

The Oklahoma Mason

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Vol. II August 2014

From the Grand Master

As we go into this issue of the Oklahoma Mason it is difficult to realize that 8 months have already gone by. No matter how much you think you are prepared for the office of Grand Master, it is a very humbling experience.

As the other Grand Lodge officers and I travel around the state, we come in contact with the most dedicated members our fraternity has to offer. They spend their time and talent improving their lodges and the communities in which they work and live.

So far this year we have presented between fifty and sixty

50 year pins, three 70 year pins and two 75 year pins. And I have lost count of the number of pins from 25 through 45 and the 60 through 65 year pins.

Some of these brothers have extensive Masonic histories and others have supported their lodges because they believe in the principals the fraternity teaches and they have lived their lives accordingly. Not everyone can be an active member as far as lodge participation is concerned, but good men will always seek out other good men to associate with.

In the Hand to Back program I presented to you, I stressed the importance of guarding the West Gate. I am convinced that “numbers” is not the answer to our declining membership, and that quality is the key to our growth and our future. We should Guard the West Gate with this in mind. The reality is that Masonry is not for everyone, it is a lifelong commitment, a way of life, and not just another fraternal organization. To take the time to initiate, pass and



Masonic tall case or “Grandfather” clock, acquired by the Museum & Library of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. The “hours” are Masonic symbols and the dial shows Washington as a Mason.

raise someone because you are desperate for another member is a disservice to the candidate and to your lodge.

In my own lodge, we recently had a young man come in and request a petition. In speaking to him, he was from out of state and knew no one in the lodge. He was informed that we are now doing national background checks and received the proper information as to what would be necessary. He stated that he would have no problem with the procedure, signed the proper waiver and said that he would be contacting the secretary. Several weeks later he called the secretary and said that he decided that he did not wish to pursue petitioning.

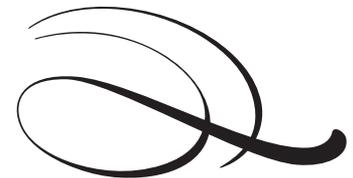
My question is this, did we dodge a bullet by eliminating someone who would not be the type of individual who would bring credit to our fraternity—by having a criminal background he did not wish to disclose.

Several of the lodges who volunteered for the Pilot Program of using National

Background checks have had similar experiences.

I am convinced that by Guarding our West Gate the number of men who have the best interest in preserving the integrity and quality of our fraternity will lead us to a stronger and better organization as we advance into the 21st century.

Fraternally,
Ron J. Chambers
Grand Master



BRETHREN AVAILABLE FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE

Below are brief biographical sketches of Brethren who have made themselves available for the Office of Junior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary or for election to the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. The information is taken from the forms they filed with the Grand Secretary and appear in the order in which the forms were received in the Grand Lodge office.

For Junior Grand Warden



Clarence William "Corky" Grigsby, Jr.

Worshipful Brother Grigsby and his wife, Nicolasa "Nickie" live in Altus, Oklahoma. Son Christopher is in the U.S. Army, and son Jeffrey is in the U.S. Navy. Brother Grigsby himself is retired from the U.S. Air Force and, subsequently, from the Department of Defense Civil Service. In the latter position he managed a large tool and equipment operation, including a staff of 24 employees. He received an award for outstanding service with the security forces, was non-commissioned officer of the year in 1981, NCO Academy, was nominated for General Marduez Outstanding Maintenance Award, and holds numerous decorations for military service.

He was Raised at Altus Lodge in 2004. He is a perpetual member of Altus Lodge and an active member of Yeldell Lodge, having served Altus Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2008 and as treasurer in 2012 and 2013. He served Yeldell as Junior Deacon in 2010. Brother Grigsby served the Grand Lodge as Grand Chaplain in 2012, 2013, and 2014. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 2010 and 2011, and served on the Necrol-

ogy Committee in 2013. He is a member of the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo and served as Chief of the Tribe in 2014. He is a "C" Certificate Lecturer and has completed the Grand Lodge correspondence courses I, II, and III.

He is a member of the Guthrie Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he serves as Chancellor in the Council of Kadosh, Membership Chairman of Altus Lodge, and as a member of the 70, 170, and 270 teams. In the York Rite, he is a member of the Altus Chapter #60, Altus Council #33, and Elk City Commandery #22. He served as High Priest in 2012 and Illustrious Master in 2013. He belongs to India Shrine Temple and the "SWOKIES" motorized unit.

In other organizations, he served as President of the Windsong Home Owners Association, Team Leader in software research for the Air Force tool rooms, Loss Prevention Supervisor for Walmart, Inc., Senior Church Greeter, and much more.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Grigsby wrote: *"I have a heartfelt desire to serve the Craft of Oklahoma in every way possible. I want to give back of my self to our gentle Fraternity that has given so much to me. My desire is to serve and continue the positive programs that our Trustees have established the past few years. I am retired and with God's help and my family standing beside me, want to serve the Craft to the best of my ability. Let's continue to "Go Back to Basics as Masons" and really be our Brothers and Widows Keepers, while striving to make Oklahoma Masonry highly visible in a positive light in every community in our great state. So Mote It Be."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *"My goals as a Grand Lodge officer is to maintain Masonic tradition throughout the state, support ritual work and Masonic teachings to ensure the needs of the Craft are met and supported."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. *Brother Grigsby has neither been suspended nor expelled.*



Donnie Gene Higginbotham

Worshipful Brother Higginbotham lives in Ada, Oklahoma. He has two children, a daughter, Angela Marie, and a son, Donnie Gene II. He served 8 years in the USNR, and is the owner of Mobile Tech & Cameras LLC. As such, he manages several teams of technicians and performs all the duties of a CEO, including regulatory compliance. He was Raised at Amity Lodge in 1986, and affiliated with Roff Lodge, where he is a perpetual member and has been a member of Morris Lodge. He is also a perpetual member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research and has been active in the Lodge's education and book sales work.

He served Roff Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1991-92 and as Secretary 2007-2013.

Brother Higginbotham served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master 2011-2012, and has served on the Masonic Education, Publications, Youth Activities, and Ambassadors Committees. He is a member of the McAlester Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he is Past Commander of Kadosh and holds the Knight Commander Court of Honour designation and served on the Advisory Council in 2012. In the York Rite, he holds the KYCH and is a member of Indian Chapter #1, Union Council #3 and McAlester Commandery #6. He is Past High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Commander. A member of the Eastern Star, he has served as Worthy Patron of Roff Chapter.

A member of the Paul T. Million Chapter

#455, Allied Masonic Degrees, he is Knight Commander, Red Branch of Erie, and a designate of the Order of the Purple Cross.

He served in the U.S. Military for 8 years, and served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of Ada Area Crisis Intervention. He is currently on the committee for the Ada area Salvation Army.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Higginbotham wrote: *"It is my goal to bring Masonry back to the prominence in civil life that we once had."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *"I would like to permanently endow the Grand Lodge building."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. *Although a perpetual member of Roff Lodge, he was also a member of Morris Lodge, for which he was suspended NPD (11/30/1993) while going through a divorce. Before he could reinstate, Morris Lodge had consolidated with another Lodge.*

For Grand Secretary



Bobby L. Laws, P.G.M.:

Most Worshipful Bobby L. Laws lives in Altus, Oklahoma. He is widowed with "4 children—all middle-aged with Grandchildren." He is retired from the U.S. Air Force after 27 years of active military service. In that time, he achieved the top 1% of all enlisted ranks and graduated in the top 1% of the Air Force Senior NCO Leadership Academy.

He was Raised at Union Lodge #28 in Georgia, and, in 1975, affiliated with Altus Lodge, where he is a perpetual member. He

served that Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1978 and again in 2003. In addition to Altus Lodge, M.: W.: Brother Laws is a member of Yeldell Lodge, Frederick Lodge, Mangum Lodge, Hobart Lodge and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served as Secretary or Treasurer of Altus Lodge for many years, and has also served as Treasurer for Yeldell and the Lodge of Research, and as Junior Steward for Frederick Lodge.

He served as Grand Master in 1990 and as Grand Secretary in 1992 and 1993. He has served on many Grand Lodge Committees and commissions.

M.: W.: Brother Laws is a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Valley, and holds the 330. For five years he has been the Chairman of the Membership Committee. He also directs and acts in the Degrees at the Temple, perhaps most notably as John the Baptist in the 170. He is Past Commander, Council of Kadosh.

In the York Rite, he is a member of Altus Chapter #60, Altus Council #33, and Elk City Commandery #22. Since 2005 he has been Secretary/Recorder for the Altus Bodies. He is a member of the India Shrine Temple and of Altus Chapter #49, Order of the Eastern Star, which he served as Worthy Patron in 1985 and has served as Sentinel for the last 7 years. He is also a member of Tinker Chapter #43, National Sojourners.

In addition to the 330, He has received the York Rite Membership Award, the Joseph P. Murrow Medal, the Honorary Legion of Honor of DeMolay, and the Rainbow Grand Cross of Color.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" he wrote: *"It is my sincere desire to serve the Craft of all Oklahoma Masons to the best of my ability. Having previously served this position and being the Secretary of a very active Lodge for several years, I believe that I am qualified to serve you again in this key position. Your problems are my problems and we can work together for the good of Masonry."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *"I would like to continue the programs that your Trustees currently have in place and support them in their endeavors to work with every Lodge in assisting them in any way possible. I realize that when you call the Grand Secretary's office you deserve and expect the best service possible with your question or request. Rest assured that I will be there to help you to the best of my ability."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been sus-

pending or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. *M.: W.: Brother Laws has neither been suspended nor expelled.*

For the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

Johnny D. Onkst, P.G.M.:

M.: W.: Brother Onkst lives with his wife, Yvette, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is a Business Development Manager for Otis Elevator Company. He has been listed in Outstanding Young Men of America, has a BBA in Accounting and Finance from the University of Oklahoma, an MBA from Oklahoma City University, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Leadership Management at the University of Oklahoma.

In other charitable/non-profit experience outside the Fraternity, M.: W.: Brother Onkst lists Past Board Members—Special Olympics, Past Board Member—Junior Achievement, Board of Directors—Building Owners Management Association, Past Treasurer—Institute of Management Accountant, Past State Master Councilor—Order of DeMolay, and Past Credit Committee Member—Tulsa Federal Employees Credit Union.

He is a member of Jenks Lodge—which he served as Worshipful Master in 1996—as well as Nicoma Park and Del City Lodges. He served the state of Oklahoma as Grand Master in 2008.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he referenced the information on non-profit experience listed above.

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" M.: W.: Brother Onkst wrote: *"The Charity Foundation current programs play a vital role to Oklahoma Lodges, by helping do more in communities that otherwise Lodges could not do without Charity Foundation Support."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. *M.: W.:*

Brother Onkst has neither been suspended nor expelled.

Glenn E. Almy, P.G.M.

M.: W.: Brother Almy and his wife, Sue, live in Mannford. He is retired as the owner of ADP Mechanical Contractors. For 50 years he was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union #430. Raised at Mannford Lodge in 1973, he served the Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2001. He is a perpetual member of Mannford Lodge, Pond Creek Lodge, Hebron Lodge and Akdar Lodge.

He was elected to the Grand South for the 2008 Masonic Year, and served as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2011.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he wrote: *"I feel after my time on the Charity Board that I am better qualified to assist the work the Board does."*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" M.: W.: Brother Almy wrote: *"It is one primary way for the public to know one of the best things the Fraternity does."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. M.: W.: Brother Almy has neither been suspended nor expelled.

Ridge Smith, Senior Grand Warden

R.: W.: Brother Smith and his wife, Carol, live in Yukon, Oklahoma. He is retired from the Federal Aviation Administration where he served for 12 years as a Forensic Chemist and Instructional Systems Designer, as well as Medical Seminar Coordinator. He created an OCR system for tracking forensic materials as well as systems provided automated data collection for aviation medical examiner testing. He served in the U.S. Army, including two combat tours in Vietnam. He retired as Captain.

He served as a teacher for Yukon High School, teaching science, mathematics, and computers. He has served as Adjunct Professor at both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University—teaching library science for OU and computers, statistics, and biology for OSU. A member of Yukon Lodge #90, he served as Worshipful Master in 1992, and has served as Treasurer from 2002 to the present time.

R.: W.: Brother Smith holds a Bachelor's Degree from Cameron University with a major in chemistry and a minor in statistics. He was graduated Summa Cum Laude from Central State University with a major in School Administration, and from the University of Oklahoma with a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology.

He was appointed to the Board of the Foundation in December, 2013, to fill a vacancy. His non-profit experience includes serving as Chairman of the Board of West Point Christian Church from 1981 to 1991. He also created the administration program of Compassionate Hands of Yukon, and collecting donations for Yukon Manna Pantry and Compassionate Hands of Yukon. He has also served on the Credit Committee for Ft. Sill Federal Credit Union.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he wrote: *"Through my experience as Lodge Worshipful Master, Secretary and Treasurer, I have been actively engaged in charitable endeavors, both working with Matching Funds and Promises Matter Programs. I have helped my Lodge to become an important charitable center for our community."*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" R.: W.: Brother Smith wrote: *"We are taught that 'charity is the distinguishing characteristic of Masons.' I believe the Foundation has both the ability to care for distressed brethren and their families, but also to demonstrate to the people of Oklahoma the charitable keystone of our great fraternity through donations to worthy Masonic and non-Masonic philanthropies."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. R.: W.: Brother Smith has neither been suspended nor expelled.

Ronald S. Coppedge, P.G.M.

M.: W.: Brother Coppedge and his wife, Lanette, live in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. He works at Murray State College as Coordinator for the Murray State College Media Center. He has served on numerous civic boards and committees, as was on the Board of Directors for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial from 2006 to 2009. He has served for five years on the

Promises Matter Committee of the Charity Foundation. From 1998 to 2004 he served as Secretary of the Johnston County Salvation Army Service Unit.

M.: W.: Brother Coppedge's home Lodge is Tishomingo #91 which he served as Worshipful Master in 1994 and 1995, as well as serving as Worshipful Master of Wapanucka Lodge #200 in 2001. He currently serves Tishomingo Lodge as Secretary.

In 2004, our M.: W.: Brother served as Grand Master of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he wrote: *"Having served on Johnston County Service Unit, I had the opportunity to see first hand how charitable giving can relieve those families in need. Also, serving on the Promises Matter Committee for the last five years has given me the experience to distinguish real needs from perceived wants."*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" M.: W.: Brother Coppedge wrote: *"The Masonic Charity Foundation must continue the excellent programs it has sponsored in the previous years, such as Promises Matter, Matching Funds, OETA, and many others. The Foundation needs to look into possibly expanding matching funds to those Lodges which, year after year, expend all their allocated matching funds, and look into other ways to assist in developing membership which, in turn, will grow our Lodges and grow our Masonic Charity Foundation."*

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. M.: W.: Brother Coppedge has neither been suspended nor expelled.

Gary A. Davis, P.G.M.

M.: W.: Gary A. Davis and his wife, Nellie, live in Drumright, Oklahoma. He is retired after 33 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District. While there, he wrote the manual for documenting and regulatory handling of modifications to civil and military construction contracts.

He was raised at Millennium Lodge in 1977. He is a perpetual member of Drumright Lodge, Owasso Lodge, and Akdar Lodge, and is an active member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He served as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1996.

He has been a member of the Charity Foundation Board since 1997 and has served as President. In other non-profit organizations, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Drumright Public Housing Authority, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the 1st United Methodist Church of Drumright, and serves as a Commissioner for the City of Drumright.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" he wrote: "Being familiar with the Masonic Charity Foundation I can continue to monitor current programs and look for ways to improve them."

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" M.:W.: Brother Davis wrote: "With current and new programs, bring community and statewide attention to what Masonry does for Oklahomans."

Note: Legislation passed in 2007 requires this question: If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry provide the date(s) of Suspension or Expulsion and of Reinstatement. M.:W.: *Brother Davis has neither been suspended nor expelled.*

From the Deputy Grand Master

What is a Mason?



What is a Mason? What is Masonry? I imagine everyone involved with Masonry has been asked these questions. When we go outside the lodge, out into the

community, and ask this question, we will hear answers such as: Masons are those guys that come to my daughter's school every year and give eye exams; Masons helped the school band buy new instruments; they are the guys that did that fundraiser that helped the baseball team get new uniforms; Masons helped my son's FFA team project at the State Fair; and many more typical answers. We would hear that Masonry is an organization that helps the community; that helps people financially. The community is aware of what the Masons do in the community and how we financially support them.

Within the Lodge, we will hear similar thoughts expressed: Our Lodges support the Student of Today and Teacher of Today programs; we offer financial scholarships to area students; we have fund raisers to assist the local fire department; lodges participate in the Child Identification Program; we have programs to assist needy Masons and other needy people. Our lodges put several thousand dollars into the community each year. Oklahoma Masons contribute about quarter-million dollars into Oklahoma communities each year.

These responses to the questions "What is Masonry?" and "What is a Mason?" indicate that the community and Masons see the Masonic Fraternity as a major charitable organization. In fact, a phrase in our ritual states that "Charity is the distinguishing characteristic of Masons". In another place we are reminded that "to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons". But, we also know that Masonry is a manner of thinking; Masonry is an organization dedicated to helping men make themselves better. Being part of a financial charity giving away money is not what makes a man better.

There are many places in our ritual that suggest there is more to Masonry than being a great financial charity. Among these are: "the internal and not the external qualifications of a man recommend him to be made a Mason"; "plain-dealing and sincerity distinguish us"; "the heart and tongue join in rejoicing in each other's prosperity". These ideas definitely lead us beyond considering Masonry as only a "financial charity".

Today, when we use the word "charity", we tend to think in terms of financial charity. But "charity" means much more. The word "charity" derives from the Latin "carus" which means "to care", to be "dear". "Charity" in its true meaning is the inward and outward acts of love.

In the Symbolism Lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, there is a part that tells us that "Masons being brethren there exist no invidious distinctions among them, and that they love each other mightily. Good men and true, knowing each other to be such, do always love the more as they be the more good". This tells us that as we have more charity, more inward and outward love, for ourselves and for others, we will continue to grow as a person.

And so, when we substitute "love" for "charity," we see the true meaning of the ritual and of Masonry. "Love is the distinguishing characteristic of Masons." And this love is of the love that God and Jesus have for humanity; a very special love that is of a mental and spiritual character.

A recent Short Talk Bulletin has a short poem (an adaptation of a quote of John Wesley) that offers a good definition of what a Mason is:

*A Mason is a man
Who does all the good he can,
In as many ways as he can,
In as many places as he can,
To as many men as he can,
For as long as he can.*

Fraternally,

Gary L. Beisly

From the Senior Grand Warden



Fraternity.

The essence of this program is that we actively support and assist members from the time they submit a petition to the time they pass to the Grand Lodge above, and their families beyond that. I believe that our responsibility to our Brothers and their families is the most important obligation we have as Masons. All Masons have taken an obligation to take care of our Brother Masons, but I fear that responsibility is sometimes neglected.

I had a sad personal experience. When I was in high school, I had a very good friend whose father was a member and Past Master of the Lodge. At that age, I had no knowledge of the Masonic Fraternity, but when I joined the Lodge many years later, I saw my friend's father's picture on the wall with the other Past Masters. When I next spoke to my friend, I asked him if he had thought about joining the Lodge. I was astounded by his response. He was adamant that he wanted nothing whatsoever to do with the Lodge and would never, ever become a Mason!

After I got over the shock of hearing my friend's opinion, I asked him why he felt so strongly against the Lodge. I found that his father had become ill in his later life, but no one from the Lodge made any inquiry about him or his absence from meetings. Even though he was a Past Master, his father felt that the Lodge had forgotten him. When his father died, there was no offer by the Lodge to help the widow or to do a Masonic funeral or anything – no support at all. I then truly understood my friend's hostility.

Brethren, this should never have happened. We owe an obligation to every member to treat them like a Brother. We should never let a Brother think that the Lodge deserted him, or that his time in Masonry is wasted.

We need to stay in contact with all of our members so that we will know if they are in need of something we can provide.

One means of staying in contact with our members is to publish a newsletter. This is

a very good way to communicate with our Brothers and their families about the doings of the Lodge. It is also a vehicle for our other Masonic orders – OES, Amaranth, Rainbow, Job's, DeMolay, etc. to include articles; however, it does incur some expense – printing and postage can be a significant cost for a Lodge whose finances are tight. It also requires that some Brother act as editor – a duty that entails significant time and effort. I think newsletters are great, and several lodges have included me in their mailings. I enjoy reading them particularly because I know how much effort is required to produce a newsletter.

Another method of communication is the telephone calling tree. This method works well, but has some drawbacks. First, it is time-consuming. Brothers must make the phone calls and communicate the information and make sure the tree works from top to bottom. Missed calls can be a problem, and finding an appropriate time to call is problematic. It also can be seen as an annoyance to some Brothers and out-of-state Brothers may feel it unnecessary. This method would probably work well to communicate emergency or "Brother in distress" messages.

On an individual basis, the phone is a good way to check on older Brothers who might be in need of assistance, or just need a ride to the Lodge for a Brother who doesn't like to drive at night.

Lastly, an excellent method of communicating with members is electronic communication: email or texting or social media like Facebook, Twitter, etc. Many Masons have email addresses and this is a very quick and inexpensive means of disseminating information. It does require that a Brother, or two, do the writing and keep the address list up-to-date. A couple of the Lodges to which I belong use email very effectively to keep the members informed. It allows them to send messages to members whether local or far away. Care needs to be taken to not forget Brothers who might not have email or other computer communications.

Brethren, whatever method is used, we must not let Brothers think that the only time we communicate with them is when dues are due. If a Brother is missing meetings, find out if he needs a ride, or if he is not well or has a family problem, or whatever. We must not forget our Brothers nor expect them to contact us first.

I firmly believe that, if we take good care of our present members, that fact will attract new members. On the other hand, if we

don't take care of our members, that word will spread as well. The choice is ours.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Ridge Smith
Senior Grand Warden

From the Grand Lecturer



Greetings my brethren all, Well, history was in the making at Altus Lodge #62 on the 17th of May. This was the first exemplification of the work put on by the Board of Grand Lecturers. All the degrees were

put on in their entirety with only the 2nd and 3rd explanatory lecturers omitted.

There was very good attendance at this historical event with 17 lodges being represented, and 15 districts with a grand total of 41 masons. All the Deputy Grand Lecturers and 2 assistants were in attendance. A wonderful meal was prepared by the Eastern Star Chapter. The day started a 9:00 a.m., and by 3:00 p.m. the degrees were complete.

We have another exemplification set up on September 20, 2014 at the Muskogee Masonic Center. **PLEASE PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND BE A PART OF THIS.**

Also don't forget that we will be having "TOUGH SCHOOL" at Oklahoma Lodge #4 in Atoka on August 9th, 2014.

This is the 23rd annual Tough School. Please make plans for this important event.

Remember brethren Grand School of Instruction has been moved to November 5th, 6th, and half a day on the 7th. We hope this will increase attendance being just before Grand Lodge.

Please let me or the Deputy Grand Lecturers know if we may help you in any way.

Fraternally,
Ronald Wray
Grand Lecturer

From the Junior Grand Warden



Last February I was privileged to travel to Baltimore with the other Grand Lodge officers to attend the North American Conference of Grand Masters. At the meeting I was assigned

to attend the Grand Secretary's Conference because our Grand Secretary was unable to attend the conference this year. I will have to admit I was a little disappointed that I would not be in the Grand Master's Conference to listen to the programs. However after attending the Grand Secretary's part I was glad that I had a chance to sit in on that part of the conference. The subjects were pertinent to today's lodge issues and the speakers were all very well informed on their respective subjects.

The first lecture given at the Secretary's Conference was on IRS matters concerning lodges. The speaker was an expert on IRS laws and regulations dealing with fraternal organizations. The meeting specifically dealt with IRS form 990 in its various forms. If you are a secretary or a Worshipful Master of your lodge I encourage you to make absolutely sure all your forms are filed every year in a timely manner. Not only your forms for IRS but all reports due to the Grand Lodge. It is imperative that these be taken care of.

A speaker from the Grand Lodge of California brought a program entitled Gain and Retain; something that is of interest to all lodges. One important step was to have Warden Retreats. The idea is that one of the first steps in having a good successful lodge is to have Masters and Wardens that are well trained, and to bring them together from all over the state to share ideas that are working in their respective lodges. It is important if you are a Warden in your lodge that you give every effort to attend these retreats. The planned program can help you with the issues you may have to deal with in your lodge. Beyond that you very well may pick up a great idea to help your lodge. Our leadership conference will be the first weekend of August so make plans now to attend.

It was discussed how important it is to have a strong culture of fraternity. What is meant by a strong culture of fraternity? Well it means that it is vital that lodge members get to know each other very well, like brothers should. We should know if a brother

is sick or distressed. We should know if a brother has an issue in his life and needs his fraternal brothers to be standing by him. Of course if there is a good thing happening in his life we should know that too, so we can celebrate with him. Know each other as good friends know each other, as brothers know each other. It is one of the most important steps in having a good successful lodge.

When your lodge has a new prospect, be sure you spend some time letting him know your lodge's expectations. Make sure he knows that you expect him to attend your stated communications. Let him know that he will be expected to learn the categorical lectures that he needs to learn to advance in masonry. Share with him that he can be expected to work in lodge maybe as an officer at some point or perhaps helping with what needs to be done at a dinner or district meeting. If your lodge has a dress code let him know up front. Whatever it is invite him to a lodge dinner of function and discuss your expectations with him. Also it is important that you know what his expectations are. What does he expect his masonic experience to be.

It is also very important that the new brother has a "trainer" and a mentor. These may or may not be the same person but they should try to build a strong relationship with the new brother. For at least the first part of the new brother's masonic career this person or persons should become very important to them. Not only will the new brother be learning the work from his trainer but he will be learning more about the lodge and masonry in general from his trainer/mentor. Trainers and mentors should be well informed brethren that understand the importance of what they are doing. It is of course very important that we understand we are working with a young mason. Maybe not young in age but certainly young in masonry. It is our duty that their feet be set on the right path.

All these things are important for our brothers and in turn important to our fraternity. Some of these things I have already been able to witness working in lodges. I encourage all of our lodges to think about some of these ideas and try them if you feel they are right for your lodge.

If I haven't already visited your lodge, then I look forward to visiting and renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. If I have visited I want you to know that I was very happy to see old friends again and make new ones and thank you for your hospitality.

Fraternally yours
Rick Allison, JGW

MULTIPLEX MASONRY

In Oklahoma, we take chili and barbeque seriously—not as seriously as football (which has the status of religion), but seriously. Life-long friendships have been terminated over the question of whether chili should contain beans. In Texas, which takes these things even more seriously, there are reputed to be counties in which it is a hanging offense to barbeque with hickory rather than mesquite.

No one seems to be willing to say, "Some people like chili with beans, some do not, and that's fine." Or, "Barbeque according to the inclinations of your own heart."

I'm reminded of that when I contemplate the various "schools" of Masonic thought. Louis XVI would not have been more haughty toward and contemptuous of a pox-ridden peasant than some adherents of one school are of another.

But Masonry is multiplex. One of the things we most often hear is that a man will find in Masonry what he chooses to seek. That is, perhaps, the greatest strength of the organization. It has many facets; it is not a single path but an interlocking series, rather like a circuit board.

It may be helpful, especially for the new Mason, to review these schools, with their various approaches to the study of Masonry. No value judgements are intended in what follows, and those which may appear are unconscious. The whole point of the article is that a school of thought or study is valid for those who follow it. Each Mason has the absolute right to follow the one(s) he wishes or to create a new one for himself.

The Authentic School - sometimes called the historic or scientific school--is recent, being about 100 years old. The purpose of this approach to the study of Masonry is to separate historic fact from legend and myth. Using the tools of the historian, Masons of this school attempt to create as accurate and unbiased a picture as possible of the actual events in Masonry's past. Generally, students of this school are not interested in the meanings of the symbols of Masonry, but concentrate on that which can be proven and documented. It could fairly be described as a "hard-edged" approach to Masonry.

The Textual Criticism School - Textual criticism is the study of printed material. Masons of this school are generally most interested in the ritual and its evolution. They deal with such questions as, "When did changes come into the ritual? Who introduced the changes? Did the changes spread, or did they remain

continued on pg. 11



From the Grand Secretary The Times They Are a Changin'!

Probably one of our least favorite things to do in our fraternity is change. “Don’t change the ritual”, “Don’t allow opening on EA/FC”, etc., etc. But sooner or later, we have to come to the realization that change CAN be a good thing.

A perfect example is how we communicate. Electronic media such as Facebook, OKeMason e-mails and our Grand Lodge website improve our ability to get the word out quickly. In mid-June of this year we made a big change to our website. We changed the look and web development software to a newer, more secure version. This wasn’t done strictly for change sake; a malware virus had been detected on the old site. We had been talking about updates for some time, so now was as good as any.

The new site, on first glance, does not appear too different, but wait a second for the “rotating display” of images that used to be on the old website. This is now a marquee that we can use to post short notices or news-flashes from Grand Lodge. Some of the other changes include:

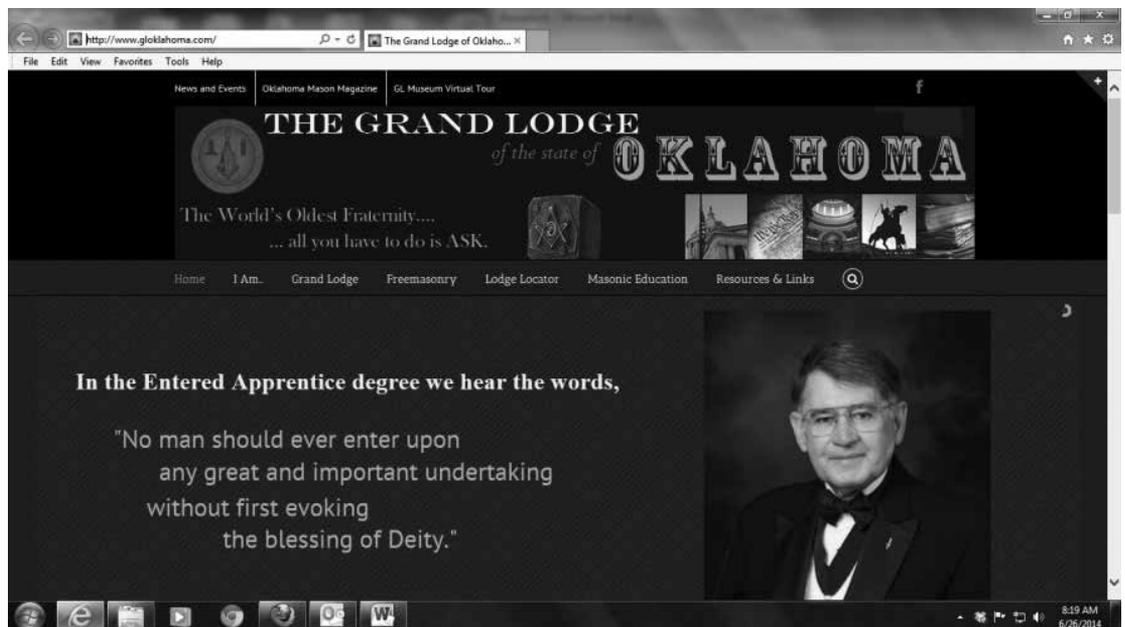
- Newer navigation scheme. We have tried to reduce the number of mouse clicks to get to some of the information
- A new “I am” button which lets you get to the most used resource, Ex: “I am interested in becoming a Mason”, “I am a lodge secretary”, etc, which will (hopefully) take you quickly where you want to go.
- Multi-media content. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts has graciously allowed us to use the “Ben Franklin speaks” videos from their “Ask a Freemason” website.
- Go all the way to the top of the page for quick links to News, OK Mason, or a virtual tour of the Grand Lodge museum.
- A new subscription service, which will

allow you to subscribe to the electronic version of the Oklahoma Mason and save us all postage cost of mailing hard-copy. If you subscribe, you will need an e-mail address. That will be used to notify you when a new edition is posted. We hope to expand on this for subscription service to Grand Secretary/Grand Master messages, new education pieces from Jim Tresner, etc.

- A new Grand Lodge calendar format (look under Grand Lodge/Officers/Grand Lodge Calendar). It now shows a ‘list’ for-

and being adopted across the fraternity is - - lodge access to a computer. It doesn’t have to be in the lodge, but the Secretary will have to be able to access a computer from either the lodge, home, or the public library. Start thinking about this now in your lodge administration, or you may find yourself stuck in century old reporting while everyone else has moved ahead.

The website has proved its worth in one simple change; the addition of a “Interested in Masonry?” button. We have had over 200 inquiries since this was introduced from the



mat, which is a little easier to determine what the next event will be. You can still look at the calendar view by clicking a tab.

We also are in discussion about a revolutionary change to lodge reporting. We have been using the same system of reporting degrees, address changes, deaths, for over 100 years. You are required by the Constitution and Code to report every month, change or not. Brothers, we need to start looking at new, innovative ways to get reports from lodges in a ‘just-in-time’ manner. We will start with a pilot program with a few lodge secretaries and go from there, based on the recommendations of those involved. The weak link to this program becoming successful

public wanting to join the fraternity, but not knowing where to start. The queries are sent to the local lodge to arrange a visit, and we have a lot of positive feedback that this has resulted in membership increases.

Start the discussions in your lodges now. How will you use these new technologies to both get the word out to members and provide information to the community so they can become more aware of Freemasonry, and possibly join. The rewards are well worth the effort to CHANGE.

Fraternally,
Steve Singleton

W.: Robert G. Davis, 33°, Grand Cross, Installed as National Leader of the Allied Masonic Degrees



Most Venerable Robert G. Davis is the Executive Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite. He is a Past Master of three Masonic Lodges, and served as the Charter Master of Guildhall T. O. Lodge No. 553. He is a KYCH, a 33° Mason, and recipient of the Grand Cross. He is a Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, Past Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Past Sovereign Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Past Governor of the Oklahoma York Rite College. He is currently the Chief Adept of the Oklahoma College of Masonic Rosicrucians, and serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation.

Nationally, he serves on the Education and Research Committee of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, the Masonic Education and Research Committee and Rituals and Ritualistic Matters Committee of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

He is a past president of the Masonic Restoration Foundation and serves on the Steering Committee of the Masonic Information Center of the United States. He is a past President and Fellow of the International Philaethes Society and serves as the editor

of the High Council publication of Masonic Rosicrucians. He is a member of the Nine Muses Council No. 13 in Washington D.C.

Robert holds the Cross of Honor and the Legion of Honor in DeMolay and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of the International Order of DeMolay.

Robert has written two books, "Understanding Manhood in America: Freemasonry's enduring Quest for the Mature Masculine," focusing on the fraternal quest for the ideal in masculinity, and his most recent endeavor "The Mason's Word," a book on the history and evolution of the American Masonic ritual.

Allied Masonic Degrees is an invitational Order, recognized by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, with a requirement of membership in the York Rite. It was formed many years ago as a way of keeping alive some of the Degrees with very small memberships, which were at risk of being lost. The purpose of Allied Masonic Degrees is research and the printing of the rituals of these Degrees and other similar rituals.

The Degrees conferred by Allied Masonic Degrees include: Royal Ark Mariner; Secret Monitor; Brotherhood of David and Jonathan; Installed Supreme Ruler; Saint Lawrence the Martyr; Grand Tylers of Solomon; Knight of Constantinople; Architect; Grand Architect; Superintendent; Master of Tyre; Excellent Master; Installed Sovereign Master; Installed Commander Noah; Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri; Ye Ancient Order of Corks; and Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord.



Royal Ark Mariner



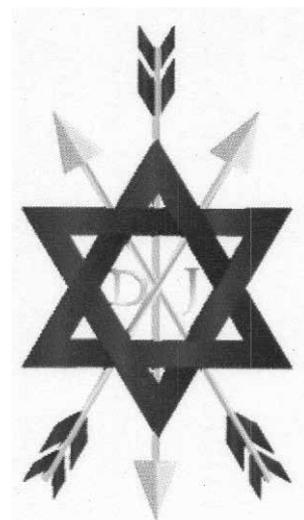
Architect



Red Branch of Eri



St. Lawrence the Martyr



Secret Monitor

FROM THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION



The picture was “front page, above the fold” in The Newkirk Herald Journal for July 10th. The story told that Newkirk Lodge had received one of two “Masonry in Action” awards from the Masonic Charity Foundation. The story identified the men in the photo as W M David Behara, M W Ronald Chambers - Grand Master, Bruce Shelley - Superintendent of Kildare Schools, Gary Young - Superintendent of Peckham Schools, M W Charles Stuckey, P G M - President of the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation, and W John Logan, Executive Director of the Foundation. The award from the Foundation consists of \$5,000 to be used for the charitable project of the Lodge’s choice. The Lodge divided the funds between the two school districts.



As most of you know a very important program is the fight against childhood hunger. It is hard to believe, and it makes you angry to think about it, but as many as 1 in every 4 Oklahoma kids does not have enough to eat. That is why we support the two food banks which, between them, cover the entire state. Lodges are sending in money now for matching funds. If you live where you can receive Channel 9, you’ve probably seen and heard about the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma’s Sponsorship for the Ride Against Childhood Hunger. It’s excellent publicity, of course, but even more it’s good to know we’re doing something to help. Lodges have been asked to donate \$1.50 per member and send the funds to the Foundation for matching. Deadline is August 29th.



A second “Masonry in Action” award went to Purcell Lodge, shown at right from The Purcell Register of July 10th . Brother Alton Dragoo is shown in the back row with the Grand Master. In front are Brother Logan, Taelyn Ringwald next to her father Toby Ringwald, Principal of Wayne School, Purcell Assistant Superintendent Jerry Swayze, Purcell Public School Foundation President John D. Montgomery, and Purcell Superintendent Kathy Adams.

The Masonry in Action Award is the most recent program of the Foundation designed to help Lodges be visible in their communities. Two Lodges each year receive the award.



In the 2013-2014 school term, **Prevent Blindness Oklahoma** screened the vision of 333,764 children, and referred 40,250 to eye care professionals for follow-up. Screenings were held in 1,259 locations across the state, and 1,897 Masons (a new record) assisted as volunteers. **Well done, Brethren!** Several Lodges have raised funds to purchase “spot cameras” to assist with the screens. The cameras can detect problems which charts cannot. The use of the cameras resulted in the detection of an additional 13,350 vision problems.

The Charity Foundation is always happy to provide programs for Lodges, District Meetings, etc. Just call us at 405-348-7500.



Student of Today 184 Lodges participated this year, and 2,617 Student of Today certificates were issued, compared with 2,420 certificates in 2013.

Teacher of Today 177 Lodges participated this year, and 894 Teacher of Today certificates were issued, compared with 843 certificates in 2013.

Senior Essay Contest 85 Lodges participated, and 1,267 essays were received. 475 local certificates and 20 statewide certificates were issued.

OETA

THE OKLAHOMA NETWORK

During the fund drive for OETA Public Television, 167 Lodges participated, and a total of \$55,263 including matching funds. That compares with \$55,476 in 2013.



College Endowments have already been established at most of the state-supported colleges and universities in Oklahoma. This year, in May, a \$50,000 endowment was presented to Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa. Later this year a similar grant will be made to Tulsa Community College.



The total **Promises Matter** grants from the inception of the program now total \$1,403,111.21.

localized?" Given that what little has been written down appears to have been written after it was already in use by word of mouth, their job is especially difficult. To illustrate this approach, one student of this school is trying to discover if a common phrase in the Blue Lodge ritual, usually thought of as "rights, lights, and benefits," was intended to be "rites, lights, and benefits."

The Anthropological School - If the focus of the Authentic School is history, the focus of the Anthropological School is man, and his long path of spiritual and intellectual development. If the Authentic School regards myth as detritus to be swept away, the Anthropological School regards myth as a primary source of information about humanity and human culture. Masons of this school frequently speak of the "ancient origins of Masonry." This is not intended to suggest that Adam, upon becoming aware of his nakedness, rapped a gavel and said "Brethren, be clothed," nor that King Solomon was, in fact, a Grand Master of a Grand Lodge. Rather it suggests that many of the symbols and great themes of Masonry can also be found in the most ancient myths and spiritual expressions. "What," a student of this school would ask, "does this tell us about humanity? Does it reflect some fundamental truth about mankind? Does it speak of some profound intellectual or spiritual need or awareness which is common to all people?" When a Mason of this school speaks of the relationships between Masonry and the ancient Mysteries, he usually is not trying to suggest that they were handed down in an unbroken line, but that similar ideas or images can be found. Masons of this school are usually involved with the symbols of Masonry and their meanings. For them, the symbols, like myths, are markers on the map of self-development.

The Mystical School - I wish I had a different word to use here, simply because "mystical" has developed a bad reputation it doesn't deserve. Throughout the recorded history of thought, "mystical" has referred to a search for a sense of union with the Deity--not the sort of "lunatic fringe" association some people give the word today. The follower of this school usually works very hard to avoid cynicism and skepticism. His attitude is characterized by the words of one of my professors--"I would be deeply disappointed if any of you expected to see an elf when walking in the woods, and just as deeply disappointed if you were surprised when you saw one." He seeks self-development and enlightenment, and usually seeks it through his faith as well as his

fraternity. He has a strong sense of the sacred, and is moved to the contemplation of God by such things as a beautiful sunset or a powerful work of art. By contemplating the rituals, the symbols and the teachings of Masonry, he is led to a sense of closeness to his Creator and a sense of the unity of all creation.

The Aesthetics School - This school focuses primarily on the products of Masonry, both written and tangible. Thousands of artifacts have been produced over the years; from vast buildings, to pocket watches, to firing glasses, to painted aprons, to carved furniture, to commemorative china, to jewelry, to costumes, to plays, short stories, songs, operas, and instrumental and choral works. Masons interested in this school include collectors, those who study the influence of Masonry on the popular culture of the day, those who try to understand how the teachings of the fraternity are reflected in what it produces, and those interested in the ways in which Masonic design differs from the designs and motifs of other organizations.

The Rhapsodial School - Rhapsodes were men in ancient Greece who specialized in memorizing and reciting the great epic poems. They placed a special emphasis on accuracy of memory, and transmitted the great stories down from generation to generation until they were finally committed to writing. Masons of the Rhapsodial school function in the same great tradition. Their pleasure is to learn the ritual, perform it, and teach it to others.

The Fraternal School - Masons of this approach find their greatest satisfaction simply in being Masons. They enjoy being together, as Brothers, and require little else. They are especially concerned, perhaps, with the obligations of Masonry and many of them are the most committed to charity. But, more than esoteric conundrums, they want the good feelings which come from association of good, like-minded men. And power be unto them!

As I said at the beginning, Masonry is multiplex. There are other approaches, other "schools," and each person is entitled to choose or create as they please. Surely we are obligated to be as tolerant of each other's search in Masonry as we are of each other's religious faith. Surely the fact of the quest is more important than the path.

Chili can be enjoyed with or without beans. And I even know good men who prefer pecan wood to either hickory or mesquite for barbeque.

— Jim Tresner

("Multiplex Masonry" first appeared in The Scottish Rite Journal of September, 1999)

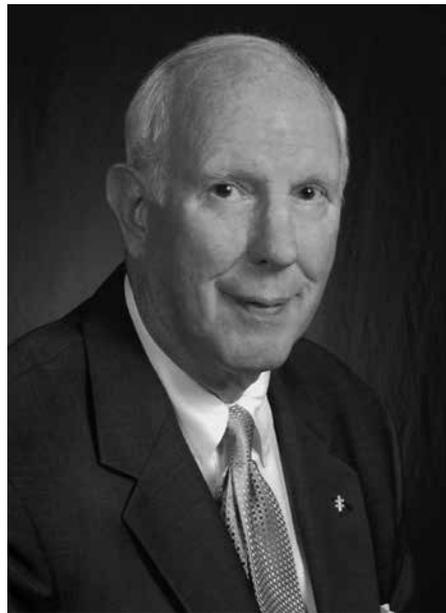
The Passing of a good Man and a good Mason

Born April 26, 1934, Right Worshipful John C. Alexander, 33°, was Raised in Cosmos Lodge #278, Cosmos, Kansas, in 1955. He subsequently affiliated as a plural member with Pilgrim-Rock Lodge #522. He served Pilgrim-Rock as Worshipful Master in 1997, and every year since has served the Lodge as Treasurer.

He had a Masters of Science Degree in Petroleum Geology, and was Senior Geologist with Champlin Petroleum from 1961 to 1966. In that year, he became CEO of Enid Moving and Storage, expanding it into the largest moving and storage company in Oklahoma. In 1982 he became President and CEO of Tulsa Energy and Management. In 1990 he earned a Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Science from OSU and became a Doctoral Candidate in Environmental Science.

As Joe R. Manning, Jr., Past Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma remarked:

“John was remarkable in many ways, not the least of which was his service to many branches of Freemasonry. He was dedicated to the Shrine—was Past Potentate of Akdar Shrine in Tulsa, serving in 1980. In 1992 he served as General Convention Chairman of the Central States Shrine Association, and as Co-Chairman of the Association in 1999. He served on the Board of Governors of the St. Louis Shrine Hospital for Children from 1995 to 2003, when he was elected an Emeritus member of the



Board. He was Past Master of his Lodge and served the Grand Lodge on many committees. And he was General Secretary of the Tulsa Scottish Rite Bodies from 1990 to 2001, serving under two S.G.I.G.s. It took a special man to be able to lead and work with those many divergent interests and groups. He served each one with distinction. He was truly a good man and Mason.”

As M.: W.: Brother Manning observed, our deceased Brother

served in many different roles on many different Committees of the Grand Lodge, including Committees on Directional Planning, Long Range Planning, Membership Development, Fraternal Correspondence, Investments, Appeals and Grievances, and Finance and Appropriations.

In addition to the Blue Lodge, Shrine, York Rite, and Scottish Rite, he was a member of the Jesters, The Red Cross of Constantine (serving as Sovereign of St. Luke Conclave in 2011), a member of National Sojourners and the Heroes of '76, and held the Legion of Honor in DeMolay.

The Grand Lodge Officers were participating in the Lodge Leadership Workshop Saturday morning, August 2nd, when word came that R. W. Brother Alexander had passed away the night before. The first reaction was a stunned silence. Two or three has spoken to him earlier on the day he died. Everyone agreed that he was in good spirits and said he was feeling a little better.

The Grand Master put into words what everyone was feeling. *“It’s hard to accept, hard to believe, that he is gone. That quiet sense of humor, those eyes which sparkled with joy and excitement, that calm and steady voice in the midst of recession and wild swings in the economy—he was a Brother you could always count on, no matter what.”*

That is a good obituary for any Mason. He was a Brother you could always count on, no matter what.



Future Farmers of America Freemasonry

M.: W.: Bobby L. Laws, P.:G.:M.:



As many of you may know, the Grand Lodge has begun work on a “partnership” project of sorts with the Oklahoma FFA (Future Farmers of America) Association. If you are not familiar with the FFA, I would like the opportunity of introducing it to you. It is, hands down, the most premium and successful leadership based youth education program available to students today. The reason for the success of this organization lies in its founders—upright Free Masons from Virginia who saw a need for a youth organization to ensure the future of agriculture in America. Many of the ideals and principles from our fraternity were placed into the foundation of the FFA. If you ever get the opportunity to hear an FFA meeting properly opened, you will immediately recognize the similarities in these two noble groups.

The need to bring a younger generation of Freemasons in has never been greater. I can assure you; these are the kids we need! The FFA numbers approximately 30,000 on the state level and 1 million across the country. FFA members are hard working, leaders in their communities with a plan for the future.

To begin what is hopefully a long and successful partnership, I proposed an initial

program to Altus Lodge concerning an event called Oklahoma FFA Alumni Leadership Camp. This is a 4 day experience available to Oklahoma FFA members who are interested in becoming better leaders and increasing their knowledge of the FFA. It's also a lot of fun and fellowship for the kids. The cost of this camp is \$180 per student. This makes it unobtainable for some students, as they might not be able to afford it. My proposal to the Lodge was as follows:

- Provide 1 camp registration cost to each FFA chapter in the county (Altus, Blair, Duke, Eldorado, and Navajo) that sends in an application..
- The recipient of the award, in each chapter, MUST be chosen by the FFA Advisor in each chapter. The lodge will have NO part in picking recipients.
- If an FFA chapter fails to return an application, their money will be split equally among the other chapters to assist another student.
- FFA Advisors must have their applications to the lodge by June 15, 2014.
- FFA Advisors and student recipients must agree to meet at the lodge to receive their check and take a picture for newspaper publication.



- –FFA Members from EACH chapter must agree to help with any events or fundraisers that take place to fund this project.

As can be seen, the project was a success. On Thursday, June 12, Altus Lodge hosted an open meeting with the area High School FFA Chapters. Brother Shane Curry, who is the Agricultural Education Instructor for Blair High School, is responsible for bringing the idea to the Lodge. As a part of the evening we watched the Blair FFA Chapter open and close their meeting. No Mason present could doubt the connection between the Masonic and FFA rituals.

Working with these young people has been an exciting and rewarding experience for the members of the Lodge. Support of local FFA Chapters is good for everyone, Lodge and Chapter alike. This is not only a good outlet for our beneficent activity in the community, it is a great bridge to the young men who can help to form the future of Freemasonry.

Come to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication!

When is Grand Lodge?

Friday registration opens at 10:00 AM. Session begins on Friday, November 7, at 1:30 PM, in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie. The Banquet in Honor of M.W. Ronald Jack Chambers begins at 6:00 PM Friday evening in the Ballroom. Open meeting follows the banquet in the auditorium. Saturday session begins November 8 at 8:30 AM in the auditorium. Installation of Grand Lodge officers for 2015 will be at 6:00 PM Saturday evening, in the auditorium.

Who can attend?

Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a constituent Lodge.

Who can vote and debate?

Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and those carrying a proxy of a Worshipful Master or Warden, plus all Past Worshipful Masters.

Are the Open Meetings Friday open to ladies and non-Masonic friends?

Yes.

When is the voting?

Voting for Grand Lodge officers and Board members for the Masonic Charity Foundation starts at 7:00 AM Saturday morning and ends at 10:00 AM. Voting is in the Ballroom. Voting for resolutions takes place Saturday afternoon. Note that you must be registered in order to vote.

How do I attend the Banquet in honor of M.:W.: Ronald Jack Chambers?

Tickets to the banquet are \$25 each. To reserve a place at the banquet, send \$25 per person to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044. Make check payable to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. You will not receive a physical ticket in the mail. The evening of the banquet, go to the table in the hall where the staff of the Grand Lodge will give you a ticket. Check-in and seating will begin at 5:15. The banquet will begin at 6:00.

Do I need to wear an apron to the closed meeting on Saturday?

Yes, you can either bring your own apron or purchase a paper apron in the Atrium.

If I want to reserve a bed in the Inn in the Scottish Rite Temple, how do I do so?

To reserve a room, CONTACT THE INNKEEPERS. You can do that by e-mailing them at innkeep@att.net or writing to them at Innkeepers, P.O. Box 534, Wheatland, OK 73097. The cost is \$10 per night.

And Come to Grand School!

“Grand School of Instruction will be held on November 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2014. Remember we have expanded our days of Grand School and are looking forward to a great turnout!”

“School will run from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday and Thursday and until noon on Friday. The Certificate Lecturers Meeting will be Friday morning at 9:00 AM. Please plan to attend this important event and pass the word on to others. Let’s make this Grand School the best!—and the way to do that is for you to be in attendance.

“I look forward to seeing all of you at Grand School this November.”

If I want to reserve a bed in the Inn in the Scottish Rite Temple, how do I do so?

To reserve a room, CONTACT THE INNKEEPERS. You can do that by e-mailing them at innkeep@att.net or writing to them at Innkeepers, P.O. Box 534, Wheatland, OK 73097. The cost is \$10 per night.



Ronald Wray
Grand Lecturer

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BRETHREN, WE'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR LODGE!

Please send photographs to the editor at

jim.tresner@yahoo.com

Don't limit yourself to check presentations, installations, etc.

Be creative—just be sure we have permission to use the photographs.

Address Change (please print)

Lodge # _____ Date Address Effective _____

Full Name _____

Street or Box address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to *Address Change update, The Oklahoma Mason, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044*