

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

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

Vol. LXXXV No. 1

April 2020



Masonic Activities Canceled:

- Spring AASR Reunions - Guthrie, Tulsa, McAlester
- York Rite Bodies Grand Sessions April 24, 25, 2020
- All Lodge Meetings & Activities
- Grand Lodge Office is Closed.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Form 990 Tax Filing
May 15, 2020

Resolutions
July 10, 2020

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All Masonic Activities Suspended Due To COVID-19 Crisis

WE MAY BE APART, BUT WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

When will we be able to resume our meetings? When can we do degrees? When can we have another district meeting or anything else that we do as Masons? Many of you are asking these questions. We will continue to follow the guidelines set by our federal and state governments. There may also be additional local guidelines which can differ depending on the county or city in which we live.

I have read letters and bulletins from other jurisdictions and most have dealt with this situation in similar ways as we have in Oklahoma. Some have even more restraints than we have. I myself have not been able to travel and do some of the things as Grand Master that I had planned to do, but I know this will change in time. In the meantime as we are under the "Stay at Home" order there are a few things we **can** do!

REACH OUT:

Stay in touch with your lodge Brothers by email, telephone, or calling tree. Some members may still be working and others may be working from home or not working. A friendly call or text from a Brother may brighten someone's day.

Post encouraging and uplifting messages on your Lodge Facebook page or Lodge building message board.

HELP OUT:

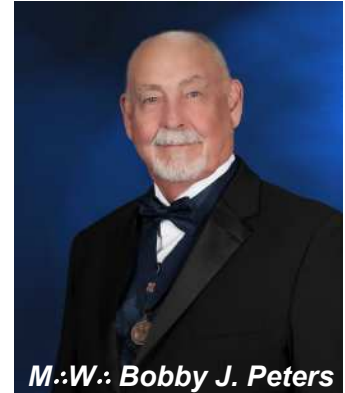
Check with your members, widows, or neighbors who may need assistance going to the grocery store or pharmacy. Offer to prepare a hot meal or deliver "take out" food and leave on their doorstep. Offer to help with yard work or anything that may be needed around the house.

Remember the nurses, doctors, medical staff, first responders, and police officers. Send a care package from the Lodge with food, snacks, or other items to those in your area. Coordinate in advance to see what would be most helpful.

WORK OUT (Mental and Physical):

Keep active, get up and move. Don't become a couch potato.

Get out your Cipher key or Murrow Monitor and choose sections each day to go over to keep your mind active (not just watching Netflix). Make sure that you haven't fallen into any bad habits on the language or learn a new section that you have been wanting to learn, but didn't



M.:W.: Bobby J. Peters
Grand Master 2020

have the time. Remember, memory work, degree work, and lodge meetings cannot be taught or done over the phone or by using any electronic meeting venue (Zoom, Meet, etc.) **SEE PAGE 2**

Hopefully, these ideas will generate some ideas of your own to safely be of service to others.

At Easter, we are reminded that there is One greater than any other, who has the power to heal and to make all things right. That is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. If we believe in Him and leave all our tomorrows for him to fill, he will take care of us and provide all the things needed. May God bless and keep you safe and well until we shall meet again.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail!

Bob Peters
Grand Master

Grand Master's Edict of March 27, 2020



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



Grand Master

P.O. Box 1019
Guthrie, OK 73044
Bus:(405)282-3212
Fax: (405)0282-3244

March 27, 2020

TO ALL MASTER MASONS AND AFFILIATED BODIES OF OKAHOMA

I hope this finds you and your families doing well.

Due to updated Executive Orders from Governor Stitt on March 24& 25, we are extending the closure of all Masonic activities in the state of Oklahoma until April 30.

This Edict does not include Masonic funerals. We must continue to comfort the families of our fallen Brothers. Please remember, if you are called on to do services, check with the funeral directors for the local guidelines.

Furthermore, to insure the health and safety of all of our office staff at Grand Lodge, beginning immediately the office will be closed, so that our staff can stay at home. If you have an urgent matter, please contact me at (405) 640-5983 or onegolfnrob@yahoo.com or Bobby Laws at (580) 471-3105 or okmason1@coxinet.net.

To the lodges who are wondering about your perpetual recapitulation checks, hopefully those will be mailed out today.

With time, this will pass and everything in our lives will begin to return to what will probably be a "new" normal. As I have said many times before, Master Masons are not known by the rings, car emblems or car tags we display, but by how we represent ourselves in the community. It is instilled in our hearts to do what is right and good, to obey the laws of our land, and to check on and care for our Brothers and Sisters.

For state information and Governor Stitt's executive orders refer to www.coronavirus.health.ok.gov

In closing remember you are not just a Man you are a Mason.
May God bless and keep you all safe and well.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail.

Bobby J Peters
Bobby J Peters
Grand Master

#washyourhands #followtheguidelines #socialdistancing

Grand Master's Edict of April 13, 2020



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Grand Master

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April 13, 2020

To all Oklahoma Masons

It has been brought to my attention that there may be some confusion about what is legal or not legal to do on Virtual electronic accessories (i.e. Zoom meeting, Facebook, Skype and Phones etc.), when it comes to our lodges.

It is unlawful according to our Masonic law to record or place on any public record any part of the Masonic Esoteric work. In keeping with this, we cannot have any stated meeting, degree work or ritual practices on Zoom or by any other electronic means. **These venues are not secure.** We cannot practice or transmit any esoteric work by telephone or any other electronic method.

During this time of Stay at Home, it will be permissible to have committee or trustee meetings by electronic methods to discuss concerns of a needy Brother or an emergency concerning the lodge building. It is also permissible to hold educational programs by electronic method as long as the esoteric work is not discussed or presented.

I know it is difficult for Masons not to be able to practice our ritual and do the things that we do normally. But let us not forget the cardinal virtues of fortitude and prudence as we work through our present situation together.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail

Fraternally,

Bobby J Peters
Bobby J Peters
Grand Master



The Grand Lodge
of
OKLAHOMA



Grand View has rolled out the April Release which contains several fixes and some valuable enhancements.

The biggest change most will notice is that your lodge is displayed as a button on the "My Portal." If you belong to more than one lodge, there will be a button for each lodge.

Additional information now available for each lodge of which you are member include: Lodge address and meeting times,

officers, DDGM, and Lodge posts and events.

There are also significant enhancements to the prospect management system, making it easier to keep track of a prospect.

Also on "My Portal" is a "Seminars" button to sign up for upcoming Grand Lodge Seminars such as the **2020 Leadership Forums.**

New Release of Grand View

From The Deputy Grand Master

After 25 years of offering annual leadership forums focused on preparing lodge Wardens for their role as lodge Masters, the 2020 Grand Master's Leadership Forums will take a different direction.

First, with the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, we may not be meeting in person. Of course, we hope we can soon again enjoy the face to face fellowship we are accustomed to having with our brothers. But it is possible this year we will conduct these forums online through digitally held webinars. Second, the 2020 conferences will not be limited only to Lodge officers. We are inviting your lodge leadership team and your younger brothers to be in attendance this year.



The reason is important.

The Oklahoma Grand Lodge is partnering with other Grand Lodges across America in a national effort to create a digital brand for American Freemasonry that will deliver the core values of our beloved fraternity to all men who seek information about us on the world wide web or through social media pages. The metrics of this program will permit non-Masons who want more information about Freemasonry to contact the

Grand Lodge in the State in which they live. These contacts will be screened to determine their specific interests and expectations, and then forwarded digitally to lodges that come closest to being a match with their interests.

For instance, we will be asking them what they believe they would enjoy the most about being a Mason-- whether that be community involvement and charitable activities; spiritual development and contemplative work; fraternalism and male bonding; education and history; personal growth through male mentorship; or broadened perspectives about being a man.

Technology is now available to us which will enable any lodge in Oklahoma to make

contacts with non-Mason men in any age range residing within any distance from that lodge. The qualifications for joining will be made known to the contacts and they will have the opportunity to directly respond to the lodge's inquiry.

This endeavor will give all our lodges access to prospects they may not otherwise ever meet and there will be a facilitated means that will take them from initial contact to a

petition to join.

Brethren, this is a venue that your younger members will embrace; and it will give them opportunities to become engaged as active participants in helping your lodge on a path to growth!

The forums this year will introduce all attendees to the website we are creating. It will show very powerful images and introductory materials that non-Masons will view, and it will be interfaced with the Grandview database we have recently adopted for use by all Oklahoma Lodges.

If you want to turn your lodge onto a path of new opportunities, join a few of your key members and attend the forum most convenient to your geographic area. While it has not yet been determined how many forums we will hold, your lodge will be invited to the webinar that is focused on your area of the State. The Leadership Forums and the Grand Master's Forums will be conducted jointly. It is hoped that, regardless of the venue we may have to choose this year, all Masons who wish to participate will be able to avail themselves of the important information the Grand Lodge trustees will be sharing with the Craft.

Any active Oklahoma Master Mason who would love to see their lodge grow is invited to attend and learn how today's communication tools give us opportunities to tell our story that has never before been possible. It is



R.:W.: Robert G. Davis
Deputy Grand Master

truly a program that can bring our beloved fraternity into the homes of every good man who believes the core values we teach are the same as his.

Once we know which kind of forum we can have this year, we will let your lodge know. Then, you will need to register online at gloklahoma.com to be invited to attend. Or you can register at

okmason1@coxinet.net

Whichever option you choose, please register at least a week in advance of the Forum in which you would like to participate so we can get an idea of attendance. Topics and times will be made available to all lodges.

This will be an enlightening experience for all participants; whether we meet in person or in cyber space. The information we are going to present this year can bring new hope and energy to every lodge. We encourage you to join us.

Fraternally,

Robert Davis
Deputy Grand Master

From The Senior Grand Warden

The time has come to again take pen in hand and communicate some thoughts to you with an over the top flare that is supposed to make this author sound good and look even better. However, that is not me. I believe that the most successful part of any operation, whether the job, business, or Fraternity, is to keep the basics in perspective. So, with that, what is the one basic thing in this Fraternity (right now) that keeps the ball rolling? Some would say ritual, or membership, or even education, however, none of these will keep the Lodge operating without that basic component of finances.

Here is where some say, "there we go again, talking about money. Don't they know there is more to Masonry than money?" The answer is yes, there is, but without it the world of Masonry does not function. That is why I would like to remind the Craft about the Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser again. The rules and information are on the Grand Lodge website or call me and I will be more than happy to answer your questions. This one program not only can, and will, bring all of Masonry closer together, but will also help each of the individual entities to solve the basic need of finances. By working this fundraising plan, we just don't solve the problem of income in all our lodges, but we will take a liability and turn it into an asset.

The one component in any Fraternity, organization, or business that will make it a success or failure is our (yours and mine) attitude. We can be joyful or gloomy, see the best or see the worst, or just be positive or negative. The state of mind we choose dictates how we will react to situations we face.

The **Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser** is the one tool that we, as Masons, have before us to take a step towards the healing process in Oklahoma Masonry. By embracing this project with a positive attitude and keeping in mind the motto of our Grand Master, "May Peace and Harmony Prevail," we have the opportunity to start a movement at the Lodge level that can and will extend to the Grand Lodge with an effect that could touch every Mason in this state. Working together for one common goal will bring your Lodge unity, and at the same time



help solve the challenge of needed income. When each Lodge and its members begin that process, after a time, all 215 Lodges will be working for a common goal, not just the needs of their own Lodge, but the needs of Masonry in Oklahoma.

Take a survey of yourself

and decide where you stand in Masonry today. Ask yourself these questions. Question number one: am I complaining and pointing a finger that others are the reason Masonry is not growing at the Lodge or State level? Or have I gotten up off the couch to be part of the answer in solving the challenges facing our Fraternity?

Question number two. Do I sit on the sidelines, being a spectator while voicing that nothing is working right or why this or that is a failure, in your opinion? Or am I trying to come up with solutions or answers to help solve the situation?

These are two basic questions to ask oneself. I know this because I was that person, or Brother, being the negative spoke in the wheel at my Lodge. I finally asked myself these and some other questions. I did not like the answers I was getting, so I



**R.:W.: Scott Vincent
Senior Grand Warden**

decided to change me. When I changed me, the Lodge took a turn toward the better.

I don't know how changing yourself will change your outcome, I just know that it will. So, start with taking that first step to change you. Pick up the Tool of the Oklahoma Masonic Fundraiser and help to start changing Masonry.

**TOGETHER WE GROW,
UNITED WE STAND**

Fraternally,

**R.:W.: Scott Vincent
405-420-6081
scottyvs@pldi.net**



OKLAHOMA MASONIC FUNDRAISER

Grand Prize
New 1/2 Ton
Pickup
MSRP \$65,000

\$20

PICKUP PROVIDED BY JOHN VANCE AUTO GROUP
GUTHRIE

OTHER PRIZES:
5 - \$5000 GIFT CARDS

25% OF ALL
DONATIONS
GO BACK
TO LOCAL
LODGES

DRAWING - NOVEMBER 13, 2020
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN
MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE

From The Junior Grand Warden

Staying Home....

Greetings Brethren All. I'm writing this from the 'home bunker' where, as is with most of you, I have been spending my days for almost three weeks now. We are unable to enjoy the beauties of fellowship with all of you, as this global event has placed a temporary hold on all things Masonic.

We are all faced with a "Pause-Ex" which is (in military lingo) a "Pause-Exercise" while we deal with this international spread of the COVID-19 virus. To be honest, I am suffering a great deal of withdrawal from the absence of my travels and from the lack of great fellowship I have enjoyed at our many events so far this year.

The cancellation of other events over the next 30-60 days is sure to test us all. But, my hope is that we all

many different possibilities. A good Brother cautioned me not to be idle. Especially now, we should be true to our principles. Do not stop looking forward and seeking further Light. Even when we are not in Lodge physically, we can be in Lodge metaphorically – or rather emblematically. Look within yourself and see that your lodge is properly tyled and that your desire for Masonic Light continues to burn as bright as it possibly can.

While traversing this unscheduled "pause-Ex," try to keep your regular Masonic study patterns or set a goal to learn some additional part of our ritual that you have considered learning. If not engaged in learning lecture, take this time to build on your strengths, and improve your weaknesses.

Look for and listen to the available online Masonic podcasts or read some

add to your lodge experience and the experience of those around you. Also, look in on your Brothers both young and old, not only to check their health, but to check their 'Masonic Well Being.' This means a phone call, a text message or an email during this period of stay-at-home directives and social distancing.

Just hearing a brother's voice or receiving an email is sometimes the one thing a Brother can identify as a positive moment in an otherwise isolated day.

My Brethren, you have my deepest gratitude for granting me the opportunity to serve this great Fraternity and jurisdiction as your Junior Grand Warden. It has been said by many that the greatest responsibility you can have is that responsibility entrusted to you by your peers. I truly feel that trust you have



**R.:W.: Glen Chaney
Junior Grand Warden**

My email is:

glenchaney7070@gmail.com

and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have of me. The thoughts and prayers of your Grand Lodge Trustees are with you during this unprecedented time. Be well my Brethren all. I look forward to our Masonic paths crossing often when we do emerge from our homes to fill the chairs of our cherished lodge rooms. Our Brotherhood may even be stronger now and going forward than any of us have yet considered. May the Almighty look after each of you and your loved ones. May the strongest bonds of our Brotherly Love continue through these challenging times and events, and God Bless our service members, health care professionals and First Responders everywhere.

**R.:W.: Glen Chaney
Junior Grand Warden**



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remain focused on getting through this in the best way possible and with some tangible evidence of how this challenge has made us stronger, wiser and better. More prepared? More educated? More connected to our family? There are so

literature that adds to your knowledge and awareness. Have that important honest dialogue with yourself about the rough edges we are continuously trying to smooth out.

These types of activities will

placed in me. We are in this together.

I look forward to the coming days, months and years with the optimism that we can and will accomplish the many goals we set for our Grand Jurisdiction.

\$20

OKLAHOMA MASONIC FUNDRAISER



GRAND PRIZE
NEW 1/2 TON PICKUP
 EST. MSRP
\$65,000

*Pickup Provided by John Vance Auto Group
Guthrie, OK*

Other Prizes:
5 - \$5000 Gift Cards

**25% OF ALL
DONATIONS
GO BACK TO
LOCAL
LODGES**

DRAWING NOVEMBER 13, 2020
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN
Must Be 18 Years Of Age

LODGE PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES

**Lodges will receive \$5 for
each ticket the Lodge sells**

- Lodges will be divided into three divisions:*
- Division 1 - 50 and less Members**
 - Division 2 - 51 -100 Members**
 - Division 3 - More than 100 Members**

- IN EACH DIVISION:**
- TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$5000
 - 2ND TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$2500
 - 3RD TOP SELLING LODGE**
\$1000

**WORSHIPFUL MASTER, SENIOR WARDEN, OR JUNIOR WARDEN MUST BE
PRESENT AT THE NOVEMBER 14, 2020, GRAND LODGE SESSION TO
RECEIVE INCENTIVES.**

Words From The Craft

W.: Mike Wright

The Cable-Tow, we are told, is purely Masonic in its meaning and use. Masonry has its own vocabulary and uses it in its own ways. Nor can our words always be defined for the benefit of the profane.

The cable-tow, then, is the outward and visible symbol of a vow in which a man has pledged his life, or has pledged himself, to save another life at the risk of his own. Its length and strength are measured by the ability of the man to fulfill his obligation and his sense of the moral sanctity of his obligation - a test, that is, both of his capacity and of his character.

If a lodge is a symbol of the world, and initiation is our birth into the world of Masonry, the cable-tow is not unlike the umbilical cord which unites a child to its mother at birth; and so it is usually interpreted. Just as the physical cord, when cut, is replaced by a tie of love and obligation between mother and child, so, in one of the most impressive moments of initiation, the cable-tow is removed, because the brother, by his oath at the Altar of

Obligation, is bound by a tie stronger than any physical cable. What before was an outward physical restraint has become an inward moral constraint.

The cable-tow is the sign of the pledge of the life of a man. As in his oath he agrees to forfeit his life if his vow is violated, so, positively, he pledges his life to the service of the Craft. He agrees to go to the aid of a Brother, using all his power in his behalf, "if within the length of his cable-tow," which means, if within the reach of his power.

But, let us remember that a cable-tow has two ends. If it binds a Mason to the Fraternity, by the same fact it binds the Fraternity to each man in it. The one obligation needs to be emphasized as much as the other. Happily, in our day we are beginning to see the other side of the obligation - that the Fraternity is under vows to its members to guide, instruct and train them for the effective service of the Craft and of humanity. Control, obedience, direction or guidance - these are the three meanings of the cable-tow, as it is interpreted by

the best insight of the Craft.

Of course, by control we do not mean that Masonry commands us in the same sense that it uses force. Masonry rules men as beauty rules an artist, as love rules a lover. It does not drive; it draws. It controls us, shapes us through its human touch and its moral nobility. By the same method, by the same power, it wins obedience and gives guidance and direction to our lives. At the Altar we take vows to follow and obey its high principles and ideals; and Masonic vows are not empty obligations - they are vows in which a man pledges his life and his sacred honor.

Writers define the length of a cable-tow, which they sometimes call a "cable's length," variously, twice the measure of a circle or length of the cable-tow. For each Mason the cable-tow reaches as far as his moral principles go and his material conditions will allow. Of that distance each must be his own judge, and indeed each does pass judgment upon himself accordingly, by his own acts in aid of others.

Brothers, what is the length of your cable tow?



**“Only
you
know
the
length
of your
Cable
Tow”**



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Available For Election

The following Brethren have filed for the offices as listed below:

Grand Secretary

**John R. Christopher -
Guthrie Lodge No. 35**

Junior Grand Warden

(Listed in order of filing date)

**John F. Carter -
Creekmore No. 74**

**Thomas Bridgewater -
Sallisaw No. 120**

A complete biography of each will be in the next issue of
The Oklahoma Mason.

Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma Board of Directors

William J. Cloud

Gene McKelvey

L. Clay Stuart

Don H. Stanton

Preston L. Doerflinger

A complete biography of each will be in the next issue of
The Oklahoma Mason.



The Grand Lodge *of* **OKLAHOMA**

The Oklahoma Mason is a publication of the Grand Lodge of
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Bobby J. Peters, Grand Master