



The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2009 - vol. II February/March

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James Richard Onkst - 1995
1939 - 2009



From the Grand Master

As we begin writing this issue of the *Oklahoma Mason* Magazine, our thoughts and prayers are centered on the families of M.W. Jim Onkst, Past Grand Master in 1995, and R.W. Tom Ward Past Grand Treasurer of this Grand Jurisdiction. These two gentlemen were devoted family men and devoted Masons.

There is a lot of degree work going on around the State AND most of these new Masons are very young. A few years ago, I would have just said "Young" not "Very Young", I guess I'm getting old (or they really are "Very Young")! If your Lodge needs some help performing the Degrees, please don't hesitate to ask for help. [See the article by R.W. Randy Rogers in this issue.](#) Your Brethren are always ready to assist. Once these young men start showing up to meetings, don't push them aside or set them in a corner. Get them involved through encouragement, not Force. That stuff doesn't work on these "Millennial Masons." They want to feel as though it is their decision to become part of something their Fathers & Grandfathers only whispered about.

Also, they **don't** want their Degree "Shortened" or major parts left out. You see, they know more about what's going to happen to them than we did. Once your Lodge accomplishes a "Younger" look, you will find that your Lodge will begin to grow and become a viable part of the Community. Let's try some new ideas concerning the way we do the business of Freemasonry, I don't mean degree work. Let's think "outside the box."

Coming up fast is our 2009 Grand Lodge Centennial Celebration May 30th here in Guthrie. Tentative times and information you should be aware of are as follows:

- *The Parade will begin at 1 :00 pm, travel from the Scottish Rite Center through downtown Guthrie down Oklahoma Street, and end in front of the Grand Lodge Building. We are promised, "Teddy" Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, Indians, Cowboys and some gun fights, Shrine Clowns and so much more! Bring the Kids and let's fill the town with the Masonic Family.

- *The Centennial Cornerstone will be laid beginning at 3:00 pm in front of the building, weather permitting, (or in the large Lodge room upstairs if there is rain) on the Broad Street (west) side.

- *A Re-enactment ceremony commemorating the merger of the Grand Lodges of Oklahoma and Indian Territories will begin at 4:30 pm in the main auditorium of the Scottish Rite Center.

- *The Gala Banquet will begin at 6:00 pm in the Banquet Hall (the original State of Oklahoma Legislative Hall). We will enjoy a "Festive Board", light entertainment and a few stories of the "Good Old Days." I will have some commemorative goodies to give out as well. **ONLY** 350 tickets will be available for the Banquet and will go on sale in March. It's not going to be a cheap affair.

*Dress for the daytime activities will be period outfits if you have them (we are **NOT** looking for the "Sloppy Look", the Masons will interact with the community so please look clean and pressed) especially since the "Newspaper & TV" will be covering our event. Dress for the evening Banquet will be Suit/tie for the men and Dress or Business Suit for the Ladies OR Period Dress for either.

We will publish a lot of information about this celebration in the coming months BUT you must be connected to be informed. Register your personal e-mail address to receive important notices from the Grand Master or Grand Secretary. Register at www.okmasons.com. once you type your e-mail address in the appropriate box, click "subscribe", then an e-mail message will be sent to you. You must follow the directions in the message and click on the link provided to complete the process.

May 16 and 17, the "Masonic Lodge Leadership Conference" will be held in Oklahoma City. All of us need a little "Pumping up" sometimes, so please encourage your Wardens and even your Worshipful Master to attend. R. W. Chuck Belknap, Deputy Grand Master, will have more information in this issue about the Conference, there is seating for about 450, let's use it all!


On a sour note, I have heard some eyewitness reports that cipher books have been used inside a Lodge while at Labor. **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**. Section U 812 plainly states the rules and it is also printed in two places in the book. It is also not acceptable to copy a page or a part of the book and use that sheet in the Lodge while at Labor. I would also ask you not to bring a copy into a District or Lodge School. It is tough enough for an instructor when several well meaning brothers are barking corrections from the sidelines at men working to also have someone with a cipher trying to correct the people doing the correcting. A new Mason will wonder why the confusion and never come back. We haven't had a reason to use the "Trial Code" in Oklahoma for a long time, but I will dust it off and use it, if the need arises.

Please print a copy of this magazine and present it to a Brother who you know doesn't have access to the internet. Print some copies to have on hand at the Lodge, encourage members to take one home.

I know more than one Lodge had a function and took pictures in December or January. Please send them in. I'd like to fill the magazine with stories and pictures.

That's it for now; please Pray for our troops, that they may return home safely,

Fraternally,



Richard Massad

P.S. You are going to like the perpetual distribution checks this year!

Grand Master's Itinerary: Short Version

February 20th: India Shrine Circus

February 28th: Cornerstone on New Library Heavner

March 3rd: RGLO Moore Lodge

March 18th: Masonic Education Panel Discussion Guthrie - EA Degree - Bring All EA's

March 28th: Centennial of OES Cornerstone-Guthrie OES office

March 27-29th: Grand York Rite Session OKC

April 4th: Centennial Cornerstone Grandfield

April 11th: Cornerstone-new Hospital Fairview

April 18-19th: Tulsa Scottish Rite

Feb 24th: 50 Year Pins Broken Arrow

March 2nd: RGLO Waukomis

March 14th: Cornerstone New School Drumright

April 3-5th: Guthrie Scottish Rite

April 8th: RGLO Lawton 540

April 12th: ENJOY EASTER SUNDAY

April 25-26th: McAlester Scottish Rite



James Richard Onkst was born July 15, 1939 in Greenville, Ohio to Neva and Melvin Onkst. Jim is the oldest son, with one sister, Beverly Lees and three younger brothers Gerald, Bobby, and Chris Onkst. He grew up in Greenville and graduated from Greenville High School in 1957. Upon graduation Jim entered the United States Air Force at the end of the summer of Graduation. He joined the buddy-buddy plan as the Air Force sent him many directions, but became an inventory Management Specialist spending all but his basic training at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. It was during this time he met and married Margie Shaw of Guthrie, Oklahoma, on October 12, 1959. Jim was a very loving father and devoted husband. He had three children James Onkst of Yukon, Julie Deason of Midwest City, and Johnny Onkst of Tulsa, and five grand children Cory Deason, Brian Deason, Megan Deason, Katie Onkst, and Gunner Onkst.

M.W. Brother Onkst went to work as an EAM Operator at Tinker after his separation from the USAF in 1961, and progressed to Chief of Configuration Control Branch managing computer software for the 552 Airborne Warning and Control Wing. Our Most Worshipful Brother, in his circle of softball friends and many relationships commonly called "Skeeter," was always active in Tinker Activities; having served on the Tinker Credit Union Credit Committee. He was on the Credit Committee from 1977 to 1994, serving as its Chairman in 1990 and 1992. He served on the non-appropriation funds council which manages the base restaurant, snack bars, cafeteria and vending machines. He served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of America. While working nights and going to school during the day, Jim obtained his bachelors degree in business administration from Central State University in May 1974, attending on the GI bill.

He worked with Masons, or was associated with Masons most of his adult and professional life. Their influence molded many of the basic principles by which he lived.

Our M.W. Past Grand Master began his journey in Masonry at Nicoma Park Masonic Lodge No. 541 in 1963. He served as Worshipful Master in 1968, as Treasurer from 1969 to 1974, and as Secretary from 1975 to 1990. He was a charter member of Day Lodge No. 547 and Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He was a life member of Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies where he held the designation of 33 Degree Honorary Inspector General. He volunteered his time by giving tours of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple.

He was a York Rite Mason, belonging to Cyrus Chapter No.7, Alpha Council No. 18 and Oklahoma Commandery No.3 He held a dual membership at the Capitol Hill York Rite Bodies where he has served as High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Commander. He received his KYCH in 1992.

M.W. Onkst was a member on India Temple Shrine, St Omer and St Luke Red Cross of Constantine, York Rite College, Royal Order of Scotland, Allied Masonic Degrees, *Societies Rosicruciana*, Philalethes, Royal Order of Jesters, and National Sojourners. He was Past Patron of Del City Eastern Star, Past Royal Patron of Williams Gill Court, Order of Amaranth in Del City, a member of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, and received the Grand Cross of Colors from the Rainbow for Girls and Honorary Legion of Honor from the DeMolay.



A Class "A" Certificate Lecturer, he served the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma as District Deputy Grand Master serving Dist 21 in 1977 and 1978, Hospital Service in 1979 and 1980, Junior Grand Steward 1981, Senior

Grand Steward 1982, Junior Grand Deacon in 1983, Senior Grand Deacon in 1984, Finance and Appropriations Committee in 1986 to 1989 and Chairman 2008, Grand Marshal in 1990 and 1991, Junior Grand Warden 1992, Senior Grand Warden 1993, Deputy Grand Master 1994, and Grand Master 1995. He belonged to many other Masonic Organizations, has held numerous offices and received many honors too numerous to mention.

Past Grand Master Onkst was a Deputy Sheriff for Oklahoma County. He was an avid collector, collecting stamps, coins, medals, bottle openers, shoe horns, oil cans, old tools, books, antiques and Masonic memorabilia. He had a love for rental properties and got his Real Estate License which prompted him to get into Rental and Investment Properties. He had a soft heart for his Grand kids and spending time going to University of Oklahoma Football games where he was a Season Ticket Holder since living in Oklahoma. He was a man that lived his life to the fullest, finding something to do everyday.

His chair in our Lodge is vacant, and he will be greatly missed.



Tom H. Ward, Jr., had a voice as soft as a breeze in the pine trees, a wit as dry as the Sahara, and a mind as sharp and incisive as a laser—and we will miss all three.

R.W. Tom H. Ward, Jr., Grand Treasurer, lived with his wife, Nancy, in Bethany. He was retired from Moore and Associates, Ltd., a uranium exploration company. There, he was the office and accounting manager, in charge of all accounting functions, lease acquisition, records, office personnel, and investments.

In the area of civic service, R.W. Brother Ward served on the Cushing City Commission and as Mayor of Cushing. He also served on the Library Board and on the Cushing Industrial Trust Authority.

In addition to his service as Grand Treasurer, he was elected to the Board of the Charity Foundation in 1998, and re-elected for a four year term in 2000. He served as Worshipful Master of Oklahoma City Lodge #36 in 1992.

He was born May 5, 1925, in Oklahoma City. He served in the United States Marine Corp from 1943 to 1946. He spent more than 58 years in service to Masonry. He set aside the working tools on December 24, 2008.

An outstanding Man and Mason, a good friend, a voice of calm reason in times of chaos, and a person on whom one could rely at any hour of the day or night. No one can fill the vacancy he leaves in the Craft.



If you have a backlog of
Candidates or need some help
conferring Degrees,
the Grand Lodge can help.

2009 MASONIC DEGREE WEEKENDS

R. W. Randy Rogers
Junior Grand Warden

We are changing the way the Masonic Degree Weekend Program is going to work this year. Our goals are to provide a service of which you will be proud and to help make sure that men wanting to join Freemasonry have access to the Degrees.

The New Year brings new challenges and new petitions. We are asking all the Lodges to contact their members that need to be advanced. No matter if it is a Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or a Master Mason Degree, our goal is to help your Lodge see that these Brethren are afforded an opportunity to advance.

A Lodge may need help conferring Degrees for many reasons. For some Lodges, the number of Degrees needing to be done simply outstrips the ability of the Lodge to get them done in a reasonable time. Others may need help because no one in the Lodge does the middle chamber lecture of the Fellowcraft, or they simply do not have the personnel to do a Master Mason Degree. Whatever the reason, the Grand Lodge is here to help.



This is how it will work.

Once a Lodge has determined that there is a need for this service, the Lodge should contact one of the Grand Lodge Trustees below. We will assist in setting up a location if that is what is needed. Or we will help put a Degree Team together.



We are only there to assist you. Our hope is to have every Lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction able to perform their own degree work. Since we know that some of the Lodges need help in this area we think that this program is a good tool to assist our Lodges. For those of you that do your own degree work and do not need this service, we hope to be able to count on your Degree team in this endeavor to help other Lodges.

If we are to get out the message of Freemasonry, we have to work together. This is a great way to assist our Lodges.

Your contact information for your Grand Lodge Trustees is as follows:

R. W. Deputy Grand Master Charles Belknap(580) 541-5902

R. W. Senior Grand Warden Glenn Almy(918) 706-4538

R. W. Junior Grand Warden Randy Rogers(918) 429-7547

Grand Lodge Office(405) 282-3212

Use of the Cipher Key



A few words of clarification concerning the use of the cipher key in Lodge. Let common sense prevail! The general rule is this:

A cipher key should not be open in the Lodgeroom when the Lodge is tyled.

That's the easiest way to think about it.

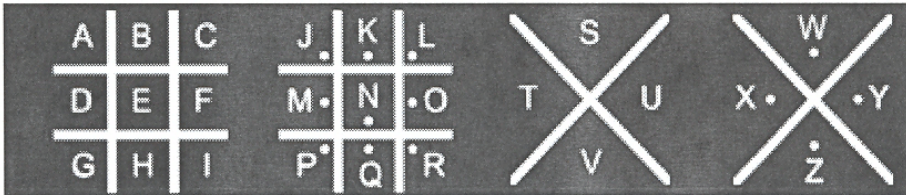
It's all right to have a cipher key in the Lodge-room when the Lodge is tyled--many Lodges keep a copy in the Secretary's desk in the Lodge room. It isn't necessary to remove it from the desk when Lodge is tyled, just keep the book closed.

It's possible that a Brother might feel the need to refresh his memory of the second section of a Degree while the Lodge is performing the first section. That's fine; he can stay outside the Lodgeroom during the first section and study. He just can't have the book open inside the Lodgeroom while it is tyled.

Let's suppose the Lodge is practicing opening and closing, and wants to refer to the cipher key for instruction as they practice. That's OK. A practice opening isn't a real opening and the Lodge is not really tyled (if it were a real opening, you could only practice once, because a Lodge can only be opened once a day).

The clear intent of the rule is that a cipher key is not to be used as a substitute for learning the work. **Keep it closed when the Lodge is tyled.**

THE CLASSIC MASONIC CIPHER



The classic Masonic cipher is made by drawing two octothorns (#) and two St. Andrew Crosses. In the second octothorn and the second cross, place a dot as shown, then write in the letters of

the alphabet There is a variant in which one octothorn is followed by a cross, then an octothorn with dots and a cross with dots. Obviously, that changes the letter-symbol order after the first nine letters. The only way to know is to try the second version if the first one doesn't make sense.

From the Friendly Grand Secretary

Greetings Brethren,

A Brother was grouching the other day, complaining that communicating with a Lodge in another state by going through Grand Lodge was like the mating of elephants—it took place at high levels, was accompanied by a great deal of work and trumpeting, and didn't produce results for two years.

I'm sure it can seem that way, especially in these days when you can send an e-mail around the world in a heart beat. Why on earth can't you just e-mail a Lodge in another state if you want to talk to them?

Well you can, if all you want to do is chat. Nothing prevents the Secretary of an Oklahoma Lodge from e-mailing a friend who is the Secretary of a Lodge in Tucumcari or Tipperary and chatting about the weather, the kids, or anything else.

The problem comes when you need something to do with Masonry across jurisdictional lines—when, for example, you need a certificate of good standing for someone who wants to join your Lodge, or when a Brother has started his Degrees in another state, has moved to Oklahoma, and wants to finish at your Lodge. Any time you need information, records, or any sort of official contact with a Lodge in another state, it is very important to follow protocol.

Masonry in this part of the country is a somewhat relaxed affair, but that is not true other places. We have received messages from other Grand Lodges, informing us that a Lodge in their state has received a communication from a Lodge in our State, and asking us to remind the Lodge that such direct contact is inappropriate. Needless to say, all this simply slows things down more.

Here is the proper path—believe me that anything else will slow things down further.

Suppose you are the Secretary of Goodtime Lodge #697 in Oklahoma and a Mason who is a member of Joyful Lodge #956 in New Hampshire wants to join your Lodge.

1. Goodtime Lodge #687 writes to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, requesting that we contact the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, asking them to contact Joyful Lodge #956.
2. We write to the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire with the request.
3. The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire writes to Joyful Lodge.
4. Joyful Lodge sends the Certificate of Good Standing to the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire
5. The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire sends the Certificate to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.
6. We send it to Goodtime Lodge #697.

Why all that round-aboutness? Each Lodge and each Grand Lodge has a very serious responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of its records. We owe obligations to our Brethren. It is important that we know where they are so those obligations can be fulfilled.

So, please, feel free to chat informally with Masonic friends wherever they are. But if you are asking for information, or giving information to Lodges in other states, please go through the Grand Lodge. It is ultimately faster and less confusing.



Thanks to all the Lodge Secretaries who reported the officers for 2009 in a timely manner. The Blue Book will be published shortly and those Lodges whose officers were reported will be listed.

Don't forget that the Grand Lodge can supply your Lodge with special certificates for members in the military, or for sons, daughters, grandsons, etc., of members who are in the military.

A word about taxes. Last year there was considerable confusion concerning the requirement that Lodges report their income to the IRS. Let me remind you of the requirements.

First of all, the requirement for Lodges to report their income is not new. Lodges have actually been required to make these returns for several years. The IRS is just calling it to our attention, and pointing out that those who have not been making returns should start doing so.

This WILL NOT result in your Lodge having to pay taxes. A Lodge is a nonprofit organization and there are no taxes due, regardless of the amount of income. This is a **reporting** requirement, not a payment requirement.

STEP ONE: Determine the amount of the Lodge's gross income. Gross income is **ALL** money received by the Lodge.

For example: Suppose a Lodge raises \$1,000 to help a fire victim. **That \$1,000 is gross income.** Suppose the Lodge applies for Matching Funds. **The \$1,000 received from the Charity Foundation is gross income.** Suppose your Lodge has annual dues income of \$5,000 and gets \$500 from the Perpetual Membership fund. **That \$5,500 is gross income.** If there were no other income for the year, the Lodge would have a gross income of \$1,000 + \$1,000 + \$5,500 or **\$7,500**. Note that almost any Lodge which makes active use of Matching Funds will have an income of more than \$25,000 a year.

STEP TWO: Select the proper means of reporting.

If your Lodge had an income of less than \$25,000 - go on the Internet to epostcard.form.990.org. You can fill out and file the form on line. There is good "How-to" information on the site.

If your Lodge had an income of \$25,000 or more - you **cannot use** the electronic postcard form. You must get a Form 990, fill it out and send it in. You can get the Form at the post office.

Please note that, in either case, a Lodge MUST file a form.

The suspense is killing us. The office has received several calls during the last few weeks regarding suspension for non-payment of dues, and reinstatement of those so suspended. You will find the information in the Uniform Code (Article VI, Section U 601 and U 602) but here are the highlights. **IN FAIRNESS TO EVERYONE, THE RULES FOR SUSPENSION MUST BE FOLLOWED.**

- ✓ Dues are paid in advance. Near the end of a calendar year, the Lodge Secretary sends a dues notice to each of the Members. (If the Brother has a perpetual membership, the Secretary usually encloses the new membership card in the same envelope).
- ✓ If a Brother owe dues for a year or more, AND those dues have remained unpaid for 12 months, he is subject to being suspended for non-payment.
- ✓ The Secretary has the duty of informing the Lodge that the Brother is behind in his dues.
- ✓ IF the Lodge wishes to suspend the Brother for non-payment of dues (and note that suspension is **not** required nor automatic), the Worshipful Master **must first** appoint a committee of three members to properly investigate the financial condition of the Brother.
- ✓ The committee reports to the Lodge.
- ✓ IF the Lodge is still of the opinion that the Brother should pay his dues or be suspended, the Worshipful Master shall instruct the Secretary to inform the Brother that if his dues are not paid on

or before the stated meeting on a specific date, his name will be presented to the Lodge for action. The Secretary must mail the notice to the Brother's last known address at least 10 days before the meeting at which the vote will be taken.

- ✓ At the stated meeting specified, the Secretary makes a report of all members to whom he mailed a notice who still owe dues. His report is to include the name of each such Brother and the amount of dues owed.
- ✓ Without a motion being made, the Worshipful Master will submit the name of each member so reported, with the question, "Shall the Brother (naming him) be suspended for non-payment of dues?"
- ✓ If a majority of those present vote in the affirmative, the Worshipful Master shall declare the member suspended and order the Secretary to so record it.
- ✓ As soon as practical, the Secretary shall notify the suspended member of such suspension, at his last-known post office address, and shall include information in the procedure for reinstatement.
- ✓ If a member has been suspended for non-payment of dues and he wants to reinstate his membership, he must fill out an Application for Reinstatement and submit it to the Lodge.

FROM THERE ON, IT FOLLOWS THE SAME PATH AS A NEW PETITION

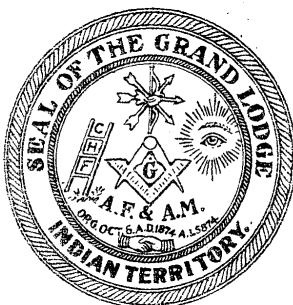


- ✓ The request is read in open Lodge at the next stated meeting.
- ✓ The Worshipful Master appoints an investigation committee of three members.
- ✓ They meet with the suspended member and report back to the Lodge within 28 days after the application for reinstatement was read.
- ✓ When at least 28 days have passed since the date the application was read in open lodge, and if the committee has reported, the Worshipful Master calls for a ballot on the application in the same way a ballot would be taken on a new Petition.
- ✓ If the ballot is clear, the member is reinstated.

My best wishes to you all, and my especial appreciation for all the hard work the Lodge Secretaries do.

Fraternally.

The Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory, and State of Oklahoma Grand Lodge Seals



Oklahoma Masonic Leadership Conference May 16 & 17

**R.W. Charles Belknap
Deputy Grand Master**

Are leaders “born that way,” or are they made? What if you weren’t born that way? Are you ready to assume the true leadership of your Lodge? Are all the Lodge officers being utilized for a positive, upward development of the Lodge? Can your members honestly say, each year, that the Lodge was better than it was the year before? Is your Lodge’s leadership singular and micro-managing, or a team effort with evenly-distributed responsibility?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THE NEWEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP TRAITS AND IDEAS TO YOUR LODGE?



You can become a successful leader even if you have not been in a leadership position before. But first, you must learn that you cannot do it alone. Learning techniques of leadership---learning the qualities of leadership from successful people---learning to rely on a well-trained team is what you need.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma is presenting a wonderful course of study, ideas, interactions with other Lodges, guest speakers, and clinicians from other Masonic Jurisdictions for your educational and leadership training.

The Oklahoma Masonic Leadership Conference!

The conference will be held Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17. As soon as meeting facilities are finalized, each Lodge will receive a letter with information about registration and accommodations, to make it easy to sign up. Any Master Mason who is in line to assume the East, or wants to see their Lodge become all that it can be in the next few years is strongly urged to attend. This leadership conference will make a difference in your Lodge and in yourself as a Masonic leader. You will leave with many positive ideas for Lodge improvement, and with a positive personal demeanor. Remember, members most often reflect the attitude of their leader. Give them leadership you will be proud to say came from you. Be prepared.

We hope to see you at the conference!

LODGE OF THE YEAR

R. W. Glenn Almy, Senior Grand Warden



The Grand Lodge is again doing **Lodge of the Year** as a program. It was a great success in 2008: thirty-nine Lodges entered, and the portfolios we received were unbelievable. The booklet and form for entering can be downloaded from your computer at www.okmasons.com or from your DDGM, or write the Grand Lodge and we will send it to you.

A Lodge needs to take pictures at any activity and document them for further use. The same topics are to be used in 2009; they are **FUN, FACILITIES, FINANCES, FELLOWSHIP** and **FRATERNALISM**.

Fun:

Remember when you took your wife and kids somewhere and they didn't think it was any fun? That's the way young members feel; if they don't any fun they will find something else to do on Lodge nights. So get a group together and do something you think might be of interest to them.

Facilities:

Have you cleaned your Lodge lately? A lot of the older cement block Lodges have a moldy or musty smell to them—try to do something about this. Clean the restrooms and kitchen extra well. When you think that you have them clean, have your WIFE or LADY inspect them, and then you will know if they are clean. Does your Lodge have a readable sign? If not J.P. Luther has them at a decent price.

Finances:

Does your Lodge have money? If not you need have a Fundraiser or two. Does your Lodge use the \$10,000 Matching Fund money? With the Promises Matter money (\$2500) a Lodge can put a lot of money back into the communities.

Fellowship:

Brethren you can get a lot of Fellowship by attending the Masonic Lodge Leadership Conference this May, 15-17 2009. Give your Wife a weekend out and take her with you; there will something for the Ladies. Have a friend's night at your Lodge.

Fraternalism:

Have a **Widows** and **Past Masters** night. Have your 50 year pin presentations early in the year. Get involved with the other Masonic Entities especially the Youth Groups. **THEY ARE OUR FUTURE** Start a Masonic Panel Discussion at your Lodge; you might just be surprised what comes out of this.

All entrees must be post marked by October 1, 2009. Everyone who enters will receive a plaque, at the next Grand Lodge session.

**MARK MAY 30
ON YOUR CALENDAR
NOW!**

That's the day to be in Guthrie, for the
Grand Celebration of the

**100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

of the Formation of the

Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

Parade

Commemorative Stone

Banquet

Fun activities for the kids and grandkids

Watch the Grand Lodge Website and the okemason for details



Greetings, My Dear Sisters and Brothers,



The Carousels have been on the OES trail and have done an outstanding job. Our work has only just begun as we get ready for our Schools of Instruction. The first of the Schools will be held on February 7, at Yukon and they will run through February and the first two weekends of March. The Schools of Instruction are to help old and new members learn to do the work correctly. Each station will be assisted by a Grand Officer and much enjoyment comes out of learning from them. Please try to attend the Schools and feel the excitement.

We have completed all of the Exemplifications and I must say, the membership came out in force. We had a wonderful time at each and every one of them, we initiated 26 new members and made new friends everywhere we went. I, along with the Carousels, want to thank all of the Chapters for the hospitality shown to us and the well wishes in our travels. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Mark your calendars for the Centennial Celebration in Guthrie. It will be held March 27 - 29. There will be many festivities as well as a Cornerstone Ceremony. Don't miss this once in a lifetime OES event!!

The Four Corners Exchange (Arizona, Utah, Colorado & New Mexico) trip is coming up on April 17 - 19 and we will be taking a bus. Get your reservation in to attend with us. I know we will have a good time again this year. We have several exciting trips and activities coming up. Watch your calendars and make plans to join us! The music from the Carousel is playing loudly and that OES ring is within your reach. Star Love to each and every one of you and I hope to see you soon!!



Star Love from the OES Trail, Hope you enjoy the photo from our last Exemplification.

Judy Dixon, Worthy Grand Matron

Meet Job's Daughters Gaylord Z. Thomas



In Oklahoma, there is a perhaps-too-little-known Masonic Youth Organization which is doing great things for young girls who are relatives of Masons – allow us to introduce you to Job's Daughters.

Job's Daughters provides activities (many dances throughout the year, several of which are joint events with DeMolay and Rainbow), fun and friendship, community service, leadership seminars and experience in public speaking. Shown here are the "Honored Youth" at the Tri-Youth Christmas Dance at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. Our members are essentially building leadership skills and making friends for life. To be a member, a girl is required to be between the ages of 10 and 20 and be a relative of a Mason (one of the major differences between belonging to Job's Daughters and any other Masonic Youth Organization – Job's Daughters are "our" daughters).



Have you ever noticed that very certain attraction that young girls have to the idea of being a PRINCESS? The leaders of Job's Daughters actually wear crowns and are given the titles of Junior and Senior Princess and sit in the East during Bethel meetings with the Honored Queen who presides! Anybody who knows little girls KNOWS that they want to someday wear a crown or tiara...and how often have you called them your little princesses already?

In addition to the crowns, Job's Daughters wear a white robe at their meetings so everyone is dressed alike (so "what to wear" is never an issue). The robe is Grecian in style and a symbol of purity, reminding the girls that this Virtue is a quality desired and admired in women.

Joining an existing Bethel is considerably like joining the Masonic Lodge – starting with a petition. The petition will be read at a meeting, after which a few of the Bethel's members visit with the young woman and answer her questions about Job's Daughters. The initiation will be held shortly after that visit. An initiation into Job's Daughters does not involve embarrassing rituals or test of courage as do the infamous initiations of college and childhood clubs; instead, it is a reverent and meaningful ceremony in which one is introduced to the life and trials of Job by the Bethel officers.

We are acutely aware that there are certainly not too many Bethels in Oklahoma at the moment, but we have been seeing a change lately with interest from various Lodges from around the state. If you do not have a Bethel (a Bethel is what we call the individual groups, rather synonymous with a Lodge or Chapter) in or near your area and are interested in starting one, we hope you will follow through on that and inquire as to chartering one. It will require 15 girls

to start and an appropriate cadre of adult leaders – and we would be more than happy to help you get started. An email to our webmaster at webmaster@okjdi.org (or to our Grand Secretary – info below) can start that ball rolling for your Lodge or OES Chapter to sponsor a new Bethel in your area – and how exciting would that be for YOUR daughter (or other relative) to be one of the charter members of such an outstanding organization that traces its heritage directly to Masonry! And there is absolutely no problem with a girl belonging to both Rainbow and Job's Daughters (just as it's okay for a Mason to be active in both the York and Scottish Rites simultaneously).

And, we would be remiss to not draw your attention to our website at www.okjdi.org where you can learn even more about what we're about and what we're doing...as well as where our Bethels are currently (and who to contact at each).

So, if you have a young relative who may be interested in someday wearing a crown, or your Lodge or Chapter is interested in sponsoring a new Bethel, we're looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at some of our future activities!

For more information, contact:

Sherron Hendricks,
Grand Secretary
14416 Locust Drive
Piedmont, Oklahoma 73078
Email: shendricks1@sbcglobal.net



The Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem

Nancy C. Parker

Past Worthy High Priestess, Tulsa Shrine #8

The Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem is one of the Masonic fraternal orders to which both men and women can belong. Membership in the Order of the White Shrine consists of the female relatives of Master Masons and Master Masons in good and regular standing.

It is a similar organization to Eastern Star and the Order of the Amaranth. Many of our members belong to all three Orders. There are several other groups whose membership is based on a Masonic affiliation, but may have other requirements as well.

It was organized in 1894 in Illinois. There are several Subordinate Shrines, and Supreme Shrine

is the governing body. There are no "Grand Shrines," but many states have State Clubs or Associations. The presiding officers are the Worthy High Priestess and the Watchman of Shepherds---or Supreme Worthy High Priestess and Supreme Watchman of Shepherds.

The White Shrine of Jerusalem claims a three-fold purpose; charitable, social, and fraternal. It aims to bring together women and men with high moral and social character to share their desire to create enjoyable experiences for themselves and to provide aid to those less fortunate.

Our Benevolent program is the "Material Objective." Through this fund we are able to help those in need of rehabilitation regardless of race, creed, sect, or age. They simply must have a need and have no other means of obtaining assistance.

Oklahoma has been honored to have three Supreme Worthy High Priestesses: Marguerite Dutsch, 1958-59; Mildred Sheppard, 1970-71; and Josilee Street, 1979-80. Oklahoma has also have six Supreme Watchmen of Shepherds: Owen Williams, 1928-29; Leonard Williams, 1941-42; Fred Hinrichs, 1962-63; S. Paul Gillespie, 1975-76; C.W. "Pete" Peterson, 1987-88; and James H. Parker. 2006-07.

Oklahoma currently has six Shrines: Mt. Olivet #1 in Muskogee; Bethel #3 in Bartlesville; Mizpah #4 in Oklahoma City; Norman #7 in Norman; Tulsa #8 in Tulsa, and Lawton #24 in Lawton.

TULSA SCOTTISH RITE

Keith Madden



Greetings, Brethren.

In the last issue, Br. Robert Davis, 33^o, Grand Cross, presented a brief overview of Scottish Rite Masonry. Thanks, Brother Bob!

The members of the Valley of Tulsa are working diligently to fulfill our mission of providing a meaningful Masonic experience whereby our members can truly receive additional Light in Masonry. By making a difference in ourselves as men, we can make a difference in the world outside the Lodge room.

The year 2009 is the 51st year of Scottish Rite Masonry in the Valley of Tulsa. The Valley received letters temporary in 1958, and began conferring degrees at Will Rogers High School. At the 1959 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council, the Bodies of the Valley of Tulsa received their charters. These charters are prominently displayed in our lobby area.

Tulsa's next reunion is scheduled for April 18 and 19. Two of the degrees exemplified at this

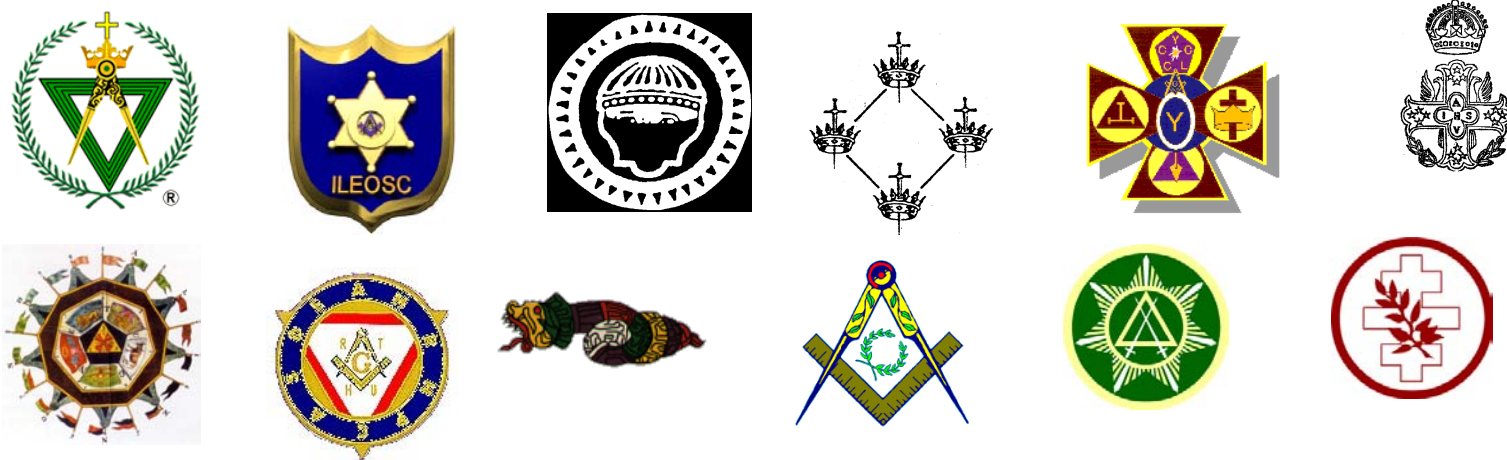
reunion will be "new degrees"—new teams performing degrees that have not been done in recent years.

Our new facility offers us a unique opportunity; our reunions offer the best of the traditional theatrical degree presentation with live actors in full regalia and stage props combined with the newest video and lighting technologies. The special effects are absolutely awesome!

Of course, while all of Masonry provides us a course of instruction in self- discovery, it also emphasizes that we are to assist those who need such assistance. The Scottish Rite of Masonry takes this admonition seriously! Our major philanthropy is the remediation of speech-language pathology in children. In Tulsa, our RiteCare Clinic has been open since 1975, and has treated more than 3,000 children with speech-language difficulties. Those 3,000 children will have a better opportunity to become effective, productive citizens as a result of the RiteCare program and it possible because of the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons. Thank you!

Yes, the Scottish Rite and the Valley of Tulsa have much to offer. If you live in the Tulsa area, we invite you to visit us anytime during normal business hours - the coffee pot is always on! Or you may visit us on the web at www.tulsascottishrite.org.

Many Organizations Comprise the Masonic Family, and not all operate in Oklahoma. Below are some organizational emblems and the names of some Masonic family organizations. See if you can match the emblem with the organization.



Red Cross of Constantine - Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle - Allied Masonic Degrees
 Order of True Kindred - Internation Law Enforcement Officers Square Club - Scottish Rite
 Masonic Poets Society - Daughters of Mokanna - Order of Quetzalcoatl - Knight Masons
 York Rite College - Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri

Information and Updates from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

✓ WEBSITE UPDATE

The Foundation website www.mcfok.org has undergone a face life. It will be an on-going project, but we feel it much improved. Of note, all of the Foundation forms are now on-line.



✓ SENIOR ESSAY CONTEST

The 2008-2009 school year Senior Essay Contest submissions have been graded and the winners selected. Letters notifying each of the schools have been sent. Certificates and checks will be sent to the Lodges in April.

✓ STUDENT OF TODAY AND TEACHER OF TODAY PROGRAMS

The 2009 Student of Today and Teacher of Today forms have been mailed to the Lodges.

✓ YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Adult leaders of each of the Youth Orders have been sent the rules and application form. The application will be posted on the respective Youth Order websites as well as on the Foundation website. Deadline for applications to be received is May 1, 2009.

✓ MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITION

The filing period for the upcoming election of Grand Lodge representatives on the Foundation Board of Directors closed on January 31, 2009. Those who filed are David Allen, Glenn Almy, Ronald Coppedge, Robert East, and Robert Poole, Sr. We thank each of these dedicated Masons for their willingness to serve on this most important board.

✓ PROGRAMS

Programs about the Foundation's services and programs are available for your district meeting. Please contact the office to request a program for your next meeting. Members of the Foundation staff will be presenting programs at the following meetings already scheduled:

February 18th (Wednesday) District 30 at Norman Lodge

February 19th (Thursday) Altus Scottish Rite Society at Altus Lodge

February 23rd (Monday) Bethany Lodge

February 27th (Friday) District 34 at Waurika Lodge

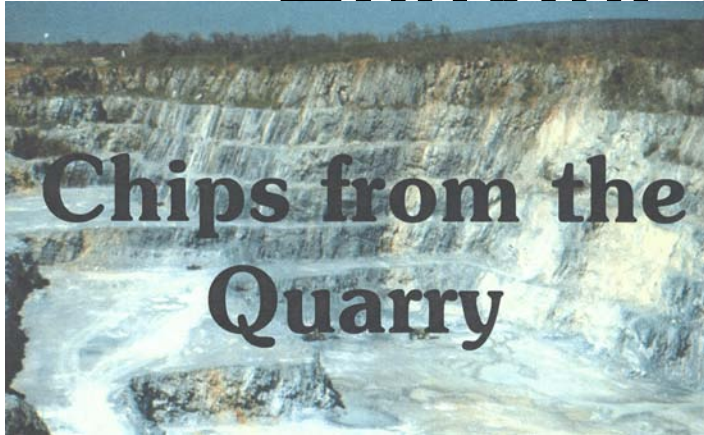
February 28th (Saturday) District 6 at Glencoe Lodge



March 10 (Tuesday) District 38 at Bright Star Lodge (Stonewall)
March 17 (Tuesday) District 13 at Mannford Lodge
March 18 (Wednesday) District 3 at Woodward Lodge
March 27 (Friday) District 7 at Jay Lodge
March 30 (Monday) District 4 at Corinthian Lodge (Cherokee)

John L. Logan - Executive Director, Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma
PO Box 2406, Edmond, OK 73083 - 405-348-7500 - www.mcfok.org

Activities of the Masonic Family



It's always enjoyable to share stories of what Lodges are doing, either for the community or just for themselves and their Brethren. Thanks to the loyal Brothers who send the material in.

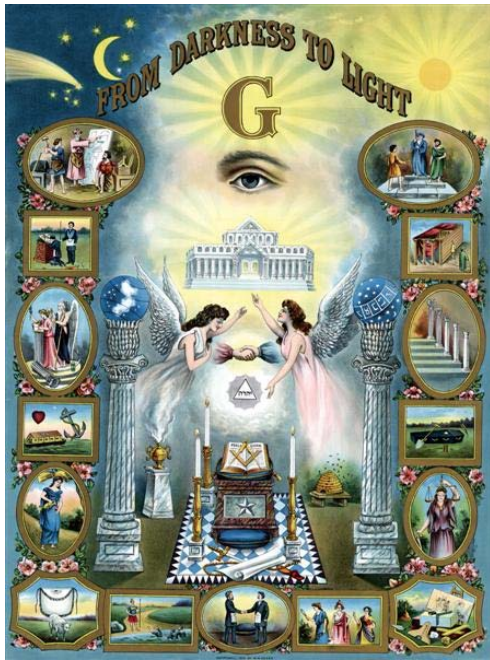
It was a cold day in Newkirk, but the citizens extended a warm welcome to the Grand Lodge Officers as the team leveled a cornerstone on the new Senior Citizens/Community Center. **The Newkirk Herald Journal** carried a good story with photographs.



El Reno Lodge #50 and the Redlands Community College Aggie Club presented checks from their Scholarship Fund Raiser on February 11th. The location was special, because the checks were presented in front

of the old Eastern Star Chapel on the grounds of what was once the Masonic Children's Home in Darlington. The site is now the Darlington campus of Redlands Community College. Thanks to Ed Zweacher for these photographs.





MASONIC EDUCATION

It is always good to see what the Masonic writers on the cutting edge are producing. One of the most important of the "new crop" of Masonic authors is Brother Cliff Porter of Colorado Springs. This edgy celebration of the toleration found in Freemasonry is reprinted with permission from his site,

www.therelevantmason.blogspot.com

A Brother I Know

Brother Cliff Porter

A Brother I know believes that if you simply sprinkle water on the forehead it is not a real Baptism. Just doesn't count.

A Brother I know believes that union with G-d can occur through meditation and concentration. That if you study, you can achieve the G-d state on earth.

A Brother I know believes that the Catholic Church is the truest of all Christian traditions and to truly secure your place in heaven, this is the smartest path.

A Brother I know believes that Jesus did not exist as an historical entity and is an archetypal symbol of a Jewish Gnostic tradition modeled after the Egyptian mysteries.

A Brother I know believes that G-d is all around you all the time and you can never be separated from G-d, so in effect, you are a part of G-d as is everything. There is no heaven, hell, good, sin, or separation from Deity.

A Brother I know believes that Nature is Morality, that G-d, Nature, and the Universe are all part of the same energy source called G-d.

A Brother I know never misses Christian communion and believes that Jesus died for his sins, and that during this communion, he is partaking of a blood and body sacrifice given to him through his God's last days on earth.



A Brother I know thinks Easter is more about the equinox than it is about a Saviour.

These Brethren I know gathered around an altar. They crossed their arms across their bodies in the traditional form for the Chain of Union, they joined hands, they prayed, they promised, and they marked their promise. They retired downstairs and shared wine and food. Smiles abounded, conversation was loud and lively. They toasted one another with fervor and claimed greatness for the men around them declaring them some of the best men they have ever known.

These Brethren I know have said, "I love you," to one another and meant it as much or more than any two men of the same family might claim.

These Brethren I know listened to ideas that they utterly disagreed with and smiled. They enjoyed hearing a differing opinion well stated from a man they liked and trusted.

These Brethren I know hugged one another with a full knowledge that they would vote for opposing candidates, pray to a different mental image of G-d, and would participate in varying religious rites.

These Brethren I know are Masons.



Congratulations Brethren!



The 2008 Winners of the
**MARK TWAIN AWARD
for LODGE EXCELLENCE**

were announced at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in California. The Mark Twain Award, given by the Masonic Information Center, is one of the most important and prestigious national awards given in Freemasonry.

3 Oklahoma Lodges were honored!

Ponca Lodge #83
was honored as a distinguished finalist

Frontier Lodge #48
won an Award for 2008
and also won Awards in 2006 and 2007

Albert Pike Lodge #162
won an Award for 2008
and also won an Award in 2007

It's not too late to enter your Lodge for the 2009 Mark Twain Award, and it works well with the Lodge of the Year program. You can get more information and download an application. Go to www.msana.com and click the Twain Award button.

GRAND LODGE OF OKLAHOMA

STORE ORDER FORM

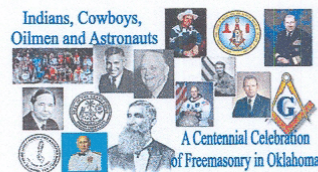
Print & Mail with your check to:

GRAND LODGE OF OKLAHOMA

P. O. Box 1019

Guthrie, Ok 73044

Item	Quantity	Price Ea.	Total
2009 Grand Masters Pin		\$5.00	
2009 Youth First Pin; proceeds go to the youth groups		\$5.00	
Cipher Key Book		\$50.00	
History of Oklahoma Masonry; delivery due Spring 2009		\$57.50	
2009 Commemorative Pro Style Flag Ball Cap - Limited Run		\$25.00	
Sub-Total	X	X	
Total Quantity		X	X
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	X	X	



PRINT	DELIVERY INFORMATION			
NAME:				
ADDRESS				
CITY, ST ZIP				

Additional Information: