



# The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2010 - vol. 2 Grand Lodge Print Edition

page 1

## SERIOUS BUSINESS 990 Tax Filing

The requirement by IRS that every Masonic Lodge must file a 990 Tax form each year has become more serious. More than 60 lodges in Oklahoma appear on a list of Tax Exempt organizations that have not filed the required 990 form for the past three years.

The IRS has granted a one-time extension until October 15, 2010 for these forms to be filed.

## THERE IS NO CHOICE, EVERY OKLAHOMA MASONIC LODGE MUST FILE!

This issue is facing other Grand Lodges as well. The Grand Lodge of Colorado has received a ruling from the IRS that states that: **If even one lodge does not file its 990 form by October 15, 2010, The Grand Lodge will lose its tax exempt status as well**

## THE GRAND LODGE IS NOT GOING TO LOSE ITS 501 (C) (10) STATUS!!!!!!

Therefore, the Grand Master has said that if **YOUR LODGE** does not file its 990 tax form by October 1, 2010, and provide "**Confirmation**" of such action to the Grand Secretary, **The Charter from your lodge will be "Arrested" and the operation of the lodge "suspended"**

**until such action is taken to correct the situation with the IRS.** Be advised, the process of reapplying for a tax determination as a 501 (c) (10) Tax Exempt Organization will be arduous and expensive for your lodge.

Greetings Brethren:

I hope that this issue of the Oklahoma Mason finds you in health and prosperity.

As I write this, we are faced with a tremendous responsibility of seeing that all 229 lodges in the state are compliant with reporting to the IRS concerning income. Any lodge that does not file can cause the entire Fraternity in Oklahoma to lose tax exempt status. Brethren, this will be absolutely devastating not only to your own lodge, but also to Freemasonry in the state of Oklahoma. Please read the corresponding article concerning this grave issue, and make sure that your lodge complies before the October 1, 2010 cutoff date.

Brethren, we are in a remarkable era of history in Freemasonry. There is tremendous interest in our Fraternity that has stemmed from books, movies and media. The human need for Brotherhood and to be involved with people in whom you can trust has pointed them to our Fraternity. Please, brethren, do our Fraternity a favor and share with them the things Masonry has done for you in your life. If we were to share our love of Freemasonry with others, our numbers could once again swell to bountiful proportions. Replace yourselves!

Brethren, you also have the unique opportunity for you and your family to join the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo at the Grand Lodge Building on October 2, 2010. This is a family order linking us to our rich Native Heritage, and an opportunity to share a Masonic order with the family. Please see the article in this magazine that details this order. The proceeds from this degree will all go to support the Grand Lodge Building.

Finally, Brethren, I urge all of us to live our lives in such a manner that people will know that we are Freemasons by our lives and actions, both public and private. Remember that we are all Brothers of the Mystic Tie, and we are all responsible for each other. Remember our widows and the distressed with actions as well as prayers, and may we always let peace and harmony prevail.

Fraternally,



Charles Belknap Grand Master

# Brethren Available for Grand Office

## Junior Grand Warden

Note: The information given below is taken from the official filing filled out by the Brother.



**Brother Ronald Jack (Ron) Chambers** lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He is widowed and has one son, R. David Chambers. He is retired from American Airlines with 33 years of service, where as an Inspector in non-destructive testing, he tested aircraft and parts using magnaflux, ultrasound, X-ray

and radio isotopes. He also created and sold a pest control business and a small engine repair business.

He was passed to the sublime Degree of Master Mason at Delta Lodge #425, in Tulsa, on December 20, 1966, and served as Worshipful Master in 1987. He has been an "A" Certificate Lecturer from 1984 to the present, and has served the Lodge as Treasurer since 2003.

In 2004, he received the Oklahoma Medal of Honor.

Brother Chambers joined the Tulsa Scottish Rite in 1967, and was invested with the designation Knight Commander Court of Honour (KCCH) in 1987. In 1995, he received the 33°. He has served the Tulsa Valley as a Service Knight, as Membership Chairman, and Almoner, and has assisted in more than 30 Rose Croix funerals.

He is a member of the Tulsa York Rite Bodies, serving as High Priest of Chapter #52 in 1987,

Illustrious Master of Council #22 in 1987, and as Commander of Tulsa Commandery #20 in the same year. He received the designation of KYCH in 1989 and the Distinguished Service Bronze Medal in 1995.

He is also a member of York Rite College #75, McMillion Council #15 Allied Masonic Degrees, and the St. Luke Conclave - Red Cross of Constantine.

He is a member of Akdar Shrine and the Jesters, and also of Friendship Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

Brother Chambers served as a member of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team from 1986 to 1999, and as Director of the team from 1995 to 1998.

He has served the Grand Lodge on the Credentials Committee from 1988 to the present. He served as Chairman of the Last Degree Ritual Committee, tasked with revising the Masonic funeral service in Oklahoma in 1993, has been a member of the Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations Committee since 2002, was Grand Sword Bearer in 2008, and that same year served as Chairman of the Committee to create the cipher key. One of the few Brothers in the state to perform the Masonic memorial service, he has conducted more than 900 Masonic funerals.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Chambers wrote: *To have the opportunity to serve the Craft and see our fraternity grow today as well as in the future.*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote" *To work with the Grand Lodge Officers in advancing programs that will contribute to the success of our Masonic Fraternity. Such as, Masonic education, Public Awareness and a general understanding of the benefits our communities can expect from a close association with our organization.*

Note: legislation passed in 2007 requires this question be asked and answered on the form. "If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry, provide the following information." No such suspension or expulsion has taken place.



**Brother D. Ridge Smith** lives with his wife, Carol, in Yukon, Oklahoma. They have two children, Dr. Valerie Hatley and Brian R. Smith.

Brother Smith is retired from the Federal Aviation Administration, Civil Aerospace Medical Institute.

He was an Instructional Systems Specialist, serving in that capacity for 11 years. Brother Smith designed instructional media and coordinated educational seminars for aviation medical examiners throughout the United States. He is the author of seven professional research studies published in professional journals and created educational media which is currently being used by the FAA to train aviation medical examiners.

He is a member of Yukon Lodge #90, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1992. Subsequently, he has served as Secretary (1998) and Treasurer (2002 to present).

In 1998 and 1999 Brother Smith served on the Award of Excellence Committee of the Grand Lodge. In 2004 he served as Junior Grand Steward, as Senior Grand Steward in 2005, as Junior Grand Deacon in 2006 and as Senior Grand Deacon in 2007. In 2010 he is serving as a member of the Unity Committee.

He is a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Valley, where he serves as the Director of the 23rd Degree Team.

Brother Smith is a member of India Shrine Temple, and serves as President of the India Shrine Masonic Degree Team.

He is a member of Yukon Chapter #245, Order of the Eastern Star, and has served the Chapter 5 times as Worthy Patron. He has also served as Worthy Grand Patron of the Order.

He is the DeMolay Chapter Dad for Yukon DeMolay Chapter, and holds the Honorary Legion of Honor, the Advisor's Honor Key, and the Zerubbabel Key. He is Rainbow Dad for the Yukon Rainbow Assembly, State Rainbow Dad, and holds the Grand Cross of Color.



He served as an officer in the United States Army, Chairman of the Mathematics Department for Kinnick High School, and Chairman of the Board for West Point Christian Church. Brother Smith has been an "A" Certificate Lecturer since 1989, was awarded the Air Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart. He has Masters Degrees from the University of Oklahoma and Central State University and was graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Central State.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" he wrote: *I have the experience, the drive, the intelligence and the imagination to lead Oklahoma Grand Lodge to a greater and more relevant future in our communities, our state and our nation.*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *I have three major goals: one, to improve our membership support for both new and current members; two, to improve our involvement in our communities and our state; and three, to strive for ritualistic excellence in every Lodge.*

Note: legislation passed in 2007 requires this question be asked and answered on the form. "If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry, provide the following information." No such suspension or expulsion has taken place.

## Grand Secretary

**R.: W.:** David W. Allen was appointed by the Grand



Master for fill the unexpired term of R.: W.:. Robert Poole. His permanent home is in Sand Springs, where he lives with his wife, Jo Nan. They have three children, Jeremy, Patricia, and Tony.

He is retired from the Sand

Springs Children's Home, where he served as Executive Director. Altogether, he spent 36½ years working with 501-(c)-3 tax-exempt organizations providing care in residential settings for children. He

is a member (and has served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer) of the Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential Enterprises, Inc., and has been a member of the Southwest Association of Executives of Homes for Children since 1972. He is a Founding Member of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth for the State of Oklahoma. He is also Past President of the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce and Past President of the Sand Springs Rotary Club.

He has received the Humanitarian Award and the George Parlier Award from the Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential Enterprises.

Brother Allen served Sand Springs Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2000.

He served the Grand Lodge as Grand Bible Bearer in 2006, Grand Historian in 2008, 2009, and 2010, and was appointed Grand Secretary in 2010.

He is a member of the Tulsa Scottish Rite Bodies and has received the Orient Citation and the designation of Knight Commander, Court of Honour. He is the Director of the 8th Degree, the Assistant Director of the Wardrobe Department, a member and Past President of the Service Knights, and a member of the Royal Order of the Ducks.

Brother Allen belongs to the Tulsa York Rite Bodies and is a member of Naomi Chapter #295, Order of the Eastern Star, in Sand Springs.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" he wrote: *My work experience of 36+ years has been in the capacity as an administrator. It would be an honor to be able to use my life's work experience to serve the Grand Lodge as Grand Secretary, administering the day to day operations of the Grand Lodge, and working closely with the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Trustees to help improve and secure the future of Masonry in Oklahoma.*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *To influence Masonry in the State of Oklahoma by bringing more men into the fraternity and by teaching the moral and ethical qualities of Freemasonry.*

Note: legislation passed in 2007 requires this question be asked and answered on the form. "If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry, provide the following information." No such suspension or expulsion has taken place.

# Brethren Available for the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

**William J. (Jim) Cloud** lives in Blanchard, Oklahoma. He works in Business Analysis for Integrated Data Service, where he administers the system which manages over \$2 billion B-52 and KC-135 acquisition and sustainment program for the United States Air Force for Fiscal Year 2010.

He is a retired US Air Force Master Sergeant (E8) Budget Analyst. He is funds manager for the Air Force C-21 aircraft program and research manager for Foreign Military Sales of aircraft engines.

He was elected to the Charity Foundation Board of Directors in 2000, and has served on the Finance, Fraternal Relations, and Matching Funds Committees.

Brother Cloud is a member of Blanchard Lodge #395, which he served as Worshipful Master in 1985. He served as Senior Grand Steward in 1987, Junior Grand Deacon in 1988, and Senior Grand Deacon in 1989.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he wrote: *Actively working in Masonry for 28 years, I bring working experience and knowledge that comes from the small community and small Masonic Lodge. I'm very proud of my lodge. Blanchard Lodge #395 is a very active and strong small lodge that has taken advantage and been successful in most of the MCFO and Grand Lodge programs. Being a member of this board is more than just attending a few meeting every year. Board members should be out visiting other lodges and promoting MCFO programs. They should be available to help lodges be successful in their participation. I have been very fortunate to be able to travel the Masonic Road and challenge many lodges to participate in these programs. I love what I do and hope to continue in these efforts.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *The MCFO should continue to increase the funds corpus of the foundation so the efforts can be increased by funding new programs and expanding current programs when possible. The board must continue working at keeping our Public Charity status. Also,*

*the MCFO should continue to work at raising the visibility of the Fraternity. Efforts such as the \$1 million grant to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the partnership with the Association of Area Agencies on Aging (04A) are excellent ways to keep the Masonic Fraternity in the public eye. Our 4 year total grant to 04A is over \$2.7 million.*

*But most of all, we should live our Masonic Obligation and remember our "Masonic Family". We have a responsibility to continue to look after and support these folks. Programs such as Promises Matter should be increased in usage. The only way that can happen is to promote. . . . promote. . . .and promote.*

**David W. Allen's** permanent residence is in Sand Springs, Oklahoma with his wife of 45 years, Jo Nan. He is Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma, and is retired from the Sand Springs Children's Home where he was Executive Director. As Director, his duties included hiring, supervising, and terminating employees, developing and managing budgets, and management and maintenance of facilities.

He has 36½ years experience in working with 501-(c)-3 tax-exempt organizations, residential programs serving children. He is a member of the Oklahoma Children's Agencies and Residential Enterprises, Inc., which he has served as President, Secretary, or Treasurer for 10 years. Since 1972, Brother Allen has been a member of the Southwest Association of Executives of Homes for Children, and has served on their Board of Directors. He is a Founding Member of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, and is Past President of the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Sand Springs.

As secretary of his Lodge, he has worked with the Matching Funds program, the Promises Matter Program, the Student and Teacher of Today programs, and with Prevent Blindness Oklahoma.

Regarding experience with 501-(c)-3 organizations, he developed fund-raising programs for two organizations, facilitated policy development and implementation for endowment fund-raising, distribution and investment, development of by-laws and Articles of Incorporation for 501-(c)-3 organizations, and facility development of budgets, funding, and oversight.

In answer to the question “What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?” he wrote: *Previous experience in development of Endowment Funds for Not-For-Profit Organizations, development of fund investment policy; policy development for fund distributions for Funding Programs. Supporting development of programs in will and trust development. Public speaking on behalf of nonprofit organizations. Very active in Tulsa Valley Scottish Rite, Venerable Master- L.:O.:P.:.*

In answer to the question “How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?” he wrote: *Through continued support of individual Oklahoma Lodges in their charitable and education fund raising in their communities. Also, by continued support of individual Masons, their wives, widows and orphans in need. Continued support of Masonic Youth organizations and other appendant bodies.*

**Randall L. Rogers** lives in McAlester, Oklahoma. He has two daughters, Makenna and Torie. He is a Lieutenant with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, having supervisory responsibilities for six counties. He is Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

He has served as Vice President of the McAlester Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation.

In answer to the question “What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?” he wrote: *As Vice President of the McAlester Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation, I was given the opportunity to work and learn what it*

*takes to run such an organization—not just the financial side but how to promote our philanthropies. Establishing a Rite Care Clinic at McAlester was a very rewarding experience.*

In answer to the questions “How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?” he wrote: *By promoting Masonry in Oklahoma. What better way to do that then through the Masonic Charity Foundation and its resources. The Masonic Charity Foundation allows us to help our Brothers and Sisters, and to make an impact on the lives of our citizens in Oklahoma.*

**M. Fred Austin** lives in Yukon, Oklahoma. He has two daughters, Alice and Allison.

Brother Austin is retired as a Judge in the Oklahoma City Municipal Courts, where he served for 10 years. Prior to his service on the bench, he earned a Juris Doctorate from the Oklahoma City University Law School and had a successful law practice for 30 years.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma in 2005, and is currently serving on the Promises Matter Committee of the Board. He served as Worshipful Master of India Lodge #551 in 2001.

In answer to the question “What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?” he wrote: *I served as legal council for India Shrine for over twenty years, working with Endowments, Wills and Gifts. Have over twenty years experience working with 501-(c)-3 non-profit organizations within the fraternity. I am an Emeritus Member of the Imperial Council of the Shrine of North America for both the Fraternal Side and Shriners Hospitals.*

In answer to the question “How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?” he wrote: *I feel that my experience with non-profit organizations/charities as well as my experience with endowments, wills and gifts, as well as my experience gained as a member of the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation would continue to be a benefit to the Masonic Fraternity.*

# Resolutions

## to be voted upon at Grand Lodge

Of necessity, resolutions to change our law are carefully written in specific language, almost in a “legalese.” While this helps assure that meanings are specific, it can make the resolutions difficult to grasp. For that reason, *The Oklahoma Mason* traditionally prints a “simple English” version of the resolutions. **Please note:** The official versions, printed in the “Yellow Book” and distributed to the Lodges and at Grand Lodge, is the version which controls. Those printed here are offered only for clarity. Nothing in the descriptions below is intended to be an argument for or against any resolution nor should be inferred to be such an argument.

**Resolution #1** Increases the per capita to \$15.00, of which \$12.00 goes to the Grand Lodge General Fund; \$2.00 goes to the Grand Lodge Building Fund; 50¢ goes to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum; and 50¢ goes to the Masonic Charity Foundation. (Amends Section 502)

**Resolution #2A** Changes the meeting of Grand Lodge, so that it starts at 1:00 PM on a Friday and closes with installation of officers on the next day. All voting will be on the Saturday, so that men who work can still attend and vote. The purpose is to allow a little more time to do the work of the session. (Amends Section 301)

**Resolution #2B** Specifies that election of officers will be held during the Saturday session. 2A & 2B will be voted on as a single resolution. (Amends Section 304)

**Resolution #3** Moves Grand School to open the third Friday of May, and specifies it shall be held in the Grand Lodge building. (Amends Section 402)

**Resolution #4A** This resolution clarifies existing law by specifying that one must be a voting member of Grand Lodge in order to propose a resolution. It does not change the current law. (Amends Section 901)

**Resolution #4B** Amends a different portion of Section 901 to specify that only a voting member of Grand Lodge may propose a resolution. Again, it does not change current law. 4A & 4B will be voted on as a single resolution.

**Resolution #5A** The law now states that resolutions are to be read immediately after the report of the Committee on the Grand Master’s address. In practice, the schedule has made that impossible for several years. This resolution removes the language. Housekeeping resolution. (Amends Section 901, Paragraph 3, Line 5)

**Resolution #5B** Makes the same change to section U901. 5A & 5B will be voted on as a single resolution.

**Resolution #6** This resolution deals with changing the meeting place of a Lodge. There is a conflict between two sections of the law. This housekeeping resolution resolves the conflict but does not change the effect of current law. (Amends Section U302 B)

**Resolution #7** This resolution clarifies some confusion as to the number of Masons required to open Lodge. It simplifies the language in the Constitution and Code, but does not change the law. Housekeeping resolution. (Amends Section U306)

**Resolution #8** Allows a Lodge to do business when open on any Degree, at the option of the Worshipful Master. Exceptions are proficiency examinations in the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason Degrees, and the trial of an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, of Master Mason, all of which must be done in a Lodge open on the appropriate Degree. Degrees are conferred in a Lodge open on the Degree to be conferred. It also specifies that only Master Masons may vote on the business of the Lodge. (Amends Section U308)

**Resolution #9** Clarifies language concerning the procedure for Applications for Advancement. (Amends Section U415)

**Resolution #10** Eliminates the 28-day layover between the time an Application for Affiliation is referred to a committee and the time it can be voted upon. (Amends Section U417)

**Resolution #11** The resolution deals with perpetual memberships and with the fact that the Lodge often does not know if the Brother is alive or dead. The resolution provides that if the Lodge has not been able to contact a Brother with a Perpetual Membership for 7 years, the secretary is to report him as deceased on the monthly report. If he is subsequently discovered to be alive, the secretary will notify the Grand Lodge and he will be reinstated without loss of time. (Amends Section U420)

**Resolution #12** Requires the Lodge secretary to notify the Grand Lodge of the name and address of a widow on the same Monthly Report on which the death of the member is reported. (Amends Section U705)

---

## From the Grand Lecturer



Brethren, it is Grand School time again and we look forward to seeing each and every one at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie on the 10, 11, and 12 of November 2010. School will start each of these days 9:00 a.m. and will run until 9:00 p.m.

Maybe you are a certificate lecturer and you need to renew your class "A" or "C" card for next year.

Perhaps you have been working on the ritual and are ready to check out for the first time.

You may have been running through your mind "now which way do I turn when I go to purge the lodge?"

Well, if any of this sound like what you're looking for, then Grand School is the place to be. The Deputy Grand Lecturers will be there to assist you in any way they can to make sure you have the ritual down correctly. You may go to the master's room, the fellow-craft's room, the entered apprentice's room, the language room, the explanatory lectures room, or the categorical room. Whatever your needs about ritual, this is the place to be, and I personally look forward to greeting you.

**SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER!!!!**

Ronald Wray  
Grand Lecturer

## Notes on Attending Grand School and Grand Lodge

✓ All Master Masons are welcome to attend Grand Lodge and Grand School. Only voting members—Worshipful Masters, Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens (or those carrying their proxies) and Past Worshipful Masters may vote or participate in debate.

✓ Aprons will be required at Grand Lodge. You may bring your own apron or purchase a paper apron at the door.

✓ Because of budget constraints, the Grand Lodge has not rented the Temple during Grand School. As a result, housing will be available in the Inn of the Scottish Rite Temple **ONLY** on the night of Friday, November 12. Rooms will cost \$10 per night. To reserve a room e-mail the Innkeepers at [www.guthrieinnkeepers.com](http://www.guthrieinnkeepers.com) Prepayment is not required, but *you must cancel reservations or you will be charged for them*. When you e-mail your reservation, include

- Your name, address and phone #
- the Name and # of your Blue Lodge
- and special requests (e.g. sharing a room with a specific Brother - 1st floor rooms for those with disabilities, etc).

*You will receive an e-mail confirming your reservation. If you do not receive an e-mail, your request has not been received. You can also reserve a room by mail, write to The Innkeepers, Box 534 Wheatland, OK 73097 NOTE: Do not contact the Grand Lodge to reserve rooms, we have no way to do so. Rooms must be reserved through the Innkeepers.*

✓ Tickets to the Library and Museum Banquet Honoring the Grand Master cost \$25. They may be ordered by writing the Grand Lodge (P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044) and sending a check payable to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma for \$25 per ticket. Unsold tickets will be available at the door.

✓ Grand School will begin on Wednesday morning, November 10, at 9:00

✓ Registration for Grand Lodge will begin Friday morning at 10:00 AM. It will shut down for the evening and resume Saturday morning at 7:00 AM.

✓ Grand Lodge will meet informally at 2:00 PM, Friday, November 12, in the main auditorium. The Friday Night Open Meeting will begin at approximately 7:00 PM, following the Banquet. It is open to everyone including wives and families.

✓ Voting on Grand Lodge Officers and Charity Foundation Board Members will start at 7:00 AM Saturday morning and end at 10:00 AM.

✓ The Installation of Grand Lodge Officers for 2011 will be held at 6:00 PM on Saturday, and is open to the public.

✓ The Apron Presentation for the Grand Master will be held at the Case Community Center in Sand Springs, OK, at 2:30 PM on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

You are most cordially invited to attend the  
**Grand Master's Apron Presentation**  
 honoring  
**M.:W.: Glenn E. Army**  
 Case Community Center  
 Sand Springs, Oklahoma  
 November 14<sup>th</sup> - 2:30 PM

## Centennial Book for Sale During Grand Lodge

*Indians, Cowboys, Cornerstones and Charities: A Centennial Celebration of Freemasonry in Oklahoma*, has been called "one of the most beautiful Masonic centennial books ever published." It will be available for sale during Grand Lodge. The price of the signed, limited edition printing is \$50 per book. If you want the book shipped to you, an additional \$7.50 will be charged.

## The Grand Master and The Board of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Announce Plans for New Banquet



For many years, the Grand Lodge and Grand Master have hosted a banquet during one of the nights of Grand Lodge. Many people have enjoyed the meals. However the selection of a caterer, arranging ticket sales, and details of menu have required hours of attention at a time when Grand Masters are least

able to afford them.

In consequence, the Trustees have offered the Board of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum the opportunity to host the banquet, reserving any excess of income over costs as a fundraiser for the Library and Museum. Such arrangement exists in other states, and has allowed Masonic libraries and museums to add to their holdings while freeing the Grand Master of unnecessary details as Grand Lodge approaches.

Thus, in 2010, the traditional Grand Master's Banquet will become the Library and Museum Banquet Honoring the Grand Master.

The number of tickets is limited, and it is best to purchase them in advance. Any unsold tickets will be for sale at the door. As before, tickets may be purchased by anyone wishing to attend. Husbands and wives are both welcome. **Tickets may be purchased in advance by sending a check made out to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and sending the check to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044. Tickets are \$25 each.** The Banquet will begin at 6:00

PM, in the Ballroom of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Masonic Temple. The Open Meeting of Grand Lodge will follow the Banquet.

An important change from past years: the Grand Master has said that charge will be made for all tickets.

As a result, the free tickets given to Committeemen, Grand Lodge Officers, and others will no longer be available.

In turn, a larger percentage of the cost of a ticket will be spent on the food, allowing a better meal to be served.

We hope to see all of you at the

## Library and Museum Banquet honoring M.:W.: Charles R. Belknap Grand Master - 2010

### Scottish Rite Reunions for 2011

Guthrie	April 1 - 3	October 1 - 2
McAlester	March 25 - 26	October 15 - 16
Tulsa	April 16 - 17	October 22 - 23

Application to join the  
Order of the Sacred White Buffalo

Membership costs a one-time Degree fee of \$100, plus dues of \$50 a year. Thus the joining cost per individual is \$150. Annual dues of \$50 will be billed after the first year. Please make checks payable to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

Both a man and his wife may belong.

your name (please print)

street add. or Box # City State Zip

your e-mail address

your Lodge name and #

your telephone # HOME? CELL?

IF SHE IS JOINING \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's name

If OES or Amaranth, please give  
Chapter or Court name/#

your signature

## Once Again, the Buffalo Roam the Plains



Some years ago, an organization was created in Oklahoma known as the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo. The purpose of the organization was to raise funds for the Grand Lodge building, an important cause given the shrinking budget and the

increasing expense of a beautiful but ageing structure. The Order was open to men and women alike, and provided opportunity for fellowship as well as a dinner and the Degree, performed by the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.

We have written to the Charter Members from 2003, telling them that the Order is being revitalized. There has been a lot of excitement. And we're happy to announce that the membership rolls are being reopened. There is an opportunity for you and your spouse, if you wish, to join the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo. The Degree will be presented on October 2, 2010, at the Grand Lodge building in Guthrie. The Degree will be conferred by members of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.

The cost of joining is a \$100 joining fee plus \$50 for first year's dues, or a total of \$150 per person. Dues after the first year are \$50 annually. It is a chance for excellent Masonic fellowship and fraternization, as well as seeing good "work" and supporting our Grand Lodge building. To join, you can download an application from the Grand Lodge website, or fill out the application given here and mail it, together with a check made out to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

**NOTE: It is a little uncertain exactly when this issue of The Oklahoma Mason will hit the mailbox. If there is not time to enroll by mail before October 2<sup>nd</sup> you can fill out a form at the door. Walk-ins welcome.**

## A Remarkable Masonic History

Worshipful Brother Bob L. Archiquette was asked by the Grand Master to make some notes on his life and career in Freemasonry, especially with the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team. We are honored to share what he wrote with the Craft.

*I joined Oil Capital Daylight Lodge #542 in 1959. Prior to joining, I had met quite a few Masons and was favorably impressed with the type of persons they were and wanted to be one of them.*

*Of course I had heard all the Bugaboo tales about Masonry. I decided the first thing I found that conflicted with my religious convictions, I would be out of there. I 'm still here.*

*The day I was raised, Bunney Hanley talked to me about an all Indian Degree Team he and Fred Hays were trying to revive and invited me to a meeting they were having the next day. Not knowing what it was about but being curious, I attended. There I met a group of Brothers who were enthused with the idea and I became a part of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.*

*At first it was difficult to get enough Indian Masons who knew the work and were able to travel at different times and places to confer degrees. Eventually we were able to get enough Indians to confer the work. Until that time, we used some of our non-Indian Brothers to fill in. Also we adapted Indian clothes as our Second Section dress.*

*Over time our popularity increased as a result of our hard work and the support and encouragement of the Grand Masters and Grand Lodge.*

*In 1966 I was honored to be elected Master of Daylight Lodge #542.*

*In the '70's the team elected to no longer do mock degrees. Our thoughts were that we were not mock Masons. Later we amended this to allow us to travel as a courtesy to foreign countries.*

*The team has raised hundreds of Masons—many times two or three a day. We've traveled thousands of miles; numerous time to the states bordering Oklahoma, to the New England States, and north to the State of Washington, south to Texas and Florida, east on a Saturday to New York and the next Saturday to California. We conferred a degree in the cave at Carlsbad, in the rain and cold on a mountain in New Mexico, in a canyon in South Dakota with the temperature around 100 degrees. Once the team conferred a degree where there were more than 2,300 in attendance—and another degree in which the team outnumber those watching. We've done it all.*

*I have enjoyed my journey through Masonry and the 50 years I have been a part of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.*

*Of all Masonry, my favorite is the Blue Lodge. To me, the Blue Lodge is the Mother of Masonry. Everything begins here. As we teach a baby his first steps on his way to manhood the three degrees teach a new member the way to be a Mason and consequently a better man. As the Stewards are admonished on their way to the preparation room, “. . .the impressions made upon the Brother now are highly important. . .” should apply in all phases of the work.*

*O, yes I do have a regret—instead of celebrating 50 years of Masonry, I wish it were 60!*



Worshipful Brother Bob L. Archiquette