

THE



OKLAHOMA

MASON

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

December 2022

BROTHERHOOD FOR LIFE!

With my deepest gratitude, I express thanks to you for allowing me the high honor of serving as Grand Master in Oklahoma during the year 2023. The most tremendous honor a man can receive is the selection by his peers to lead them, and I am both humbled and privileged to have such an opportunity. Patti and I will make each day count towards the betterment of our Jurisdiction for our Masons and our Families in Oklahoma.



Glen Chaney

Grand Master

In Oklahoma, our Masonic family is strong and united! Our Masonic Appendant, Concordant and Androgynous Bodies are working hard to carry our teachings and values forward. We all agree that the future of our communities and State rests heavily on our Masonic Jurisdiction's success. Let's all continue working together to bring new members into the local Lodges, Chapters, and Masonic bodies. We will then have the honor of handing the next generation a Fraternity and Jurisdiction they are proud to call their own.

We have many challenges facing our fraternity and will require all our efforts to meet them. We must bring to the forefront of our minds the experience and education we are providing our Brothers and ensure that experience is worthy of their time, efforts, purse, and labor. This effort begins with all of us. Remember, with the first handshake, we are projecting Masonry to the potential Mason. If we do not project the tenets of our Fraternity in our words, deeds and actions, we are not doing everything we can to improve the current conditions. If we do not



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serve the needs of our members in every way possible, we will fail to retain their interests.

I am setting forth this year's mission statement: "Masons are Mentors!" That means all of us, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the most seasoned Past Master. We are all Mentors to the Masons that are here or will come behind us. Our Masons will all have questions, and we should stand ready to answer them or help them find a path to pursuing the answer. Mentorship is not by accident, but it is Life on Life, and the generations of men who came before practiced that action which is how our Fraternity has survived. We must continue this in every aspect of our Fraternity.

When a good man approaches the door of Freemasonry, we can be sure they possess two things. A story of their individual life before finding a lodge, and a hope of being a part of something that will enhance their experience or change their path. If we fail to realize and value either of those, we may have lost them even before accepting them.

Each man who enters our doors has a story. We ought to do our best to find out what his story is. Where is he from? What are his dreams? Who is he? Does he have a family? What are his likes and dislikes? What does he feel is his most outstanding achievement? What are his principal challenges? This information will allow us to begin a relationship with the man who has approached our great Fraternity.

I believe if we take the time to listen to his answer to one of our very first categorical questions, "Whence come you?" We will start to make the experience of Freemasonry mean as much to him as it does to each of us. **Value** is the key to keeping a new Mason engaged.



Through sincere, deliberate mentorship and leadership, we can give a valuable experience to all of our Brother Masons and develop a genuine desire to attend the lodge, extend brotherly love and cultivate the lessons of our great Fraternity. Find out about your Brothers and encourage them to share the story they bring to us. Also, please share your story with them.

This sharing creates the bond Masonry holds as the firm foundation upon which to build trust and confidence, fellowship, and Brotherly Love.

When we hear this year's motto, "**Brotherhood for Life**," we do not intend to only communicate it as a matter of time, or that our Brotherly relationships will last until we are no longer part of this physical world. It also means we find in this Brotherhood a way to live a full and complete life with love and laughter, joy and affection with other Men who choose to walk the same path of goodness, moral uprightness, temperance, and tolerance.

This unique fraternal experience gives the joy of a full life, allowing us to learn from each other and build ourselves by setting to work the tools we are given during our degrees and ceremonies. For the complete experience of true Masonry, a good and *full life*, our Brotherhood is *for* Life. We are here to learn, listen, and give, as well as receive all the benefits of that well-spent fraternal life.

My Brothers, remember to always look for, express, and enjoy our

BROTHERHOOD FOR LIFE!



2023 Grand Lodge Officers



GM Chaney and 2023 DDGMs



Looking Forward



John Carter

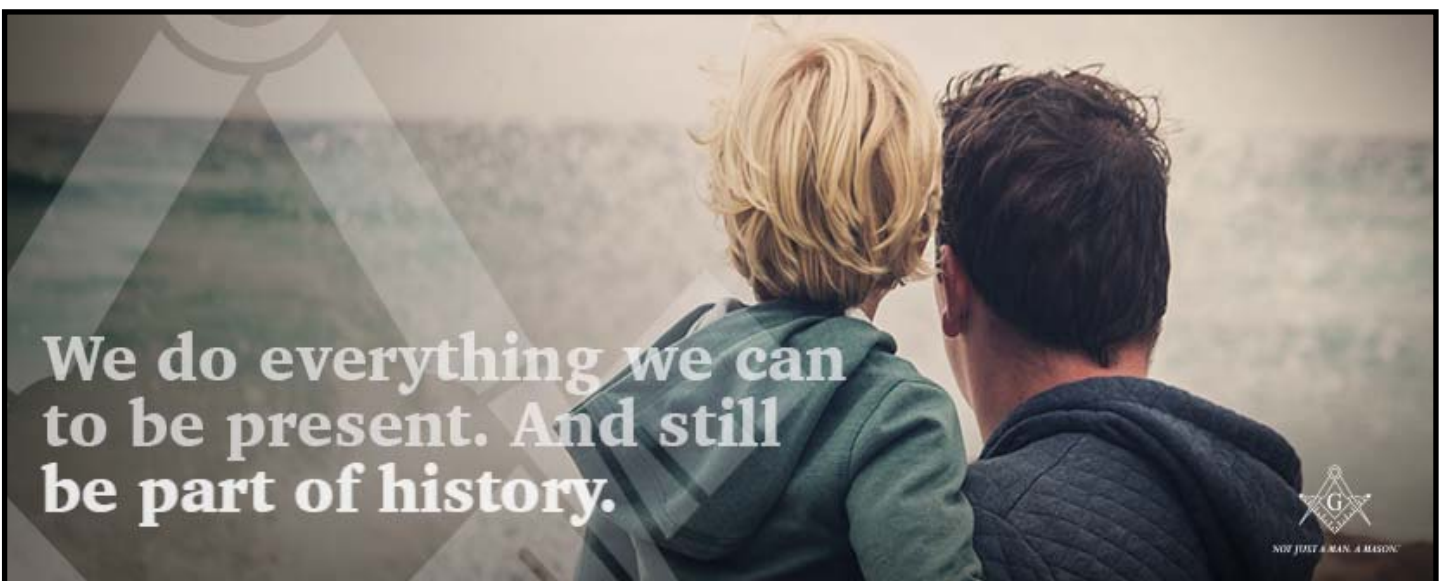
Deputy Grand Master

Grand Lodge annual communication week has come and gone, and as we begin a new masonic year, I wish to express my appreciation to the craft for allowing me to serve as your Deputy Grand Master. I greatly enjoyed seeing the brethren who attended Grand Lodge this year, and I look forward to the activities and programs MW Glen Chaney has planned for this year.

Congratulations to MW Bob Peters, Grand Lecturer, and his cadre of assistants for a successful Grand School. This learning time was well attended, and several regional schools of instruction are planned for the coming year. I hope to see many of the craft at those regional schools.

Lodge officer elections and installations will begin soon. It is my great honor and privilege to assist in several installations in December. One of the most important decisions each constituent lodge must make is deciding which brothers will lead their lodge.

Again, it is an honor to serve the craft of Oklahoma as we work diligently to meet the challenges facing our fraternity. If I can be of assistance to you or your lodge, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



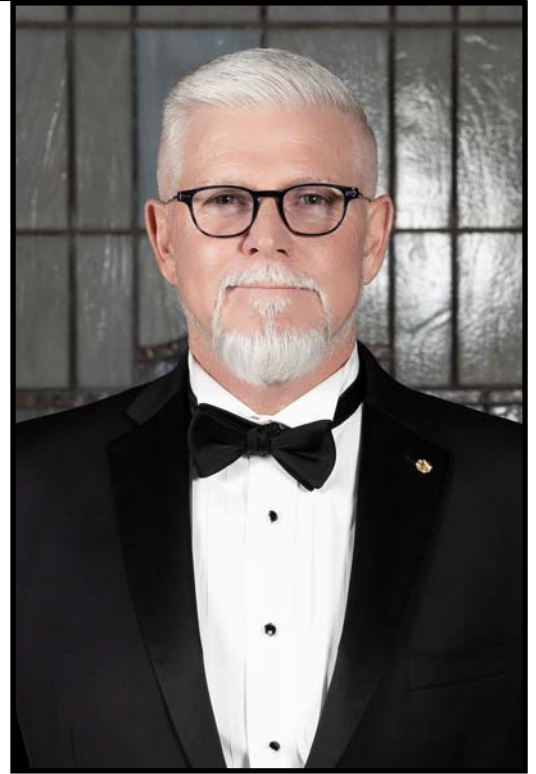
Iron Sharpens Iron

Since we have just completed our Grand Lodge Annual Communication, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the craft. The trust you have given me will not be forgotten. Numerous men worked with me as we traveled and visited Lodges, and I was struck by their willingness to teach, instruct, and guide me along the way. They all have unique knowledge or skills that I found incredibly useful. I like to surround myself with men who are sharper than me. Please indulge me as I explain.

Our fraternity has an incredible breadth and depth of skills. Some men are talented ritualists, educators, leaders, and academics. Others have business acumen. While others are visionaries. No matter their skill set, I love to learn from them all. Thus, I surround myself with men who can make me better. It is not easy. I feel vulnerable. Often, I can learn and add new pieces of knowledge. However, there are times when I must remove something to improve myself and gain that new, more valuable knowledge. This process can hurt because iron sharpens iron.

Just like sharpening a knife, a part of the blade must be removed. As a result, it can become a powerful tool. Likewise, a Mason may need to remove a habit, belief, stereotype, or prejudice to become a powerful and effective member of his Lodge, family, or community. I want to challenge all of us to surround yourselves with men of iron. Let us challenge each other to improve our ritual, leadership, habits, and thoughts. I look forward to growing and improving as a Mason with you. Please help me as I help you sharpen our skills together. This labor has been and will continue to be my theme.

IRON SHARPENS IRON.



Don Stanton

Junior Grand Warden

Here to Serve



Mike Dixon
Grand Secretary

Welcome to a new year in Oklahoma Masonry! Let me start by extending my heartfelt thanks to you, the Masons of Oklahoma, for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Grand Secretary. I want to extend my thanks to my predecessor John Christopher, Most Worshipful Bobby Laws, Most Worshipful Gary Odom, and Most Worshipful Max Tatum, for their kind offers of assistance, guidance, and counsel as I take on the challenges of this job.

Many of you already know Karen Dixon from my time in the Grand Line. Karen started volunteering at the Grand Lodge office in February. A short time later, we lost our office staff, one for a better paying job and the other retired. Subsequently, Karen accepted an offer for the full-time position. A few weeks ago, Mrs. Colleen Barker accepted a part-time position. If you have not met either of these ladies, please stop in and get acquainted. Our door is always open, and I will bet we can find a fresh cup of coffee.

I believe, first and foremost, the primary focus of the office of the Grand Secretary's office should be that of service. Service, in that we are charged with supporting the constituent lodges, their officers, and their members with the administrative functions that accompany operating a lodge. The entire staff share in this philosophy, and we all are here to assist and support in any way we can, any time we can. Help is often only a phone call away.

Since I began the transition process to take on this new job several months ago, I have learned a great deal about the Grandview membership management system. I believe it to be a great tool, and I strongly encourage the lodge secretaries to take full advantage of the system and all its features. This system is designed to aid the secretaries and make their jobs easier by eliminating much of the paper records, eliminating paper reporting to Grand Lodge, and much

more. Individual Masons can create their own user account, enabling them to manage their personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, and emails. Karen has become very proficient in Grandview, and Colleen is coming along. If we can assist anyone wanting to use the system and in need of help, please call us.

We are in the early planning stages of preparing a series of Secretaries' Schools. Even though we call these sessions Secretaries' Schools, they are not restricted to secretaries alone. Anyone interested in learning more about the Grandview system or the administrative functions of the Secretaries' office in their local lodge is encouraged to attend one of these sessions. More information about the Secretary's schools will be coming soon.

Again, I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Masons of Oklahoma for allowing me to serve you. Our door is always open, so please stop in and say hello when you are in the Guthrie area.



Cornerstone Ceremony

Chickasha Lodge #94

November 19, 2022

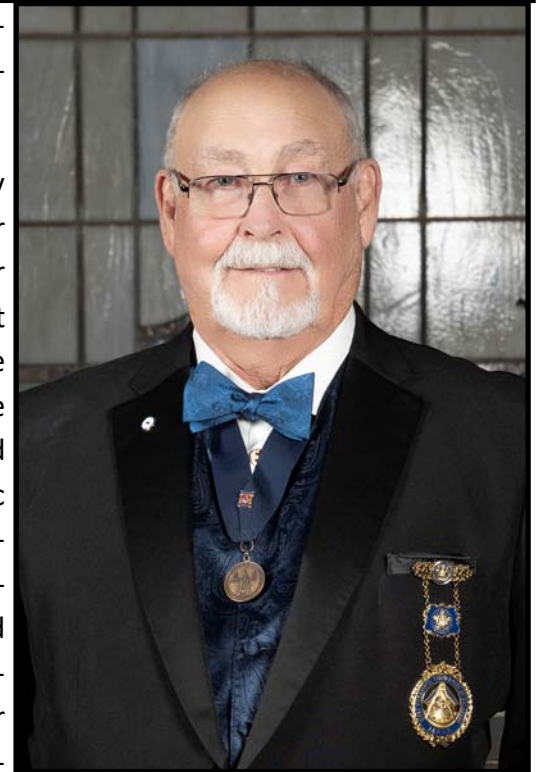


To the Craft

Seeing so many of you at Grand School was good, and I enjoyed visiting with everyone. Your attendance showed interest in our ritual and in helping masonry grow.

As you go through your daily life, think about how masonry has touched and changed your outlook toward your fellow man. Our degrees are designed to teach us life lessons, not just toward our brothers, but also ourselves. I think we often get caught up in what we as individuals want and forget that masonry is a team effort. We work not only for what we want but for what is best for the lodge and all the brethren. Let us be kind and respectful to each other and act with the dignity and integrity we learned from our masonic teachings. I have said many times that I believe the ritual of Oklahoma is one of the most informative and complete works of any jurisdiction. Each degree's floor work and language are designed and written to show each candidate the importance and meaning of masonry. In putting on our degrees, we must demonstrate not only our ability to memorize the language but also our floor work. Each degree not only needs to sound good but should also look good.

My goal next year is to have more attendance at our schools. I look forward to working with you at the district schools and these upcoming regional schools across our state.



Bob Peters
Grand Lecturer

Cornerstone Academy in Lawton	January 14
The Ironman in Yukon	February 11
Master Builder in Broken Arrow	April, 22
Grand Pillars in Shawnee	June 10
Cowboy Boot Camp in Sands Springs	July 29
Tough School in Atoka	August 12

Watch for more information on all these schools, which will be coming soon. I urge you to attend at least one of the schools in your area.



The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA



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102 S Broad St

PO Box 1019

Guthrie, OK 73044

Phone: (405) 282-3212

Fax: (405) 282-3244

www.gloklahoma.com

www.beanoklahomafreemason.org

Glen Chaney, Grand Master