

THE

OKLAHOMA

MASON



*The Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma*

Vol. LXXXIII No. 4

December 2018



***M.:W.: Michael Lewis Dixon
GRAND MASTER***

M.:W.: Michael Lewis Dixon Biography

Mike Dixon lives in Edmond, Oklahoma with his wife of 29 years, Karen. He is retired after a 43-year career in Law enforcement.

Brother Dixon holds an Associate of Science Degree from Connors State College, a Bachelor of Science Degree from Northeastern Oklahoma State University, and a Master of Science Degree from Oklahoma State University.

He started his law enforcement career with the Pryor, Oklahoma Police Department, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Additionally, he served as a Deputy Sheriff with the Mays County Sheriff's Office and as an agent with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control. Early in his drug enforcement career, he worked primarily in undercover assignments. In 1988, he was promoted to Agent-In-Charge and served in that capacity until his retirement from the OBNDD in 2005 with twenty-four (24) years of service. His command positions included Criminal Investigations, Communications, Information Technology, Evidence and Supply Units, and he was Commander of Field Command Post operations. Mike was commissioned as a Special Deputy United States Marshal and assigned to two Federal Drug Enforcement Task Forces investigating major illegal drug organizations, having served as Agent-In-Charge of one of those task forces. He also served as Director of Law Enforcement for the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission for five years.

His professional and leadership experience includes serving on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, the Board of Directors of the Regional Organized Crime Information Center, and the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. He is a Past President and Treasurer of the OSPOA and was their office and business manager. Mike served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma City PC Users Group.

Brother Dixon served as Worshipful Master of Adair Lodge #99 in 1972 and Edmond Lodge #37 in 2012. He is a perpetual member of Edmond Lodge #37, Altus Lodge #62, Adair Lodge #99, St. Albans Lodge #192, India Lodge #551, Guildhall Lodge #553, and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He is a member of Tranquility Lodge 2000 in Texas. He was appointed as Grand Marshal in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and was elected Junior Grand Warden in 2015, Senior Grand Warden in 2016, and Deputy Grand Master in 2017. He has served on numerous Grand Lodge Committees.

Brother Dixon is a perpetual member of the McAlester, Guthrie, and Tulsa Scottish Rite Bodies and was invested Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2013. He serves as Director of the McAlester 12th Degree Team and is a member of the Rose Croix team. He is a cast member of the Guthrie 12th and 32nd Degree Teams and is on the Credentials Committee. He is a perpetual member of the Guthrie York Rite Bodies; India Shrine; Edmond Chapter Order of the Eastern Star; National Sojourners; Heros of '76; Royal Order of Scotland; McAlester Knights of St. Andrew; Order of the Sacred White Buffalo; Knight Masons; Oklahoma York Rite College; Scottish Rite Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty Association; and Father Murrow Chapter, Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a member of the Oklahoma College M.S.R.I.C.F., Oklahoma and National Philaethes Societies, Scottish Rite Research Society, and Red Cross of Constantine. He served as President and Secretary of the Edmond-Guthrie Shrine Club, was Sultan of the India Shrine Oriental Band, is a Past President of the Central States Shrine Association of Shrine Oriental Bands, and is a Past Chapter Dad of the Edmond DeMolay Chapter. He received the Honorary Legion of Honor in 2013.



Results of Resolutions Considered at Annual Communication

Resolution 1 A - C PASSED

Amends Section 201, 302, and 304, respectively, to allow for electronic voting devices to be used in place of paper ballots, while still keeping the option of paper. Resolution 1-C also allows more time for delegate registration, and changes the time and place to vote for Grand Lodge officers and Charity Foundation board members into the auditorium, rather than in the ballroom.

Resolution 2 PASSED

Amends Section 502 to increase the per capita. Per capita increases to \$15.00 per non-perpetual member, per year, beginning January 1, 2020; \$20.00 per year beginning in 2021; and \$25.00 in 2022.

Resolution 3 FAILED

Amends Section 502 D: Assessments. Each candidate is assessed a \$15.00 fee that is a distinct contribution to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, and a \$2.00 assessment that goes to the Grand Lodge general fund. This would reverse the donations, so that the Charity Foundation gets \$2.00, and the Grand Lodge gets \$15.00

Resolution 4 FAILED

Adds a Section 903, which limits the ability of members to amend the Masonic Law of Oklahoma by not allowing a resolution on a topic to be re-introduced if defeated until two years have passed.

Resolution 5 FAILED

Adds a Section U903 which limits the ability of members to amend the Masonic Law of Oklahoma by not allowing a resolution on a topic to be re-introduced if defeated until two years have passed.

Resolution 6 PASSED

Amends Section 201 paragraph 2, and makes the \$100.00 filing fee non-refundable.

Resolution 7 PASSED

Amends Section 706 paragraph 1, and makes the \$100.00 filing fee non-refundable.

Resolution 8 PASSED

Amends Section U308 (Order of Business) by switching E. Reading of the Constitution and Laws, Uniform Code, and Trial Code and F. Balloting Upon Petitions for Degrees and Applications for Affiliation.

Resolution 9 FAILED

Amends Section U310, Reading the Constitution and Laws, and Uniform Code by removing the phrase "frequently."

Recommendation of the Committee on Fraternal Relations and Correspondence

PASSED

...**the committee recommends** the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Oklahoma suspend recognition of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Arkansas, until the provision of due process of law is provided for by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas; and that the Grand Secretary notify their Grand Master accordingly.

THE GRAND LODGE

2019

of the state of

OKLAHOMA

Elected Officers

M.:W.: Mike DixonGrand Master
 R.:W.: Bob Peters MOHDeputy Grand Master
 R.:W.: Robert G. DavisSenior Grand Warden
 R.:W.: Scott VincentJunior Grand Warden
 R.:W.: David G. DavidGrand Treasurer
 M.:W.: Bobby L. Laws PGMGrand Secretary
 R.:W.: Ron WrayGrand Lecturer



Appointed Officers

W.: Ron MinshallSenior Grand Deacon
 W.: Steve PetersJunior Grand Deacon
 W.: David TennisonSenior Grand Steward
 W.: Sage VincentJunior Grand Steward
 W.: Cecil WalkerGrand Marshall
 W.: Bobby JonesGrand Pursuivant
 W.: John Carter MOHGrand Chaplain
 W.: Ed DixonGrand Bible Bearer
 W.: Jon BennettGrand Sword Bearer
 W.: James NoblesGrand Flag Bearer
 W.: Steve VinerGrand Tyler
 W.: John ChurchGrand Musician
 W.: Jim SeegerGrand Historian
 W.: Clyde SchoolfieldGrand Orator
 W.: Bill HowellGrand Photographer

Elected to the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

Matt Cargill
B. F. Rowland, Jr.
Jack Painter



R.:W.: Robert G. Davis Named A Top-Ten Esoteric Author

The editors of the Southern California Research Lodge's *Fraternal Review* recently named their top ten Masonic authors, living and deceased. R.:W.: Robert G. Davis, Senior Grand Warden, was number nine on the list which included such notables as: Albert Pike, Manly P. Hall, Arturo de Hoyos, and W. L. Wilmhurst. Congratulations to Brother Davis on this prestigious honor.

**From the Grand Master
M.:W.: Mike Dixon**

Fellow Oklahoma Masons,

I must start by expressing my humble gratitude for granting me the great privilege of serving as your Grand Master in 2019. I am privileged to have this opportunity to serve with the Grand Line of Master Masons that you have elected. When I look at the caliber and character of these officers I have great optimism for the future of Masonry in Oklahoma. These men are all men of quality, with a vision toward the future; each possesses a deep commitment to Craft Masonry. Each wants to serve Masonry just as much as I do! Your Grand Lodge officers are committed to working with *You* to discuss and develop plans that will positively impact Oklahoma Masonry in the ensuing years.

I know that I speak for each Grand Lodge officer when I say *Thank You* for passing the per capita resolution. As you well know, this resolution will not impact us until the 2020 dues year when the initial per capita \$5.00 increase goes into effect. Your Grand Lodge will continue to face financial difficulties until the full amount of the per capita increase becomes effective beginning with the 2022 dues year.

You have been increasingly generous in supporting your Grand Lodge operations with additional on-going and annual contributions; you have responded and “stepped up” when asked by the Grand Lodge. It is certain that the Grand Lodge will continue to need your additional contributions, at least until the full additional per capita increase occurs in 2022. With this in mind, please know that your Grand Lodge Trustees continually work to assure the most efficient methods of fiscal management and asset growth. For example, under the leadership of Grand Master Rick Allison, the Grand Lodge implemented a new investment policy which significantly diversified Grand Lodge investments. We anticipate that this new policy will increase the earnings on Grand Lodge investments and, if successful, it *could* increase the financial return to the Local Lodges on Perpetual Memberships.

One of my most important leadership initiatives in 2019 is to create a long-term plan, a tool, if you will, for Oklahoma Masonry. My expectation is to use this plan to address declining membership and to use it as a guide for the efficient operation of the Grand Lodge. Historically, planning has occurred with the focus limited to one year, i.e., one Grand Master’s term at a time. I believe that we must look beyond any single Grand Master’s term with regard to effective planning and implementation of systemic leadership initiatives. *Collaborative and transitional leadership practices, from one Grand Master to another, is not only desirable, it has become a necessity.*

To demonstrate my commitment to this type of leadership, I am continuing Grand Master Rick Allison’s plan for state-wide **Regional Meetings**. R.:W.: Scott Vincent, Junior Grand Warden, will be working with the District Deputies to establish 2019 Regional Meeting dates and locations. I strongly encourage each Oklahoma Mason to attend and participate in these meetings; the intent is not to “pitch” Grand Lodge programs or beg for money. The intent will be to provide a Grand Lodge-Local Lodge *forum* that allows **you**, the members of our Local Lodges to identify and discuss your needs, to have a comfortable and meaningful dialogue with the Grand Lodge, and *to work together* to improve our Gentle Craft. This forum also will provide Oklahoma’s Master Masons a direct opportunity to give feedback to the Grand Lodge, telling us what you think we are doing right, what you think we are doing wrong, and where improvement is needed....and, it will include discussions about where you want Oklahoma Masonry to be over the next five years. And perhaps most importantly, *how do you believe we can get there together.*

Systemically speaking, one of the most important issues we must address is the decline in membership; the seriousness of this cannot be ignored. There are fewer members to perform the Ritual work that truly defines and establishes who we are; fewer Brothers are available to serve as officers within our Lodges, fewer Brothers, fewer Brothers....ad infinitum. Each and every Local and Grand Lodge function or initiative is thwarted or impacted negatively by declining membership. In my view, *we must address this together.* If *We* fail in this effort, this alone may result in a decline that Masonry cannot survive.

Once the Regional Meeting dates and locations are fixed, this information will be disseminated to each and every Local Lodge. ***The importance of your attendance and your participation in these Regional Meetings*** (forums) ***cannot be overstated.***

This is both a plea and a challenge. I firmly believe that the Grand Lodge and the Local Lodges, working together, can find solutions and can develop a plan to implement them, *together.*

Please plan to attend and participate in your Regional Meeting.

**M.:W.: Mike Dixon
Grand Master 2019**



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

**From the Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Bob Peters**

Thank You, Brothers

This year's Grand Lodge session is over, and it's time to look forward to a new year. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for attending this year's session, and for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Deputy Grand Master. I will do all in my power to assist Grand Master Dixon during his year as Grand Master.

The craft of Oklahoma showed your love for our great fraternity by passing some legislation that will help ensure the existence of our Grand Lodge for many more years to come.

Even though the increase in per-capita doesn't go into effect until 2020, it certainly helps us have a brighter outlook for the future and, in passing the electronic voting, we have brought our fraternity one step closer to the 21st century, as far as technology is concerned. I believe the electronic voting will help increase our attendance at Grand Lodge because it will streamline the entire voting process and also allow the Brothers who faithfully counted the ballots to have the opportunity to experience Grand Lodge with everyone else.

One of the most important things to remember when we are in the process of amending the Constitution and Laws, is to always consider the pros and cons of what the resolution will do and how it will affect our fraternity now, and in the future. We are not always going to agree with each other on certain pieces of legislation because we all have different opinions on what should and should not be done, passed or not passed. I believe that each of us, in our own way, has the best interest of our Great Fraternity at heart. We should be able to bring these items up, discuss them in a rational manner, and then vote our conscience without repercussions for our opinion. We will not always agree on everything, but we should always part on the square as Brothers and as friends.

Many of you will be traveling over the holidays. I wish you safe travels and may you find renewed peace, joy and hope. May God bless all of you.

From my family to yours,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail!

**R.: W.: Bob Peters
Deputy Grand Master**



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

**HEALDTON LODGE #23 INITIATES
FOURTH GENERATION**

Healdton Lodge #23 recently conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on the fourth generation of the Henderson family. Pictured at right are Brs. Donald Henderson (great grandfather), Keven Henderson (father), Deven Henderson (Entered Apprentice), and David Henderson (grandfather).



Photo by W.: Mark Condit

**From the Senior Grand Warden
R.:W.: Robert G. Davis**

Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the New Year!

To all members of our Masonic Family in Oklahoma, and their families and friends:

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

One of the wonderful joys of the Holiday Season is that it leads us to reflect on what the past year has brought us and how we have responded to it with our commitment to thanks giving and hope for what we have, and what is possible in the future. Even in the not so good years, the smile is in seeing them through. The holidays bring us the message of renewal and hope.

Thanksgiving and Christmas have always been about love, about what is good in the world; and the possibilities and opportunities which are present in the best of humankind. Freemasonry makes its influence felt on the positive side of life's equation of ups and downs. Our ritual words, with their exalted philosophy, moral and intellectual inspiration; our commitment to the ideals of the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God, places our fraternity in a better position today than at any time in our history to present our ideals to good men the world over--men of all backgrounds and creeds who are hungry for what is right and true in human life.

Brethren, we are indeed entering upon a new season, a new year—a time that can truthfully be designated as a year of opportunity for Masons the world over. May we fill it with Love and Peace, with Happiness by helping others, by being better Masons ourselves, and by letting our fellow men know that, in a world of economic uncertainty and political chaos, of new social and political ideals and creeds causing so much turmoil; the calm, still voice of Masonry, always prepared, moving like a star to do that which is right because it is right—beckons us truly to be good men—doing a great work.

In all the confusion, with all the bustle and activity of our times, it is good to remember the importance of a moment of quiet, of reflection, of the kind of thought that keeps us balanced. Masonic historians call this the *Way of the Mystery*--the significance of an occasional inner look, that calmness which teaches us to *sit still for a while*.

Time and again, our Degrees instruct us that *wisdom is achieved only by reflection and contemplation*. More and more, we are forced to substitute information for insight; process data for thought. Yet, the message of the holiday season beckons us always to listen to our inner conscience.

“Teach us to sit still.”

May this good season of the year provide us with opportunities to sit still, to share in the sense of being thankful, to be in the presence of the Holy, take time for a little spirit- restoring thought. May we have the chance to set the rigors of our time aside for just a while to celebrate our own uniqueness as a human being and a child of God.

My Brethren of the mystic tie, may that Light, which shines brightest when all else is dark and quiet, illuminate your life during this season of Thanksgiving and Spiritual Uplift.

“Silent night, holy night; all is calm, all is bright.”

**R.:W.: Robert G. Davis
Senior Grand Warden**



Photo by W.: Bill Howell



**From the Junior Grand Warden
R.:W.: Scott Vincent**



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

Brethren:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Craft, for believing in me and humbling me with the opportunity to serve as your Junior Grand Warden.

In my travels last year as Grand Marshal, I communicated to you that hard Work, honesty, commitment, and customer service cannot be replaced. With these principles, we can achieve all the endeavors we choose to pursue.

Masonry has come to a crossroads and we have chosen a path that is workable and a destination that is obtainable. We have addressed the finances of the Fraternity and answered that challenge by passing the per capita increase. The voting process has been improved by the passing of electronic voting. We cannot stop or let down our guard now that we have started a process that can and will help put our Fraternity back to a stronger and stable position. Thank you the Craft for taking those steps.

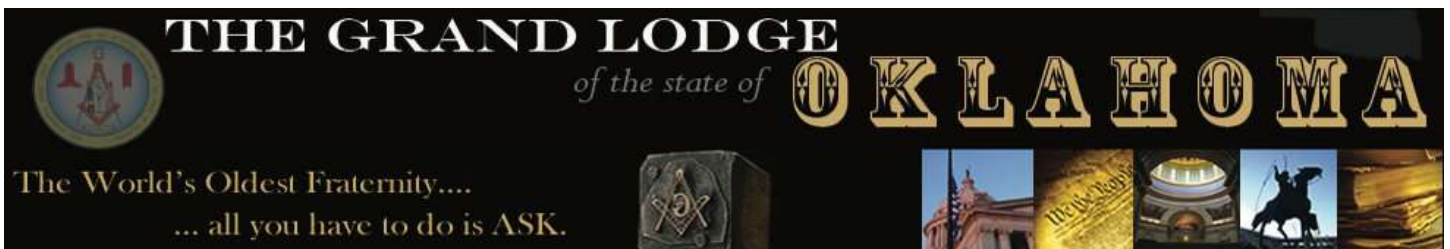
I am interested in hearing each of your thoughts and ideas on current and future issues such as what would help your Lodge, district, or any positive idea that would improve the Fraternity. I have always said that there are no bad ideas; there are just some ideas that are better than others. Unspoken ideas are never achieved.

Again, thank you for believing in me and if there is anything I can do to assist you, your Lodge, or district, I am only a phone call away.

TOGETHER WE GROW-UNITED WE STAND

Fraternally,

R.:W.: Scott Vincent
Junior Grand Warden
405-420-6081



**The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Photo Album
is located at:
<http://www.gloklahoma.com/subscriptions/album/>
Check it out!!!**



Grand Secretary

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma www.gloklahoma.com



P.O. BOX 9019 GUTHRIE, OK 73044 Dist. (405) 282-3212 Fax: (405) 282-3244

November 28, 2018

The Grand Secretary and Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation will be conducting one (1) Grand Lodge / Charity Foundation Secretary Workshop for 2019. Attendance by any Lodge Officer, not just Secretaries is highly encouraged. District Deputy Grand Masters are also welcome. No registration is necessary for the Masonic Charity Foundation portion of the day; however, you must register with the Grand Secretary's office to attend that portion of the training to assist with the preparation of course materials.

Each lodge is encouraged to return the registration forms as soon as possible so that the appropriate materials can be prepared. Registration cost for the Grand Lodge portion of the program is \$20.00 to cover the cost of the materials.

Topics will include forms and materials of the Grand Lodge, Reports, Secretaries Interface System and other issues pertinent to daily operation of your lodge.

W.: John Logan, Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation, will provide an overview of the Foundation programs, with emphasis on Matching Funds, Promises Matter and other issues that affect your members and community.

- Saturday, January 12, 2019, at India Shrine Center, 3601 NW 36th Street, OKC
10:00 am. to 12:00 pm Masonic Charity Foundation
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

A registration form is included. A separate registration form is required for each attendee. Additional forms may be downloaded from the Secretary's portal.

**** Lunch will be available at the Shrine Center for the nominal fee of \$7.00

**** You are welcome to bring your Lap Top.

Fraternally,

Bobby L. Laws

Bobby L. Laws, PGM Grand Secretary

GRAND LODGE CHARITY FOUNDATION SECRETARY WORKSHOP 2019

Saturday, January 12, 2019 India Shrine Center 3601 NW 36th St, OKC

10 am - 12 pm Masonic Charity Foundation 1 pm - 3:30 pm Grand Lodge Lunch available - \$7

REGISTRATION FORM

2019 LODGE SECRETARY'S WORKSHOP

The Lodge Secretary's Workshop listed below is the only workshop scheduled for this year. Although this training is geared to the lodge secretary duties, any member is welcome to attend. Please complete your information below and return the form with your check to the Grand Secretary's office as soon as possible.

January 12, 2019

10:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. India Shrine Center, 3601 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK

Full Name _____ Lodge _____ No. _____

Lodge Office: _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone with area code (____) _____

E-mail: _____

**** Please check YES _____ or NO _____ if you plan to eat lunch at the Shrine Center so that we can inform the folks who will be preparing the meal the amount of food needed.

Please return the form along with \$20.00 (make checks payable to Grand Lodge of Oklahoma) Mail to:

Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma P.O. Box 1019 Guthrie, OK. 73044-1019

The Oklahoma Mason

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In This Issue:

- Grand Master's BioPg 2***
- Grand Session ResultsPg 3***
- Grand Master's GreetingPg 5***
- Deputy Grand MasterPg 6***
- Senior Grand WardenPg 7***
- Junior Grand WardenPg 8***
- 2019 Secretary Workshop ..Pg 9***



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