



Grand Lodge Issue - September, 2016

From the Grand Master

Brethren,

As we come to the end of another Masonic year, I look back with great pride on the events of this past year. Everywhere I have visited—in this state and in other states—makes me more and more proud that I am an Oklahoma Mason. We have a Brotherhood that few other states can claim.

One thing with which I am especially pleased is the Perpetual Path Program. This program has been very successful. As of this writing, we have raised over 200 new Master Masons through this program – all of them perpetual members of their respective Lodges. I can't take credit for this program – I was just fortunate to be Grand Master during the inaugural year of the PPP program. Many Brethren worked to create the program and “work out the kinks,” and I thank them.



I want to recommend a new program to the Brethren—the Mentorship Program—which is on the Grand Lodge website under the Masonic Education tab. This program was developed by M.:W.: Garry Odom, W.: Ed Melott and W.: Jim Scott, to help Lodges to educate new members. This idea has been successfully adopted in several other grand jurisdictions. Some Lodges have achieved a 95% retention rate of new members by applying this mentoring idea. I recommend that anyone interested should download this program from the website and see if it is something that you can use. I found it to be very informative myself

Brethren, as I have traveled around this state, I have visited many outstanding Lodges. I find that the Lodges that are growing and prospering are the ones that are active in Masonry and in their local communities. If a Lodge just meets once or twice a month and all they do is open, pay the bills and close, who wants to do that? Successful Lodges have events for their members -- dinners, education events, group outings or other events. And, successful Lodges are involved in their communities in things such as Student of Today, local charities, blood drives, C.H.I.P.s, Vizavance, helping their fire and police departments and more.

On that thought, I want to address the current Senior Wardens of the Lodges around the state. As Senior Warden, I hope that you are planning to have Lodge activities that will make your Lodge grow and prosper when you assume the office of Worshipful Master. The Grand Lodge has many programs that will help you in this effort. To name a few, the Award of Excellence, Mr. Mason, C.H.I.P.s, Vizavance (formerly Prevent Blindness), blood drives, Student of Today, Teacher of Today, and, of course, Matching Funds. Another very valuable program is the Correspondence Course. I recommend that every interested Mason consider taking the Correspondence Course. Application for the Correspondence Course is on the website under the Masonic Education tab. There is a modest charge for each of the four courses.

Last, I want to thank the Brethren of Oklahoma for electing me as your Grand Master. It has been a wonderful experience and I hope that I have made a positive difference in Oklahoma Masonry. I ask that you give the same Brotherly Love to R.:W.: Rick Allison as he assumes the Grand East.

Fraternally,

Dudley Ridge Smith

Ridge Smith, Grand Master 2016.

Notes & Notices

Help for our Brethren in Louisiana

Our Brethren in Louisiana are still trying to recover from disaster. The Grand Master encourages all Oklahoma Lodges to raise as much money as they can and forward the funds to the Masonic Charity Foundation. Mark your checks for "Louisiana Flood Relief."

Aprons will be required at Grand Lodge. Paper aprons may be purchased in the Atrium of the Temple for \$1

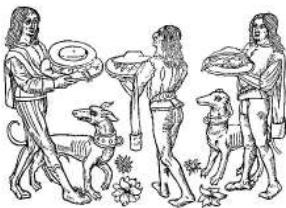
Hungry Children

Grand Master Smith is asking the Lodges to donate to the fund to help feed hungry children. Please raise the funds and send a check to the Charity Foundation —payable to the Foundation —to be matched and included in the effort. He asks your Lodge to donate at least \$2 per member.

There is Room at the Inn

Rooms are available in the Scottish Rite Temple for Wednesday through Friday nights. Cost is \$10 a night. To reserve a room, contact the Innkeepers at innkeep@att.net. Rooms CANNOT be reserved through the Grand Lodge.

Banquet of the Grand Lodge Museum and Library in honor of the Grand Master



Chicken Cordon Bleu, AND Roast Beef with gravy; Scalloped Potatoes; Green Beans [of course]; Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing; Hawaiian Rolls; Chocolate Chip Cake or Lemon Poppyseed Cake. That's the menu for the Banquet hosted by the Grand Lodge Library and Museum

in honor of M.W. Dudley Ridge Smith during Grand Lodge.

YOU ARE INVITED. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased in advance by sending a check for \$35 per ticket desired to Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044. Unsold tickets will be available at the door. NOTE: after October 30, and at the door, the cost will be \$40.

Grand Master's Apron Presentation

Garfield Lodge #501 is honored to host the Presentation of the Grand Master's Apron to R.W. Richard Allison in Enid, Oklahoma on Sunday, November 13th at the Central National Bank Center [a.k.a. Convention Hall] at 2:15 p.m. 300 South Independence, Enid. Parking on West side of building. Members of Lodge 501 will be on hand to assist. All are welcome to the presentation.



From the Deputy Grand Master

It is time for what has become our once-a-year mailing of *The Oklahoma Mason*. We sincerely wish we could publish more than one hard copy per year for you but current budget restraints just do not allow for that. My hope is that in the very near future revenue will be increased which will allow for more than just one mailing. Until then I hope you are reading the electronic version of the *Oklahoma Mason* on the Grand Lodge website, www.gloklahoma.com. If you have not already done so please add this site to your "favorites."

Presently we are very busy getting ready for our Grand School and Grand Lodge. This year Grand School will begin early Wednesday morning, November 9th. Grand Lodge will open Friday November 11th at 1:00 p.m. with a short closed session and then an open meeting for all to attend. Friday evening will be the Grand Master's banquet. Please make your reservations early as the organizers need an accurate head count for the caterer.

The Grand Master has graciously allowed me to preview one of next year's Grand Lodge programs for you "*Welcome to Your World*." This program will provide information to our new Brothers about Masonic Bodies available to them once they are Raised as a Master Mason. Soon after initiation, all Entered Apprentices will receive a letter from the Grand Master welcoming them into Masonry. It is important for them to know they are more than just a number to us and that our greatest desire is for them to advance in our Fraternity.

They will also receive a DVD they can play at their leisure or view with their Lodge Mentor. This DVD will contain information about other Masonic Bodies. This program is informational only and not meant to be a solicitation for any particular Masonic Body. I sincerely believe that Masonry has a niche for everybody and we should help every Brother achieve his highest level of satisfaction within our Fraternity.

When I was raised I knew next to nothing about our other Masonic Bodies such as the Scottish Rite, York Rite or how much our Shriners do for children. The only thing I knew about Easter Star was that one of my favorite aunts was a member and very active in the organization. New members' wives need to know there are Masonic Bodies they can enjoy together with their husband. If we get the wives involved it increases the chance husbands will be involved. I believe there is a direct relationship between the health of our Blue Lodges and the well-being of our other Masonic Bodies. Both need to be improved and that is the purpose of "*Welcome to Your World*."

We will bring you more information about other programs in the coming months. Check the Grand Lodge website for those articles. In the meantime, I hope to see all of you at Grand School and Grand Lodge in November.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Allison".

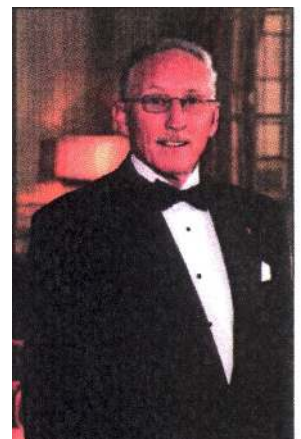
Richard Allison,
Deputy Grand Master

From the Senior Grand Warden

What a year the Craft of Oklahoma has had! Back in January we initiated the Perpetual Path Program (P-3). The program arose from several requests of the Craft to have a means of raising Master Masons in several different locations throughout the state.

This program allows the Districts to conduct an event which can serve two purposes:

1. to catch up and raise Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft who have not advanced over the years,



2. to enable a man to join who is interested in becoming a Mason but because of the constraints of job or family cannot devote the time required to complete the process.

By no means does this program cheapen Masonry. There are requirements which must be met by the Lodges and by the candidates for this to happen. Notice I keep mentioning the Districts, Lodges and the Craft, and not the Grand Lodge? It is because this program is a program for the Craft and conducted by the Craft, but maintained by your Grand Lodge. The program has had fantastic results because of the Lodges/Districts participation to make them a success.

The program enables the Lodges to conduct the degrees, sharpen their ritual work and, most importantly, work together as Lodges and Districts to raise Master Masons in our state. I have personally attended several and let me tell you it is a fantastic program. I am impressed with the ability of our Lodges to work together, conduct the degrees, raise the Masters, and ensure the new Mason is mentored in his progress in your Lodge. You can't tell me we don't care about our Brothers, this is a fine example.

I won't go into all the fine details about the program as I know the Grand Secretary has ensured each Lodge has received a copy of the Perpetual Path Program. I will say that as to date, You, the Craft of Oklahoma, have raised 203 P-3 Master Masons and over 165 Masters by the traditional path so far this year. That's 368 new Master Masons! And believe me they have become active in their Lodges. You, the Craft, are to be congratulated and should be proud of what you have accomplished. Each District or Lodge should have a representative trained to run the computer and projector, it's simple. Just contact the Grand Secretary for training.

The other subject on my mind is Grand School and Grand Lodge which is quickly approaching—November 9th thru the 12th. My Brothers, come to Grand School, entice yourself to enhance your mind and blow the cobwebs off your Ritual work. You are needed in your Lodges to ensure Masonry continues in our state! Who is going to carry the future torch for your Lodge? You can also visit with old friends and make new ones.

Regarding Grand Lodge, this area concerns me very much. When was the last time your Lodge was represented at your Grand Lodge session? Several Lodges have not attended or even been represented at Grand Lodge in the last four or five years.

My grandma always said, "You can't complain about how things are if you don't attend and have your voice heard."

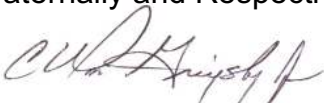
How right she was. Your presence and your vote are very important in determining which direction this great Fraternity goes and what we do. My personal opinion, it's not just a requirement in the Constitution and Code, but it is the **duty** of the Worshipful Master and Wardens to attend Grand Lodge.

It has become too easy just to sign the voting proxy and pass it to someone else. But how can you be sure he voted as you would have voted? There are several resolutions which will be presented this year. Ensure your vote counts in the way you want. These votes influence the future of Masonry in our state.

Delegates to Grand Lodge include Junior Wardens, Senior Wardens, Worshipful Masters and Past Masters. Only Delegates may vote or speak in debate, but *all* Master Masons can come and see how your Grand Lodge operates. After all, one day you just might be an officer in your Lodge.

May the Father of us all be with you and Bless your home is my prayer. Kudos for Cache-Valley Lodge, revive the Lodge, take Masonry to the future in Walters, Oklahoma. I hope to see herds of Oklahoma Masons at your Grand School and Grand Lodge.

Fraternally and Respectively,



C. W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.
Senior Grand Warden

From the Junior Grand Warden

It is hard to believe that almost a full year has passed since being elected to serve as your Junior Grand Warden. It has been my honor and a privilege to do so and I extend my heartfelt thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you!

During our travels around the state this year we frequently heard comments like; "Why is Grand Lodge always asking for donations?" "Why isn't the Charity Foundation helping support Grand Lodge?" "What is Grand Lodge doing with all the money from the per capita and donations you continually ask for?" I will try to answer these questions as I understand the issues at hand.



First of all, thank you each and everyone of you for so generously supporting the Grand Master's fundraising efforts. Without your help Grand Lodge would be dealing with even greater financial difficulties than we are.

For some reason, there seems to be much confusion concerning the relationship between the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation and "Grand Lodge." Many of you will recall that a number of years ago the Federal Internal Revenue Service required "Grand Lodge" to completely divest itself from all Charity Foundation activities. As a result, the Charity Foundation reorganized and formed as completely separate corporation and is now organized as an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization; governed exclusively by its own Board of Directors. The "Grand Lodge" has no ability or authority to direct or control the Charity Foundation in any manner whatsoever. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, requires that an "organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt" (charitable) "purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3)" and "must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests " As I understand the IRS regulations, Grand Lodge is classified as a "fraternal" and not a "charitable" organization and therefore is not eligible to receive Charity Foundation monies with which it can operate or maintain "Grand Lodge."

Today the Charity Foundation is organized in a manner that authorizes you, the Craft, to elect number of Master Masons to serve on their Board of Directors. However, the Masons you elect make up only a portion of the Board. There are seven additional members on the Board who represent the Order of the Eastern Star, the Royal Arch Masons, the Cryptic Masons, the Knights Templar, along with the Guthrie, Tulsa and McAlester Scottish Rite Valleys. Details explaining qualifications, eligibility and procedures for election to Charity Foundation's board are easily found in the Constitution and Code. If you don't have a copy, it is published on the Grand Lodge website and may be downloaded for free.

Grand Lodge operations are financed by investment earnings, sale of small items such as Grand Master's pins, Monitors, Cipher Books, etc., and per capita paid by the membership.

In the not too distant past, we had approximately 90,000 members and today we have a little over 17,000 actual members. Several hold multiple memberships which account for a total membership of just over 21,000. Those 90,000 Masons paying \$6.00 per year in per capita provided Grand Lodge with a substantial income with which to operate. However, today's approximately 21,000 Masons at \$10.00 a year per capita provides less than half of that to operate on and as we all know nothing has gotten less expensive over time, everything costs much more today! And, of the \$10 we currently pay, \$2 must go into the endowed building fund and only the interest earned can be spent.

By far, the majority of the "Grand Lodge" annual budget is in fixed costs which your Trustees have little or no control over, such as administrative support to constituent lodges, publication of The Oklahoma Mason Magazine, utilities, staff salaries, printing, insurance, maintenance and the list goes on. Over the years, your Trustees have cut spending everywhere they can, e.g. it costs something in excess of \$11,000 in postage, which does not include printing costs, **just to mail a single issue of The Oklahoma Mason Magazine.** Most of us can remember when we received a printed copy in the mail every month. Today Grand Lodge can only afford to publish one or two printed editions a year and making other issues throughout the year available electronically only.

When your lodge receives its copy of the "Yellow Book" or when you receive your copy at the Grand Lodge registration desk, take a good look at the Grand Lodge budget, study it carefully and you will see exactly how much money your Grand Lodge is authorized to operate on, where the money comes from and how it will be spent.

This year your Trustees have submitted a resolution requesting a \$15.00 increase in per capita. We are aware that this seems like a huge increase, however, the increase being proposed is equal to about \$1.25 a month and the total per capita, including the proposed increase, will be less than \$2.09 per month. This much less than the price of a hamburger at the local fast food restaurant. If Grand Lodge is to continue to provide administrative support, along with all other the things and services provided at no cost, the services provided to our local lodges, to which we have all become accustomed, will have to be reduced ever further and fund raisers will to be required **just simply to pay the bills.**

Most of the other resolutions have been submitted by various Past Masters around the state. Each will have an impact on our fraternity in one way or another. Voting on resolutions will be on Saturday afternoon, November, 12th. Every Master Mason is a member of "Grand Lodge" and may attend the tyed session. I urge all Master Masons, especially those of you who are voting members, all Past Masters, currently installed Junior and Senior Wardens and Worshipful Masters, to make every effort to attend Grand Lodge this year and take part in directing the future of your fraternity. Again, I urge you to attend, carefully consider your ballot and vote for the good of Masonry in Oklahoma.

I look forward to the beginning of a new Masonic year and I especially look forward to seeing you at the Grand Lodge session.

Faternally,



Mike Dixon, Junior Grand Warden

From the Grand Treasurer

Looking back over the past three years as your Grand Treasurer, I want to thank M.:W.: Ronald J. Chambers for appointing me to this position and you, my brethren, for electing me these past two years. It is an Honor to serve Masonry in the State of Oklahoma. We are completing 2016 and looking forward to 2017. I feel fortunate in having the opportunity to have a small part in building the financial structure of the Grand Lodge. At the same time I realize that much remains to be done to insure the financial security of our fraternity.



The Board of Trustees recommends that all Lodges throughout the State review their revenue stream from regular Lodge dues. The income from regular dues should satisfy the operation of your Lodge. The income from your Perpetual Endowed Membership funds could be utilized for repair, replacements, community activities as well as charity needs.

Part of the duties of Grand Treasurer is to receive all securities and funds for investment belonging to the Grand Lodge, and make all investments of Grand Lodge with the approval of the Grand Lodge Trustees. With the approval of the Grand Trustees, I have consolidated our Bank checking accounts, and closed our Stock/Equity Investments with Stanley Morgan of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The funds held for Perpetual Funds, were reinvested with our Bond Broker, John E. Fryrear of NAFA Capitol Markets. The fund held for General Funds were reinvested with Tom Phillips of T. S. Phillips Investment, Inc. both of Oklahoma City.

Beside the General Fund, your Grand Trustees oversee the budget for Building Endowment, Deferred Compensation Plan, and Pension Plan for our current and retired employees, as well as the investment of our Perpetual Membership Fund. The Grand Treasurer also serves on the Board which oversees the budget of the Museum and Library of the Grand Lodge (a 501-c-3 organization).

The General Funds are always a concern, faced with a declining membership and resultant loss in Per Capita revenue, the Trustees for years, have stressed the importance of building up endowed funds to provide enough interest to support our financial needs. The General Funds as of (August 31, 2016), Stock/Equity investments \$385,048.13 and Bond Investments \$1,040,234.36.

It is important to maintain this fund at the highest level possible to provide interest income to augment the declining Per Capita income. Over the past three years, the Grand Lodge expenses continue raising. Everything from repairs to paper, to utilities, you name it and the cost is going up. For 2014, the approved budget was \$484,000.00; for 2015, the approved budget was \$437,400.00; for 2016, the approved budget was \$418,150.00. The Budget that will be presented to the Craft at Grand Lodge for the year 2017 is \$409,300, a decline over these four years of \$74,700. We the craft, keep asking our Trustees to do the same if not more year after year with less. I would ask you to consider the resolution on the Per Capita increase.

In my travels throughout the year visiting with the Craft, there continue to be questions about the Perpetual Endowed Membership Fund. The PEM funds financially, is in great condition. I am pleased to report that the PEM, as of July 31, 2016, has a current Market Value \$6,549,442.50. This is an increase in value of \$289,600.98 over the August 31, 2015 value. These funds are invested with NAFA Capitol Market in Government backed Bonds, returning over 6% interest. Many Lodges are experiencing limited cash flow from dues income. The purchases of PEM within your Lodges can reduce that dependency. The question comes up, "Is this still a good investment?" My answer is YES! You cannot earn this high of interest anywhere else and is an investment in the future of your Lodge.

The Pension Plan Trust fund, as of July 31, 2016 has total investment of \$70,285.73. The Deferred Compensation Fund, as of July 31, 2016 has total assets of \$2,620.04. We currently have two retired employees drawing funds from these two accounts.

The Building Fund has a total investment as of July 31, 2016 of \$279,207.11. The two dollar Per Capita increase approved by the Craft will help build these funds to help keep our beautiful Grand Lodge building for future generations, but it is important to remember that these are endowed funds and only the interest earned can be spent. The Museum & Library Fund has a total investment as of July 31, 2016 of \$220,508.65, as well as property and equipment.

Through the first ten months of 2016, the management of your Grand Lodge—your Trustees—met monthly and have continued their fiscal responsibilities. The budgeted revenue and expenses are amortized over the twelve (12) months of operation and to date are well within the guideline of the approved budget.

If you have questions concerning any of the Budgeted Funds or PEM Funds you can contact me via email at insdavid@aol.com

Finally, I thank you the Craft for your confidence in trusting the finance of your Grand Lodge to me!

THE PAST IS GLORIOUS
THE PRESENT IS POWERFUL
THE FUTURE WILL BE WHAT WE CHOOSE TO MAKE IT



David G. David Grand Treasurer

Organization



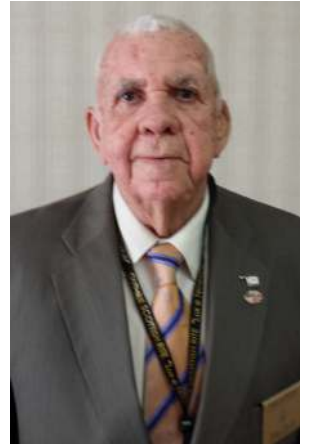
Recognized

The Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma have recognized the Widow's Sons Masonic Riders Association under the provisions of Section 806 (the same Section under which such organizations as Allied Masonic Degrees and Knight Masons are recognized). There are currently 5 chapters in Oklahoma and more are anticipated. In the letter requesting recognition, Andrew Todd, the state Chairman, remarked: "As motorcycle enthusiast[s] we will be out and around individuals who are well-suited for and have an interest in masonry, yet never knew who to contact." Members must remain Masons in good standing.

From the Grand Secretary

My Brethren

I hope this finds each of you in good spirits as you labor in the trenches for our Beloved Fraternity. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Secretary. I can only hope that this office is providing you with the services that you need to accomplish your many duties as secretary of your lodge. I appreciate those of you that have started using the Secretaries Interface System and encourage every Secretary not using it to contact us and receive your personal pass word. It will allow you to do most of your reporting without having to fill out all those paper reports you hate to do each month.



On another note I am deeply troubled by the large number of Suspension for Non-payment of Dues that are being turned in. I hope that each lodge is making every effort to personally contact these Brothers and make sure that they are not having health or financial problems that keep them from paying their dues. Many of those being reported have over 40 years of membership and it is hard for me to understand why so many have decided to stop their active membership unless they have problems we are not aware of. We are our BROTHERS KEEPER and we need to keep that foremost in our minds.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Grand School and Grand Lodge. There are many resolutions to be decided by YOU that will affect the future of our Grand Lodge. Please attend and be a part of the decision making group that will guide us to the future and renew our visibility in all the communities in our great state of Oklahoma.

There are notes on other pages in this magazine about attending Grand Lodge, but I would like to pull together some of the information here. **Please see the Grand Lecturer's Article, next, for information about Grand School.**

Registration for Grand Lodge is in the Atrium of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. Registration will be open Friday Afternoon (November 11th) at 10:00 AM and starting early Saturday morning (November 12th). Be sure to bring your dues card (and credentials if you are a voting delegate).

Voting takes place two different times. Voting on Grand Lodge Officers and Members of the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation will be held in the Ballroom on Saturday morning, beginning at 7:00 AM and ending at 10:00 AM. You will need to be registered in order to vote. Voting on resolutions will take place in the Auditorium on Saturday afternoon.

Aprons are required. You can bring your own or purchase a paper apron in the Atrium.

Grand Lodge will open Friday afternoon at 1:00 PM. The Saturday session will open at 8:30 AM.

Grand Lodge supplies, etc., will be for sale at a table in the Atrium. *Banquet tickets can also be purchased there.*

I leave you with the "TEN" little words that we should all remember as we labor for our Beloved Fraternity, **"IT IS UP TO ME IF IT IS TO BE"**.

Fraternally,

Bobby L. Laws
Bobby L. Laws,
Grand Secretary

From the Grand Lecturer

Greetings my brethren all,

Well it is hard to believe that the 2016 masonic year is drawing near its end. That also means it's time for Grand School to be held November 9th, 10th, and 11th at the Grand Lodge Building in beautiful downtown Guthrie.

Last year our attendance was good at Grand School, but I would like to see it even better this November. Come and check out on your certificate and visit with old friends, step into one of the degree rooms and brush up on your floor work.

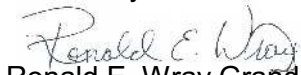
Also don't forget you may spend the night at the Scottish Rite Inn. Brothers please take advantage of this, we rent the inn for you to use and you may call in and reserve your room today. The inn will be available on Wednesday night thru Friday. Grand School will start at 9:00 a.m. and run till 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and till noon on Friday.

The Certificate Lecturers meeting and memorial will be Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the master's room.

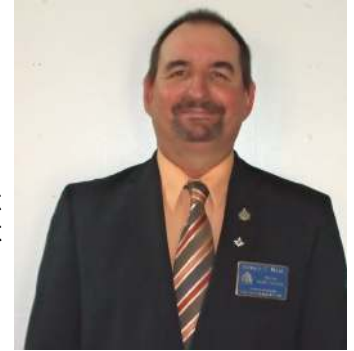
Please brothers, come to Grand School and stay for Grand Lodge. This is your time to vote on the many resolutions and officers that will guide this Grand Jurisdiction. Please take part in this very important time of the Masonic year.

I would like to take this time to thank you for allowing me serve you the craft as your Grand Lecturer. I look forward to seeing each of you at Grand School or Grand Lodge in November.

Fraternally,



Ronald E. Wray Grand Lecturer



Available for Election to the Grand South

Bobby J. Peters is available for election as Junior Grand Warden. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Shawnee, Oklahoma. In 2002 he retired from AT&T after 36 years of service. He is a member of Composite Lodge #107. Having served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1996 and in 2000. He has served as Secretary from 2001 to



the present. He is an "A" Certificate Lecturer, having served the Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Lecturer since 2011, as President of the Board of Grand Lecturers in 2015, and as District Instructor for District 29 in 2009. He is a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies and holds the KCCH designation. A member of the Shawnee and Capitol Hill York Rite Bodies, serving Shawnee as High Priest, Illustrious Master, Commander, and Prelate and the Capitol Hill Bodies as Prelate. He holds the Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of Shawnee Rainbow and ritual advisor of Shawnee DeMolay.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this Office?" he wrote: *I seek the office of Junior Grand Warden to increase my knowledge of Grand Lodge and the Grand Line. My intent is to assist the other Grand Lodge Officers in completing the Grand Lodge programs which will aid in making the constituent lodges stronger and to preserve the ancient landmarks of our Grand Jurisdiction.* In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *I want to increase membership in our fraternity by working to develop education for the local lodges in the areas of prospective member investigation, being more proactive in continuing new member Masonic education, and by staying in contact with our older members as well.* By legislation passed some years ago, the Brother running for office must report if he has ever been suspended. He has not.

Resolutions to be Voted Upon at Grand Lodge

The Masonic law of Oklahoma is changed when Resolutions are voted upon at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The actual text of the Resolutions has been sent to the Lodges in the form of the "Yellow Book." Following is a "simple English" description of the effect of the Resolutions. Every attempt has been made to describe them without any bias, but remember that it is the text of the Resolutions themselves, not these descriptions, which become law.



Resolution #1 Amends Section U415, *New Ballots*, Paragraph 2. If enough time has passed since a Brother received a Degree that he must be balloted upon to advance, he must show proficiency in the most recent Degree. When he has done so he may turn in an application to advance. The Lodge may vote on the application as soon as the next stated meeting. [Currently, 28 days must elapse.]

Resolution #2 Amends Section U602 *Reinstatement after suspension for non-payment of Dues*. Allows the Worshipful Master to extend the 28-day investigation period if necessary, and states that the reinstatement may be voted on as soon as the next stated meeting after the committee reports.

Resolution #3 Amends Section 308 *Order of Business* Allows the Worshipful Master to open Lodge and do business in any Degree, so that Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may attend. The exceptions are that a Lodge must be open on the proper Degree to confer that Degree. Also demonstrations of proficiency and votes on proficiency must be done in a Lodge open on the corresponding Degree, and Masonic trials must be held in a Lodge open on the highest Degree the Brother possesses. Only Master Masons may vote on other matters coming before the Lodge.

Resolution #4 Amends Section 401 Article IV *Work of the Grand Jurisdiction, esoteric work* Provides for the publication of cipher keys for the Categorical Lectures of each Degree to assist the Brother in learning the lectures.

Resolution #5 Amends Section 201 A 1 Provides that the name of a Brother may be omitted from the Trustees Annual Report to Grand Lodge if there is a possibility that civil or Masonic charges may be brought against the Brother.

Resolutions #6 A and 6 B Amends Section U 411 and Section U 412 so that 3 black balls rather than 1 black ball would be required to reject a petition. {Note: these will be voted upon as one resolution.}

Resolution #7 Amends Section 301 Presently, Grand Lodge officially opens on Friday afternoon. The resolution will make the official opening on Saturday morning, but provides that the Grand Master may hold open meetings for education, introductions, presentations, etc., on the Friday before the opening of Grand Lodge.

Resolution #8 A, 8 B, and 8C Amends Sections U 418D *Eligibility to Office*, U 418E *Representation to Grand Lodge*, and U 221 *Succession*. The resolution would allow a Brother to serve as Junior Warden or Senior Warden of more than one Lodge at the same time. It further provides that a Brother may carry voting credentials only from the Lodge he serves as a Delegate. It further provides that if a Worshipful Master becomes unable to perform his duties, that Senior and Junior Wardens advance, notwithstanding Section U 418D. It also provides that if both the Senior and Junior Wardens are unable to advance, the most recent immediate Past Worshipful Master shall preside. {Note: these will be voted upon as one resolution.}

Resolution #9 Amends Section U 810 *Emblems* Currently, it is un-Masonic to use the Square and Compasses or any Masonic emblem for business or commercial purposes, or to identify oneself as a Mason for business purposes. This resolution would make it a Lodge decision whether a member of that Lodge could use Masonic emblems for commercial or business purposes.

Resolution #10 A and 10 B Amends Sections U 206 *Installation*, and U 315 *Proof of Masonic Standing* Adds the requirement that a Brother who has been elected or appointed to an office for the ensuing year must have a valid dues card for that year before he can be installed in office. {Note: these will be voted upon as one resolution.}

Resolution #11 Amends Section U 806 *Use of 3.2 Beer Restricted* Current law is somewhat contradictory and does not address wine at all. This resolution: makes the beer prohibition more modern and realistic; adds wine to the law; prohibits both in the Lodge room or outside the building; prohibits beer or wine before a tyled [tiled] meeting or any youth activity; prohibits providing beer or wine to anyone underage; prohibits the sale of beer or wine on Lodge property; prohibits drinking of beer or wine to excess; prohibits the keeping or storage of beer or wine overnight on Lodge property, provides that the Lodge may enact further restrictions in their by-laws BUT does allow the use of beer and wine in rooms of the Lodge other than the Lodgeroom, so that a Lodge may rent its facilities for wedding receptions, etc., and may also consume wine or beer at a Masonic feast in the dining hall.

Resolution #12 Amends Section U 502, Paragraph A *Per capita* Increases per capita to #25.

Resolution #13 A and #13 B Amends Section 901, Paragraph 3 Currently, a 2/3 majority is required for a resolution to pass and become law. These resolutions would change that to a simple majority of more than 50%. **If the resolution passes, it will not take effect until after the 2016 Annual Communication closes.** {Note: these will be voted upon as one resolution. ALSO the language of 13A and 13B is identical, but one amends Section 901 and one amends Section U901}

Resolutions #14 A and 14 B Amends Section 103 B, Paragraph 3 and Section 212 G, Paragraph 1 The current budgeting process requires that the total appropriation not exceed 95% of the average of the past three year's income. This resolution would require that the total appropriation not exceed 95% of the anticipated income. {Note: these will be voted upon as one resolution.}



Available for Election to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

Note: There are 3 positions to be filled, so you will vote for up to 3 of the following Brethren. The Brethren are listed in the order in which their applications were received in the Grand Lodge office.

M.:W.: C. Kent Callahan and his lady, Margaret, live in Blanchard, Oklahoma. He is the Office Manager of the John Ireland and Son Funeral Home and Chapel, where his duties include handling the paperwork for the honors, memorials, etc., for veterans. He has served on the Board of the Charity Foundation for 15 years. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Prevent Blindness Oklahoma. He is a member of Moore Masonic Lodge #539, where he has served as Secretary since 1981. Served the Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1980, and served the Craft as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2006.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experiences do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation," he wrote: *The experience of serving on the Board for three terms and serving as Grand Master and working with the many Lodges in the State.* In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By continuing to develop programs that will serve our members and introduce new programs to encourage our members to get out and bring in new members.*

NOTE: In 2007, legislation was passed which requires any candidate for the Board of Directors to state whether he has ever been suspended or expelled from the Fraternity. M.:W.: Brother Callahan has not been suspended nor expelled.

M.:W.: Glenn E. Almy and his lady, Sue, live in Mannford, Oklahoma. He is the owner of A&P Mechanical. He has been a member of the Board for six years. He is a Perpetual Member of Mannford Lodge #515, which he is serving this year as Senior Warden. He is also a Perpetual Member of Pond Creek #125, Hebron #215, Akdar #555. He served the Craft as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2011. He has also served the Grand Lodge as a member of the Constitution and Code Committee, a Deputy Grand Lecturer, a member of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, the Publications Committee, the Publicity and Public Relations Committee, and the Lodge of the Year Committee, among others.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experiences do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation," he wrote: *I feel that in the past six years that I have been on the Board, that I have gained a lot of knowledge of how the Masonic Charity Foundation works, and realize how much it means to the Fraternity, and will do all that I can to help it.* 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 the Masonic Charity Foundation is one of the best tools the Fraternity can have, if they just use it.*

NOTE: In 2007, legislation was passed which requires any candidate for the Board of Directors to state whether he has ever been suspended or expelled from the Fraternity. M.:W.: Brother Almy has not been suspended nor expelled.

M.:W.: Bobby L. Laws and his lady, Linda, live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He retired after 27 years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force, and has served the past two years as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. As Grand Secretary, Lodge Secretary of Altus Lodge for many years, and Foundation Board member, he has worked closely with Lodges in all areas, especially Matching Funds. He is Past Master of Altus Lodge #62, and served as M.:W.: Grand Master in 1990.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experiences do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation," he wrote: *My strengths are my experiences in dealing with all members of our Masonic Family at all levels. My years of traveling the state and working wherever I can help in any way has allowed me to know that the Charity Foundation helps all people when there is need.* In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *The Foundation is doing a great job. I would like to continue working with them in better promoting all the things they have available down to the lowest level and as many Lodges (large and small) as I can.*

NOTE: In 2007, legislation was passed which requires any candidate for the Board of Directors to state whether he has ever been suspended or expelled from the Fraternity. M.:W.: Brother Laws has not been suspended nor expelled.

