



Grand Lodge AF&AM of Oklahoma and Grand Lodge PHA of Oklahoma

The paths of our two Grand Lodges diverged through the events of history, and now *converge* in the interest of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Historical Background

- 1989 – initial contact between Grand Lodges, led by MW Ray Babb
- 1999 – letter from MW Bill Clure to PHA stating need to improve coordination/communication
- 2004 – face to face meeting between MW Ron Coppedge, GL of Oklahoma and MW Deary Vaughn, GM of PHA Oklahoma

Historical Background (Cont'd)

- 2004/5 - a compact was adopted by both Grand Lodges adopting the objectives listed next in this presentation.
- 2008 - both Grand Lodges amended the original compact to permit tiled visits between constituent lodges.

Objectives

1. To establish and implement a simple form of Masonic recognition
2. To provide for successful coexistence
3. To ensure a continuing harmonious relationship
4. To promote Masonry in general
5. To have a mutual regard for the right of each Grand Lodge to retain its absolute and supreme sovereignty

Objectives

6. To memorialize the legitimate right of each to exist and operate within the geographic bounds of the State of Oklahoma
7. To secure the blessings of the Grand Architect of the Universe



Q. Is Prince Hall a “regular” Grand Lodge?

A. Yes. Prince Hall Masonry traces its lineage back to the Grand Lodge of England, just like the Oklahoma Grand Lodge, the Texas Grand Lodge, The Arkansas Grand Lodge, etc.



Q. Are Prince Hall Masons “clandestine” in Oklahoma?

A. No. In 2004 the delegates of this Grand Lodge “recognized” the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Oklahoma. A formal written Compact was read and approved by this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge



Q. Does the Compact between our two Grand Lodges allow affiliation between the membership of our constituent Lodges?

A. No. There is no change in the prohibition of affiliation between members of the two Grand Lodges



Q. Does the current Compact between our two Grand Lodges allow visitation between our constituent Lodges and the constituent Prince Hall Lodges?

A. Yes



Most Grand Lodges already have visitation as a part of their recognition of Prince Hall Masonry.

There is no longer a question as to whether Prince Hall Lodges are clandestine or irregular- we greet them as brothers.



Masonic courtesy involved in visitations preclude any unexpected visitation;

- a. Each Lodge planning a visitation notifies the Lodge being visited in advance to ensure the visitation will be convenient and harmonious.
- b. Each person visiting must adhere to the dress code of the host Lodge.
- c. Each person visiting must be in good standing and properly examined or vouched for in the host Lodge.

Current Compact

COMPACT



BETWEEN

**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

AND

**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OKLAHOMA AND JURISDICTION, INC.**

COMPACT

BETWEEN
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE,
F. & A. M. OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In order to establish and implement a simple form of Masonic recognition to include visitation and to provide for successful coexistence; to insure a continuing harmonious relationship: to promote Masonry in general, to have a mutual regard for the right of each Grand Lodge to retain its absolute and supreme sovereignty regarding legislative, executive, and judicial power over its own lodges, members, rituals, and activities, to memorialize the legitimate right each to continue to exist and operate within the geographical bounds of the State of Oklahoma, and to secure the blessings of the Grand Architect of the Universe; the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of the State of Oklahoma, and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., Oklahoma and Jurisdiction, Inc., mutually agree to the following:

That each extends a simple form of fraternal recognition to the other, limited only by restrictions imposed by the respective laws, rules and regulations, of each, as they relate to members of other Jurisdictions.

III

III

Nothing in this Compact shall permit a Mason of either Grand Lodge to become a member of the other Grand Lodge.

his own Grand Master or between the Grand Masters themselves.

B. The Commission shall meet upon the call of its currently presiding chairman, and will consider and make recommendations to each Grand Lodge through its respective Grand Masters concerning issues, conflicts, disputes or questions.

V

This Compact is not intended to and specifically does not abrogate the Supreme Masonic Authority -- legislative, executive and judicial - of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of the State of Oklahoma or the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., Oklahoma and Jurisdiction, Inc. Rather, it constitutes a Compact between the respective Grand Lodges in which the autonomy of each is guaranteed, while at the same time, the right to reside and work together in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love is assured.

VI

Changes, additions, deletions, corrections or amendments to this Compact will not be effective until the same shall have been reduced to writing, signed by each Grand Master, and ratified or approved by each of the respective Grand Lodges as their laws and regulations may provide.

VII

This Compact shall be in effect only when it has been approved by the Grand Masters of both Grand Lodges, and not then until it shall have been also submitted to, and ratified or approved by each respective Grand Lodge Session according to the terms of its organic law.

The foregoing Compact is approved this ____ day of _____ A.D, 20____ by
the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. &
A.M. of the State of Oklahoma

APPROVED:

Johnny D. Onkst
M. W. Grand Master
M. W. Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M.
of the State of Oklahoma

ATTEST:

Robert R. Poole
Grand Secretary

SEAL

The foregoing Compact is approved this ____ day of _____ A.D, 20____ by
the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,
F. & A. M., Oklahoma and Jurisdiction, Inc

APPROVED:

Deary Vaughn
M.W. Grand Master
M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M.,
Oklahoma and Jurisdiction, Inc.

ATTEST:

Alvin Bradley
Grand Secretary

SEAL



Brothers of PHA and GL of Oklahoma at PHA District Meeting, King David Lodge, OKC on 16 November 2011

Masons of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma and the Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliation, of Oklahoma enjoy warm fraternal relations. Visiting with each other and sharing in the Masonic experience strengthens our fraternal awareness and gives depth to our appreciation of Freemasonry.

