Fall 2017 Reunion Class the Largest since 1999

Forty-five (45) new members received the 4th through 32nd degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite during the 2017 Fall Reunion, and upon completion of the degrees were capped with the black prayer cap which can now be worn proudly at Scottish Rite meetings and events.

Great leadership, degrees performed with enthusiasm, and the efficiency of stage, audio, video, wardrobe and other teams ranging from registration to photography, all helped make the days memorable.

The fraternity of Fort Worth Scottish Rite is looking forward to supporting these newest of brothers as they mature in their knowledge, observance, and practice of Freemasonry.

10 Members Receive Honorary Degrees

Fort Worth Scottish Rite celebrated the Supreme Council’s bestowing three new IGH honors and seven new KCCH honors in 2017.

The recipients of IGH (Inspector General Honorary), also known as the 33rd degree and who had previously been chosen to receive the KCCH honor are: Kevin Caraway, Robert Champion, and Tom Spencer. These members now don White Caps as a symbol of their achievement.

Likewise, KCCH (Knight Commander Court of Honor) recipients now don Red Caps. They are: Jeff Baldwin, Steve Bennett, Ricky Cliatt, Corey Harris, Miles Hutchinson, James “Bear” Jones, and Jim Rogerson.

These members have joined the ranks of many before them, both living and departed, demonstrating faithful and outstanding services to the Rite, and we congratulate them on their achievement.

Consult the calendar on page 8 for changes to the “usual “January schedule.

The January Stated Meeting has been moved to the 25th and Education Program + Study Group dates have also been reshuffled.
Elected Officers of the Bodies - Your New Officers for 2018

Please get to know these Brothers and consider working with your favorite Body. There is always room for more Brothers who are willing to serve!

**Lodge of Perfection**  
*Degrees and Reunions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venerable Master</td>
<td>Jeffrey C. Billington, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Warden</td>
<td>Bradley S. Billings, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Warden</td>
<td>Zachary C. Haston, 32°</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orator</td>
<td>Daniel E. Queen, 32°</td>
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**Chapter of Rose Croix**  
*Quality & Value of Membership*

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wise Master</td>
<td>O. Earl Sadberry, Jr., 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Warden</td>
<td>James A. Rogerson, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Warden</td>
<td>William D. Marks, Sr., 32°</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orator</td>
<td>Gary L. Morrison, 32°</td>
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**Council of Kadosh**  
*Relationship to Others, Outside Relations*

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Charles H. Farmer, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Lt. Commander</td>
<td>Arthur W. Norton, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Lt. Commander</td>
<td>C. Stephen Bennett, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>William G. Crow, 32°</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orator</td>
<td>Ricky W. Cliatt, 32° KCCH</td>
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**Consistory**  
*Membership Retention and Recruitment*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Kadosh</td>
<td>Joseph Spencer, 32° KCCH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior</td>
<td>Curtis E. Waldrop, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preceptor</td>
<td>Corey M. Harris, 32° KCCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>Danny L. Oringderff, 32°</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of State</td>
<td>Bruce W. Hammond, 32°</td>
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**Membership Spotlight**

**Fall 2017 Reunion – Brad Billings 32° KCCH**

The 2017 Fall Reunion Class of forty-five new Scottish Rite Masons is a great honor to the Fort Worth Valley. This Class focused on the degree work and their exploration and inculcation of Masonic values. This was the largest class since 1999. **RW Brad Billings, 32° KCCH**, inspired many of these newest members to begin their Scottish Rite Studies.

**RW Billings** is the 2017 DDGM for Masonic District 64-B and has a long list of Masonic Achievement. He was raised in Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048 on February 21, 2007 where he served as Worshipful Master in 2011-12. He is an Affiliated Past Master in Northern Star Lodge No 377, Grapevine Lodge No. 288 and Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450. He is a Past Master of the Texas Lodge of Research. He is active in all phases of the Fort Worth Valley as well as many York Rite bodies.

**Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 – Eddie Nicholson 32° and Robert Murders, 32° KCCH**

In October of 2016 the Valley of Fort Worth conferred the 4th and 14th Degrees in Gainesville, Texas. In years past the Valley had conferred the five terminal degrees at least once a year outside of Fort Worth but discontinued the conferrals because of cost considerations. This new approach has generated seven new Lodge of Perfection candidates at a manageable cost to the Valley. **RW Eddie Nicholson, 32°** and the **Hon. Robert Murders, 32°** were the catalysts for the class.

**RW Nicholson** is 2017 DDGM for Masonic District 86 while **Hon. Murders** is the District Instructor for the District. **Hon. Murders** is a member of the Lubbock Valley. They are each active participants in their lodges and in District 86 activities. They are vital to success of Freemasonry.
UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS


January 27, Saturday, 9:00am — Education Program, Stephenville Lodge, 244 S. Columbia. Topic is Revealing Symbolism of Three Aspects of the EA Degree. Presenter is Hon. Jerome Weilmuenster, 32º. All Masons Welcome. Coffee & Donuts will be served. Casual Dress.

February 23, Thursday, 6:30pm — Education Program, Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Topic TBA. Presenter is Hon. Gary L. Alexander, 32º KCCH. All Masons Welcome. Snacks provided. Casual Dress.

Visit our website at fortworthscottishrite.org for more information about Education and other activities, or call the office at 817-335-6004. Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

2018 Scholarship Applications Now Available

The Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation awards over $75,000 in scholarships each year to merit students throughout our 33 county area. To date, over $1,570,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

Applications for the 2018 Foundation Scholarship are now available and must be received in the office or be post marked on or before March 1, 2018. For more information and the form, visit http://fortworthscottishrite.org/foundation/scholarships/.

Students planning to attend a Community College might also consider applying for Major Thomas Spencer Community College Scholarship. Those applications are also available on the website and may be submitted at any time of the year.

At 100 years old, Sam Levisee installed as Worshipful Master at River Oaks Masonic Lodge #1311

Worshipful Master and 50 year Freemason, Sam Levisee left this world for the celestial lodge above on July 10th, 2017.

Sam was installed as Worshipful Master of River Oaks Lodge #1311 on June 27th, 2017. This was history made as Sam was 100 years young. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Great State of Texas, Jerry Kirby, was the installing officer, with Rhit Moore serving as installing Marshall. There were approximately 100 attendees observing the event.

River Oaks Masonic Lodge #1311 was chartered December 20, 1948. Sam Levisee was born April 19th, 1917. He is a World War II veteran. He was married to Rose Levisee, who pre-deceased Sam.

Sam was initiated on July 13th, 1967 at Fort Worth Lodge #148, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on September 25th, 1967, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 30th, 1967 Sam became Worshipful Master of Fort Worth #148 on June 24th, 1974. He was a Life and Endowed member of Fort Worth #148.

Sam received the Golden Trowel on May 21st, 1992 from Fort Worth Masonic Lodge #148, and received his 50 Year Masonic Pin posthumously.
Knights of St Andrew, Order of the Thistle

The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle is an order of chivalry associated with Scotland and founded in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland. The Order’s primary symbol is the thistle, the national flower of Scotland.

Most British orders of chivalry cover the whole United Kingdom, but the two most exalted ones each pertain to constituent country only. The Order of the Thistle, which pertains to Scotland, is the second-most senior in precedence. It is specifically limited to The Queen, The Prince Of Wales and 16 knights.

Its equivalent in England, The Most Noble Order of the Garter, is the oldest documented order of chivalry in the UK, dating back to the middle fourteenth Century. It is entirely within the personal gift of the Monarch and is very exclusive. Only The Queen, The Prince Of Wales and 24 knights may be in the order at any one time. When one Knight dies, another is appointed. It is also the oldest order of chivalry in the world, going back to 1348.

Templar Roots

The Order of the Knights of the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, or the Knights of the Temple, was established in 1119. The Templars were the first priestly order of armed knights. The order was created to provide safe transit for Christian Pilgrims visiting the Holy Land from Europe. Knights swore allegiance to the Pope and took vows of poverty, loyalty and chastity. The order grew in numbers and popularity as they fought to keep the Holy Land open. Their business acumen made the most of the gifts granted them by their grateful patrons in Europe.

In Portugal, they were announced as innocent and the name of the order was changed to the Order of Christ. In England, King Edward proscribed them and forbade them to remain in the realm unless they entered the Commandery of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. In Scotland, they found protection and joined the army with which King Robert Bruce met the invasion of his country led by Edward II of England.

The Battle of Bannockburn was fought on the 24th day of June, 1314 when a group of exiled Templars rode into the fray and turned the tide of battle. This intervention may well have tipped the scales in favor of Scottish independence.

In gratitude for the assistance of that group of former Templars, Robert the Bruce created the Order of Saint Andrew du Chardon (of the Thistle) of Scotland.

King Robert reserved the title of Grand Master for himself and his successors forever. He granted a charter of land to the members of his new Order. Prince Charles Edward Stuart was the last Grand Master of the Scottish Order and exercised his powers by establishing a Chapter of Rose Croix at Arras, France.

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

The United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern and Western Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA and Canada was organized on April 5th 1869, in the city of Washington, D.C. by many high degree Masons from Washington, D.C.

Degrees of the Rites of Heredom and Perfection along with other degrees and rites from Scotland, France, and Germany were added. The 29th Degree became the “Scottish Knight of St. Andrew.” Exemplifying the qualities of the Knights Templars and those of the Order of St. Andrew du Chardon, this degree remains with us today.

Today

The Order of the Thistle, Knights of St. Andrew, is primarily a Black Hat service organization for the Scottish Rite. Members assisting with flag presentations, organizing, preparing, and conducting the Robert Burns Charity banquet, and assist wherever requested by the local Scottish Rite organization. New petitioners for the Order complete a Squire program until they have achieved the necessary requirements for knighthood. Once completed, they undergo a knighting ceremony. The Scottish Rite Black Hat prayer cap then is replaced by a Balmoral which is the identifying prayer hat for the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Order of the Thistle.
Scottish Rite Celebrates 150 Years in Texas

This year marks 150 years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Texas. The first Valley was founded in Galveston in 1867, and this year held an event to celebrate the sesquicentennial.

The Illustrious Albert Pike himself was instrumental in bringing Scottish Rite to our great state. Appearing before the Supreme Council on March 29, 1860, Pike announced the importance of propagating the Order in Texas. He had many friends in Texas and, based on his travels, knew how rapidly Masonry was spreading throughout the entire state. The Grand Commander told the body that the time to move was now. He further stated that in spite of the many obstacles that stood in the way of our Fraternity, the Supreme Council would commence work immediately to find a Deputy Inspector General for Texas.

In early 1861 the War Between the States began, placing these plans on hold.

After the conclusion of the war, the Supreme Council met in session in 1866. Albert Pike reported that, after many miles of travel and much correspondence with James C. Bachelor, 33° and Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Louisiana, he had humbly implored Philip Crosby Tucker of Galveston to be the new Deputy Inspector General in Texas.

On May 15, 1867, San Felipe Lodge of Perfection No. 1 was constituted. 150 years later, we continue to carry on their legacy.

Pluck off your Shoe

Recently, Ill. Robert Madison, 33°, Personal Representative of the SGIG to the Valley of San Antonio, repeated a story of how Masons in a small town consistently “plucked off their shoes” to help the widow and orphan of a Brother. The story ended with the lines … ‘SHOULD WE DO ANYTHING LESS?

Millions of great men have been and are members of the Craft. Many have truly become Master Masons in every respect. But more have not. Far too few Freemasons over the years have literally “plucked off a shoe” and worked for and through the Fraternity. Imagine what a wonderful difference it would make throughout the world if all who have received the Degrees would truly fulfill their obligations.

Will you ask yourself, "Have I sincerely ‘plucked off my shoe’ in testimony of my fidelity to Freemasonry?" If your answer is "No," will you consider “plucking off your shoe” now? Will you work for your fellow man through Freemasonry? If you will, you’ll surely make a difference for the better in today’s uncertain world.
Marks DeMolay Represents Fort Worth

The annual state DeMolay Conclave was held in Waco this year between July 13th and 16th. Chapters from all over Texas met to elect state officers and compete against their brethren in sports and ritual contests. The Fort Worth Masonic Temple’s very own H. Malvern Marks chapter was in attendance for all four days.

The young men, ranging from ages 12 to 20, competed in the sports of flag football, basketball, tennis, and dodgeball. All of the chapters played incredibly well, and Marks made it to the championship game in dodgeball, coming home with 2nd place honors.

Many of our DeMolays also competed in the ritual contests. All of the DeMolays that competed earned praise for their participation, with two medals being awarded to Marks DeMolay. Chapter Chaplain Brandon McClure received 2nd place for First Preceptor, and Senior Steward Zachary Hamilton received 2nd place for the Ceremony of Light. Both were first-time attendees at Conclave.

The young men returned home excited to have met and formed friendships with brothers from across Texas and are ready for their next challenge. Several of our DeMolays expressed their eagerness to do even better at the 2018 state conclave.

H. Malvern Marks chapter is jointly sponsored by Fort Worth Scottish Rite and the Moslah Shrine and can be found online at http://www.marksdemolay.org or on Facebook. For more information about DeMolay International, please visit the organization’s website at http://www.demolay.org.

Fort Worth Scottish Rite Foundation Celebrates Another Year of Giving

On June 3, the Fort Worth Scottish Rite held its 63rd Grand Annual Banquet, being privileged to host 29 of the 51 students who received $1,500.00 college scholarships, and honored to make another donation of $15,000.00 to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

During 2017, the Foundation also contributed a combined $8,000 to the J/ROTC Awards program, the Pantego Police Department, the Rite Care Scholarship program at TSRHC, and to Family Day at the Masonic Retirement Center.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and KUDOS to Finn Watkins and his team for another successful year of fundraising.
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 fwsroffice@fortworthscottishrite.org
In this Issue:

♦ Fall Reunion
♦ 2017 Honors
♦ 2018 Officers
♦ Membership Spotlight
♦ KOSA, 150th Anniversary in Galveston, DeMolay
♦ and much more!

Also visit our website at www.fortworthscottishrite.org and follow us on Facebook

Calendar of Events

Additional particulars about events, regular updates or changes are posted to the website calendar and distributed to members on our e-mail list. You may also call 817-335-6004 for more information.

Feb 10 Valentine’s Day Social, Reata Restaurant, Fort Worth.

Feb 13 BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA

Feb 15 Stated Meeting, 6:30pm, Dinner 7:30pm. Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Dinner Program: 50 Year Members Recognition. Everyone welcome.

Feb 22 Education Program, 6:30 pm, Fort Worth Masonic Temple, Program TBA

Mar 3, 10, and 17—2018 Spring Reunion, Fort Worth Masonic Temple

Mar 13 BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA

Mar 15 Stated Meeting, 6:30pm, Dinner 7:30pm. Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Dinner Program: Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. Everyone welcome.

Mar 22 Study Group, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Masonic Temple, all Masons welcome.

Mar 24 Education Program, 9:00am, Wichita Falls or Gainesville, Program TBA.

Jan 9 BBQ Lunch Club, 11:30am, Location TBA, everyone welcome.

Jan 18, 19, and 20 Grand Lodge, Waco

Jan 24 Study Group, 6:30pm, Fort Worth Masonic Temple, all Masons welcome

Jan 25 Stated Meeting, 6:30pm, Dinner 7:30pm. Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Dinner Program: Installation 2018 Officers and Honoring the Membership Team. Everyone welcome.

Jan 27 Education Program, 9:00am, Stephenville Lodge. Program: Revealing Symbolism of Three Aspects of the EA Degree. All Masons welcome.


Feb 9 Prospective Members Dinner, Fort Worth Masonic Temple.