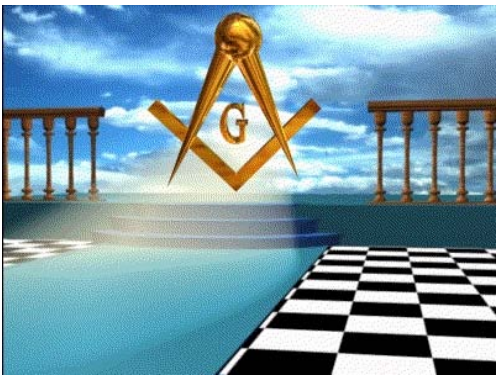


2011



Grand  
Lodge



Programs

Brethren,

Membership is important to Freemasonry! For every organization there is a certain “critical mass” of membership. Once the organization falls below that number, it is almost impossible for it to recapture its former status. We’re not there, but we’re getting close.

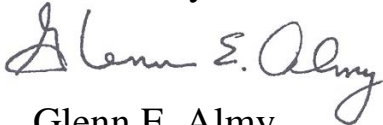
There are some people who think the world no longer needs the Fraternity. They are wrong. Everyday, people become more alienated from each other. We talk and text more than ever before, but real communication is rare. In national surveys, a majority of men claim that the number of their “real friends” is between 0 and 2. And you only have to turn on the news to know that integrity, honesty, faith, loyalty, and charity are in short supply.

So I am asking you to take a two-pronged approach to membership my year.

**“One by One,”** replace yourself in Masonry. If you are an active, attending member, bring another man into your Lodge who will be an active, attending member. If you are a Certificate Lecturer, bring in a man who you think will become a Certificate Lecturer. In other words, Replace Yourself!

**“All the Way”** Make every effort to see that your Entered Apprentices advance to Master Masons. Don’t let them fall through the cracks. Help them learn the lectures; invite them to Lodge functions; plan functions for EAs and FCs and their families. You can make a major difference in the Future of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,



Glenn E. Almy  
Grand Master



## Masonic Education in Your

**DANGER**  
**Lethargic**  
**Lodge**

No one would boast that a concert they attended was over in half an hour, or that they only spent ten minutes detailing their car. But you will hear Masons brag that their Lodge opens, takes care of business, and closes in less than 30 minutes. It's true that if a meeting is going to be boring, it's better if the torture ends quickly. But it's much better to have a good meeting! **Lodge meetings should be educational, informative, and include a comprehensive study of the Mysteries.**

**All Lodges will incorporate Masonic Education  
in their Lodge Meetings during  
each meeting this year.**

Sources of Masonic education include BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Masonic Speakers

Reading aloud the Short Talk Bulletins

Masonic Education Courses

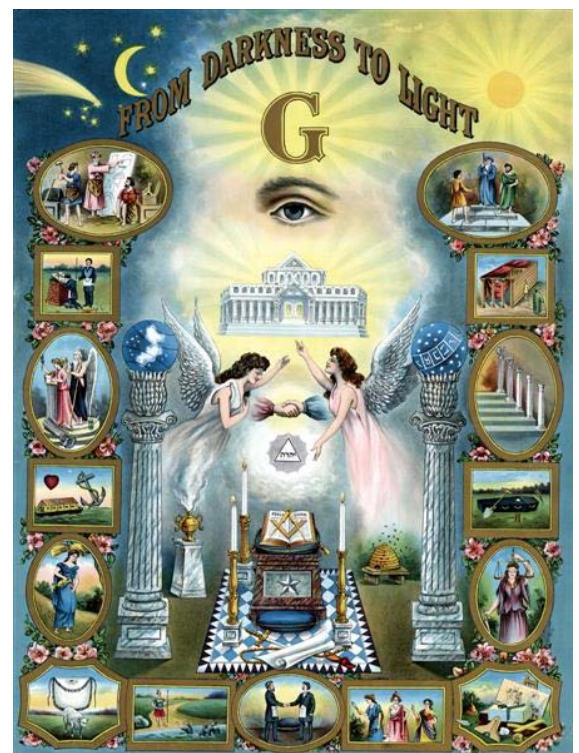
A "Tour" of the Lodge Room—learn and discuss the meanings of Lodge paraphernalia

Mackey's *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*

Various video tapes and DVDs

Masonic web sites

DVDs by experts such as Joseph Campbell



# Lodge of the Year

**The Lodge of the Year Program WORKS!**

*FUN*

*FACILITIES*

*FINANCE*

*FELLOWSHIP*

*FRATERNALISM*

The purpose of the Lodge of the Year program is to encourage all Oklahoma Lodges to rebuild and strengthen those 5-F's. It is the best way to create the excitement for a new generation of Masons, and to pass on the joy of Freemasonry to our children and grandchildren.

The **Lodge of the Year** program works a little differently than programs in the past. It is not a checklist on which your Lodge must score specific points to qualify. We know that each Lodge is different, with different circumstances, size, resources, and everything else.

**We are not telling you what to do in the 5-F areas, we're asking you to tell us what you are doing!**

**To enter, your Lodge creates a binder with pages showing what you have done in each area of the 5-F's.**

**MOST LODGES HAVE DONE MORE THAN THEY THINK, so make sure to look at the examples below. If you can include some photographs, that will be even better. The binder must be completed by October 10th, and then given to your DDGM so he can sign off on it.**



**FUN** Fun is anything the Lodge members do, with or without families, for the purposes of pleasure and relaxation. That can include Lodge dinners, cookouts, fishing trips, meeting somewhere else for dinner, holding a Friends Night, going to a movie or drive-in or a baseball game, playing dominoes, and much more. It is important that we do not lose the fun of the Fraternity. Brainstorm what you have done, and make plans to do something, just for the fun of it.

**FACILITIES** What have you done to fix up the Lodge? Some examples: given it a good cleaning, repainted all or part of the interior or exterior, planted some shrubs, made a special effort to keep the grounds in good shape, changed or improved the lighting, acquired a new sign, fixed or updated the plumbing, polished the Lodge jewels or rods, waxed the furniture, or anything else which helps the Lodge room or building?



**FINANCE** Have you set up a fund to save for Lodge improvements and repairs? Have you increased dues to keep pace with increasing costs? Have you added to the Lodge investments? What fund-raisers have you held?

**FELLOWSHIP** What has your Lodge done to extend Masonic fellowship? Tell us if you have supported the Youth Groups and how you did. Have you made it a point to reach out to Brothers who do not attend Lodge to see if they need transportation to the meetings? What have you done to make the Lodge experience as rich and meaningful as possible? Here is where you tell us about your Masonic Education program. Let us know what you have done as a part of the Educational program. Have you brought in a guest speaker, added books to the Lodge library? Have you asked your newest and youngest members what they are looking for in Masonry and tried to make it available to them?



**FRATERNALISM** What has your Lodge done to take care of our Brothers? Have you started the **“No Mason Left Behind”** program? Does your Lodge send cards to Brethren on their Masonic anniversaries? Have you used Lodge funds, Matching Funds, or **Promises Matter funds** to aid a Brother or his family? (You don't have to tell us the name or amount, just tell us if you did it.)



Especially, survey your members to see if their needs are being met. **If you are not sure how to use Promises Matter, ask the Charity Foundation to send a speaker to do a program in your Lodge.**

How good does your Lodge “feel?” Does it feel warm and friendly, as though you were visiting the home of a good friend?



Membership is a primary concern of any organization, especially in times of economic trouble. There are two aspects of membership I am asking each Lodge and Mason to address.

**“One by One”** The basis is simple: **Replace Yourself!** If you are an active Lodge attender, try to bring 1 person into your Lodge this year who will also be an active Lodge attender. If you are a “C” Certificate Lecturer, try to bring in someone who will also get his “C” card. If you have an “A” card, try to bring in someone who will want to get an “A” card. In other words, replace yourself. Each of us knows at least one good man who should be a Mason.

**“All the Way”** One of our biggest problems is with Entered Apprentices not advancing. Sometimes, an Entered Apprentice decides that Freemasonry just is not what he wants. But in the great majority of cases, he simply falls through the cracks. That isn’t fair to him, and it hurts the Lodge. Here are some things which will help:

✓ **Before he is initiated, appoint either his top-line signer or some reliable Brother to be his Masonic friend and guide.** Introduce them the night he is initiated, make sure they exchange phone numbers, etc., and make sure the “friend” knows it is his responsibility to check with the new Brother at least twice a week to see how he is coming with the lectures, invite him to degrees and functions, etc.

✓ **Before he is initiated, know who is going to teach him** and make sure they are in contact on the night of the EA Degree.

✓ **Set the date of the Fellowcraft Degree the night the Entered Apprentice Degree is conferred.** The date can always slip a little, but he is more likely to learn the work if there is a set date rather than a “when you’re ready.”

✓ **The Worshipful Master should call or e-mail him at least every two weeks**, checking on how he is doing.

**Ethically, morally, and fraternally, we can’t afford to “throw away” an Entered Apprentice because we lose sight of him.**

*Grand Lodge Building  
Capital Campaign*

### *Grand Master’s Club*

The Grand Master’s Club is for individuals or Lodges who contribute \$1,000.00 or more to the Grand Lodge building Fund. Names will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the Grand Lodge Atrium, and an invitation to a luncheon at noon at Grand Lodge.

### *Brick Campaign*

Commemorative Bricks are available for purchase to memorialize a Lodges or loved one. They will be placed in the Memorial Mall in front of the Grand Lodge Building.

Large bricks are 24 X 15, with 9 lines of 30 characters/spaces per line for \$300.00.

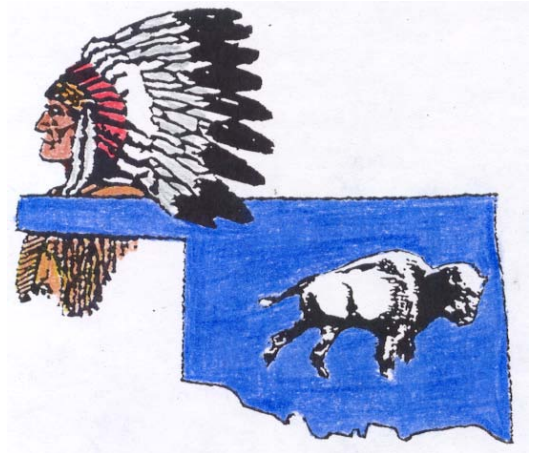
Medium bricks are 12 X 12, with 12 lines and 22 characters/spaces per line for \$200.00.

Small bricks have 3 lines with 13 characters/spaces per line for \$50.00.

Artwork is available on medium and large bricks, but will limit the number of lines available. Order forms on the website or at the Grand Lodge Building.

## *Order of the White Buffalo*

The Order of the White Buffalo has been reinstated! Initiation is open to men, women, and families. Initiation fees and yearly dues go to support the Grand Lodge Building Fund.



### *OETA*

The OETA campaign will be in February. You are one of the largest supporters of this fine program, which gives Masonry lots of good exposure. Lodges contribute \$1.50 or more per member, and apply to the Masonic Charity Foundation for matching funds.

### *Prevent Blindness Oklahoma*

Oklahoma Masonry supports this fine program—our oldest partnership with another organization. You can help by volunteering a small amount of time as a helper during your school's eye screening.

### *CHIP Program*

The **CH**ild **I**dentification **P**rogram uses cutting-edge technology to provide parents with a sure means of identifying their child in the case of abduction or other emergency in which positive ID is essential. The importance of such identification can hardly be overstated. There are two ways in which the Lodge can support the CHIP Program:

- Host a CHIP Program in your town
- Contribute monetarily

*These are the highlights of the Grand Lodge Programs for 2011. As you can see, they stress the necessity of becoming more informed about Masonry as well as being of service to the community. We are faced with a unique opportunity to make our*

*Fraternity stronger and more relevant in the lives of men that it is been in many long years.*

*We've got to get it right!!!!*