

The Address of the Grand Master



**M.:W.: R. Scott Vincent
To the Most Worshipful Grand
Lodge
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma
November 12, A.:L.: 6022**



**M.:W.: R. Scott Vincent
Grand Master 2022**

Brethren

Welcome to the 114th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. Brothers, attending Grand Lodge is a duty that all of masonry should take seriously. All this year I have stated that this is your year and your Grand Lodge not mine. We have an obligation to future brothers that will be born into this fraternity to nurture and guide it to a more enlightening experience. My goal when you elected me as Junior Grand Warden was to work diligently to improve this fraternity in areas that would take us into the future. Only you, the craftsmen, can be the judge of that. I thank you for attending this communication and taking part in the leadership of our fraternity.

Brothers, all this year I have stated that I should be the biggest servant of this fraternity. I believe that whole heartedly. If we all take that same attitude, I know for a fact, that the challenges we face in the future could be handled with ease and less drama than we have had in the past. If we expect our fraternity to survive, our attitudes will have to change. We all need to remember those words that would start the process of turning this fraternity to a more positive direction, **“If it’s to be, It’s up to me.”**

Thanks

To My Wife and Family

I would like to take this time and thank the one person that has stood by my side from the beginning of all my endeavors. She has always been there with Love, support, and a helping hand in everything that I have done in the last 44 years. To Nancy, my loving wife, I thank you for all you have done with and for me. To my children (Kristi / Mike and Sage / Jenny) and grandchildren (Trenten, Madison, McKenna, and Brooklyn), thank you for the support you have given me before and during this masonic journey. I thank you for letting me miss all the birthday parties, ballgames, jackpots, and stock shows. The Masonic world does not really know the sacrifices you have made in supporting me during this journey. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To My Lodges

To my home Lodge, St. Alban #192 in Arnett, where I was raised in 1973, thank you for the financial support and encouragement. I was fortunate to have St. Alban Lodge #192 as the starting place for my masonic journey, the mentors that helped me through the degrees and those that helped me through the chairs. Woodward Lodge #189, you are my second home away from home. Thank you for the financial support and the encouragement that you all have shown me from the very moment I entered your lodge.

Seiling Lodge #495 and India Lodge #551, thank you for the financial support that you so generously supported me with and showing me the meaning of fellowship and acceptance. Vici Lodge #465 and Joppa Lodge #262 Shattuck, thank you for the support and encouragement.

To the Trustees

I have been blessed to have such a great team to support me this year. R.:W.: Chaney, thank you for stepping up and taking our ideas and putting them into excellent order to form the leadership program. R.:W.: Carter, thank you for being there when I needed an ear to vent to and the computer skills that you so freely came to my aid with. You saved my bacon more than once. Thank you R.:W.: Roderick, to my brother that could be my twin in our thinking department. You have always been standing there when I turned around to find support. Your unconditional support I will always cherish. R.:W.: David, thank you for the time and info that you have given me over this year. I have never gone away from any of our conversations and meetings without having gained something from them. M.:W.: Peters, (Big Brother), thank you for the encouragement, support and above all keeping me on my toes. You have always had that insight to bring that light at the end of the tunnel from a different direction, to make me stop and think.

To the Grand Secretary and Staff

Thank you, Grand Secretary R.: W.: John Christopher for the time and effort you bestowed to the craft the last two years it will never be forgotten. To Emily, Laura, Mike, and Karen, thank you all for the time you have given the Grand Lodge Office and Grand Secretary this year. Your commitment to the office and sacrifices will not be unnoticed.

To the Appointed Officers

I just want to say **thank you** for making this year a success. Your commitment to come when called upon to the events of the Grand Lodge were unwavering and brought comfort to me that I could not have picked a better group of brothers for the positions that each of you served with distinction.

To the Deputy Grand Lecturers

There is not enough words to thank you for the commitment to the fraternity that all of you show in the countless hours you devote to the lodge, district, and regional schools. Your unselfish support and giving of your knowledge and time is commendable. The words Thank You does not seem adequate, but they mean more than any other words I can say. I have enjoyed watching you do the magic that you do during these events.

To the District Deputy Grand Masters

Thank you for the time and effort you have devoted to the Grand Line and the Craft. The countless hours that some of you have devoted to the task are commendable. I know that it seems that it goes unnoticed. I want to let you know that it has not. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the assistance and commitment you have given.

To the Past Grand Masters

What can I say, there is an inexhaustible supply of knowledge that is available to all who ask. I have come to some of you with questions that I have had throughout the year and never have I come away from the conversation without good solid advice. M.:W.: Joe Manning, thank you for the countless hours that you have spent giving me the advice and counsel I was seeking from you on the C/C and the implementation of those rules. M.:W.: Rick Allison, friend, brother, you also gave me the time needed when I called looking for the counsel and guidance in matters where I had limited experience. M.:W.: Bob Peters, thank you for the advice and counsel you have given me throughout this year, as I stated before, you have always made me think from a different point of view. M.:W.: Bobby Laws, the icon of Grand Lodge, thank you for all the advice and counsel you gave me as I advanced up through the Grand Line. M.:W.: Lanny Sander, M.:W.: Glenn Almy, and M.:W.: Charles Belknap the three mentors of my Grand Line Masonic journey.

I really don't know whether to thank you or cuss you for this journey that you all played a big part in having me pursue.

With all the jokes aside, I thank you for being my friends and brothers. This would not have been a complete journey without you. To the rest of the Past Grands, I have received information and counsel from you all that you did not know you were giving at the time, I was learning from you whether you knew it or not. Thank you for your commitment and time to the fraternity.

To the Grand Lodge Ladies

Thank you for all your dedication and assistance that you have given to my wife Nancy. You may not realize just what a difference you were making. I would also like to thank you for all the help that you extended to me. It is a bad excuse to say that when moments get busy, our mind does not recognize the people that really make a difference, toiling in the trenches. I am one of those people, there really are no words sufficient to say how much that you are all appreciated by Nancy and myself. THANK YOU.

To the Past Grand Lodge Ladies

Thank you for the hospitality and acceptance that each of you extended to my wife. She took on the role in form and felt at home from the start of our journey. Thank you also for the advice and help you gave us in our masonic travel called Grand Line. We both will always remember and be thankful for the experience.

All the events and destinations that I traveled to and attended this year can be found in the proceedings, however, I would like to touch on a few of the major ones. First and foremost was the Installation of the 2022 Grand Lodge Officers. This was a highlight of the things to come for the year. Thank you to the Oklahoma Commandery that provided the Arch of Steel, the Oklahoma Indian Degree Team for Presenting the Flags, and the Past Grand Masters Most Worshipful Brothers Sander, Almy, Grigsby, Laws, Allison, Coppedge, Dixon, Chambers, and R.:W.: Ronnie Wray for installing M.:W.: Peters as Grand Lecturer. This was an experience that will not be forgotten.

The delegation of myself, R.:W.: Chaney, R.:W.: Carter and R.:W.: Roderick attended the Grand Lodge of Texas and were received and represented our jurisdiction well. It was great to see some old friends R.:W.: Brothers Miller and Dodson again. As always, the hospitality was next to none.

I was blessed to have R.:W.: Brothers Carter and Roderick accompany me to the Grand Lodge of Kansas. Here we were received and treated to some fine North of Oklahoma hospitality. The big event was the drawing for the Classic car.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma was another honor that I was blessed to attend. I have always been impressed by M.:W.: Davies and the way that he has conducted the business with professionalism and expertise at his Grand Sessions. There are some lessons to be learned there. The hospitality and the warm fraternalism that myself, M.:W.: Manning, Chambers, Coppedge, R.:W.: Carter, Roderick, David, and W.: Guinn were given was exceptional.

I was invited to attend and give greetings at the Spring and Fall Reunions of the Tulsa, Guthrie, and McAlester Scottish Rite. If you have never attended a Scottish Rite Reunion, you are missing an experience of a lifetime. There are many lessons one can glean from the experiences of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

I was invited to give greetings at the annual York Rite Grand Session and Grand Master Field Day, Order of the Eastern Star, DeMolay Conclave and Leadership Conference, the Grand Session for the International Order of the Rainbow Girls, and their Imperial Session, where the 100-year Anniversary was celebrated. I also presented a check from the Masons of Oklahoma / MCF to the Rainbow Girls for their building renovation in McAlister for \$100,000.00 with a challenge to all comers to match another \$100,000 if raised by the end of 2022.

Due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to attend the Amaranth Grand Court and Supreme Court. Thanks to M.:W.: Peters and R.:W.: Roderick for representing the Grand Lodge in superb form. I had a scheduling conflict in attending the Jobs Daughters Rally and M.:W.: Dixon was kind enough to represent the Grand Lodge at the Rally.

There are two projects I felt that I wanted to accomplish this year. The first was to complete the Investment strategy started by M.:W.: Allison. The Investment Policy that was adopted from his endeavors, was refined with additions to change the way we invest and utilize the profits from those investments. The investment counselor was changed to one that will attend trustees’ meetings throughout the year and keep those investments balanced biweekly. The second was to implement a program that would start to building masonry from the foundation up. I know from experience that no endeavor will succeed without a solid foundation. I have seen and heard the talk of improving this fraternity, but I have not seen one fundamental idea that has done that. The Ashlar Program does just that. This program only needs to be worked to strengthen masonry. To build a strong solid foundation is dependent on the first brick you lay, that brick is the candidate we bring into our ranks.

Our decline can be traced back through our failure to lay that first brick with the masonic mortar that it was intended to be laid with.

It was my honor to host the first Grand Masters Day of Master Masons at the Grand Lodge where four (4) Brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, with the hopes that this will become an annual event for the craft to take advantage of. A product of this event sparked the first annual Open House of the Grand Lodge which resulted with over 100 brothers and family members attending.

It was my honor to attend the Imperial Shrine Session with the India Shrine Brothers where my wife and I were treated with the utmost hospitality and respect, I thank the Nobles and their Wives for a great week of friendship and education we received during the time spent with all of you.

I had the great honor and privilege to appoint one trustee to the Charles Page Foundation in Sand Springs, R.:W.: James Roderick. This to me is a position that requires commitment and dedication, along with a strong work ethic.

GRAND MASTER’S CORNERSTONES

During the 2021-2022 year I have had the honor to officiate the following Cornerstone Ceremonies.

1. November 24, 2021, Love County Courthouse
100-year Celebration in Marietta.
2. December 8, 2021, Fargo-Gage Event Center
Dedication Ceremony in Fargo.
3. February 26, 2022, Jenks Lodge #497
Centennial Celebration in Jenks.
4. March 1, 2022, Seiling High School Dedication
Ceremony in Seiling.
5. April 30, 2022, Drumright Lodge #468
Centennial Celebration in Drumright
6. May 10, 2022, Elmore City Dedication
Ceremony of High School in Elmore City.
7. September 24, 2022, Garfield #501 Centennial
Celebration Ceremony in Enid.
8. October 25, 2022, Seiling #495 Centennial
Celebration Ceremony in Seiling.

GRAND MASTER’S DECISIONS

During the 2021-2022 year I have issued the following Grand Master’s Decisions.

Decision #1

Waiving the work lecture in then Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degree by Substituting the Perpetual Path Program Videos.

Dear Brethren,

This decision is required to be read at the first stated meeting of your lodge after receipt.

The perpetual Path Program is continuing to be a very successful program.

The educational videos being used for proficiency in the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degree have proven to be an outstanding means of teaching these new brethren knowledge about each degree and Masonry in general. These videos are restricted for use during Perpetual Path conferrals only.

To continue to strengthen Oklahoma Masonry, I am issuing the following decision which will permit those who are Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts to complete their degree(s) through the Perpetual Path Program provided that they comply with all the requirements of that program.

This decision is in effect during my term of office as Grand Master which commenced on November 14, 2021.

Therefore, it is my decision:

Pursuant to section 202B.12. I have the authority to waive under Section U 505 the requirement of

passing an examination on the work lecture in open lodge.

I hereby waive the requirement for turning in the work lecture (categorical lecture) in open lodge and substitute the requirement of viewing the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft educational videos by all Perpetual Path candidates.

Respectively Submitted,



Scott Vincent

Grand Master

Issued this 15th day of November 2021

Decision #2

TO: MEMBERS OF POTEAU LODGE # 46

This letter is to inform you that I had a question brought before me by the Grand Secretary as to the election of the Worshipful Master in your lodge. The issue in question is that we found no record where Brother Christopher Scarborough has been elected to serve as a Warden in a Lodge. In Section U 204 Of the Constitution and code of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, to be eligible for the office of Worshipful Master, he must have been previously elected and served as a Warden of a regular Oklahoma lodge.

Therefore, it is my decision that Brother Christopher Scarbrough be removed from the office of Worshipful Master to comply with section U 204.

It is also my decision that to fill the vacancy created by this action, Brother Charles E. Whitehead will succeed to this vacancy in accordance to Section U 221, which states in case of the death, removal from the jurisdiction or any other cause, the Master becomes incapable of performing the duties of his office, notwithstanding the provisions of U 418 D, the Senior Warden succeeds to all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master.

I hereby direct the Secretary of Poteau Lodge #46 to ensure that every member of Poteau Lodge is informed of these decisions.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Vincent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Scott Vincent
Grand Master

Decision #3

Appointment to fill vacancy of the Museum and Library Board:

Brethren:

Due to a vacancy that has occurred from the resignation of a board member, and in accordance with the By Laws of the Museum and Library Sec. 6. paragraph 10. A vacancy in the office of the president shall be filled by the vice-president. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of the President, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master.

Therefore, it is my decision that the resignation of brother Cody L. Presley is accepted, and that brother Jim Seeger is appointed to fill this position until the elections at the annual communication of Grand Lodge in November of 2022.



Scott Vincent

Grand Master

Decision #4**Appointment to fill vacancy of the Museum and Library Board:**

Brethren:

It is my decision to withdraw Decision #3 that I issued on February 9, 2022 to correct a step in the process of a vacancy that was brought to my attention.

Sincerely and Fraternaly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Vincent".

Scott Vincent
Grand Master

Decision #5

Replacement of District Deputy Grand Master, District #2:

Brethren:

Due to the death of Brother Roger Beaver District Deputy Grand Master, District #2 on February 20, 2022, it is my decision to appoint Brother Brandon M. Blanchett in his place.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Vincent".

Scott Vincent
Grand Master

Decision # 6

To: Members of Sapulpa #170

This correspondence is to inform you that I had a question brought before me by the Grand Secretary as to the initiation of one Brett Lee Bean #223215. The issue in question is that brother Brett Lee Bean #246694 has already been initiated in Akdar Lodge #555 on the 18th day of December 2009. By common sense he cannot be initiated a second time in the same jurisdiction.

Therefore, it is my decision that Brother Bean #223215 be stricken from the records of Sapulpa Lodge #170 to comply with the Constitution and Code of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Landmark 16. No lodge can interfere in the business of another lodge nor give degrees to brethren who are members of other lodges.

I hereby direct the Secretary of Sapulpa lodge #170 to ensure that every member of said lodge is informed of this decision. Also, to inform Brother Bean that he must pursue his Masonic journey through Akdar Lodge #555 where he is currently a Enter Apprentice member, according to Section U415 of the Constitution and Code. If a period of 1 year or more shall have elapsed from the time of election, initiation, or passing, the application for advancement shall be in writing on a form furnished by the Grand Lodge and signed by applicants own hand using his full name and shall be subject to the same procedure as a petition for the degrees.

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft must pass the examination in open lodge as to his proficiency before the new ballot is spread. After the brother is declared proficient, the lodge may receive and read an Application for Advancement. An investigating committee will be appointed, and the Application will lay over at least until the next stated meeting. The report of the committee will then be received, and the new ballot will be spread. Scott Vincent Grand Master

Sincerely and Fraternaly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Vincent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Scott Vincent
Grand Master

Decision #7

July 12, 2022

Brethren,

This letter is to inform you that effective July 12, 2022, in accordance with Section 202 A (4), 202 B (4), Section 502 (A), Section 502 (C), Section 503 and Section U 209 (w), I as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma took the following actions:

1. I suspended Worshipful Master Johnny Dean Childers, ID # 152682 from the exercise of the power and duties of the office of Worshipful Master of Tuttle Lodge No. 405 and excluded him from Tuttle Lodge No. 405.
2. On the same date and under the same authority, I suspended Worshipful Kenneth Gerald Childers, ID # 127448, from the exercise of the power and duties of Secretary of Tuttle Lodge No. 405 and excluded him from Tuttle Lodge No. 405.
3. I appointed Worshipful Truman Lavern Ragin, Jr. as Secretary pro-tempore of Tuttle Lodge No. 405.

4. Senior Warden, Worshipful Larry Don Duran will assume the duties of Worshipful Master pro-tempore for Tuttle Loge No. 405 and to fill the positions of Senior Warden and Junior Warden by pro-tempore appointment from time to time as required.

I hereby direct that the Secretary ensures that every member of Tuttle Lodge No. 405 is informed of this decision.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Vincent".

R. Scott Vincent,
Grand Master 2022

GRAND MASTER’S DISPENSATIONS

During the 2021-2022 year I have issued the following Grand Master’s Dispensations.

1. December 17,2021, to Western Star Lodge No.138, Weatherford Okla.
To hold their election and installation of Officers on December 27, 2021.
2. December 21, 2021, to Cashion Lodge No 174, to temporarily move their charter to Edmond Lodge No. 37.
3. December 30,2021, to Kingfisher Lodge No. 52, to hold their election and Installation of Officers on January 6,2022.
4. February 3,2022, to Coweta Lodge No.251, for OMIDT to travel to Union Lodge No. 7, Magnolia, Delaware, to confer the Master Mason Degree.
5. February 28.2022, to Coweta Lodge No. 251, for OMIDT to travel to Kora Shrine Temple, Lewiston Maine, to confer the Master Mason Degree.

6. March 10, 2022, to Coweta Lodge No. 251, for OMIDT to travel to Ephrata Lodge No. 665, Ephrata, Pennsylvania, to confer the Master Mason Degree.
7. March 23, 2022, to Moore Lodge No.539, to waive the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Proficiencies for Brother Eufemio Quiatchon Feria.
8. March 23,2022, to Moore Lodge No. 539 to confer the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees out of time, on Brother Eufemio Quiatchon Feria.
9. April 11,2022, to Pond Creek Lodge No. 125 to move their charter out to the Salt Fork River to hold an Outdoor Lodge.
10. April 11, 2022, to Coweta Lodge No. 251, for the OMIDT to travel to Richardson Lodge No. 214 in Grapevine, Texas, to confer the Master Mason Degree.
11. May 11, 2022, to Red Fork-Brookside No. 505, to temporarily move their charter to Jenks Lodge No.497.
12. May 25, 2022, to Cache Valley Lodge No. 530, to move their charter to a location on CR 2650 in Cotton County for a Master Mason Outdoor Degree.
13. May 27, 2022, to Coweta Lodge No. 251, for OMIDT to travel to Huntsville Lodge No. 364, Huntsville, Arkansas, to confer the Master Mason Degree.

14. September 2, 2022, to Jones City Lodge #537 to move their charter to Jack Dorman Ranch for the purpose of a Outdoor Degree.
15. September 19, 2022, to Tishomingo Lodge #91 to move their charter to Boggy Depot State Park for the purpose of conferring a Master Mason Degree.
16. Sept 26, 2022, to Talihina Lodge # 73 to hold their election and installation of officers out of time.

FINAL THOUGHTS TO THE CRAFT

Throughout this year I have said that I should be the greatest servant in this fraternity. I believed that at the first, and I strongly believe that now. In my travels this year I noticed that there was one product of the covid era, self-centeredness. Brothers one of the easiest and most abundant commodity you and I have is our time. If you stop and think on this, you will see that time is the only commodity we all have. Our time is what we trade for all the other commodities in our life. How we invest that time tells the world whether it was spent for the service of others or for our own ego. The one area that I strived to accomplish during this walk that we all call life is to show the example instead of having words coming forth that are empty in my actions. I firmly believe that we as Masons should be setting this example for the world to see, not the talk we are all so good at in our Masonic meetings. It is time I got off my duff and set that example, not look at someone else to do it. I need to take responsibility for myself, quit being self-centered and start being a servant to my fellow man. By all of us doing this masonry will come to the top of the mountain again and the outside world will know that we do not sell ourselves short and we are the standard.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the privilege and honor to serve as your Grand Master. It has been an experience that my wife Nancy, and I will always cherish. I want to leave these thoughts for you to ponder on (TOGETHER WE GROW- UNITED WE STAND).

If we as masons don't start trying to improve our fraternity as a team, we are going to die alone. The last one, (never sell yourself short in your endeavors and always set the standard). By doing this you will always be striving towards improving yourself and setting the example for those who are watching. Again, I thank you for the journey, and opportunity to have been of service to you as your Grand Master.

Thank You Brethren for this opportunity to serve you. I am honored and humbled.

**Scott Vincent
Grand Master 2022**

