serving as a leader in his church.

Mike married Tanya Nannette Steed, a majority member of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Daughter Jordan and son Joel have carried on the legacy of Texas Masonry in the Wiggins family, and have blessed Mike and Tanya with two grandsons and three granddaughters.

R.W. and Ill. Wiggins has high expectations for the Orient of Texas and asks all Scottish Rite Masons to stand and be accountable to support our Blue Lodges and to seek out, reach out, and initiate new Scottish Rite Masons.
THE DEGREES PER THE ORIENT OF FLORIDA - SCOTTISH RITE
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA

Council of Kadosh

The word “Kadosh” is a Hebrew word meaning Holy. Although Pike identifies the degrees of the Council of Kadosh as chivalric and philosophical, they are all intensely mystical with respect to the lessons conveyed and symbols employed.

21° – Noachite or Prussian Knight

The lessons to be learned from this degree are that arrogance, defamation and cowardice are unworthy attributes of a Mason and that humility, modesty and courtesy are the true virtues of men and Masons. The apron worn is yellow and contains an arm holding a sword, a winged figure holding a key in the left hand and the right forefinger on the lips (the “Egyptian figure of Silence”). The jewel can be described as a point-up triangle, with an arrow, point downward, an arm holding a sword, and the motto “Fiat Justitia, Ruat Coelum.”

22° – Knight Royal Axe, Prince of Libanus

This degree emphasizes work ethics: By doing good work we improve character and become better citizens. The apron worn in this degree is white, bordered in purple, and contains a three-headed serpent and a table with instruments and plans on it. The jewel is an axe and handle of gold. On the top of the handle are the initials of Noah and Solomon. In the middle of the handle are the initials of Libanus and Tsidun. On the blade are the initials of Adoniram, Cyrus, Darius, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, Ezra (on one side) and Shem, Kham, Yapheth, Moses, Ahaliab, Betselal (on the other).

Consistory

The Consistory Degrees are very different from each other in form and content. The 31° reveals the dynamic relationship that has existed for centuries between human law as a means of achieving justice, and divine justice as an ideal. The 32° reviews the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, the Chapter of Rose Croix and the Council of Kadosh.

31° – Inspector Inquisitor

In this degree the apprentice learns prayerful self-examination. The mistakes today should not be committed tomorrow. Simply, the daily look at oneself to learn to live with the future. No apron is worn in the Supreme Tribunal, but the traditional apron displayed is of pure white lambskin with a Teutonic Cross of black and silver embroidered upon the flap. The jewel is a silver Teutonic cross. The jewel is suspended from a white collar, with a gold triangle with a “31” inside it.
ARE WE TOO BUSY???

Some thoughts by Jeff Baldwin

Within Freemasonry, we as Brothers, Nobles, Knights, Companions, etc., have the ability to become a ‘Masonic-Man’ with meetings every day, all day long. Looking at just a few Bodies, we could have between 175-200 meetings a year! If we think back to the ‘good old days’ - were we so busy? Now we attend a meeting and hurry up to go to the next meeting somewhere else. We as DDGMs, Club Coordinators, multiple hat wearing Masons do a great job of getting the business done.

But what is our Masonic business? I have been in some meetings in which one Mason may not even know the Mason next to him. Have we fulfilled the promise of Brotherhood with each other when we leave the meeting knowing no more Brothers than when we started? How well does a Brother Mason know any of us well enough to speak at our funerals? As secretary of the Fort Worth Masonic Service Bureau, I have only the information from the GLOT giving me only dates, but nothing of that Brother. How well does your Blue Lodge know of all that you may be doing in the Masonic World. What unit are you in the Shrine? What color is your Prayer Cap? Did you receive the Golden Trowel?

What kind of Mason are you, but more importantly is what is the MAN BEHIND MASONRY? Meetings, budgets, reunions, festivals, degrees - are great, but how much of the Brother do we discover, how much of that male bonding, that Brotherhood do we really practice? Just thoughts of a single Mason.
What is the future of housing for Fort Worth Scottish Rite?

An increasing percentage of the Valley’s income is directed to the cost of housing, and for many years now the Bodies has operated at a deficit.

The greatest contributor to deficit operations is declining membership. Since 2011, 700 members have been lost to death, relocation or other circumstances and have not been replaced. Also, as of 2016, only 1,400 of our 2,300 members actually pay dues — endowed and fifty year members do not pay dues, and some few members are remitted because of their financial needs.

The Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation has established an endowment fund to help provide for the housing needs of Fort Worth Scottish Rite. It is called the Cooke Legacy Society, in honor of the Ill. and Right Worshipful W. Steve Cooke, Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas and prominent 20th Century Fort Worth Mason. In 1945, Brother Cooke was invested as Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Texas.

Funds contributed to the Cooke Legacy Society will be invested as a separate endowment of the Foundation. Only the income from the fund will be available for use for housing assistance. The corpus of the fund will remain intact as a permanent legacy to Scottish Rite.

Call Sonny Tull at the office for more information. 817-335-6004. You may join with a commitment to make an annual contribution, set up monthly payments charged to your credit card, and/or consider entering into a Planned Gift.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF MASONRY

Masonry has Decalogue, which is a law to its Initiates. These are the Ten Commandments:

I. God is the Eternal, Omnipotent, Immutable WISDOM and Supreme INTELLIGENCE and Exhaustless Love. Thou shalt adore, revere and love Him? Thou shalt honor Him by practicing the virtues!

II. Thy religion shall be, to do good because it is a pleasure to thee, and not merely because it is a duty. That thou mayest become the friend of the wise man, thou shalt obey his precepts! Thy soul is immortal! Thou shalt do nothing to degrade it!

III. Thou shalt unceasingly war against vice! Thou shalt not do unto others that which thou wouldest not wish them to do unto thee! Thou shalt be submissive to thy fortunes, and keep burning the light of wisdom!

IV. Thou shalt honor thy parents! Thou shalt pay respect and homage to the aged! Thou shalt instruct the young! Thou shalt protect and defend infancy and innocence!

V. Thou shalt cherish thy wife and thy children! Thou shalt love thy country, and obey its laws!

VI. Thy friend shall be to thee a second self! Misfortune shall not estrange thee from him! Thou shalt do for his memory whatever thou wouldest do for him, if he were living!

VII. Thou shalt avoid and flee from insincere friendships! Thou shalt in everything refrain from excess! Thou shalt fear to be the cause of a stain on thy memory!

VIII. Thou shalt allow no passions to become thy master! Thou shalt make the passions of others profitable lessons to thyself! Thou shalt be indulgent to error!

IX. Thou shalt hear much: Thou shalt speak little: Thou shalt act well! Thou shalt forget injuries! Thou shalt render good for evil! Thou shalt not misuse either thy strength or thy superiority!

X. Thou shalt study to know men; that thereby thou mayest learn to know thyself! Thou shalt ever seek after virtue! Thou shalt be just! Thou shalt avoid idleness!

But the great commandment of Masonry is this: "A new commandment give I unto you: that ye love one another! He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, remaineth still in the darkness."

Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma, 1871, PP. 17-18

Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation’s
Annual Motorcycle Fun Run,
Indoor Picnic, and
Raffle Drawing

Save the Date

Fort Worth Temple. Activities begin 7:30am. Raffle Drawing around noon.

Saturday July 22, 2017
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
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