

# THE

# OKLAHOMA



# MASON

THE GRAND LODGE OF  
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE  
OF OKLAHOMA

Vol. LXXXVI No. 2A

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## MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

I've always been curious about the peculiar practice in Freemasonry that no man may be asked, invited, or solicited to enter the fraternity. It is an organizational feature almost unique among societies. In fact, organizations with the most select membership are those which receive no applications, but select and invite their candidates.

The no-ask/no-tell canon has been a rule of immemorial standing in the fraternity and, yet, it is impossible to determine when it originated. There is nothing concerning it in the Gothic Constitutions, nor in any of the rules and by-laws of the old lodges, or in the Constitutions of 1723; nor is it discussed by any of the Masonic writers of the 18th Century. There is nothing in the ritual on the subject. The candidate interrogatories written by William Preston asks only that the candidate affirm he comes to Freemasonry unbiased by an improper solicitation. And yet, we know that men of noble rank were solicited to become Grand Masters, though they were not Freemasons and had to be initiated just for that purpose.

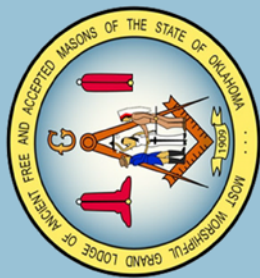
Fortunately, in 1985, the Oklahoma Grand Lodge resolved this issue once and for all. It adopted a sensible solution to the conundrum of what we can say about joining to a friend or acquaintance who is not a member. Our Grand Lodge concluded it was never the meaning or intent of Masonic Law to force a qualified profane to beg permission to join our ranks. Nor was it ever the intent of Masonic Law to block or prevent the fraternity from bringing the best men into its ranks. In fact, it is a fundamental charge of our organization that we admit only those men whom we are confident will uphold the honor, glory and reputation of the fraternity.

To address the situation, the Grand Lodge simply referred to Webster's dictionary for counsel. According to Webster, the word "solicit" means to "beg or urge with troublesome persistence." Viola! It is not a Masonic offense to quietly and, without pressure, let a friend know you would like him to consider becoming a Freemason.



M.W. Robert G. Davis  
Grand Master 2021

The Grand Lodge of OKLAHOMA



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**R.W. Scott Vincent**  
**Deputy Grand Master**

## WORDS FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

**B**rethren, I would like to take time to thank each of you for the opportunity and privilege to serve the craft and masonry of this great state. This has been one of the most humbling experiences I have had next to my church involvement, my wife saying yes when I asked that question that changed my life for the best and the birth of my children.

I know that the subjects I have written or talked about, finance and attitude, have been my focus about 99% of the time. The reason for that is these two areas play a major role in the success of any program that one is involved in. I realize that you, the craft, get tired of hearing the same thing over and over. But to quote a man that my wife and I bought our store from when asking him for advice on the subject of improving an area that was not going to be popular, his answer was “somebody has to do it, it might as well be you.”

The area I would like to cover in this article is the attitude in how we perceive Masonry today, not just Masonry in Oklahoma, but Masonry wherever we happen to be. At the DDGM training a few

weeks ago I made a statement that I feel every Mason should consider and put thought into: **Masonry should not be the driving force in your life, but Masonry should be the force that drives you.** What I mean by this statement is Masonry should not be some outside motivation that dictates how you think, react, and carry yourself as a man. It should be a motivation from within that was instilled in you as a benefit from Masonry of how we think, react, and carry ourselves as men. Brothers, if we will humble ourselves and look within and most importantly be honest with ourselves, I know from experience that you will see change and begin to realize that this fraternity called Masonry is not about you. It’s about what the outside world sees in you.

Brothers, if we do this basic step of first considering where we stand on this road of Masonry, then the journey of Masonry becomes smoother and more enjoyable for all involved. If we do not look at that basic step, then we have chaos which leads to division.

Division is the factor right now that has our fraternity in this jurisdiction in disharmony. There is division at the lodge level, district level, and at the state level. We, as Masons, need to look inward and find those things within ourselves that need to be changed so our local lodge experience becomes unified. As an individual we have the right to our opinion, as does our brother sitting next to us. What we don’t have the right to do is hold a grudge or consider their opinions and ideas worthless and below us. As men, and especially brothers, we need to respect each other’s views and endeavor as hard as we can to understand their point of view. This needs to be the case at all levels of Masonry; local, district and state.

I now have a question to ask all of you. It will take some hard thought and inward looking at yourself before you answer it:

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## THOUGHTS ON MASONIC HISTORY



**R.W. Glen Chaney**  
**Senior Grand Warden**

**Y**our Lodge has a story that makes it unique among the other lodges in our jurisdiction. They all have a date of its' Charter, the number of members and the events that are captured in the many pictures which adorn their halls, or in more recent cases social media pages. The milestones that each lodge holds as sacred parts of their own evolution. Our Lodge histories are an ever-growing account and the fabric of this Fraternity here in the great State of Oklahoma. Our "lodge story," needs to include our Mason's stories.

Every man that walks through our west gate has a story. Each new candidate that stands at our door prepared to alarm the lodge and seek admission into our Order has a history of his own. He has successes and failures, achievements and traumas, moments of great joy, and days of deep regret. We need to put forth the time and the active listening effort to hear that story. Likewise we should share our stories which will begin to show him that Freemasonry, and the Brothers therein, offer endless experiences that build on those successes and overcome those

traumas. The experiences we share together will move him passed the negativity of failures and highlight the positivity of accomplishments.

Each visit with your Brethren, every degree successfully performed, the fellowship we enjoy, and the lessons we learn, both from each other and from our ritual, offer meaningful moments in our pursuit of building a well-spent life. By listening to their story, by hearing their history, we can begin to make them a valuable and important part of our Lodge's story. We read in scripture, "ask and ye shall receive." So, if you truly want to know your Brother, ask them where they come from, ask them what they do, ask them about themselves and their families.

These questions and those like them will lead us all toward knowing our Brothers and will begin the process of developing true friendships among our number. Start to hear about some of their successes and their challenges so that we can better present Freemasonry in a way that will address those challenges. They will quickly feel the truth of that remark, "Masonry, making good Men better!"

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## NOTES FROM YOUR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

One of my favorite truisms is: “Keep the main thing the main thing.” I believe that truism applies to the current situation in our fraternity.

It is well known that the number of men who were Masons peaked in 1959 at 4.1 million and we have been declining rapidly ever since. In Oklahoma today, we have approximately 17,000 masons and 212 lodges. In 1959, 12% of eligible men in Oklahoma were masons; today, 1.4% of eligible men are masons. The rate of membership decline is increasing and those who understand statistical trends say our fraternity is destined for extinction in the not-too-distant future; perhaps in the lifetime of most of us who are now Master Masons, certainly in the lifetime of those men we are now initiating. If that trend is not slowed or even reversed, we are, perhaps, looking at the demise of our fraternity.

So, the relevant questions in my mind are: Can anything be done? Should anything be done? Do we really want to increase membership in the Craft as it currently exists? I also submit that before we can answer those questions, we in Masonry must decide what the main thing is in Masonry. That is not an easy task, if you ask 10 Masons that question, you probably will get 10 different answers.

Let’s go back in time 164 years to 1857. On June 24, 1857, Albert Pike delivered a St. John’s Day address to Muskogee Lodge #93 in the Creek Nation, Indian Territory. On that day, Pike said:

“The rapid increase in the number of Masons has also efficiently aided in lowering the standard of Masonic excellence. The candidate receives little instruction, and too often really remains standing in the northeast corner of the Lodge.” Notice the year - 1857, just after the end of the Anti-Masonic period in America which lasted about 20 years from 1820 to 1840. In 1857, at the beginning of the zenith of the growth in the number of Freemasons (and other forms of fraternalism) in this country; 100 years before the beginning of the decline in numbers in freemasonry; facing the exact opposite of the problems of membership that we now see; fast increasing membership instead of dramatic decline, what does Pike lament? He laments the lack of quality in the masonic experience. So much so that he says, metaphorically, the initiate is left standing in the NE corner, making no real progress in the mysteries of Masonry.

Pike goes on to say “... the symbols remain unexplained, and are either not understood or misunderstood, ...and the members remain standing on the threshold of the inner Temple, whose golden doors continue closed against them, and the true Masonic light forever hidden from their eyes.”

I would say to you that we face the same problem today in the quality of the Masonic experience, and therefore the relevance of masonry in the lives of men, and the decline in numbers is a symptom, not the disease. I submit the main thing is contained in the simple phrase “making good men better.” From that simple phrase flows all the rest of the masonic experience: Charity, Brotherly Love, Benevolence, and so on.



There are two obvious parts in “making good men better.” The first is we must start with “good men.” Others have said it this way: we must guard the west gate. The first step in the quality of the Masonic experience is in the quality of the men who are allowed to petition our fraternity. Good moral character must be first and foremost. I also realize that this is not an easy process, and I am not saying perfect men. As Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthian church:

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**R.W. John Carter**  
**Junior Grand Warden**

# Brethren filing for JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

## John R. Cooper Jr.

John is a resident of Bixby, OK and was the owner of his own business, Cooper Surveying, until his retirement in 2017. He served as a rifle platoon leader, XO, NBC officer, and other posts in the Oklahoma National Guard from 1988 until 1992.

Active in his home Lodge, John held numerous positions including Treasurer and Worshipful Master. He is a member of the Muskogee Chapter of York Rite as well as the Commandery. Within the York Rite, he has held numerous positions of responsibility including Prelate, Generalissimo, and Illustrious Master. He is a member of the Bedouin Shrine, Order of Thrice Illustrious Masters, Order of the High Priesthood, Nation Sojourners, and the Knights of Saint Andrews.

John holds a Bachelors Degree in history from the University of Tulsa. He was honored by receiving the Elite Instructor Award in 2015 from the Professional Association of Dive Instructors.

His primary goal for the Fraternity is to focus on finding new ways to increase and retain membership.



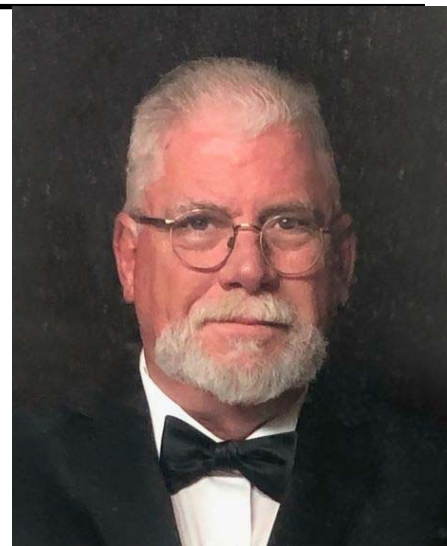
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## James R. Roderick

James has 39 years of business experience operating his Oklahoma companies. In that time he has donated 20+ years to non profit organizations assisting them with promoting their product and strengthening their bottom line. In his many years in the service industry, James has utilized the theory that customer service, low overhead costs and an efficient budget directly contribute to the success and stability of any organization. He is a firm believer that our Grand Lodge is intended to serve the needs of the Craft while maintain its historical integrity and as a service company, it must be operated as one.

James' interest in serving at this time is because he feels he shares the same goals as the brothers that are proceeding him as MWGM, DGM and Senior Grand Warden and he wishes to assist and be a part of that team's endeavors.

James is a perpetual member and twice past master of Collinsville 165, a perpetual York Rite member of James E. Smyrl 104 where he serves as RAC and is a member of the Mark Master degree team. He is also a perpetual member of Tulsa 52, and Knights Templar 20 as well as a member of the Masonic Order of



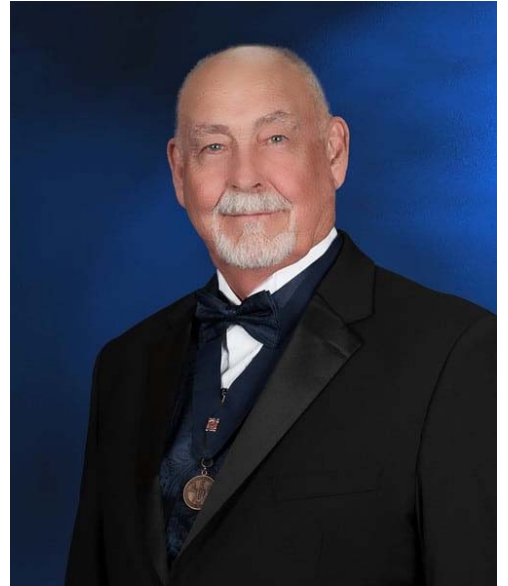
Athelstan Plinth Court 91, a Knight Mason and a member of the York Rite College. He is a perpetual member of the Scottish Rite Tulsa Valley and a member of the Tulsa Akdar Shrine.

James received the Oklahoma State Mr. Mason Award from the Grand Lodge Trustees in 2017 and served 2 years as DDGM under M.W. Dixon and M.W. Peters in 2019-2020 and was given the honor of DDGM of the year in 2019 by M.W. Mike Dixon.

## Brethren filing for GRAND LECTURER

### Bobby J. Peters

Most Worshipful Bobby J. Peters and his wife Sandy live in Shawnee, Oklahoma. They have been married 52 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Brother Bob served in the United States Army in Vietnam in 1967-68 as a radio technician in the 57th Transportation Company attached to the 1st Cavalry Division. Prior to his military service, Bob worked for Western Electric Installation Division as a switching equipment installer. He later transferred to Southwestern Bell as a cable installer and fiber optic cable repair technician. Bob retired from AT&T (Southwestern Bell) after 36 years of service in 2002. He and Sandy are members of First United Methodist Church, Seminole, OK.



His Masonic service began in 1989, in Composite Lodge No. 107, Shawnee, where he is a perpetual member. He served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1996 and 2000 and has served as Secretary since 2001.

Bob is an "A" Certificate Lecturer, having served the Grand Lodge as District Instructor for District 29 in 2009, Deputy Grand Lecturer since 2011, and as President of the Board of Grand Lecturers in 2015.

He is also a perpetual member of St. Alban Lodge No. 192, Arnett, Oklahoma, and India Lodge No. 551, Oklahoma City. He is a perpetual member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Bodies and holds the 33<sup>o</sup> Inspector General Honorary. He is the director of the 22nd degree and has worked in the 24th and 30th degrees for several years.

Brother Bob is a member of the Shawnee and Capitol Hill York Rite Bodies, serving Shawnee as High Priest, Illustrious Master, Commander, and Prelate and has served the Capitol Hill Bodies as Prelate for several years. He is a perpetual member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Tecumseh Chapter #30 and a perpetual member of Order of the Amaranth, Capitol Court #8, Oklahoma City. Bob has served as a member of the Advisor Board of Shawnee Rainbow #2 and has received the Grand Cross of Color. He has also been a Ritual Advisor of Shawnee DeMolay.

He is also a perpetual member of the India Shrine and a member of the Dune Buggy Unit. Brother Bob is a perpetual member of Tinker Chapter #43 of National Sojourners and a Life Member of the 365 Club.

He co-founded the District 29 Degree Team in 2002 and served as director for over 10 years. In 2013 he received the Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor.

# Brethren filing for MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

(Three Positions Available)

## Preston L. Doerflinger

Resident of Tulsa, OK. Owner of PLD Management, Inc. for 25 years. Member of Will Rogers Lodge #53

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?** In addition to my role in guiding the successful investment strategy at PLD Management, Inc., I have served on 19 boards and commissions. In my role as Secretary of Finance with the State of Oklahoma from 2011 to 2018, I possess strong finance and investment strategy skills. I know how highly successful boards should function.

**How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By guiding and executing a strong investment strategy to ensure resources are available to support constituent lodges and our members. Oklahoma Freemasonry is a brand. We should be strategic in the donations we make so that the community at large has a favorable opinion of our good works, to include media outreach to maximize our visibility. This is one way the MCF as part of the Oklahoma team can contribute to drawing new members to our great fraternity.

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## Bobby L. Laws

Resident of Altus, OK. Retired from the U.S. Air Force and Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. Member of Altus Lodge #62.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?** My strengths are my expertise in dealing with all members of our Masonic family at all levels. My years of traveling the state and working wherever I can and helping in any way that I can has allowed me to know that the Charity Foundation helps all people within and without whenever there is a need.

**How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** The Foundation is doing a great job. I would like to continue working with them in promoting all the different programs that are available down to the lowest level and as many lodges (large and small) to the best of my ability.



Masonic  
Charity Foundation  
of Oklahoma

## Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

3424 French Park Drive Edmond, OK 73034

405-348-7500 - [information@mcfok.org](mailto:information@mcfok.org)



# MCF Filings - Continued

## Michael Darwin Maxey

Resident of Tulsa, OK. Landman for 10 years with Kaiser-Francis Oil Company. Member of Broken Arrow Lodge #243.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?** My strengths are dependability, being open-minded, and a commitment to service. My work and experience with Non-Profits, Blue Lodge, and as a business owner give me good insights into assessing applications for matching funds, grants, and Promises Matter.

**How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By being a resource for community needs through the Matching Funds applications; Helping worthy Brothers, their wives and widows, through Promises Matter; Assisting organizations through Community Grant applications. Sponsorship of the OK Teacher/Student of Today Program, along with the Foundation's commitment to the Local Food Banks and Sponsorship of the FFA programs statewide.

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## L. Clay Stuart

Resident of Shattuck, OK. President & CEO of SNB Bank NA. Member of Joppa Lodge #262.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?** In addition to my experience as CEO of SNB Bank, my previous business experience is a strength. Prior to SNB, I was a Financial Advisory with Morgan Stanley. At the point I exited, we had grown assets under management to over \$200MM. I bring an experienced, disciplined, strategic approach to investments and asset allocation.

**How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By continuing to support individual Masons, and their communities through local lodges. Also, other philanthropic activities the MCF takes on outside of the local lodges helps keep Masonry in the public eye and promotes the causes of Masonry. The endowment with the FFA was a good idea. There may be other high profile worthy causes similar to the FFA/4H programs with which the MCF could partner.





# Brethren filing for MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BOARD

(Six Positions Available)

## T.S.Akers

Resident of Oklahoma City, OK. Vendor Manager for Farmers Insurance. Member of Guildhall Lodge #553.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I pursued a graduate degree in Museum Studies for the sole purpose of preserving the material culture of Freemasonry in Oklahoma. A board in its infancy, such as this, needs expertise in order to thrive.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?**

Without proper guidance, a collecting institution can quickly become an accumulation of objects. The Museum and Library Board needs the proper guidance in order to ensure that we are collecting, preserving, and sharing Oklahoma Masonic history for future generations.

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## David C. Bracher

Resident of Lawton, OK. Senior Account Advisor for Welborn Insurance Agency. Member of Lawton Lodge #183.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I believe my experience working with non-profit organizations and ministries would be an asset to the preservation of our Masonic history and legacy for both the current generation and for generations to come. I believe my reverence for the past and passion for the Fraternity would be a compass to lead well.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** I believe the contents and books of our collective Oklahoma Fraternity can be a powerful tool for Oklahoma Masons to understand and learn about our rich history. Making these artifacts and texts available for display or research purposes allows the positive advancement of the Craft within our state. I believe that we must learn from our past to guide our Fraternal future and show those outside of the Fraternity the rich influence Masonry has on Oklahoma.

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## Alan Hart

Resident of Broken Arrow, OK. Portfolio Analyst for Simmons Bank. Member of Broken Arrow Lodge #243.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I have good audit and organizations! skills and feel that I can contribute to the fraternity with the skills I have learned through my years in the Banking business as well as my time in Masonry.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** I think the board will take one piece off the table for the GM and the Grand Line and shift the building management and care to a group of men that can devote more time and expertise. This will enable the GM and his Line to be able to focus more on the craft and other issues relating to masonry instead of dealing with issues with the building.

# MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BOARD

(Continued)

## Jimmy Dean Hartzell

Resident of Enid, OK. Employee of the City of Enid. Member of Garfield Lodge #501.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I appreciate the value of our history and the opportunity to be able to help restore and maintain to share to our Brothers now and in the future the history of our Brotherhood that can be touched and enjoyed in person and not just on a computer screen.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** To help give a personal experience to Masons. To carry on and share valuable lessons, written by our Brothers past present and future. To extend to our new Brothers also a connection through virtual meeting and possible podcasts.

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## Neal "Wade" Massey

Resident of Eufaula, OK. Section Chief and Sr. Marketing Specialist – Retired, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Member of Eufaula Lodge #1.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I have cataloged 6,000 volumes of the McAlester Scottish Rite library onto its first electronic catalog. I authored a library development plan for the advisory conference consideration.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** The board need to develop a catalog of the books and artifacts using an electronic platform to facilitate Masonic Scholars in their research. Policies and procedures need to be established to protect and expand the collection as well as make it more accessible to the craft.

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## Christopher J. Mochon

Resident of Hennessey, OK. Mechanic for Seaboard Foods. Member of Coronado Lodge #56.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** My willingness to serve the Craft and the tasks set before me. My experience in various computers and software. My ability to adapt and overcome to complete the goal.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** The Museum and Library Board can help preserve the rich history of Oklahoma Masonry. It should provide an avenue of growth, through the collection of history and collections from current artisans. It also should allow research into artist and collections allow exhibits, and allow Masonic expedition of various arts and artists.

# MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BOARD

(Continued)

## Michael Parks

Resident of Woodward, OK. Lead Operator for Kardee Equipment. Member of Woodward Lodge #189.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** Vast knowledge of masonic history and correlation with it's influence on history, with intense study from Goose & Gridiron to present day. Excellent people and leadership skills. Great at business evaluation and growth.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** I travel a lot and visit the local lodges wherever I go and have met lodge members across the country and stay in touch with them through my facebook page which has over 3,000 fraternity brothers. I believe the museum could attract brothers and lay people from around the country and that I am in a unique position to help it grow due to my many connections and varied life and work experiences.

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## Cody Presley

Resident of Wewoka, OK. Code Enforcement Officer, City of Wewoka. Member of Seminole City Lodge #476.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** Very dedicated to Masonry and very driven to bring new ideas to the craft.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By help bringing more attention of the Museum and Library to the blue lodges. More social media attention and letting the public in Guthrie know we have a museum and use it to promote Masonry.

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## Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr .

Resident of Oklahoma City, OK. College Professor – Retired, University of Florida. Member of Oklahoma City Lodge #36.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I led the efforts to re-publish several books of historical interest: History of Free Masonry in Oklahoma. History of the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry in Oklahoma, and Volume I of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. As chairman of the Education Committees of Royal Arch and Cryptic Masons in Oklahoma, I have led the efforts to emphasize Masonic education, particularly from an historical perspective.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** In addition to its primary duty of acquiring and preserving artifacts and texts of historical interest to Freemasonry in Oklahoma, the Museum and Library Board could better serve the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma by making our Lodges and members aware of what items are in the collection of the Museum and Library and how those items might be used to promote an interest Masonic history, both in and out of the Fraternity.

# MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BOARD

(Continued)

## Jim L. Seeger

Resident of Edmond, OK. Co-Founder, John Vance Motors/Newby Vance Mobility. Member of Albert Pike Lodge #162.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** Administration, management, writing skills

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By serving as an active experience available to the craft and public that focuses on the history of Masonry in the state.

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## Kenneth W. Sivard Jr.

Resident of Idabel, OK. Site Manager, Matheson Gas, USA. Member of Goodwater Lodge #148.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** Years of Museum experience, including exhibit writing and experience in the professional museum industry. I have also had much more museum experience than the space above allows me to list, including experience on this board.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By preserving a sense of self, of who we are and by telling the world the story of Freemasonry in our state. Also, by being a center of learning through our Library and a repository for items of historic nature, pertaining to our shared history as Oklahoma Freemasons.

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## Jason R. Smith

Resident of Duncan, OK. Self-employed I.T. Consultant. Member of Duncan Lodge #60.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I have a strong technology background and I am a researcher and archivist at heart.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** By preserving Oklahoma's Masonic past and encouraging the same throughout the Craft.





# MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BOARD

(Continued)

## David Albert Tennison

Resident of Guthrie, OK. Retired from Applied Industrial Machining. Member of Guthrie Lodge #35.

**What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Museum and Library Board?** I have learned to be a good volunteer.

**How do you feel the Museum and Library Board can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?** The Board should be good stewards of our past.

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## Grand Master's Message—Continued from Cover

You believe the fraternity has much that it can offer him, and you think he is the kind of man that can offer much to the fraternity. It is not an offense to give a friend or acquaintance information and assistance if he is interested. If we do less than this, we are denying access to the fraternity from the majority of good men who have an interest in becoming a Freemason, but no idea of what it takes to become one.

My Brethren, over 200 men navigate the “[www.beanoklahomafreemason.org](http://www.beanoklahomafreemason.org)” website every month. And, every month, 10% of them go so far as to indicate they are interested in joining. For others, they may come back to the website several times before they hit the “join” button. But the diagnostics of online contacting is that those who make an inquiry expect a response the same day they make it. Those in the marketing world who analyze organizational web-based communication venues suggest that if contacts are not responded to within 5 days, they will not make another inquiry.

The challenge with the campaign that our Grand Lodge Tech Committee went to a lot of effort to launch this year is not that it doesn't work. Any Masonic program that attracts 200 men a month who are at least curious enough to go to our Oklahoma online site works. The problem is that we do not have a grass-roots organization in place to respond every day in every county that a contact is made.

My brethren, that organization must come from your lodge. Think about asking one of your young members to take on this role on behalf of your lodge. The Grand Secretary can give him whatever access he needs to stay on top of it. Then, if a contact is made in your area, through your brother, your lodge will also on top of it.

Like any other program the Grand Lodge has ever announced, if we choose not to play, we can't take advantage of its potential to benefit us.

Robert Davis  
Grand Master



## WORDS FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

(Continued)

When do you become worthy and are able to wear the Square and Compass on the lapel of your jacket?

This is my answer to that question; none of us are worthy to wear that emblem. Masonry has given each and every one of us more than we will ever be able to repay to her. She has done the task that was intended, that is to change each of us inwardly in some shape or fashion. When we finally realize that we are unworthy to wear that emblem, that is the point in time that we have understood her ultimate goal and now it can be placed upon the lapel.

Brothers, I ask each of you to look inward and start asking yourself what can I do to promote this fraternity at the local, district, and state level?

TOGETHER WE GROW UNITED WE STAND.

R\W\Scott Vincent DGM  
405-420-6081  
scottyvs@pldi.net

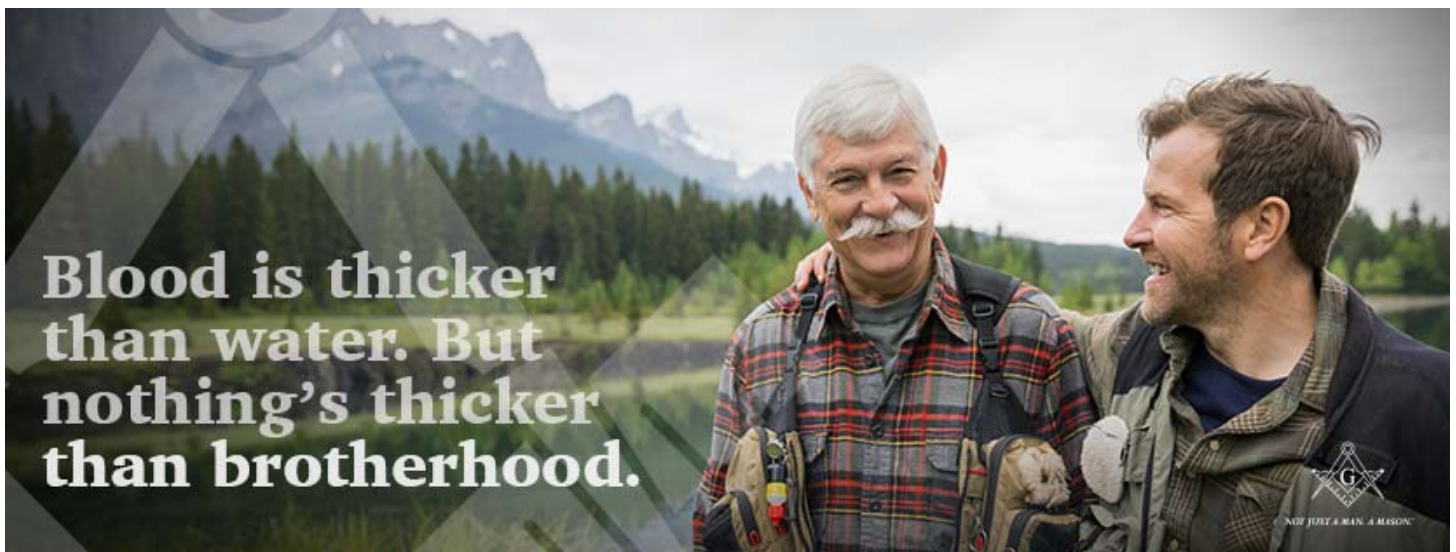
## THOUGHTS ON MASONIC HISTORY

By SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

(Continued)

When we take the steps toward knowing and understanding them, we will gain a friend and Brother that might have otherwise remained at that perpetual distance which Masonry tries so tirelessly to remove. One of our most precious jewels, that of the attentive ear, is a key to the writing of our future history and the advancement of our time honored Fraternity.

Thank you so much my Brothers for this amazing experience of serving you and our Grand Jurisdiction. We will see you all at Grand Lodge Communications very soon and I look forward to our history continuing to shine a Light on our lodges, our communities and us. Safe Travels.



# NOTES FROM YOUR JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN (Continued)

We hold these treasures in earthen (or clay) vessels. We are all human, men, flesh, and blood. I realize this is an imprecise process, but none the less, guarding the West Gate is the most important task we have as Masons.

The committee examining a petitioner is of primary importance. The committee must do the job with which they have been charged:

1. Every petitioner must understand and appreciate the character of Freemasonry - who we are and what we stand for
2. Every petitioner must have a basic understanding of what is expected of them as a Mason
3. Every petitioner must be a man of good moral character

Wives/significant others must also be involved in the process. Their understanding and support of the petitioner's possible Masonic involvement must be made clear.

Mark Koltko-Rivera, a Masonic scholar and author, says the first step in Masonic Resurgence is to "Repair the Temple." That is "we must improve the lodge experience, so that it better fulfills the promise that we make to men upon their initiation; the promise that Freemasonry will help them understand more about the great questions of life, and that Masonry will help them become better men."

I also submit that improving the quality of the Masonic experience, especially for the younger men, those known as millennials, who are entering our fraternity (and it won't do the rest of us any harm) will go a long way toward fixing the problems we face. It may not fix our numbers problem, but it certainly will not do any of us any harm.

I submit that for our fraternity to survive we must redouble our efforts in making quality the focus of our Masonic experience: for petitioners to understand what freemasonry is and is not, and for members at all levels after initiation, to receive quality masonic education, NOT arguing over whether to pay the electric bill. What is the focus of our lodge meetings? Reading the minutes? Paying the bills? Argu-

ing with the "aginers?" All are important, but not the main thing.

In the past, in our state, more than forty percent of the men who become Entered Apprentices, never finish. Pike would say we have left them standing in the NE Corner. More importantly, for those of us who have progressed through the degrees, are we still in the northeast corner?

Back to 1857, Pike also had words for those "seasoned" masons: "If a man having passed through the ceremonies of the three degrees, thinks that there is nothing further to be learned, and that to be an accomplished Mason, one need only accurately learn and fluently repeat certain phrases and set forms of words, he does not understand and appreciate Masonry. It may be useful to him, -it may even make him a better man; -but its true value is greatly beyond that which it has to him. If a man, having assumed the obligations, and taken on himself the duties of a Master Mason, yet practically regards them as unreal; if he still continues to be narrow-minded, illiberal, intolerant, uncharitable; if he still cheat in trade, and make unfair bargains; or by winning it, take and use the money of his brother when it is not his own, because he has not earned it or given an equivalent for it; if he still wrongs his brother, and speaks evil of him; then he does not at all understand and appreciate Masonry; and it is of no value to him whatever."

I think what Pike was saying then is just as relevant for us today as it was when he spoke it. As Master Masons one of the "mainest" things in "keeping the main thing the main thing" is: the great moral truths contained in our ritual must be applied in our lives. We must walk the walk as well as talk the talk.

Let me be clear, I am not knocking ritual or ritualists. I firmly believe our ritual work is what sets us apart. It is part and parcel of Masonry. It is hard work and I wish I was a better ritualist. If we are to bring about a resurgence in Masonic quality we must, as Master Masons, redouble our efforts and commit to applying to our lives the great moral truths that our ritual teaches. That does not happen by osmosis, it requires quality Masonic education as our focus.

**NOTES FROM YOUR  
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN  
(Continued)**

Finally, let me close with Pike again: “To those who put a lower estimate on Masonry, and care nothing for its philosophy or history, nor appreciate the importance and dignity of its mission, it may indeed be useful. It may help them in their trade or business, it may save them when in danger, and afford them assistance when in want, and so may be of value. If it cause them to be more charitable, more forgiving, more tolerant, kinder and better husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, friends and neighbors, then indeed it is of great value; but still not of the greatest; unless, in addition to this, it leads them to the highest truth, and induces them to engage in the great work of human improvement and advancement, of which Masonry is the apostle.”

I believe we must now, as in 1857, take Pike at what he said Masonry could be and has been. When there is a quality, relevant, Masonic experience in the lives and hearts of Masons, we will not only “make good men better” but impact the world around us. And when we do that, membership issues will be solved as well.

Freemasonry has done so in the past.

In the enlightenment of the 1600s, Freemasons changed the course of science through the Royal Society and charted the course of nations.

In our country, the Founding Fathers who were Masons, wrote the masonic principles of one man – one vote, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and worship, freedom of speech, freedom from tyranny of state or church, into our country’s constitution. This great republic and experiment in democracy and representative government stands as a beacon to the world and as a heritage to Freemasonry.

In the years following Pike’s address in 1857, there was an explosion in fraternalism both in membership and benefit to mankind. From then and up until the 1930s, charities and hospitals were established. Civic and service organizations like Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, were all founded by Masons. Organizations such the Boy Scouts and FFA were begun by men who were Masons. All continue to have an influence

beyond the walls of the Lodge.

I am convinced that we, that Masonry, can be so again. It is up to us. Today, the world needs what Masonry, what we as Masons, can give:

A moral compass and an anchor in a world awash in a sea of moral relativity. A lesson in civil discourse in a world full of polarizing rhetoric.

A Spiritual awareness in an ever-secularizing society.

Keep the main thing, the main thing.

John Carter JGW

## Resolutions Presented for Consideration

# Resolution #1

**Whereas**, the establishment of the laws of Masonry, including its Landmarks, Constitutions, Charges, Laws and Regulations of governance were set out by the Grand Lodge of England in the General Regulations of 1721; and

**Whereas**, with the exception of the Charges and Landmarks of Freemasonry which are forever to be continued in force; all other written laws enacted, amended, or repealed by a Grand Lodge, can only be legislated by the Wardens, Masters, and Past Masters of a majority of lodges, congregated together at the annual assembly of the Grand Lodge they represent; and

**Whereas**, the foundational rules of governance over American Freemasonry have generally followed the legislative powers given to the United States Con-



gress; declaring that all matters are to be determined by a majority of votes cast; and

**Whereas**, these rules of governance specifically provide that only the Constitution itself, Treaties, and Impeachments shall call for a super majority vote of Congress, or the States; and

**Whereas**, the requirement that amendments to the Uniform Code of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma be decided by a super majority vote has never been in accordance with the ancient customs and foundational laws of Freemasonry; nor that of the legislative laws enacted by Congress; and

**Whereas**, in recent years, an increasing number of resolutions that apply only to the Uniform Code (the governing practices of Lodges in Oklahoma), have been receiving a favorable vote of between 51% and 66%; yet fail because of the super majority voting requirement; and

**Whereas**, the majority will of the Craft in regard to lodge practices in Oklahoma should be decided by a simple majority vote of the delegates present; enabling just legislative outcomes, and bringing our legislative powers in conformity with the general rules of governance established by American law.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that Section U901, Amendments, paragraph 3, which reads:**

All resolutions in the possession of the Grand Master, 60 (sixty) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, shall be printed and mailed to each constituent lodge, each Grand Lodge officer and each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their information and study. Said resolution shall be read or caused to be read by the Grand Master, and by him referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall report thereon and the resolutions shall be balloted on in accordance with the provisions of Section 304 of the Constitution and Laws. If the resolution is adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast, it shall be in full force and effect immediately upon final announcement of the vote.

**Be Amended to read:**

All resolutions in the possession of the Grand Master

60 (sixty) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, shall be printed and mailed to each constituent lodge, each Grand Lodge officer and each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their information and study. Said resolution shall be read or caused to be read by the Grand Master, and by him referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall report thereon and the resolutions shall be balloted on in accordance with the provisions of Section 304 of the Constitution and Laws. If the resolution is adopted by a ~~two-thirds (2/3)~~ majority of the votes cast, it shall be in full force and effect immediately upon final announcement of the vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert G. Davis, PM, 553 Don Stanton, PM, 243  
Brad Rickelman, PM 48 Dallas Shell, PM, 53  
John Logan, PM, 189  
Tim Israel, PM, 182  
David, G. David, PM, 434  
Don Stanton, PM, 243  
Dallas Shell, PM, 53

## Resolution #2

**WHEREAS:** all of the ritual instruction conveyed in the Degrees of Freemasonry are built around visualizing the kind of world we want to realize; applying to our personal and collective habits of living out in the world the moral and ethical ideals we were taught in Lodge; all of which are necessary to build and sustain a beloved community for all; and

**WHEREAS:** if we as Freemasons recognize that our personal commitment as brothers is to distinguish ourselves from the rest of the community; then we have to govern ourselves in such a way that others who know us will see us as men they respect and want to emulate; and

**WHEREAS:** we can't accomplish this by allowing our personal intolerances, biases, and prejudices to be part of our Masonic life; and

**WHEREAS:** there is no circumstance in Freemasonry that justifies expressing in Lodge any attitudes or prejudices which condemns another human being;

including placing one race of men above any other; and

**WHEREAS**, we owe every brother of our mystic tie the promises we have made to every Mason in the world not to wrong our brothers, or the lodge, in any way.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Section U 807, which reads as follows:

SECTION U 807. GAMBLING, PROFANITY AND OBSCENITY: Any kind of illegal gambling, the use of profane language or any obscene talk and acts are hereby declared to be a Masonic offense and a bar to initiation, passing, raising and affiliation and shall subject the offender to suspension or expulsion.

**Be amended to read:**

SECTION U 807. GAMBLING, PROFANITY AND OBSCENITY: Any kind of illegal gambling, the use of profane language, **demeaning racial comments, jokes or slurs**, or any obscene talk and acts are hereby declared to be a Masonic offense and a bar to initiation, passing, raising and affiliation and shall subject the offender to suspension or expulsion.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Davis, PM, 553  
Glen Chaney, PM, 183  
John Carter, PM, 74  
John Christopher, PM, 35  
Rick Allison, PM, 501, 545  
Mike Dixon, PM, 37  
Joe R. Manning, Jr., PM, 111  
Matt Cargill, PM, 557  
Ron Coppedge, PM, 91  
Bedford Rowland, Jr., PM 62  
Ron Chambers PM, 425  
Jason R. Smith, PM 60  
John Logan, PM, 189  
Michael Edmison, PM, 36  
Charlie Babb, PM,36  
Jim Seeger, PM, 162  
James R. Taylor, PM  
David Carpenter, PM, 553  
Michael Maxey, PM, 243  
James Oates, PM, 183  
Jim Nobles, PM, 276  
David Tennison, PM, 553

# Resolution #3

**WHEREAS:** The 2019 Address of the Grand Master reports on an exhaustive 2019 study on the Condition of Freemasonry in Oklahoma, and,

**WHEREAS:** this study reports, among other things:

*The number of dues paying members in Oklahoma has fallen 34% in the last decade, and now stands at 10,672 members.*

*Master Masons raisings have dropped 19.5% over the past four years.*

*(These statistics) clearly call for new approaches to be developed if the fraternity is going to survive at a level of relevance, and ,*

**WHEREAS:** One of the elements called for in a strategic plan to combat the above is: *Strategies for organizing and chartering new affinity (common interest) lodges in every regional population center across the State, and,*

**WHEREAS:** The current ritualistic requirement for a group of 15 Masons to receive a Dispensation for a new lodge is "to properly coffer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures pertaining thereto... ", and

**WHEREAS:** 95% or more of the chartered Lodges in Oklahoma cannot meet this ritualistic requirement, without assistance from a neighboring Lodge or the District,

and

**WHEREAS:** it is unfair and inconsistent to have a higher standard for *applicants* for a Dispensation than is required of *members* of currently Chartered Lodges.

**NOW THEREFORE LET BE RESOLVED that Section 601 A. 3, which currently reads:**

3. A certificate from the Grand Lecturer, or his duly appointed Deputy, or one of the Deputy Grand Lecturers, stating that a suitable and properly secured

room has been provided for the lodge and that the proposed Master and Wardens are qualified and competent to properly confer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures pertaining there- to in accordance with the authorized work of this Jurisdiction.

**Be amended to read:**

3. A certificate from the Grand Lecturer, or his duly appointed Deputy, or one of the Deputy Grand Lecturers, stating that a suitable and properly secured room has been provided for the lodge and that the proposed Master and Wardens are qualified and competent to properly ~~confer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures pertaining there- to~~ **conduct the Opening and Closing ceremonies of each of the three degrees for a Dispensation, and confer the First Section of the three degrees for a Charter** in accordance with the authorized work of this Jurisdiction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth House, PM 123  
John Holman, PM 36  
Charles Babb, PM 37  
Robert Davis, PM 553  
Joe Manning, PM 111  
John Logan, PM 189  
Thomas Tracy, PM 539  
Matthew Turner, PM 539  
William Matthey, PM 540  
Thomas R. Galbraith, PM 541

# Resolution #4

**WHEREAS**, since the “Official Cipher Key Oklahoma Masonic Ritual” (a.k.a. “Red Book”) contains the esoteric work and is therefore only available to Master Masons;

and,

**WHEREAS**, the Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts do not have access to the categorical lectures cipher as printed in the Red Book, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Red Book has improved the proficiency of many members. A booklet of each categorical lecture would be another tool to help EAs and FCs improve their proficiency, and;

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the Fraternity to use all means available to advance members to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that Section 401, which currently reads:

ARTICLE IV - WORK OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION SECTION 401 ESOTERIC WORK: The esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be that adopted by this Grand Lodge and shall be used by all its lodges and their members in giving the work and lectures. It shall be in charge of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

The Grand Lodge shall publish a two or three letter maximum cipher of all esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Such cipher shall be used only for teaching. It shall not be consulted in any lodge while at labor. Violation of this section shall be deemed a Masonic offense.

Ciphers shall be available to Master Masons through the office of the Grand Secretary.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

ARTICLE IV- WORK OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION SECTION 401 ESOTERIC WORK: The esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be that adopted by this Grand Lodge and shall be used by all its lodges and their members in giving the work and lectures. It shall be in charge of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

The Grand Lodge shall publish a two or three letter maximum cipher of all esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**The Grand lodge shall also publish two separate cipher booklets, one containing the Categorical lecture for the Degree of Entered Apprentice and one containing the Categorical lecture for the Degree of Fellowcraft.**

Such ciphers shall be used only for teaching. **† They** shall not be consulted in any lodge while at labor. Violation of this section shall be deemed a Masonic offense.

Ciphers Books shall be available to Master Masons through the office of the Grand Secretary. **Cipher Booklets for the Entered Apprentice Categorical lecture and the Fellowcraft categorical Lecture shall be available to each of the constituent lodges for sale at the cost of the price of printing plus Two Dollars (\$2.00) per booklet. The cost of printing shall be rounded to the next dollar. Said-booklets may be provided to the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft members of the lodge at the individual lodge's discretion.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Brooks, PM, Sayre Lodge No. 195  
David G. David, PM, India Lodge No. 551  
Robert G. Davis, PM, Guildhall Lodge No. 553  
Gerald Stegal, PM, Elk City Lodge No. 182  
Timothy Israel, PM, Elk City Lodge No. 182

## Resolution #5

**WHEREAS:** the board of trustees has been formed to make decisions concerning the operation of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library, and

**WHEREAS:** for the board of Trustees to operate in a more efficient way, and

**WHEREAS:** to involve more of the craft of our Fraternity, and

**WHEREAS:** if this resolution is adopted, in order to increase the Board of Trustee membership from six trustees to nine, five will be elected at the 2022 Annual Communication, following the prescribed method outlined for electing more than two trustees.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 707** which now reads in part,

**SECTION 707. MUSEUM AND LIBRARY:** A Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library

shall be created under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. It shall have a Board of Trustees consisting of six members.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library is to preserve and protect the Masonic historical memorabilia of the State of Oklahoma, and to preserve the literature of Masonic authors and all books pertinent to Masonry in Oklahoma and all foreign and domestic jurisdictions that have been or will be donated or procured.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library will be responsible to give quarterly reports to the Grand Lodge Trustees and the Jurisprudence Committee and to make an annual report to the Craft at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

Six qualified Master Masons shall be elected to represent the Grand Lodge, two each for terms of one, two and three years, respectively, and at each succeeding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, there shall be elected two members to govern said entity for terms of three years each.

Eligible members of the fraternity may indicate their availability for election to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library board of trustees, by completing and filing a form provided by the Grand Lodge with the Grand Secretary. The filing period shall commence after the closing of the annual communication and close on the last day of March preceding the opening day of the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge. A non-refundable filing fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars) must accompany the form before it can be accepted. The fee shall be credited to the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

Only the eligible brethren who have complied with these provisions shall be considered during the election of the members to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library board of trustees. Votes for any other brother shall be declared mutilated and will not be counted, except in the event that where less than two brothers have filed for office, or due to death, physical injury or ineligibility less than the required number remain on the ballot, then write-in ballots, by nomination from the floor, shall be accepted. If more than two (2) members are to be elected, due to any reason, the members receiving the



greater number of votes will receive the longer terms of office.

The Grand Lodge Trustees will review each submission to ensure that the information provided is appropriate and conforms to the Constitution and Laws. All submissions will include the brother's Masonic history with dates of suspension, reinstatements and or expulsion listed. If changes are necessary, they shall be returned to the brother filing the form for modifications or the changes may be made with the consent of the brother. The final modification must be returned to the Grand Secretary no later than the last day of March. The Grand Lodge shall publish and distribute the information on each such candidate.

**BE AMENDED TO READ,**

**SECTION 707. MUSEUM AND LIBRARY:** A Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library shall be created under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. It shall have a Board of Trustees consisting of ~~six~~ **Nine (9)** members.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library is to preserve and protect the Masonic historical memorabilia of the State of Oklahoma, and to preserve the literature of Masonic authors and all books pertinent to Masonry in Oklahoma and all foreign and domestic jurisdictions that have been or will be donated or procured.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library will be responsible to give quarterly reports to the Grand Lodge Trustees and the Jurisprudence Committee and to make an annual report to the Craft at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

~~Six~~ **Nine (9)** qualified Master Masons shall be elected to represent the Grand Lodge, ~~two~~ **Three (3)** ~~each for terms of one, two and three years, respectively, and at each succeeding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, there shall be elected two members to~~ govern said entity for terms of three years each. Eligible members of the fraternity may indicate their availability for election to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library board of trustees, by completing and filing a form provided by the Grand Lodge with the Grand Secretary. The filing period shall commence after the closing of the annual

communication and close on the last day of March preceding the opening day of the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge. A non-refundable filing fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars) must accompany the form before it can be accepted. The fee shall be credited to the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

Only the eligible brethren who have complied with these provisions shall be considered during the election of the members to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Museum and Library board of trustees. Votes for any other brother shall be declared mutilated and will not be counted, except in the event that where less than ~~two~~ **three (3)** brothers have filed for office, or due to death, physical injury of ineligibility less than the required number remain on the ballot, then write-in ballots, by nomination from the floor, shall be accepted. If more than ~~two (2)~~ **three (3)** members are to be elected, due to any reason, the members receiving the greater number of votes will receive the longer terms of office.

The Grand Lodge Trustees will review each submission to ensure that the information provided is appropriate and conforms to the Constitution and Laws. All submissions will include the brother's Masonic history with dates of suspension, reinstatements and or expulsion listed. If changes are necessary, they shall be returned to the brother filing the form for modifications or the changes may be made with the consent of the brother. The final modification must be returned to the Grand Secretary no later than the last day of March. The Grand Lodge shall publish and distribute the information on each such candidate.

Bob Peters, PM 107

# Resolution #6

**Whereas:** There is instructional Language for making a motion in the Cipher that does not appear in the Uniform Code, creating confusion, and

**Whereas:** the Uniform Code is the authority for the conduct of meetings,

**Now Therefore let it be resolved** that Section U 305

G RULES OF ORDER as now reads

G. When a motion is made and seconded it shall be stated by the Master, or if in writing shall be read aloud by the secretary, before being debated it shall be stated by the Master, or if in writing shall be read aloud by the secretary, before being debated

**Be Amended to read:**

G. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Master, or if in writing shall be read aloud by the secretary, before being debated. ~~it shall be stated by the Master, or if in writing shall be read aloud by the secretary, before being debated.~~ The Worshipful Master may either vote on the motion, decline to accept the motion, table the motion until a later date, or assign a committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Jay Wilson, P.M. Solomon Lodge # 32

## Resolution #7

**Whereas**, the Uniform Code does not distinguish when a Worshipful Master has earned the title of a Past Master, and

**Whereas**, the practice of designating a Worshipful Master as a Past Master varies among the craft

**Now therefore let it be resolved** that a new Section U 223 – PAST MASTER be added to the Uniform Code and subsequent sections renumbered:

**SECTION U 223 – PAST MASTER**

**A Worshipful Master is considered a Past Master upon the installation of his successor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Jay Wilson, P.M. Solomon Lodge # 32

## Resolution #8

**WHEREAS:** the craft has found the use of electronic voting devices to be an efficient means of balloting; and,

**WHEREAS:** the craft must currently wait until the balloting session to receive their device(s); and,

**WHEREAS:** electronic voting devices are not enabled to use as a ballot until the system is turned on; and,

**WHEREAS:** it would be more efficient to issue voting device(s) at a different time; and

**WHEREAS:** issuing the device(s) during registration would be more convenient to the craft;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** that Section 302, which currently reads:

SECTION 302. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND BALLOTS: A delegate to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge shall register his credentials with the Credentials Committee, at which time he shall receive a badge which shall be so distinguished as to indicate the number of votes he is entitled to cast. The Credentials Committee shall carefully make a record of the number of votes registered. No member shall be entitled to vote until his name has been registered with the Credentials Committee.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

SECTION 302. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND BALLOTS: A delegate to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge shall register his credentials with the Credentials Committee, at which time he shall receive a badge which shall be so distinguished as to indicate the number of votes he is entitled to cast. The Credentials Committee shall carefully make a record of the number of votes registered **and if voting by electronic ballot, issue the required number of voting devices.** No member shall be entitled to vote until his name has been registered with the Credentials Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R Christopher, PM, Guthrie Lodge #35

# Resolution #9

**WHEREAS:** A member is entitled to one vote for each vote he is carrying; and,

**WHEREAS:** the member must enter and leave the balloting area with only the number of ballots or electronic voting device(s) authorized; and,

**WHEREAS:** the advancement of technology has made the necessity to sign a voting register impractical; and,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED:** That Section 304 A. which currently reads:

SECTION 304. BALLOTING AND VOTING: A. REGISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION: On

Saturday of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, an area and time shall be designated for delegates to ballot on the candidates for elected offices and resolutions. Registration of delegates shall remain open until 11:00 A.M. A delegate who has registered with the Credentials Committee may enter the balloting area. Each delegate must sign a register and indicate the number of votes he is casting. He will then receive an electronic voting device(s) or paper ballot which shall permit him to cast the number of votes he is entitled to cast for elected officers and resolutions.

After voting and before leaving the balloting area, all delegates must deposit their electronic voting devices or paper ballots in a ballot box at the Grand Tyler's station.

In the event that any officer is not elected by a majority vote on a ballot, a subsequent ballot shall be taken in the same manner. All names for the unfilled office shall be dropped except the two (2) having the highest number of votes on the first ballot. All other names on the second and subsequent ballots shall be declared mutilated and shall not be counted.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

SECTION 304. BALLOTING AND VOTING: A.

REGISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION: On Saturday of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, an area and time shall be designated for delegates to ballot on the candidates for elected offices and resolutions. Registration of delegates shall remain open until 11:00 A.M. A delegate who has registered with the Credentials Committee may enter the balloting area. ~~Each delegate must sign a register and indicate the number of votes he is casting.~~ **If voting with electronic voting devices, each delegate must enter the balloting area with the same number of voting devices he received at registration or at the door to the balloting area as indicated on his badge. If voting by paper ballot the delegate will receive a paper ballot. Either form of balloting** shall permit him to cast the number of votes he is entitled to cast for elected officers and resolutions.

After voting and before leaving the balloting area, all delegates must deposit their electronic voting devices **corresponding to the number of ballots they are entitled,** or paper ballots in a ballot box at the Grand Tyler's station.

In the event that any officer is not elected by a majority vote on a ballot, a subsequent ballot shall be taken in the same manner. All names for the unfilled office shall be dropped except the two (2) having the highest number of votes on the first ballot. All other names on the second and subsequent ballots shall be declared mutilated and shall not be counted.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R Christopher, PM, Guthrie Lodge #35

# Resolution #10

**Whereas,** a brother may be suspended for nonpayment of dues creating a gap in his Masonic record for years of membership, and

**Whereas,** the brother's suspension may be the result of circumstances beyond his control, and

**Whereas,** this gap may become significant enough to prevent a brother from obtaining their 50year pins as would have occurred had the brother not been sus-

pending, and

**Whereas**, there is currently no method provided to allow a brother to make up for those lost years of membership, and

**Whereas**, these years of suspension represent a loss of revenue for the lodge, reducing their ability to meet financial obligations, and

**Whereas**, The Grand Lodge also incurs a loss of revenue in per capita for these years.

**Now Therefore be it Resolved** that a new Section U 607 of the Uniform Code be created as follows:

**SECTION U607 – Buy Back Suspended Years**

**A member may buy back suspended years for non-payment of dues by following these**

**procedures. The member must first be reinstated, after which, the lodge may, upon majority**

**vote, allow the brother to pay dues for all the years of his suspension at the current annual**

**dues rate of the lodge; and pay to the Grand Lodge all per capita for said years at Grand Lodge’s**

**current annual per capita rate. The reinstated member will then be given credit for said years**

**of suspension. The lodge cannot vote to remit suspended years.**

Respectfully Submitted,

John D. Richardson, P.M. Sand Springs Lodge #475

Michael A. Fritts, P.M. Sand Springs Lodge #475

# Resolution #11

**WHEREAS**: the principal purpose of Freemasonry is to provide moral, ethical, and spiritual instruction which enable men to grow in stature in such a way that they may distinguish themselves from the rest of the community; and,

**WHEREAS**: whatever else Masonry may offer men fraternally, socially, or charitably, no other characteristic of the fraternity is more important than its instruction in the ways of virtue; and,

**WHEREAS**: in recognition of the critical role the other Bodies of Masonry play in providing added Masonic education and enlightenment to our brotherhood of men, it has become a tradition for Grand Masters to waive any impediments which might inhibit a newly raised Master Mason from experiencing more light in Masonry at the time when he is the most receptive to its instruction.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**: that Article VIII, Section 805 of the Constitution and Laws which currently reads:

SECTION 805. PETITIONING OTHER CONCORDANT OR ANDROGYNOUS BODIES: It shall be a Masonic offense to solicit an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies. A Master Mason shall not petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies until six (6) months after the date of his becoming a Master Mason or he shall have passed his proficiency in the Master Mason degree. It shall also be a Masonic offense for an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to attend a closed meeting of a recognized Appendant Body, unless he is otherwise permitted to attend the closed meeting pursuant to the rules of the Appendant Body.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

SECTION 805. PETITIONING OTHER CONCORDANT OR ANDROGYNOUS BODIES: It shall be a Masonic offense to solicit an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies. ~~★ Master Mason shall not petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies until six (6) months after the date of his becoming a Master Mason or he shall have passed his proficiency in the Master Mason degree.~~ It shall also be a Masonic offense for an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to attend a closed meeting of a recognized Appendant Body, unless he is otherwise permitted to attend the closed meeting pursuant to the rules of the Appen-



dant Body.

Respectfully submitted,

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