



Holiday Edition 2017

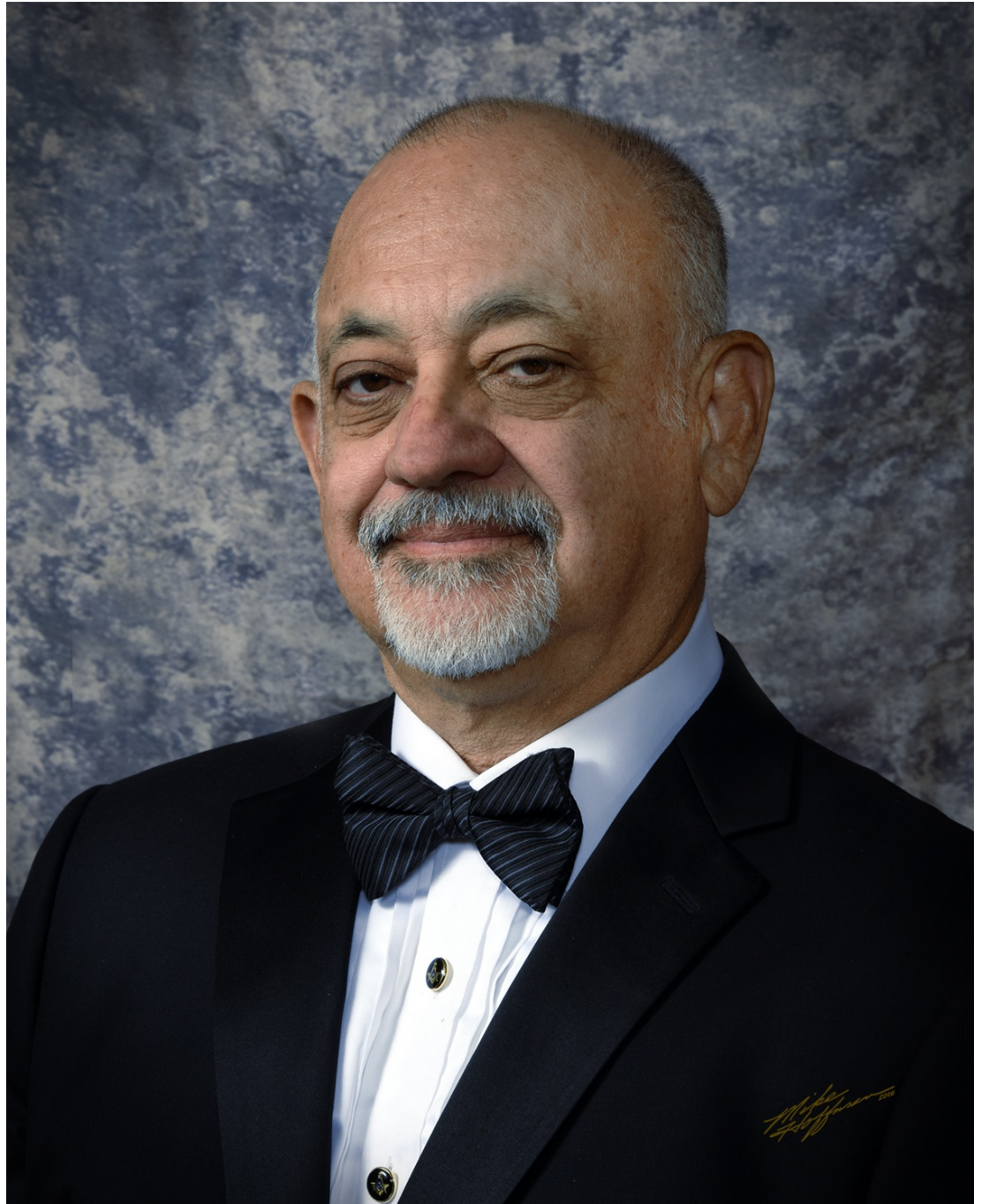
*Happy
New
Year*



1717 -
2017

300th
Anniversary
of

Modern
Free-
masonry



M.:W.: Richard L. Allison - Grand Master



From the Grand Master

Brethren, I must express my gratitude to those who had so much to do with helping me not only last year but all of my Masonic years. We all owe a debt of thanks to those who mentored us in our early years in Masonry. Many of my mentors have gone on before me and now wait in that "House not made with hands eternal in the heavens".

How do we repay our debt to them? The best way I know is to offer our hand to those who are just beginning their Masonic journey. At some point these Brothers will lead our Craft. We may not be here to see it, but we can rest assured Masonry will be in good hands if we do our jobs in the same manner as our own Masonic Mentors.

Along those lines, this year I will be sending a personal letter to each new Entered Apprentice encouraging him to embrace Masonry as an opportunity for learning, personal growth and getting to know his new Lodge Brothers (you). I want to make sure that he receives Masonic Mentorship from "...*well informed brethren, who will be always as ready to give as*" he will be ready to receive instruction.

More recently I want to thank those who helped out so much with my installation and Apron Presentation. You may not know it but there is no "Grand Lodge Budget" for these events. They occur through the generosity of Brothers who donate their personal time and money. I never in all my years of Masonry thought there could be such an outpouring of generosity on my behalf. I am humbled and overcome with emotion when I think of it. Jack Painter and Stan Pospisil came up with the idea to sell slabs of ribs for a fund raiser. Randy Beaird got up at 2 AM to fire up the smoker and Jack Randall and Mike Smith along with Jack Painter and Stan drove to Mannford from Enid and Hennessey to help wrap and then deliver the ribs. Pond Creek #125 provided my Grand Master Apron. The ladies of the "Star" showed up in force to help set up the hall for my Apron Presentation and to clean up after it was over. Both of the Enid Lodges, Enid #80 and Garfield #501, hosted a golf tournament on my behalf. That kind of Brotherhood and dedication on my behalf is something I would have never dreamed of. I know I have missed or did not mention many that helped but please know how much I appreciate everything.

This year I want to incorporate into my articles stories of Lodges or Districts that are doing things to boost their attendance or membership. I already have some stories from around the State but would like more. If your Lodge or District has a success story to share please email me so that I can share it with the Craft.

The first story I want to tell you about is in District #27. They have a fun thing for District Meetings called "Behind the Eight Ball". The Lodge that has the least number of members at a District Meeting is presented an Eight Ball Trophy. They have to keep it until the next meeting when they have a chance to improve their attendance and rid themselves of the dubious honor. It is just for fun but encourages Lodges to get more members to come to District Meetings.



District Meetings are important because they afford an opportunity for fellowship and an exchange of ideas between Lodges. If your District is not having District Meetings, I cannot encourage you enough to start having them. Make them an enjoyable experience by having a special program and invite the Ladies to attend.

I suppose every Grand Master needs a special theme for his year. I would like my year to be about Work!!! None of you knew my father but he believed in work. Just a short time before he went home to be with the Lord he said he thought if he could just work a good day he would be alright. Knowing him and his work ethic he may have been right.

WORK!!!

We cannot just attend lodge and go home. We all have to Work!!!! To keep our fraternity great. Work!!!! To improve the looks of our Lodges and Work!!! On the ritual so that visitors and new members will know the pride we have in our Lodges and Masonry. I plan to Work!!!! As hard as I can this year for you and our Fraternity and I hope that you will join with me in this effort, Masonry deserves our best effort. Oklahoma deserves our best effort. Thank all of you for what you already do and I hope to get Work!!!! With as many of you as I can during the coming year.

Fraternally,



Richard Allison, Grand Master

Meet the Grand Master

M.:W.: Richard L. Allison lives in Enid, Oklahoma. He is retired, having recently sold Enid Iron and Metal, a company he co-owned and operated for 28 years. Most Worshipful Brother Allison served Garfield Lodge #501 as Worshipful Master in 1984 and again in 2004. He has served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master in 1990, Grand Pursuivant in 2009, Grand Marshal in 2010 and 2012, Grand Tyler in 2011, and District Deputy Grand Master in 2013.

He is a member of the Guthrie Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he holds the 33°. He serves as the Director of the 21° and has been Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix. He is also a member of the Chapter #6, Council #48, and Commandery #1 of the York Rite, and Past Commander of the Enid Commandery.

He is a member of India Shrine, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland, the Order of the Eastern Star, Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo.

His leadership experiences in organizations other than Masonry include having served as a member of the Board of his church, State Representative for Oklahoma to the National Archery Association, several terms as President of the Oklahoma Archery Association Board of Directors, and the Viet Nam Veterans Association.





R.W. C.W. "Corky"
Grigsby, Jr.

From the Deputy Grand Master

By the time this article hits the print, we will have survived another Grand School Session, another Grand Lodge Session, had Lodge elections, installed Lodge Officers, and hopefully everyone had a good Thanksgiving, and survived a wonderful Christmas and New Year's.

I would like to take a moment to THANK everyone who assisted during Grand School/Grand Lodge. Believe me, your assistance didn't go unnoticed. Honestly, we couldn't have pulled it off without your help. Thanks again.

Now it's time to settle down to taking care of our Lodges and our members. I thought about an article for this edition but instead figured I would throw out some ideas your Lodge may consider using during the year. Just some food for thought.

New Worshipful Masters, hopefully you have masterminded a game plan for your Lodge and members this year. Maybe you're having a few fund raisers to improve your Lodge building and the grounds or maybe tidy up the interior like painting the walls or fixing up the general areas inside.

When planning these events try to remember to include all members of the Lodge, even assigning some to the salt and pepper committees this ensures all members of the Lodge have a part in the events. You would be surprised how many Brothers would attend functions if they have a productive part to fill. You may even consider having a Family Night on your second meeting of the month. Invite family members, friends, and any new prospects for Masonry. Have a nice dinner meal, fellowship with friends and others, and then have the meeting afterwards. Make it an enjoyable evening for all. It works in my Lodge and we end up with a pretty good turn out each month.

Remembering all your members, even those you don't see each month. I like to call it "Be Your Brother's Keeper". I know for the Secretary of every Lodge it's hard to keep up with all the members in your Lodge. You, as the Master can assign a committee of three or four Brothers to check on members who haven't attended Lodge in a while. Schedule a welfare check and ensure they are doing well or do they have a need for some assistance that the Lodge can provide? You know Masons are very proud men and sometimes the going gets tough and we find it hard to ask for help. We're supposed to be the ones helping others. So make up a simple checklist, without getting too personal, to use during their visit. We all took an Obligation to aid and assist, take it serious and try to "Be Your Brother's Keeper". I know it has helped some in our Lodge, even got some to return as they just thought nobody cared any longer so they just stayed out. I guess it's like the old song, "We are Family".

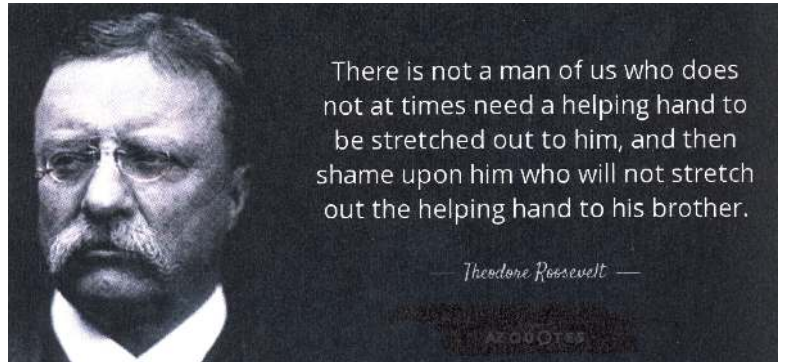
During the upcoming year there are several events scheduled in your areas. Some of these are: Cornerstones, Perpetual Path Conferrals, District Meetings, and Leadership Workshop/Conference (July 21 & 22), and Fund Raisers. Please ensure your Lodge gets good representation at these events. This can give your Lodge some community recognition that otherwise may go unnoticed.

I wish all the Lodges in our state a very successful year in all your endeavors, whether it's improving in Ritual work or improving your Lodges appearance/attendance. In my travels this year I hope to see as many as I can. God Bless you all for the things you do for Masonry in our Great State.

Respectively and Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C.W. Grigsby Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

C.W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.
Deputy Grand Master



There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother.

— Theodore Roosevelt —

AZ QUOTES

From the Senior Grand Warden

I recently read an article by Catherine Pulsifer who wrote, *"A problem is only a problem if you refuse to look for a solution. If you don't take action to fix it then it will remain a problem."* Mrs. Pulsifer also said, *"Learn to reframe those things that appear to be problems into those things that give you an opportunity instead..., if you see the problem as an opportunity, or if you see the challenge as your call to action, it is amazing how your mind will work to create solutions because your attitude changes to one that will find creative ways to solve the issue at hand."*



Masonry is facing many problems, some of which are: declining membership, suspensions for non-payment of dues, failure to bring in new and younger members, membership engagement, and financial support of our lodges. Most of these issues have been around for several years and it is my belief that if we don't take positive action in the very near future, the success of our fraternity is at risk!

W. Clement Stone, wrote *"To solve a problem or to reach a goal, you don't need to know all the answers in advance. But you must have a clear idea of the problem or the goal you want to reach."* Grand Master Allison has initiated a program to do just that!



The Area Masonry Program is designed to gather information about the challenges we, as a fraternity, are facing. Some of these challenges may be the same everywhere, but many may be specific to certain lodges or areas. In some parts of the state, the local economy may be our greatest challenge. In other parts of the state, it may be activities of the Brethren's children which limit the time available for Masonry. In other areas, the distances between Lodges may be a factor. Grand Master Allison will be scheduling meetings with Brethren and Lodges around the state to discuss the challenges which they face in their specific area.

It seems, to some degree, that we only plan for a year at a time. Should the craft allow me the privilege to serve you from the Grand East in a few years, I want to build on Grand Master Allison's **Area Masonry** program by developing a long-term plan for Masonry in Oklahoma. To accomplish this task, Grand Master Allison and Deputy Grand Master Grigsby have graciously allowed me to assemble a team, to begin the process of collecting information, and start developing a long-term plan. It is my hope to include input of Masons across the state. I anticipate that the working group will use a process very much like a seven-step approach to problem solving published in *The Business Journal of Sonoma/Marin*, by Author Tim Hicks.

1. Identify the issues at hand.
2. Understand everyone's interests.
3. List the possible solutions.
4. Evaluate the options.
5. Select the best option or options.
6. Document the agreement(s).
7. Agree on contingencies, monitoring, and evaluation.

Brother Norman Vincent Peale once said, "The "how" thinker gets problems solved effectively because he wastes no time with futile "ifs" but goes right to work on the creative "how." We all know there are no quick fixes; however, I believe that with courage, teamwork and determination we can overcome our problems and grow our fraternity. Let's all become "how" thinkers, get engaged, and focus on turning our problems into opportunities.

Fraternally,



Michael Dixon
Senior Grand Warden

From the Junior Grand Warden

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that 2017 is a prosperous year for each of you and that our great fraternity can continue to grow and prosper. I would also like to add my thanks to all the Brethren for the opportunity to serve the craft as your Junior Grand Warden. I look forward to the challenge of perpetuating masonry and preserving our traditions as Oklahoma Masons.



One of the things I like most about Masonry is our ritual. Nothing has greater meaning and purpose than the several Masonic lectures. I hope that as each of you took your degrees and obligations that you took to heart the importance of their meaning.

Over the years I have heard Brothers say, "Masonry takes a good man and makes him better." This is true, but only by living what we have promised when we knelt at the altar, can we make the good man better. The tenants of our profession, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, are what help make each of us good men. Brotherly Love teaches us to regard the whole human species as one family, because we are created by one almighty parent. Relief is to relieve

all distress that is in our power. Truth is to be honest and upright with irreproachable morals and high integrity.

As I have traveled around our great state and visited several lodges and listened to the things that the lodges are doing or have accomplished, I also hear some of the rumbling that happens from time to time. Each person must keep in mind that we are a fraternity of those who can "best work or best agree" to work together for the good of all. Sometimes we have to take the "me" out and work for the betterment of "us." As the old quote says, there is no "I" in team. I urge you not to let any animosity, if any unhappily exists, to triumph out of the lodge in your dealings with each other. I challenge each of you to listen to each other with not only your ears, but with your hearts as well.

Here is one thing that each of us needs to remember, when you are installed as an officer of your lodge, you promise to comply with and obey the "Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge and comply with and obey the By-Laws of your lodge and the Ancient Landmarks and Usages." That being said my Brother, the next time a big decision or problem arises, get out the Constitution and Code and your By-Laws and look up the answer. You may be surprised at how easily the question or problem can be resolved.

Let me say again what an honor you have given me and how much I look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones this year. If I can be of assistance to you or your lodge, please don't hesitate to call me.

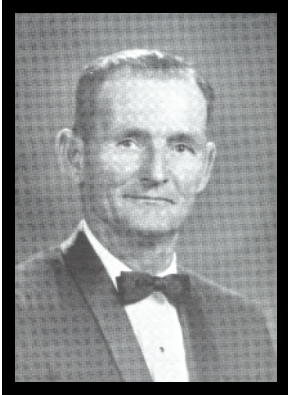
For the Good,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobby J. Peters". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Bob Peters, Junior Grand Warden

From the Grand Treasurer

As we start a new year, I would like to restate what an honor to serve Masonry in the State of Oklahoma. We have completed 2016 and look forward to 2017. I feel fortunate in having the opportunity to have a small part in the building the financial structure of our Grand Lodge. I would like to revisit and share A Message From Grand Master, M.W.: J. Clay Thrash, written January, 1969.



M.W.: J. Clay Thrash
1918 - 1995

Brethren:

By the time this letter is in print New Year's resolutions should be made and probably many of them already broken. This is one of the things we sometimes take too lightly. If we go to the trouble of making New Year resolutions we should put forth a greater effort to live up to them.

We are starting the New Year with a new slate of officers leading our constituent Lodges and also before the month is out we will have a new President in office with new Cabinet Members putting his program to work.

Let us all resolve to put forth our greatest effort to make this year the best year in the history of our country. No President can make a country run smoothly without the combined unity of it's people. If our county is ever to be free from the burning of drafts cards, rioting, marching, Hippies and Yippies it is my opinion that we as Americans must take a stand and let our feeling be known.

If enough of us will stand up and let our leaders know that we are for progress and we will believe that certain standards, both Moral and Spiritual, should be maintained not only by them but by our Citizens as well, then I think we will be well on the road to raising the American Standards to where they once were.

It is true enough that the Masons can not do this alone but with eighty thousand of us in Oklahoma letting our wishes be known to all we are associated with, then several hundred thousand will have been contacted and our efforts could be greatly felt.

My wish for each of you is a Happy and Prosperous 1969.

Fraternally,
J. Clay Thrash Grand Master

Reading the above, some things have changed over the past 48 years, however the message is clear. God bless you and our country!

Fraternally,

David G. David, Grand Treasurer



From the Grand Secretary

Brethren, the Grand Secretary and Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation will be conducting six (6) Secretary/ Charity Foundation Workshops for 2017. Each lodge is encouraged to return the registration forms as soon as possible with the date/location you plan to attend, so that appropriate amount of materials are prepared. The cost for registration is \$20.00 to cover the cost of the materials. **Attendance by any lodge officer, not just secretaries, is highly encouraged.**

Topics will include forms and materials of the Grand Lodge, reports, interface system, and other issues pertinent to daily operation of your lodge. W. John Logan, Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation, will also be there to answer questions and explain Matching Funds, Promises Matter, and other Foundation-related issues that affect your lodge.

- Saturday, February 25, 2017 @ 9:00 AM - Delta Lodge 425 (1630 S. 101st E. Ave, Tulsa)
- Saturday, March 18, 2017 @ 9:00 AM - Grand Lodge (102 South Broad, Guthrie)
- Wednesday, March 29, 2017 @ 5:00 PM - Lawton Lodge 183 (2001 N.W. Lincoln Ave., Lawton)
- Wednesday, April 26, 2017 @ 5:00 PM - South McAlester Lodge 96 (305 N.2nd St., McAlester)
- Tuesday, May 30, 2017 @ 5:00 PM - Enid Lodge 80 (815 N. Independence, Enid)
- Wednesday, May 31, 2017 @ 5:00 PM - Woodward Lodge 189 (819 ½ S. Main St., Woodward)

Please contact your Lodge Secretary so he can get you registered and notify Grand Lodge of your attendance as soon as possible. These dates and locations are subject to change based on weather and event conflicts. Each lodge and participant will be notified of any changes made to the schedule.

The Perpetual Path Program is and will continue to be available to your Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, who for whatever reason have not completed their degrees via the traditional method. Please urge them to consider this alternate route. The following is the dates and locations of the Perpetual Path Degrees scheduled to date for 2017.

2017 Perpetual Path Schedule

As of January 25, 2017

January 14, 2017-	Hugo Lodge No. 217--3	Scheduled, cancelled due to weather
January 21, 2017-----	Frederick Lodge No. 249 -----	7 Completed
February 4, 2017-----	Drumright Lodge No. 468-----	4 Scheduled
February 25, 2017-----	Composite Lodge No. 107-----	5 Scheduled
March 4, 2017-----	Midwest City Lodge No. 532-----	4 scheduled
March 25, 2017-----	Cordell Lodge No. 127-----	4 Scheduled
April 8, 2017 -----	South McAlester Lodge No. 96-----	4 Scheduled

To those Secretaries that have begun using the Lodge Secretary Interface System, I SAY A BIG THANK YOU. From the comments you have been making you are well pleased and amazed how much paperwork, postage and time it is saving both you and the Grand Lodge Staff. If you as the Lodge Secretary have access at home or in the lodge to internet you can call Linda here at Grand lodge and get a private access code for your lodge membership. Please give it a try, you just might like it.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby L. Laws". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "B" and "L".

Bobby L. Laws, PGM Grand Secretary



From the Grand Lecturer

Greetings my brethren all, I hope you each had a Merry Christmas and are having a Happy New Year so far.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended Grand School of Instruction in November of 2016. I feel like we had a great school and look forward to the next Grand School.

Our next big School of Instruction will be the annual (IRONMAN) school of instruction at Yukon Lodge #90. This school is always the 2nd Saturday in February which falls on the 11th this year. This school has been growing in attendance and is one to put on your calendar. Many of the trustees regularly attend this school, and we look forward to seeing you this year.

The Grand Master has a new program this year which is being called Basic Blue, and is a great chance for lodges to be awarded for doing some basic ritual in their lodges. There will be more information on this in the near future.

**Basic
Blue**

Please remember if I can help you in any way call me and I, or my deputies, and assistants will be glad to help in any way we can.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald E. Wray".

Ronald E. Wray Grand Lecturer

Masonic Alzheimer's Disease Laboratory Relocated



The image is from an Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation news release, and the story is of the re-dedication of the laboratory, established in 2009, by a grant of one million dollars from the Freemasons of Oklahoma through the Masonic Charity Foundation.

The laboratory has been moved to the Aging and Metabolism Research Program, under the direction of Dr. Holly Van Remmen, a distinguished researcher and recipient of the prestigious Denham Harman Award from the American Aging Association.

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma provides grants totaling several hundred thousand dollars a year to benefit older Oklahomans.



300 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY!

By Robert G. Davis

The oldest fraternal organization in the world is having a birthday this year! During 2017, Freemasons everywhere will be celebrating 300 years of organized Freemasonry. This anniversary marks the Tercentenary of the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Freemasons in the world.



On June 24, 1717, four London Lodges, which had existed for some time, came together at the Goose and Gridiron Alehouse at St. Paul's Churchyard, and declared themselves to be a Grand Lodge. The delegates of the lodge at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern (now Antiquity No. 2); those at Crown Alehouse (no longer in existence); the officers of a lodge at Apple Tree Tavern; and the representatives at the Rummer and Grapes Tavern, met together on St. John's Day to revive a quarterly feast and organize a Grand Lodge.

Before dinner, they elected the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a Lodge) to preside, invested him with the *Grand Badge* of office and power, and installed him into the *Chair*. Anthony Sayer became the first Grand Master of speculative Freemasons in the world.

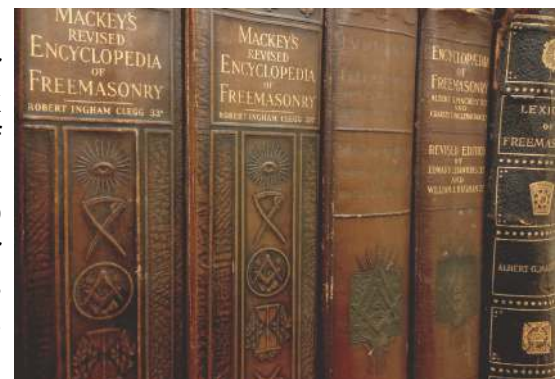


It would be another six years before the Grand Lodge decided to enact an elaborate system of government and control. For the early Grand Lodge, it was enough simply to enjoy the fellowship of men, have fraternal communications among its lodges, and celebrate the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist, their Patron Saint.



This makes 2017 a year to celebrate our own special association of men, as well as reflect on the remarkable event 300 years ago that launched our great society of *Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons*. It is a once in a lifetime event for all of us. We are marking a wonderful achievement, as well as expressing our pride in being part of a global society of men and brothers.

Much activity is taking place in England throughout the year. It is truly an opportunity for lodges everywhere to join in the celebration. M.:W.: Rick Allison, our own Grand Master, is meeting with a committee of brethren to plan activities for Oklahoma this year. There are many things our lodges can do on their own. What a time to have a symposium on the history of Freemasonry! A summer ball with our ladies would be fun. Lodge picnics, sportsmen's dinners, thanksgiving celebrations, and open houses celebrating our own heritage are all in order.



Think about the way your lodge would like to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of our fraternity. Let us know what you are planning; so we can inform others. Let us enjoy together this important Tercentenary year!



Programs



The **PERPETUAL PATH PROGRAM** was instituted by M.: W.: Dudley Ridge Smith in 2016. It has proven to be an outstanding success. **Grand Master Allison is continuing the program** and encourages Lodges to participate. It does not replace the traditional path to Masonic membership, but it provides a path for those for whom the traditional path does not work.

In overview

When the Lodges in an area have Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts who wish to advance—either “new” Brethren or those who have not advanced for some time—they confer and select a Lodge willing to act as host. An “area” can be a county, a district, or almost any other area which works well for the Lodges involved.

The Lodges speak with their Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts explaining the program and the **necessity of purchasing a perpetual membership in order to participate**. They send the funds for the Perpetual Membership **and** an application to participate to the Grand Lodge. More details are available from the Grand Lodge Office.

PLEASE NOTE: M.: W.: Brother Smith used the authority to waive waiting periods given to the Grand Master by the Constitution and Code to waive the 6-month waiting period which must elapse between the date a Brother receives his Master Mason Degree and the date he can join another Masonic organization without passing the Master Mason proficiency. **Grand Master Allison has continued that waiver during 2017.**

The **Path Back** Program is designed to work either with the Perpetual Path Program or with traditional advancement. Every Lodge has a list of Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who have not completed their Degrees. It makes sense to contact these men and offer them a chance to become Master Masons. The Grand Lodge will provide information and assistance to the Lodges to contact these men who may have become lost or distracted in the maze of life and rekindle their desire for Freemasonry.



The **Welcome to Your World** program is designed to address one of the most serious problems in Oklahoma Masonry. **More than 40% of our Entered Apprentices never advance to become Master Masons!** There are probably many reasons for that, but it can help reduce that number if new Entered Apprentices are reminded that we care about them and also that there are many Masonic organizations they can join, but that becoming a Master Mason is the basis for everything else.



In overview

When Grand Lodge learns that a Brother has received the Entered Apprentice Degree, the office will send him a letter from the Grand Master, welcoming him to the Fraternity and encouraging him to continue and become a Master Mason. We will also send a DVD which he can play, telling him about the nature of his Masonic Journey and about the other Masonic Bodies. This is information only, not solicitation. Its purpose is to encourage him to continue through the Craft Degrees and to find reward in Freemasonry.



The Grand Master plans to continue the **Ritual Fulfillment** started by M.: W.: Brother Smith, with the cooperation of the Grand Lecturer and his Deputies of having exemplifications of the Lectures across the state, so that Brethren who have never seen them can receive them, and Brethren who have already seen them can have their memories refreshed. Two exemplifications are being planned.

The **Basic Blue** Program is designed to encourage Lodges to do the basic Blue Lodge ritual work comfortably and proficiently. It is not intended as any sort of “GOT-ya” program or criticism. It focuses on 5 parts of the ritual: Opening on the Master Mason Degree, Closing on the Master Mason Degree, Balloting, Admitting a visiting Brother, and Admitting a late Brother. The Grand Master is appointing 4 Area Coordinators, who will build a list of Certificate holders who are willing to participate. When a Lodge wants to participate in the program, it will inform the Grand Lodge. One of the Basic Blue Taskforce Teachers will work with the Lodge officers to help them become more proficient in the work. Full details will be sent to the Lodges shortly.



The **Area Masonry** Program is designed to gather information about the challenges we are facing in our state. The challenges may be the same everywhere, but they may be different as well. In some parts of the state the local economy may be our greatest challenge. In other parts of the state it may be the activities of the Brethren's children which cuts into the time available for Masonry. In other areas, the distances between Lodges may be a factor. The Grand Master will meet with Brethren and Lodges in the various areas of the state to discuss the situations which they face. Perhaps that information can be used to develop programs in the future.



These are the programs for 2017. They can accomplish much for Freemasonry in Oklahoma, but they can only work if we work them.

The Oklahoma Mason is a publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge AF&AM of the State of Oklahoma
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Changes in Oklahoma's Masonic Law

The Masonic law in Oklahoma is changed when some Brother or Brethren write a resolution to add, delete, or amend some section of the Oklahoma Constitution and Code. The resolutions are debated during the Annual Communication, and then they are voted upon. If a resolution receives a 2/3 affirmative vote, it is adopted and the written law is changed. The following resolutions passed.

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.]

For = 709 (94.28%) Against = 43

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.

For = 707 (94.266%) Against = 43

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. For = 525 (69.813%) Against = 227

Resolution #7 Amends Section 301A 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. For = 613 (82.3%) Against = 132

Resolutions #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. For = 511 (67.772%) Against = 243

Resolution #10 A Amends Sections U 206 *Installation*. 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. For = 593 (74.591%) Against = 152



Wreaths Across America was started in 1992, when Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, had a surplus of wreaths toward the end of the holiday season. Having visited Arlington National Cemetery as a child, Mr. Worcester contacted the authorities there, with plans to place the wreaths in older, less visited areas of the cemetery. Volunteers helped deliver and place the wreaths.

In 2007, Wreaths Across America was founded as a non-profit organization, and has expanded across all 50 states. The purposes are to lay wreaths at veterans cemeteries, to remember them and their service, to honor those who serve, and to teach children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

M.:W.: Richard Allison, Grand Master, and members of the Grand Lodge participated in the wreath-laying in McAlester. Any Lodge in Oklahoma can participate in this project. Visit wreathesacrossamerica.com for more information.





The Freemasons of Oklahoma, Through the Masonic Charity Foundation, Support Ethics Bowl

It attracts the best and the brightest high school students. The Ethics Bowl poses challenging questions in ethics, and teams of students prepare a position and argue and defend it before a panel of judges,

It is a rough competition, requiring absolute clarity of logic and at the same time a sense of fairness, rightness, and compassion. Successful competitors are a combination of Mr. Spock and Councillor Troy. But it is excellent training for building a productive economic and social life.

Until last year, the program was not available to students in Oklahoma. Then the Masonic Charity Foundation provided a grant to establish the program in our state. It is hosted by the University of Oklahoma. This year, the team winning the state competition is from Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City. They will go to the national competition at the University of North Carolina, and the Charity Foundation will provide a grant for travel expenses. The Foundation will also provide trophies and prizes for the participants.



All Oklahoma Masons can be proud of our participation in this program.

Deadlines for Charity Foundation Programs

FEBRUARY

- ✧ **Senior Essay Contest** winners will be announced. Letters to all participating schools announcing the names of the local division (male and female) winners and state-wide winners will be mailed. Copies of the letters will be sent to the participating lodges. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and coordinate presentation date, time, and place.**
- ✧ **Student & Teacher of Today** forms are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. Lodges are encouraged to distribute these forms at their local **public schools**. Schools submit completed online forms to the Masonic Charity Foundation.

MARCH

- ✧ **O.E.T.A. Telethon** (Mason night is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2017) - Lodge contributions plus matching funds are presented by the Grand Master.
- ✧ **Masonry in Action Award** application submission deadline is Friday, March 31, 2017.
- ✧ **Senior Essay** certificates and checks for winning students are mailed to all participating Lodges for presentation by the Lodge. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and arrange presentation date, time, and place.**

APRIL

- ✧ **Awards for Arts Excellence** - This program will be held in mid-late April at the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie. The Grand Master and State Superintendent honor outstanding high school students in the arts.
- ✧ **Student of Today and Teacher of Today** certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges before the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time, and place.**

MAY

- ✧ **Student of Today and Teacher of Today** certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges before the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time, and place.**
- ✧ **Youth Scholarship Program** - Submission deadline for completed scholarship applications is May 1, 2017. Education Committee of the Foundation will meet and award scholarships so that the winners will be notified in time for them to receive the scholarships at their annual state-wide meeting.

JULY

Masonic Charity Foundation Photo Contest submission deadline is July 15th.

AUGUST

- ✧ **Senior Essay** packets are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. **This essay contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma Public Schools.** Lodges are encouraged to deliver these packets to their local high schools. The deadline for essays is usually the end of October. Essays are then professionally graded in November & December with results being announced in February.

SEPTEMBER

- ✧ State Teacher of the Year ceremony at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. The Grand Master presents a framed certificate to every district winner present; a \$500 check to each Rising Star honoree, a \$1,000 check to each of the eleven Teacher of the Year finalists; a \$5,000 check to the Teacher of the Year; and a \$5,000 check to school district of the Teacher of the Year. (This event is usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of September.)

OCTOBER

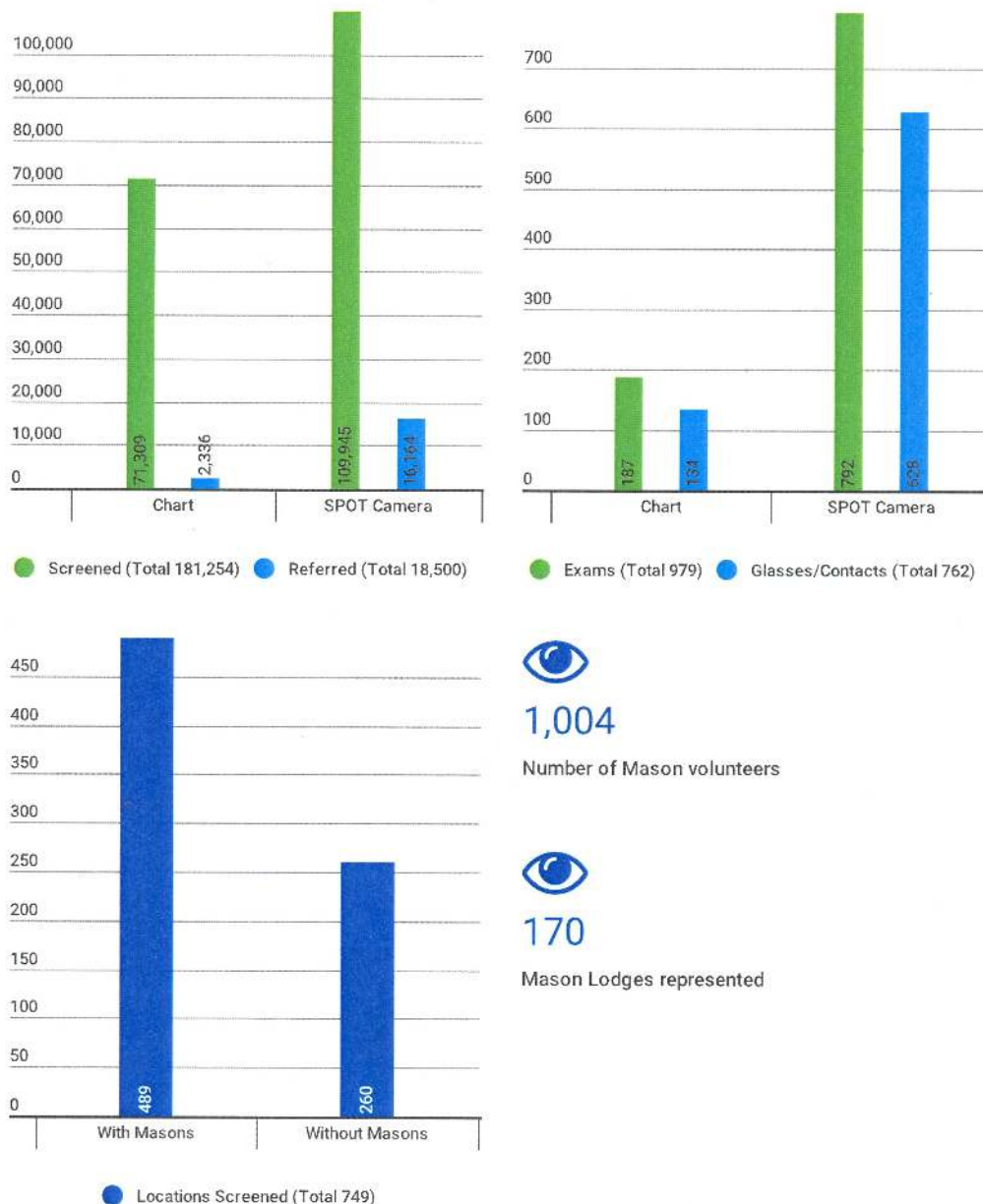
- ✧ Senior Essay Contest deadline is Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

DECEMBER

- ✧ **2017 Matching Funds application deadline is Friday 12/15/2017.**
Applications received after this date will be processed as 2018 business.

Thirty years ago the Masonic Charity Foundation formed a partnership known as Partners in Prevention, with what was then Prevent Blindness Oklahoma [now known as Vizavance]. It has been an important and productive partnership. This chart, provided by Vizavance, shows the activity so far for the 2016-2017 school year—screening children for vision problems.

Programs Report 1/25/17 2016-2017 School Year August - Present



Partners in Prevention Program 30 Year Report



Partners in Prevention

Celebrating 30 years of success with the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma A.F. & A.M. and the Masonic Charity Foundation.

1986 - 2002

First 16 years of the Partners in Prevention Program.

2003 - 2016

The next 14 years under the direction of Dianna Bonfiglio, President/CEO of Vizavance Formerly Prevent Blindness Oklahoma.

1986 - 2002

