

# The Programs of the Grand Master



Programs  
for  
2012

Brethren,



It there's one thing we Masons are good at, it's hiding our light under bushels. We are members of the oldest, largest, and frankly most prestigious Fraternity in the world. Masons have shaped history and the affairs of nations. We have produced leaders of the free world and men from generals and admirals to enlisted men who have fought to keep that world free. We have produced leaders in the world of art and science, as well as great educators.

At least as importantly, we have helped the elderly, the infirm, and the poverty-stricken for many generations. Yet many people, even our closest friends, know nothing about Masonry—not even that we are Masons. I'm not suggesting that we should blow our own horns in other people's faces, but I am suggesting that we are entitled to a feeling of pride. And that is the motto of the Grand Lodge programs for 2012:

**Feel the pride - Build the Pride  
Share the pride**

My goal for 2012 is simple. I hope to help each Mason feel the pride to which he is entitled—pride in the accomplishments of his Fraternity and his Lodge, and pride in his own growth and development as a man and Mason. And I want each Mason to share that pride with his friends, by helping introduce them to this great Brotherhood of men which stretches around the world, deep into history, and far into tomorrow.

I hope you will help me accomplish those goals.

Fraternally,

*Randy L. Royer*



## The 2012 Chance to Advance

Every Lodge has Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who have not advanced to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Sometimes military deployment has prevented it, sometimes their careers have gotten in the way, sometimes family illness has taken all their time. There are many reasons. And we know that many of them truly want to be Master Masons, but some are afraid they have missed their chance.

But they haven't!

Details will be sent to your Lodge later, but in 2012 there will be opportunities, on different dates and in different parts of the state, for Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to complete their Degrees in one day, in a group conferral. The program has worked well in the past, and research by M.:W.: Robert T. Shipe has shown that men who complete their Degrees in that way are just as active and just as dedicated Masons as those who take the Degrees in the traditional way.

Each Lodge will have the opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of the program. But it's a great chance to share your pride in Masonry with your friends.

**Re-energize your Lodge's pride!**

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## Masonic Education

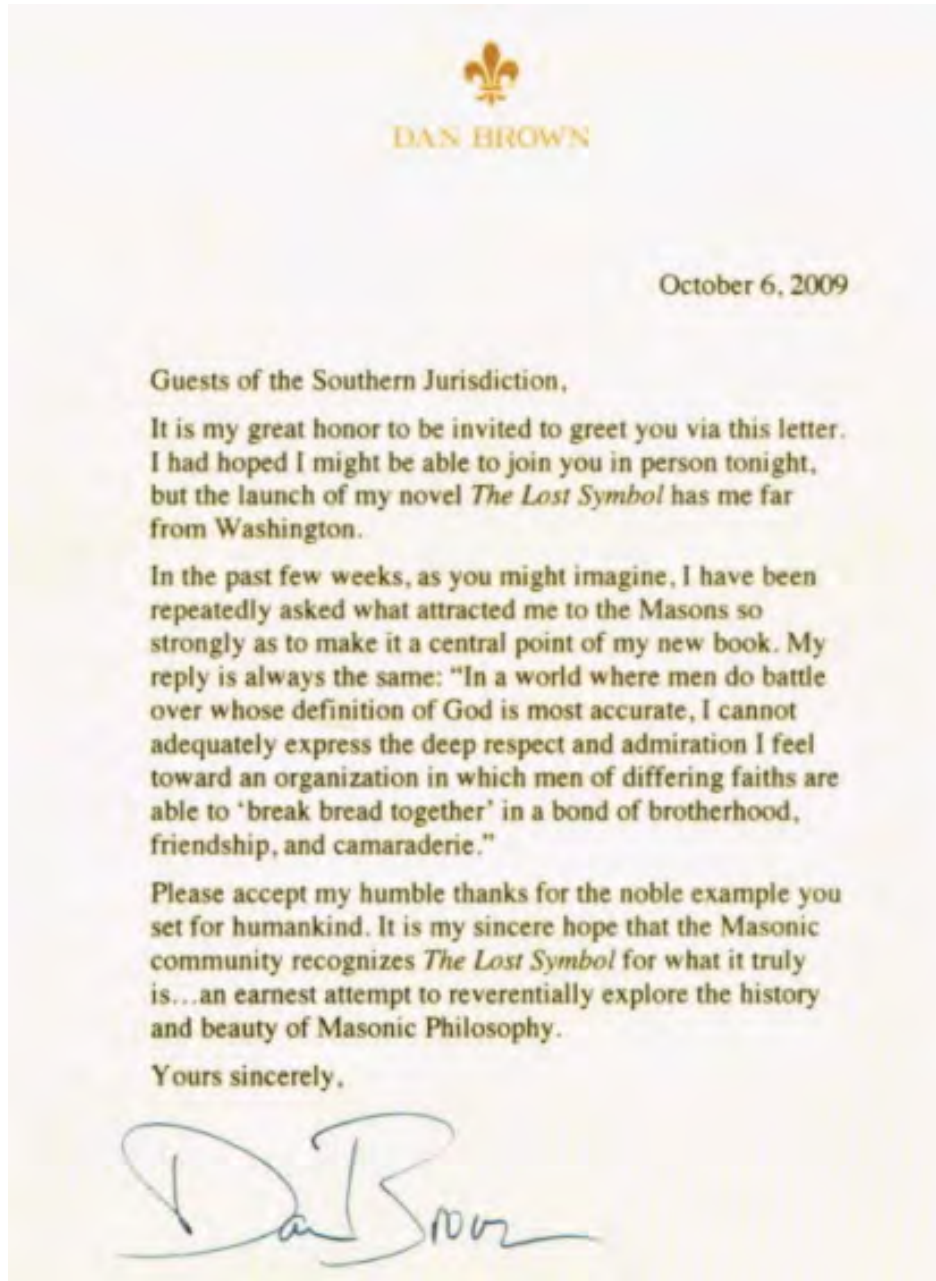
Masonic tradition tells us that Hiram delighted in teaching apprentices and new master masons, and our own ritual encourages every member to spend time in the study of Freemasonry.



The more you know about anything good, the more pride you take in it. Masonry is no exception. Masonic education isn't just about the past, it's about your future. It has survived through the centuries because it makes a difference in men's lives, and that's just as true today as it was in the Middle Ages. Learning the meanings behind the symbols, understanding the great truths Masonry teaches, makes us better men who lead more successful lives.

Many Lodges think they can't have a Masonic education program because they have no one to teach it. That isn't true. The Grand Lodge booklet *Who's Afraid of Masonic Education* shows how any Lodge can start such a program.

In 2012, I am asking each Lodge to do something in Masonic education—read the "Short Talk Bulletin" aloud in Lodge once a month, ask a Brother to give a program, play a Masonic DVD in Lodge. Every Lodge, no matter how small, can have an education program, and it can be a great draw to increase member attendance. It is especially important for Brethren who join during one of the 1-day Conferrals. We owe it to them! Check the booklet, or share ideas with each other. When your DDGM makes a visit, tell him what your Lodge is doing. Share the ideas and share the pride.



## Masonic Pride

The letter is from Dan Brown, author of *The daVinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *The Lost Symbol*, as well as other books. George Washington wrote about the importance of Freemasonry. President Harry Truman, after he retired from the Presidency, said that being elected Grand Master of Missouri was the highest honor he had ever received. Kirk Lippold, Commander of the USS Cole, told a Lodge after his

Fellowcraft Degree that he wished he had been a Mason when the Cole was attacked by terrorists, because it would have given him useful insight into the situation.

There is a lot in Masonry to make us proud. I don't mean the boastful sort of pride that makes a man look like a fool, but the quiet solid pride of a craftsman when he sees a job well done, or the pride we feel when our children or friends succeed. That's the pride we need to cultivate. Sometimes we are so close to Masonry that we overlook the remarkable men who are our Brothers, the great institutions Freemasonry has built, the good we do in the world.

It's time to remember.

During 2012, we're going to make a special effort to notice and remember the good things, the things that are right with our Craft. Each month, a newsletter will be mailed to the Lodges with stories about good things being done by Lodges or by members of the Craft. **If you have such a story, share it!** Send notes about the event to Grand Lodge Editor, [jim.tresner@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.tresner@yahoo.com).

And visit the Grand Lodge Library and Museum! The Library houses thousands of significant books on Freemasonry, most no longer in print. The Museum includes a gallery of portraits of Past Grand Masters extending back more than a hundred years. It contains priceless painted and embroidered aprons, some nearly 200 years old. It contains Masonic artifacts from the Civil War, rare magic lantern slides used to illustrate the lectures, and much, much more.

**FEEL THE PRIDE**  
**BUILD THE PRIDE**  
**SHARE THE PRIDE**

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## Mr. Mason Program

The Mr. Mason Program is back this year, because it's one of the best ways of showing our pride in our Brethren. Every Lodge has at least one Brother who is always there, often in the background, getting the job done. He doesn't ask for praise, he just does what's needed. Such men are the backbone of any Lodge.



The purpose of the Mr. Mason Program is to recognize them and give them a few

of the "Masonic wages" they have earned. The Lodge officers meet, without the man to be honored finding out, if possible. With suggestions from the Craft, they select a man to be honored as the Lodge's **Mr. Mason 2012**. Send an e-mail to the Grand Secretary [okmason1@coxinet.net] giving us the full name of the Brother, the name of the Lodge, and a few sentences about what he has done. (We ask that so we can mention some of the things in the Certificate, not so we can second-guess your judgement.) We will prepare a special certificate and mail it to the Lodge. You then present it to him, preferably at a special meeting or dinner of some sort.

# It's a matter of acknowledging merit and sharing the pride.

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## The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo

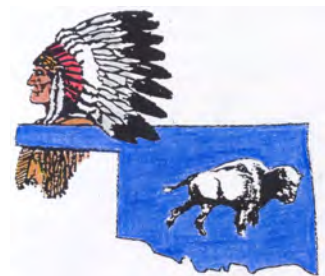
In 2003, a new Masonic organization was created in Oklahoma

To honor the Native American tradition in Oklahoma, and the contributions of Native Americans to Masonry in our state.

To provide a way for Oklahoma Masons and their families as well as members of other Masonic Bodies to share in fellowship.

To provide for maintenance & preservation of the Grand Lodge Building, Library and Museum.

The Order was conceived as a way Oklahoma Masons could help support the Grand Lodge Building and its Library—Museum. And the building is important. It not only houses the administrative offices of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, it is also the



repository of all Symbolic Lodge records and history.

The White Buffalo is a symbol of special significance to our Native American Brethren. It was a symbol of deliverance in time of need--of the special connection between man and nature.

### Eligibility and Membership

To be eligible for membership, the applicant must be a Master Mason, a member of a Master Mason's family, or a member of an Affiliated, Appendant, or Other Masonic Body in good standing. The Initiation Fee of \$100 and 1<sup>st</sup> year's dues of \$50 (\$150 total) must accompany the application. Dues are \$50 annually.

For more information, see the M.:W.: Grand Master or any member of the Grand Lodge Staff.

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### College Outreach Program

Many of our Lodges are in town with colleges or universities—and many of those Lodges just hope the college kids won't notice the Lodge exists. As one crusty old Brother put it, "If one of them there kids petitions the Lodge, we'd have to go to all the trouble of doing his Degrees and teaching him the work, and then he'd just graduate and move away, and we'd done all that work for nuthin."

Actually, he need not worry. His Lodge has not been put to the trouble of raising a Master Mason in five years that I know of.



Survey after survey have shown that public awareness is one of our most important problems. That seems strange in a world which has seen the movies National Treasure 1 and 2, to say nothing of Dan Brown's books. But the fact is that many people think that Freemasonry is a fictional creation of the writers, or that it is an organization which once existed but is no longer around. And many of us have had the experience of initiating young men into the Craft who told us with tears in their eyes that they had no idea anything like this still existed in the world.

The Lodges in Weatherford and Stillwater have done especially good jobs at finding ways to integrate the Lodge with the Campus. In 2012, especially with the advantage of the 1-day classes, I would urge each Lodge near a college or university to look for ways to be visible on the campus. Take out an ad in the college newspaper,

offering information about Freemasonry. Participate as a sponsor in campus events. Make sure the students know the Lodge is there, and be available to answer their questions.



**Share the pride,  
and invite them to be a part!**

## **Come to Grand Lodge**

All right, it isn't Camelot or Sleeping Beauty's castle at Disneyland, but coming to Grand Lodge for the Annual Communication is still an important thing to do. A Lodge which doesn't send its Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, or at least send their votes by proxy, is cheating, wronging, and defrauding the Lodge members, because it is denying them their voice in determining the policies and rules which will guide them.

In addition, if you recall the installation of officers ritual, the Worshipful Master, kneeling at the altar, agrees that he will attend the Annual Communication.

It is especially important that smaller Lodges are represented. Their membership in Grand Lodge is the primary means of making sure that the large Lodges do not run the Fraternity.

Remember that the Lodge is supposed to discuss the Resolutions and those available for office, and express the will of the Lodge; and the Wardens and Master are supposed to reflect that will in their voting. If one or more of them cannot be present, they can give their vote by proxy to any Master Mason who is a member of the Lodge, and he can come to Grand Lodge to cast the vote. The voting day was moved from Friday to Saturday, to make it easier for younger Masons to attend in spite of job requirements during the week.

Come to Grand Lodge, and show your pride in your home Lodge.

**FOOD BANK - In 2012, we will again support the food banks program to feed hungry Oklahoma children. The details are being worked out, and will be announced later.**

# The 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.

## Past Grand Masters Bricks

The Commemorative Plaza at the Grand Lodge building is really coming into shape. In addition to bricks and stones, it now contains an altar with three lights and granite benches. We would like to install 4" X 8" red bricks to memorialize the Past Grand Masters of Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory, and the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. The bricks will be uniform, marked only with the name of the P.:G.:M.: and the years he served in office. "Header" bricks at the top of the row will identify the Grand Lodge in which he served. The bricks cost \$50 each. If a Past Grand Master was a member of your Lodge, it would make a great memorial project to show pride in your illustrious Brother and help preserve the Grand Lodge building.

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## Open House

If it's true that one of our greatest problems is that the world doesn't know who we are, then holding an open house is one of the best solutions to the problem. In years past, some Lodges have had very successful open houses, with newspaper publicity, many members of the public attending, and highly positive results. It is mostly a matter of planning and work. An open house is planned for the Grand Lodge building, and we hope that each Lodge will plan an open house in its own community. Good planning information is available from the Grand Lodge.



# Partnership with Prevent Blindness Oklahoma

It is the oldest and more successful partnership in Oklahoma Masonry. Prevent Blindness Oklahoma screens the vision of school children and senior citizens to help detect and prevent diseases and conditions of the eye which can lead to loss of sight.



Many Lodges partner with Prevent Blindness Oklahoma to provide volunteer service at vision screenings across the state. The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma provides funding, which has allowed the screening of the vision of millions of children (literally) and the volunteer hours given by the Lodges both give a public presence to Masonry and

build good relations with the schools and parents. There is always need for more volunteers, so even if your Lodge is not now participating, you are more than welcome to begin.

## O.E.T.A.

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. Talk about pride! What more could one ask than to have a message about Masonry in front of tens of thousands of Oklahomans each month?

## The CHIP Program

The **C**hild **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.



## Lodge of the Year

There's only one "magic formula" for success in your Lodge.

## Fun + Facilities + Finance + Fellowship + Fraternalism = Pride

Active, growing Lodges have five things in common. First of all, they are **fun**. Members LIKE TO GO THERE, they don't just go out of a sense of duty. Second, the **facilities** are good and comfortable. The Lodge is clean, the plumbing works: it's a place they are happy to take their family and friends. Third, the **finances** are in good shape. The Lodge has money in the bank; it doesn't have to pass the hat each meeting to pay the light bill. It has savings and investments. Fourth, there is good **fellowship**. Members do things together, whether it's a cook-out, a fishing trip, or sprucing up the Lodge. They enjoy being together. Fifth, they emphasize **fraternalism**. They take care of each other. It isn't only when a home is blown away by a tornado, it's also when a brother is in the hospital, or has suffered a loss in the family. His Brothers are there when they are needed.

The Lodge of the Year program is designed to acknowledge Lodges which do an especially good job with these five areas.

Participating is easy. All your Lodge has to do is put together a binder telling about the things you have done during 2012 to strengthen these areas.

If your Lodge has a picnic, make note of it and include a couple of photographs, if possible.

If you get together to paint the Lodge, or clean the carpets, or replace part of the plumbing, make note of it and of which Brothers participated.

If you have a special fund-raiser, make note of it, or anything else you do to improve the finances of the Lodge.

If your Lodge plans an outing, has meals at the Lodge, or does anything to increase the fellowship, make note of it, and include photos when possible.

Tell us what your Lodge does to take care of its own. Do you arrange transportation so older members can attend Lodge? take Brothers or widows to doctors appointments or to go shopping? help make a Brother's home easier for him to move around in or provide special access, etc. Let us know.

Make a binder with all this information and send it to Lodge of the Year, Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044 by October 1, 2012. That's all you have to do to participate in the Lodge of the Year Program.

**We hope you participate in the programs outlined in this booklet. If you do, we can make 2012 a great year for Masonic Pride in Oklahoma.**