

The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2010 - vol. I

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The Grand Master's Biography



Charles Ray Belknap was born December 10, 1955, in Carmen, Oklahoma to Charlie Richard and Blanche M. Belknap. He was blessed from birth with the greatest parents and big sister, Karen, that anyone could ever have had. His dad, Charlie, was a true and devoted Mason; his Mother, Blanche, was a charter member of the Order of Rainbow for Girls, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 75 years; and his Grandfather, John Weber, was a Mason for over 50 years.

He attended school at Carmen, graduating in 1974. In the fall, he attended Northwestern State College where he majored in Instrumental Music, played on the golf team, was active in student government, and was a member of Blue Key National Honor Society.

He began his teaching career in 1978, and is presently teaching Instrumental Music at Cimarron Public schools. He has had several positions as Band Director, Vocal Director, Elementary Music Teacher, and served many years as K-12 Principal. He has also served many denominations as Church Organist, and is presently Organist at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Enid.

M.:W.: Brother Belknap also is the owner of Belknap Piano Service and Belknap Taxidermy Service. He is an associate member of the Piano Technicians Guild, and a member of the Oklahoma Taxidermist Association.

He holds a B.S. in Education from NWOSU, a Masters Degree in Education from Phillips University in Enid, and Administrative Certification from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

While attending Phillips University, he met the love of his life, Linda Sue Minkler. He received an M Ed, and she received a B.A, and MRS. Degree in 1985. They have been blessed with two wonderful children; Emilee, 21, and Charles Robert "Bob", 15½. Emilee is a Radiography Tech at St. Mary's and full time college student, and Bob is a sophomore at Enid High pursuing a music career. The Belknaps are active in St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Enid. They are members of Oakwood Country Club in Enid.

M.:W.: Brother Belknap's Masonic Career began on his 21st birthday when he asked his dad for a petition for his birthday present. He joined Carmen Lodge #188. He was raised in May of 1977, and is currently a past master of Waukomis Lodge #161, a member of Pond Creek Lodge #125, and a charter member of Ringwood Lodge #554. He holds a class "A" certificate in the certificate lecturers association. He has served the Grand Lodge as Grand Musician, Grand Flag Bearer, and was elected to the office of Junior Grand Warden in 2006.

He is a member of Enid Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, Guthrie York Rite Bodies, St. Omer-Red Cross of Constantine, Royal Order of Scotland, India Shrine, the Masonic Charity Foundation, and holds the 33rd degree in the Guthrie Consistory where he has served as organist since 1978 and is currently Director of Instrumental Music and Principal Organist.

FROM THE GRAND MASTER



Brethren:

Fraternal greetings to all good men and true:

Thank goodness the last days of winter are disappearing, and we are now witnessing our World rejuvenating with the beauty of spring. Spring is always a time of joyful expectation, and I trust that you and your Lodges are looking forward to the anticipation of a successful year.

By now, you should all have been presented with the Grand Master's Programs for the year, and have begun to implement them in your lodge. Now is the time for officers to entrust and delegate to their members the various duties necessary for your lodge to fully benefit from the GM Programs. Masters: If you want your lodge to be successful, learn to utilize the talents of your brethren. We all have special talents, and the more you use your members, the more everyone will gain. Remember that the

Master and the Secretary do not have to do everything on their own. Successful leaders always use the strength of their members for success.

Many thanks to the Lodges who participated in the *OETA* fundraiser! You have shown a fine example of charity toward this Endeavour, and have done your part to help keep Freemasonry in the public eye. I know that economic times are getting tougher, and I appreciate truly the efforts that you made this year.

I hope that you and/or your lodge will consider joining the Grand Master's Club this year to benefit the Grand Lodge Building. Individuals or Lodges can become a Member with a contribution of \$1,000.00 or more. For your contribution, your name will be on a special plaque to be on permanent display in the Atrium of the Grand Lodge Building, as well as on a large brick in front of the Grand Lodge Building. Contributors will also be recognized at the upcoming Grand Lodge Session in November. Please consider as well the opportunity to memorialize your family, loved ones, or your Lodge with the purchase of a brick in the Grand Lodge Plaza. You could not find a better way to pay homage to your family and loved ones, as well as to help support your Grand Lodge Building. Please refer to the Grand Master Program for details, or on the Grand Lodge Website, gloklahoma.com, or by calling the Grand Lodge.

I trust that everyone has received their Perpetual Membership Checks for this year. We have been truly blessed with a great return this year, and I know that the Lodges will put them to great use. Did you know that you can secure even greater returns for your Lodge in future years? When you purchase a Perpetual Membership, you establish an account. You do not have to ever pay dues in that lodge again if you do not want to, BUT you can also add to your account each year, which will make the returns in your name larger, and increase the payback to your lodge. There are many Brothers who buy a Perpetual Membership in a lodge, then each year instead of paying dues, send their dues money to be added to their account. You may also remember a deceased brother by purchasing a Memorial Perpetual Membership for a fraction of a regular membership. Adding to your account when possible ensures financial stability to your lodge even after your death.

Brethren, I am pleased to announce that we now have the Grand Master's All Star Degree Team selected after a great Competition put on by the Grand Lecturer and his Deputies. We now have a representative team to perform our beautiful ritual in correct and respectful form. It is my opinion that Oklahoma has the most beautiful Ritual of all, and from the results of the competition, we have the best of the best performing and representing our Ritual in the most appropriate manner. For a list of the membership, please go to the Grand Lodge Website.

If you could not make it to Grand School this past year, do not forget that you can still check out for an A or C card. Any A certificate lecturer can check you out. If you need information on checking out for a card, please contact R.:W.: Ron Wray, Grand Lecturer (580-623-0025). He will help you in any way to get checked out, or tell you what you need to know to get a Lecturer card.

If you really think you know your stuff, ride in a car with R.:W.: Ron and his brother Don Wray, DGL, I know from personal experience, that you will NOT get away with any mistake. Ask me how I know! I have also asked the Grand Lecturer to come up with a way of scoring C certificate lecturers at Grand School, to find and recognize the TOP C lecturer in the state!

Brethren, the number of A and C certificate lecturers have been dwindling over the past few years. This is unacceptable, and we need to get with it and get our numbers back up. We have great schools all across the state at different times, a complete number of Deputies, and a great Ciphher to help as well. Let's honor those great brethren who helped us learn our ritual by replacing them and ourselves with ritualists. I challenge each and every Brother taking his degrees this year to check out for a C certificate by the end of the year.

Brethren, one of the best things your lodge can do to promote and forward itself is to send representatives to the Oklahoma Masonic Leadership Conference scheduled for May 21, 22, and 23, at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie. Details for the Conference are found on the Grand Lodge Website. I have been privileged for the past 4 years to attend and participate in the conference, and I guarantee that the ideas and philosophies brought back to your lodge and utilized will help your lodge grow and become vitalized. We have made the Conference even more affordable this year so that more Brethren can attend and become better leaders. Please, do not let your lodge not be represented.

The Grand Lodge Officers have been busy in attending District Meetings, Cornerstones, and Pin Presentations. It is our desire to visit every district in the state, and to help you help your lodges.

It has been my honor to present 50 and 60 year pins to our worthy devoted Brethren who have given selflessly to the Craft for so many years. Brethren, let us emulate these brethren in their devotion to our beloved Fraternity, and see to it that our Craft is stronger and more vital for our future brethren that it is even now.

Finally, for this reading, I want to thank Corinthian Lodge #307 for membership in their Lodge. My home lodge, Carmen #188, consolidated with Corinthian Lodge a few years after I was raised. Corinthian Lodge did the courtesy work for my degrees. There were many great and prominent masons in that lodge, and my fondest memories of Masonry and my youth were within those walls. Memories of sitting in Lodge with my dad, Charlie, Wayne Duel, Herb Niles, the Davis brothers, Bruce Ekhart, Vern Hydeman, and so many wonderful examples of Freemasons are of the most affectionate and dear to my soul. My greatest memories are of my Dad and I sitting in Lodge together. I, to this day, can still feel the completeness and satisfaction to my soul, sitting in Mason's Lodge with those around who loved each other mightily. Good men and true. I demitted from Corinthian after beginning a teaching career that netted me \$700.00 a month take home, but I always longed to return. My circle became complete last week, and to the Brethren of Corinthian Lodge, I thank you.

I hope that you will allow me this little detour that I have just taken in the hope that each and everyone of you that have begun your journey in Freemasonry have your own story of affection safely locked in the repository of your faithful breast. For this, my brethren, is what it is all about.

Affectionately and Fraternally,

Charles Belknap,
Grand Master



Brad Rickelman, Junior Grand Warden



R.W. Brother Brad and his wife, Jean, live in Stillwater. He is Assistant Director of the Meridian Technology Center for Business Development, where he assists small business and entrepreneurs in managing and developing their businesses; previously he was Advertising Manager for Mercury MerCruiser and Marketing Manager for a computer company. His wife Jean is Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University.

Born in 1965 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Brad was raised in Houston, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University, obtaining an undergraduate degree in Business Management in 1988 and afterwards a Master's degree in Philosophy; he also studied towards a doctorate in Philosophy at the University of Kansas. During 1995-1996, Brad taught English as a Second Language in Japan.

Brad and Jean moved to Stillwater in 1996. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice at Frontier Lodge in October 1997, passed to Fellowcraft in February 1998, and raised as a Master Mason in July 1998. In 2003, he served as WM of Frontier Lodge.

Brad served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master for District 6 in 2006 and 2007. He was Grand Flag Bearer and CHIP Committee Chair in 2008 and Grand Musician and Prevent Blindness Committee Chair in 2009.

He is a member of the Guthrie Valley of Scottish Rite, a member of the Stillwater York Rite Bodies (currently serving as Eminent Commander of St. John's Commandry #8) and he and his wife are in Queen Christina Court of Order of the Amaranth.

Outside of his Masonic work, he serves as Youth leader at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and on the Oklahoma Episcopal Diocese Youth Council. He is a graduate of Leadership Stillwater Class XIII and a member of Stillwater Schools' Long Range Planning Committee.

In his filing for office and throughout his visits in the state, Brad has stressed the importance of operations, communications, fraternalism and transparency.

- ✓Operations: improve leadership and operational management of local lodges.
- ✓Communications: more and better communication between brothers and between Grand Lodge and the craft.
- ✓Fraternalism: strengthening the bonds between newer and long time masons.
- ✓Transparency: clarity in what we are doing and where we are going.

Brad loves Blue Lodge masonry and looks forward to working with the Craft!



Grand Secretary Retires

R.W. Robert Poole, Sr., sent this letter to the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries of the Lodges of Oklahoma.

It is with regret that I inform you that I have resigned the office of Grand Secretary, effective April 30, 2010. I have also assured the Grand Master that I will do everything I can to help my replacement prepare for the Annual Communication. There are many things no one tells you, which make it easier for everyone during Grand School and Grand Lodge, and I will certainly be here to help with the transition.

This action is caused entirely by health concerns. I have greatly enjoyed working with the trustees of the Grand Lodge, and even more with the Lodge Secretaries and Brethren. One of the joys of my time in office has been the chance to meet and get to know so many Brothers whom I would otherwise never have known.

I want to thank you personally for everything you have made possible. Because of your help, we have been able to take major steps in modernizing the Grand Lodge office, improving the building, and implementing a data system which will allow us to expand services in the future. While not everything is yet in place, we are on schedule to be able to allow you more access to information and simplify the tasks of the Lodge Secretary.

I truly appreciate the kindness everyone has shown to me, the help and patience you demonstrated as I learned the ins and outs of the job, and the cooperation which has made it all possible.

I made many demands on my body for many years; now it (and my Doctor) are telling me that I need to spend a little more time taking care of it. I hope to see many of you in the months and years to come, and to keep alive the friendships which I have made and which mean so much to me.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Poole, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert R. Poole, Sr.

Grand Secretary

Editor's Note: It has been a true pleasure working with R.W. Brother Poole. He has done many things to improve the service the Grand Lodge office can give to the Lodges, as well as overseeing the repair and restoration of the Grand Lodge building. I know he had not accomplished everything he wanted to, but he has done much and the Craft is in his debt. Both the exterior and interior of the building have been made much more attractive; computers have been modernized; and the telephone system has been replaced with one which better meets the needs; records have been made more accessible; and much more. We will miss the Command Sergeant Major.

Jim Tresner

R.W. David Allen, Grand Historian, Appointed Grand Secretary



M. W. Charles R. Belknap, Grand Master, has announced the appointment of R.W. David W. Allen as the new Grand Secretary.

David is a member of Sand Springs Masonic Lodge #475 in Sand Springs. He worked his way through the Chairs and was elected Worshipful Master in 2000. He has been the Secretary of his Lodge since October 2009. In the Grand Lodge he has served as the Grand Historian for 2½ years. Previously he was appointed as Grand Bible Bearer in 2006.

David is active in the Scottish Rite, Tulsa Valley, and is a 32° KCCH. He received the Orient Citation from the Scottish Rite Council of Oklahoma in October 2001. Other service in the Tulsa Scottish Rite includes service as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 2008, as Director of the 8th Degree, Assistant Director of the Wardrobe Department, a member and Past President of the Service Knights and a member of the 30° team.

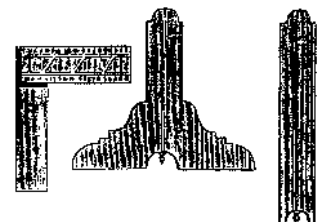
David is a member of the Tulsa Chapter and Council and Trinity Commandery of the York Rite and a member of Naomi Chapter #295 of the Eastern Star.

David worked for 36½ years in the management of Not For Profit service organizations, the last 13½ years of his working career as the Executive Director of the Sand Springs Home's Children's Home. In these programs he has managed the Day to Day operations of these agencies including the hiring and supervision of employees, upkeep, maintenance and construction of facilities. He was also been involved in the development and management of budgets, endowments and public relations and fund raising.

David is a Past President of the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce and Past President of the Rotary Club of Sand Springs, formerly a member and Chairman of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth. He is a Past President, Secretary and Treasurer for more than ten years for the Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential Enterprises (an association for public and private organizations serving children in Oklahoma).

David graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1966 with a BA degree. He has taken additional college credit in Accounting and Business Law and has had extensive training in the management of Not For Profit organizations.

David will have been married to his wife Jo Nan 46 years as of June 5, 2010. They have two sons and one daughter and four grandsons and one granddaughter. Jo Nan is self employed as an Attorney.





Grand Master

The
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma

www.okmasons.com



P.O. BOX 1019
GUTHRIE, OK 73044

Bus: (405) 282-3212
Fax: (405) 282-3244

May 3, 2010

To the Members of the Masonic Fraternity

It is with the deepest regret that I have accepted the resignation of Right Worshipful Robert Poole, Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma.

Right Worshipful Robert has served as Grand Secretary for the past several years in the most admirable manner. He has always treated the Position with the utmost Respect and Decorum, and has brought about many innovative and efficient changes to the Grand Lodge Office. He has served the Craft of Oklahoma with the same Devotion and Loyalty that he has served our Country throughout his career. To these ends we are extremely thankful.

I, as Grand Master, speak not only for myself and the other Grand Lodge Officers, but for the entire Craft, in wishing Right Worshipful Robert Poole, the "Friendly Grand Secretary", the very best in his retirement, and we know that he will continue to work for the Betterment and Advancement of Freemasonry in the State of Oklahoma in the future.

Thank you, Right Worshipful Sir, for a job WELL DONE.

I would like to announce the appointment of Right Worshipful David Allen as Grand Secretary. All future correspondence should be addressed to him at the Grand Secretary's office.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles R. Belknap".

Charles R. Belknap
Grand Master

2010



Grand Lodge



Programs



Brethren,

Not since the 1940's has Freemasonry received so much attention in the media; not since those days have so many men sought out our Lodges. These next few years mark a critical time for our Fraternity. We can either grow and develop to meet the expectations of the young men who seek to be Masons, or ignore them, and wither on the vine.

And the good news, the very good news, is that in making Freemasonry the kind of rich and rewarding experience for which they are searching, we also make it richer and more rewarding for ourselves. It's a win—win situation.

Grand Lodge programs over the past years have been designed to help create a deep and rewarding experience of Masonry for everyone. We know that in order to meet the needs of our members, we have to focus on Masonic education, on fraternalism, on the transforming experience of initiations well performed, and of the pure joy of being a Freemason.

That's the purpose of the 2010 Programs.

I ask you to join me in continuing to build a Fraternal experience which is second to none in the world, attracting good men, and forming us into a fellowship which is deeply satisfying.

Fraternally,



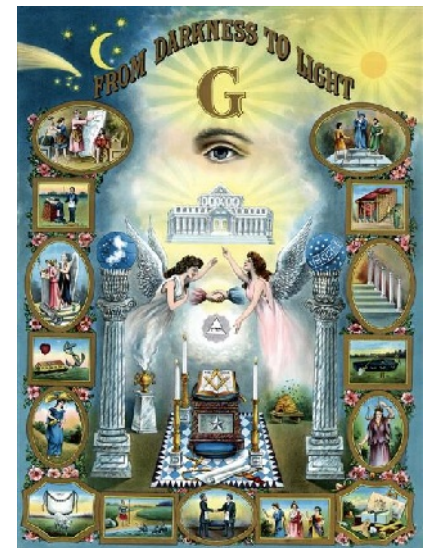
Charles Belknap

Masonic Education in Your 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?

The Ritual Competition ó The Grand Master's All Star Masonic Degree Team

A competition was held to fill the trestle board for the **Grand Master's All-Star Masonic Degree Team**. See story elsewhere in this issue.



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 loves 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.

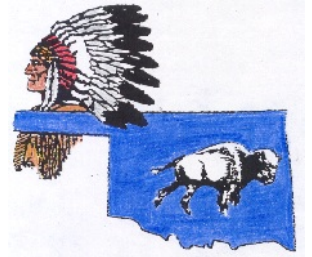
Medium bricks are 12 X 12, with 12 lines and 22 characters/spaces per line for \$200.00.

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

Plans are being more to revitalize the Order of the White Buffalo. Initiation is open to men, women, and families. Initiation fees and yearly dues go to support the Grand Lodge Building Fund.



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

Mr. Mason

To honor a brother who really makes a difference for your Lodge, the Lodge sends his name and the name of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge (e-mail okmason1@coxinet.net or fax 405-282-3244) The Grand Lodge will prepare a special certificate and mail it to the Lodge for presentation.

These are the highlights of the Grand Lodge Programs for 2010. 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 an 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!!!!

The Grand Lodge Officers for 2010

Elected Officers

Grand Master

Charles Ray Belknap (161) *Linda H=580-234-4250
 2515 Edgewood Drive, Enid, OK 73073 C=580-541-5902
 E=taxidermy007@att.net

Deputy Grand Master

Glenn Earl Almy (515) *Sue H=918-865-3877
 P.O. Box 321, Mannford, OK 74044 C=918-706-4538
 E=almyglennsue@cimtel.net

Senior Grand Warden

Randall Louis (Randy) Rogers (96) C=918-429-7547
 1100 S. 14th Street, McAlester, OK 74501 H=918-429-1239
 E=trp074@yahoo.com

Junior Grand Warden

Bradley S. Rickelman (48) *Jean H=405-624-7182
 5216 W. 2nd Ave., Stillwater, OK 74074 C=405-473-7814
 E=bradrickelman@gmail.com

Grand Treasurer

J. Nathan Johns (276) *Nicole H=405-722-7301
 5809 N.W. 70th Street, Warr Acres, OK 73132 B=405-522-6981
 E=jnathanj33@aol.com

Grand Secretary

Robert Russell Poole, Sr. (159) *Joyce G.L. Office=405-282-3212
 PO Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044 H=580-931-0045
 C=580-931-7499
 E=okmason1@coxinet.net

Grand Lecturer

Ronald E. Wray (357) *Tammie H=580-623-0025
 104 W. Thompson, Hitchcock, OK 73744 B=580-623-0035
 E=rewwray76@hotmail.com

Appointed Officers

- Senior Grand Deacon** - Jack Lynn Painter (56)*Kathy H=405-853-4682
 114 S. Cherokee, Hennessey, OK 73742 B=405-853-5111
 E=jpainter@pldi.net
- Junior Grand Deacon - Randy Charles Beaird (515) *Martha H=918-865-4078
 1719 Lakeview Dr., Mannford, OK 74044 C=918-640-4755
 E=rbosmc@aol.com
- Senior Grand Steward - John Wayne Clagg (96) *Sharon H=918-423-6159
 Rt. 1, Box 15, McAlester, OK 74501 B=918-423-4880
 E=Big.chief@sbcglobal.net
- Junior Grand Steward - Jason W. Stacy (36) H=405-640-1070
 4303 S.E. 57th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73135 E=dubstacy7@aol.com
- Grand Marshal - Rick Allison (501) *Linda H=580-232-7513
 517 Ridgewood, Enid, OK 73701 B=580-237-5505
 E=archeybald@yahoo.com
- Grand Pursuivant - Ronald David Epperly, Jr. (536) *Vonda H=405-737-7402
 12220 S.E. 64th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73150 B=405-621-6663
 E=depperly@cox.net
- Grand Chaplain - John G. Hibbs, Sr. (422) *Frances H=580-697-3296
 Rt. 2, Box 133, Waynoka, OK 73860 C=580-737-0168
- Grand Bible Bearer - Herbert Louis (Herb) Niles ♂ H=580-596-2360
 605 S. Oklahoma, Cherokee, OK 73728-3040 C=580-554-2259
 E=herbniles@sbcglobal.net
- Grand Sword Bearer - Danny McClure (182) *Gayla H=580-821-1934
 1410 N Washington, Oklahoma City, OK 73644 B=580-225-0476
 E=gayla_lu@sbcglobal.net
- Grand Flag Bearer - Gene Mitchell Rodgers (138, 294) H=405-643-2290
 9151 CR 1240, Ft. Cobb, OK 73038 B=405-668-2068
 E=rodgersgene@gmail.com
- Grand Tyler - William C. (Bill) Beck (161) *Linda Jo H=580-864-7952
 P.O. Box 75, Covington, OK 73730 B=580-336-1926
 E=dubbeck@pldi.net

Grand Musician - Doug Helm (39) *Barbara H=918-358-2628
 Route 3, Box 206, Cleveland, OK 74020-9530 C=918-633-4107
 bugtussle3@aol.com

Grand Orator - James Tracy "Jim" Tresner II ♂ (162, 501) H=405-282-2967
 P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044 B=405-282-3212
 E=jim.tresner@yahoo.com

Grand Historian - David W. Allen (475) *Jo Nan H=918-241-2037
 3613 S. Christine Ln., Sand Springs, OK 74063 C=918-638-0565
 E=davidandjonan@cox.net

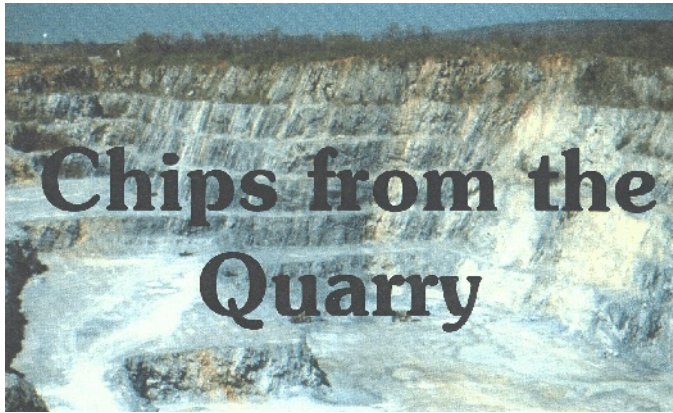
Honorary Grand Lodge Officers

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From W. Troy Collier

Wilbur P. Drake graduated from Fargo High School in 1934 in Fargo, Oklahoma. His father Roy L. Drake was a Mason at Charity Lodge #254. Wilbur was only eighteen years old and couldn't petition his father's lodge until he turned 21. Roy was the Worshipful Master of Charity Lodge in 1935. Wilbur

decided to make his father a shovel for the lodge, so he found a piece of lumber of clean white pine and went to work. The Drake family was awarded the bid for driving the school buses for Fargo schools, and Wilbur could work on his project between picking up and returning the children home.

He used the school's shop class, and completed the project in about a month using nothing but hand tools. He presented it to his father in May, 1935. (Because of the age limitations at the time, Wilbur was unable to petition for membership until January 9, 1947 when he was made an Entered Apprentice, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on February 18, 1947 and Raised to Master Mason on October 21, 1947.) The Lodge used the shovel in ceremonies until Charity Lodge #254 consolidated with Woodward Lodge #189 on October 1, 1992. Wilbur decided to donate the shovel to Woodward Lodge on December 22, 2009. Brother Hal Thomas of Woodward Lodge had a plaque made to commemorate the presentation.



Roy Moody, Hal Thomas, WM Troy Collier, Wilbur Drake, Hayner Brown, and Melvin Nix at the Woodward Senior Citizen's Center



From W. Ed Zweiacher

This is the check presentation of the El Reno Masonic Lodge #50 and the Redlands Community College Aggie Club fundraiser. This year the funds were presented to kick off the restoration of the old Eastern Star chapel at Darlington, which will be converted to a large classroom for these students and future students as well. The chapel fundraisers will continue as this check presentation was but a portion of the total cost to remodel the chapel. The chapel will be a classroom for close to 100 people at one time and will have all the modern technology available to the students and teachers.

[Note: W. Brother Zweiacher is a Professor at Redlands Community College. For those who are unfamiliar

with the history, the campus in Darlington which is now Redlands Community College was originally the location of the Masonic Children's Home. While the Home was located there, the Order of the Eastern Star built a beautiful chapel for the Home. Now, after many years, the chapel is being remodeled to serve the needs of a new generation of young people.]



From The Alva Review/Courier

Citizenship, leadership focus of new \$100,000 endowment

By Helen Barrett

This is a very good day in the history of Northwestern," Dr. Aaron Mason said this week as he opened the special ceremony officially accepting the \$100,000 endowment from the Masonic Charities Foundation of Oklahoma.

The ceremony and reception were held Wednesday in the Wyatt Room of the NWOSU Student Center. Representatives of

the Masonic Lodges and Order of the Eastern Star from Alva, Waynoka and the Masonic Charities Foundation of Oklahoma attended the ceremony.

"I'm very proud of the partnership the Masonic Charities Foundation of Oklahoma has seen fit to engage with us here," Mason, the Assistant Professor of Political Science, said. "I will be intimately involved in running the Institute for Citizenship Studies here at Northwestern."

Dr. Kay Decker, chair of the Social Sciences Department, said, "This is really a big event not only for our department but the university."

Decker explained the process leading up to establishment of the Institute for Citizenship Studies at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. "Four years ago our department underwent a substantial transformation," Decker said. At that time the staff decided they wanted to focus on the ideals of democracy and citizenship, civic engagement, leadership and service.

"To do all of that, we've implemented a series of programs and projects that have been very successful thanks to the wonderful faculty," Decker said. "Today we have the opportunity to share with all of you the announcement of a new relationship that will begin today and hopefully continue on for many years to come," she continued. "This relationship is between our department and the Masonic Charities Foundation of Oklahoma."

The Institute for Citizenship Studies at Northwestern will be housed within the Department of Social Sciences. It will provide opportunities for Northwestern students and the service communities to engage in leadership development opportunities. The newly created Civic Fellowship Program will sponsor voter registration drives and political campaign discussion forums during campaign years. Additional degree opportunities will be provided for students in the political studies program.

Leadership development will be another major focus of the program including a public service leadership program each summer, Decker said.

"This relationship is going to provide us with the funding we need to continue these programs and build on them," Decker stated. "We also hope to establish an annual journal in which faculty within the department, students and faculty across the state and region can contribute academic research to explore the topics of citizenship, service leadership and civic engagement."

Dr. Decker thanked Dr. Mason for facilitating the relationship between the Masonic Foundation and the Political Science Department at the university.

Decker introduced members of the Masonic Charities Foundation Board who were present for the ceremony: Charles Belknap, Enid, NWOSU Alumni; Charles Stuckey, Ponca City, NWOSU Alumni, Herb Niles, Cherokee, NWOSU Alumni; Joan Shepherd, Norman; Charlie Babb, Edmond; David Ray, Shawnee; Warren McConnell, Hennessy; and John Logan, Edmond, NWOSU Alumni.

"We want to assure you the programs we will support with this program will further the ideals of democracy, will uphold the values that our Constitution has established, and we hope that we can encourage young people to engage in a life of public service," Dr. Decker said.

"Surely this is not lost on everyone that we have Dr. Mason who is a Mason," Dr. Janet Cunningham said as she spoke. "That just is perfect"

Dr. Cunningham praised the new partnership between the Foundation and the University.

"For a university to reach new heights, it takes vision, and it really takes vision from all parts of the institution," Dr. Cunningham said. "The visions of our faculty are the ones that have such a tremendous impact on students on a dally basis."

Dr. Cunningham described the social sciences department's faculty members as visionary and looking for ways to move the institution forward.

"I want to commend Dr. Aaron Mason, Dr. Kay Decker and others for taking an idea—and you always have to start with an idea—and finding a way to make that idea evolve into something real and practical to take hold of," the president said.

Dr. Cunningham outlined the specific duties and tasks assigned to the new Institute. . . 'It will reach out and touch a lot of individuals. The Masonic Organization has been extremely generous with this endowment which will fund the Institute, for many, many, many years to come and we thank you for that."

Charles Belknap presented the large facsimile \$100,000 check to Dr. Cunningham. "It's really a pleasure for me to be here, not only to be head this year of what a fantastic fraternity we have, but also as a graduate of this university in 1978," he said. "Northwestern is a real jewel of a school."

Belknap said, as an educator for more than 30 years along with his wife, a school Counselor, "we try to send as many good students as we can to this institution."As a alumnus looking from the outside in, I really want to commend you and the faculty for the vast improvements and wonderful things you've done," Belknap said. Holding the check tightly, Dr. Cunningham said, "We certainly do not have the opportunity to get a check like this very often so I may hold it for awhile. I assure you We will be good stewards of the funds and they will Certainly be used the way they were Intended to be."

BUT THAT'S JUST a SIXTH OF THE STORY!

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma announced six grants to regional Oklahoma state colleges and universities for \$100,000 each. Northwestern Oklahoma State University at Alva, Northeastern State University at Tahlequah, Southeastern Oklahoma State University at Durant, East Central University at Ada, Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford, and the University of Central Oklahoma at Edmond are all recipients of grants. The specific terms of the endowment will be negotiated with each university with the hope that the focus of the gift will fill an existing need and enhance the quality of the student's educational experience.

Never doubt that Freemasonry makes a difference in Oklahoma.

All Star Degree Team Ritual Competition

Brad Rickelman

Junior Grand Warden

On March 13th, twenty two Masons met at the Grand Lodge building in Guthrie to participate in the All Star Degree Team Ritual Competition. The competition was on the Second Section of the Master Mason degree.



Smile Grand Lecturer – we are having fun!

GM Chuck Belknap started the morning off at 9am sharp with encouragement and a hearty thanks to all who were there, and the competition began with five Masons working on the King Solomon language. We also had four Senior Deacons and six #3s!

Once the top three participants in each position were selected, teams were drawn up and the second section was exemplified. After all three teams had finished, total scores were compiled while a few intrepid Masons tried out on the 2nd section Explanatory, 3rd section Explanatory and Symbolism.

The scores were impressive. With four judges – two checking floor work and two listening to language (-1 point for each error) – our top King Solomon, Ridge Smith, scored 1997/2000 points and our Senior Grand Warden, Howard Cagle, scored 1998/2000 points. Senior Deacon, Larry Duran 1997/2000 and Chris Sheehan scored a 1995/2000 for the #3 Ruffian.

I make more errors than them combined just in introducing myself, so I was glad GL officers could not compete!

The results are as follows -

Role	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
King Solomon	Ridge Smith	Brad Crawford	Bob Peters
SGW	Howard Cagle	Mark Zoellner	
JW/#1	Justin Winboldt	Richard Holmes	
SD	Larry Duran	Greg Meyers	Eddie Wallace
JD	Frank Briano	Jim Case	
SS	Floyd Gordon	Jimmy Hartzell	
JS			
#2	Ryan Reaves		
#3	Chris Sheehan	Buddy Vaughn	Bill Potts
Sec			
2 Exp	Buddy Vaughn		
3 Exp	Larry Duran	Chris Pryor	
Symbolism	Frank Briano		

There were no competitors for the Junior Steward or Grand Secretary roles. I know there are many of you out there who could have done a great job in these and other roles – and I look forward to seeing you next time. While many of the competitor's are familiar to many of you, we had a number of newer masons competing – and doing great!

The Deputy Grand Lecturers served as evaluators of the work and our Grand Lecturer deserves big thanks for having pulled them together to help out. The Ritual Competition committeemen, especially Br. Ron Chambers, MOH, were also of great assistance in ensuring a good day was had by all. The entire enterprise was done in a spirit less of competition than of camaraderie and good will.

The All Star degree team will have the opportunity to exemplify the Master Mason degree during the Grand School/Grand Lodge events. Also, while the members are drawn from across the state – our Grand Master may very well call on them to put on a degree.

I am looking forward to our next competition; one recommendation was to have regional competitions (NW, SW, NE, SE) to discover the best ritual in each area, then bring those men together to the Grand Lodge building. That would make it easier for those lodges that are further from Guthrie.

Thanks again to all who came, and Albert Pike Lodge for supplying a delicious breakfast to help them all start off on the right foot (or do I start off with the left foot? “Grand Lecturer?!?”)



I'm Still Not Sure

How I Feel About It

Jim Tresner

A few weeks ago, Brother Damon Devereaux and I went to Washington, D.C. where I attended a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Masonic Information Center. It was a fly-out-Friday-meet-Saturday-fly-back-Sunday sort of meeting, but as our flight did not leave until Sunday afternoon, Richard and Judy Fletcher invited us to go with them to the VA Hospital there.

Many Oklahoma Masons know Richard and Judy Fletcher. Richard is Past Grand Master of Vermont and the Executive Director of the Masonic Service Association of North America. He visits the Oklahoma Grand Lodge Annual Communication every other year, in his capacity at MSANA.

MSANA was formed after the First World War because the Grand Lodges wanted some way to assist Masonic veterans in the hospitals and centers. The government was not willing to deal with 49 individual Grand Lodges, so they went together to form the Masonic Service Association.

The Association is one of the most important providers of volunteer services for American service veterans (all vets, not just those who are Masons) giving more than a quarter million hours a volunteer time a year. It also has a very important educational function, publishing the Short Talk Bulletin which every Oklahoma Lodge receives free of charge each month, as well as many other educational materials. The Masonic Information Center is a division of MSANA, service as a source of public information about Freemasonry and developing programs such as the Mark Twain Award to help Lodges promote public awareness.

Richard and Judy Fletcher are two of the most respected (and nicest) people in Freemasonry. (Judy serves, without compensation, as the secretary for MSANA, and it is always a pleasure to be with them. I knew that each Sunday when they were in town, they went to the VA Hospital to help out, and so Damon and I were happy to go with them.

It was an eye-opening, and, in some ways, an upsetting experience.

We got to the hospital and meet about 8 other Masons who are local hospital volunteers. Damon went with Judy and the volunteers to help the veterans who wanted to go to religious services, while Richard and I went

to the chapel in the hospital.

Just inside the door of the chapel I saw plaques which said that the Grand Lodge and the Scottish Rite had built and furnished the chapel and purchased the organ and piano. It is an attractive room, although with the blandness to be expected of a purely non-denominational chapel. When we got there, Richard swept the floor, set out and lighted the candles, and then prepared to hand out the programs and orders of worship. Judy, Damon, and the other volunteers came, pushing veterans in wheel chairs who could not easily move themselves. There was one woman who did not come, although she is usually there. At more than a hundred years of age, she sometimes just doesn't feel like it.

The service was short—many of the veterans tire easily, and then we helped them back to their rooms, tidied up the chapel, and went on our way.

But I've been thinking about it since.

Those men and women sacrificed a great deal for all of us. It's monestrous that they have a chapel only because the Freemasons built it. It's equally monestrous that, if they are less than mobile, they can only go if a volunteer comes to help them. It is wrong that bureaucrats have become so obsessed with separating Church and State that men and women who were injured and lost limbs in protecting our country can only have to solace of religious services if volunteers provide the space and the transportation. Do they not have some kind of right to those things which transcends narrow sectarian (or anti-sectarian) interests?

So I am thankful for the MSA volunteers in Oklahoma and across the United States who do much more than just help our veterans go to religious services. The hours of service they give make a major difference in the lives of men and women who gave service to us all.

Never assume that Freemasonry doesn't make a difference in the world.