

Masonic Minutes—January One

Masonic Appendant Bodies

Freemasonry is a world of seemingly unlimited possibilities. Once a candidate knocks on the door of Freemasonry it leads to a series of others, if he is interested. The three degrees of the Masonic Lodge (Blue Lodge) are the foundation that unites all Freemasons, but it is not the end of Masonic Light. There are a myriad of consequent degrees and rituals that further develop Masonic concepts. There are over 40 Appendant Bodies in the State of Missouri that provide opportunity for discovering added light.

Masonic Appendant Bodies further develop virtuous living by teaching allegoric lessons to refine the character. Some organizations such as the Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies are wrapped around historical events described in the Holy Bible. Temple rituals, High Priests, Kings and Princes all factor into the ritual lessons taught. The Scottish Rite is a series of lessons meant to inspire the philosophical aspects of moral and rational living. It is not dependent on a candidate possessing a sacred belief system beyond the one required for the Blue Lodge.

The York Rite includes three bodies; Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Masons and Knights Templar. Of these orders only the Templars require the candidate to profess a Christian faith. From this body of three orders comes numerous others that further develop the Priestly and Magi concepts. Many of these bodies are research oriented.

Other Appendant Bodies are designed more informally for socializing such as the Tall Cedars of Lebanon or the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, more commonly known as the Shriners. This latter body is best known for its huge charity program through Shriners Hospitals that treat burn victims and children with birth defects.

There are several Appendant Bodies that are designed specifically for women or that include women. The Order of the Eastern Star is one of the more prominent orders that includes both Masons and their relative ladies. The women factor more prominently in the organization and its lessons focus on the virtues of prominent biblical women.

Youth organizations are an important part of Missouri Appendant Bodies. The Order of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters focus on developing young men and women with strong moral character. All of these organizations focus on leadership and virtuous living.

If you are curious about these organization, or feel that you would like to know more, talk with members of your lodge who are members of these Appendant organizations. You can also do an internet search for any of these organizations and you will likely find a website dedicated to the state or national organization you are considering. Be curious and search out avenues for receiving added Masonic Light.



YORK RITE of FREEMASONRY

Missouri Masonic Family Map

(No order or rank is necessarily implied)



ANCIENT and ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE of FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

