

OCTOBER, 2014

GRAND LODGE ELECTRONIC EDITION



Brethren,  
Inside are “plain English”  
descriptions of the Resolutions to be  
voted upon at Grand Lodge, along  
with information about Grand Lodge  
and Grand School.

Here is a timeline of events.

Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> &  
Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Grand School (Grand Lodge Building)  
9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 A.M. Grand School (Grand Lodge Building)
- 10:00 A.M. Grand Lodge Registration Opens (Atrium of Scottish Rite Temple)
- 1:00 P.M. Grand Lodge Official Opening (Auditorium)
- 5:00 P.M. Registration Closes
- 5:15 P.M. Check in desk for Banquet Opens
- 5:30 P.M. Ballroom Opens for Banquet
- 6:00 P.M. Banquet Begins
- 7:30 P.M. Evening Program (open to all - Auditorium)

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 A.M. Registration Opens and Voting for Officers begins
- 8:30 A.M. Grand Lodge Resumes Labor
- 6:00 P.M. (Approx.) Installation, open to all - Auditorium)

# Resolutions

*in Simple English*



The Masonic law of Oklahoma is changed when resolutions are debated and adopted at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Resolutions are submitted during the year and given to the Jurisprudence Committee. They review the resolutions to make sure they are in proper form, returning them to the author with suggestions for rewriting if necessary. The resolutions have been printed in the Yellow Book (a compilation of reports and resolutions) and mailed to the Lodges for discussion before the Annual Communication.

Because the resolutions are amending the Constitution and Laws of Masonry in Oklahoma they have to be formal in structure. We provide a “simple English” version to help with understanding, but it is important to remember **these descriptions are for information only**—the official text is what will become law if a resolution is adopted. A 2/3 majority of votes cast is necessary to pass a resolution. NOTE: §=Section ¶=Paragraph

**Resolution #1** - {amends §U 301, ¶3} Specifies that a change in Lodge dues does not take effect until January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. In effect, it means that a dues change cannot take effect if the dues cards and notices for the old amount have already been printed.

**Resolution #2** - {amends §U 204} The resolution would allow Master Masons to serve as APPOINTED members of the Lodge before they have passed their Master Mason proficiency. All elected officers would still have to pass their proficiency before being elected.

**Resolution #3A** - {amends §U 204} Provides that a Master Mason may be elected or appointed to an office before he is proficient but that he must become proficient by February 1<sup>st</sup> of that year.

**Resolution #3B** - {amends §U 505} Deletes the requirements of proficiency for office which are covered under Section U 204.

**Resolution #4** - {amends §202, ¶B.1.d.} Specifically grants the Grand Master the power to give a dispensation to a Lodge to temporarily relocate the Lodge (as might be needed in case of storm damage, furnace or air conditioning malfunction, etc.).

**Resolution #5** - {amends §U 420 ¶D.4} Would simplify the payment of earnings on

perpetual memberships to Lodges and Lodge payment of per capita to Grand Lodge by deleting the requirement for Grand Lodge to send the Grand Lodge share of perpetual earnings to the Lodge which then has to send it back. Lodges will still get a report of total earnings.

**Resolution #6A** - {amends §U 213 ¶F} and **Resolution #6B** - {amends §T 407} Provides that when a Lodge suspends or expels a Brother for unmasonic conduct, the Lodge is to provide the Grand Secretary with the documentation and the Grand Secretary will notify all other Lodges and Masonic organizations of which the Brother is a member.

**Resolution #7** - {amends §U 308} Allows a Lodge to open and do business in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason Degree at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

**Resolution #8** - {adds new section to Article III} Sets requirements for the type of hat worn by the Worshipful Master in Lodge.

**Resolution #9** - {amends §210 ¶A. 1.} Allows the Annual Report of the Trustees to omit the names of individuals if there is a potential for Masonic or civil charges against the individual.

**Resolution #10** - {amends §401} Allows the Grand Lodge to prepare and print cipher keys to the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees for the instruction of the Brethren.

**Resolution #11** - {adds a new section, §U 325} Establishes a minimum dress code for attending Lodge; exempts Brethren for whom medical cause or other conditions may preclude compliance.

## *The Voting*

How are the resolutions voted upon? Saturday afternoon of Grand Lodge Brethren will be given a paper ballot when entering the auditorium. The Grand Master will call for consideration of the resolutions and explain the rules of debate. After each resolution is introduced, delegates will be allowed to speak for and against the matter. A delegate is someone with voting privileges, that is someone:

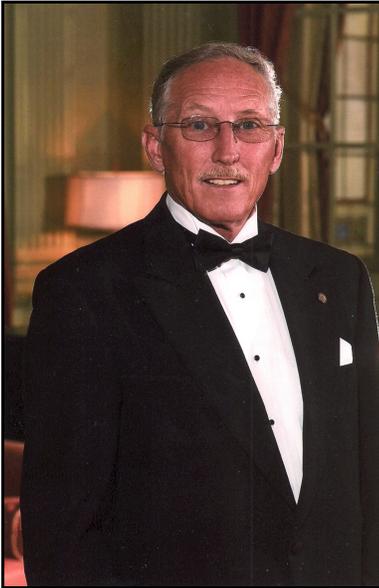
- who is a Past Worshipful Master of an Oklahoma Lodge, and/or
- who is a sitting Worshipful Master, sitting Senior Warden, sitting Junior Warden, and/or
- who is a Brother from the Lodge and carrying the proxy of one or more of those officers.

After debate on each resolution, delegates will mark their ballots for or against the resolution. The ballots will be tabulated and the results announced Saturday evening after the Installation of the Officers for 2015.

# Brethren Available for Election to Grand 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 Marduey 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 Necrology 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 7<sup>o</sup>, 17<sup>o</sup>, and 27<sup>o</sup> 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 33<sup>o</sup>. 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 17<sup>o</sup>. 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 33<sup>o</sup>, 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 suspended 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 Grand Treasurer



[Note: R.: W.: David G. David was appointed Grand Treasurer by M.: W.: Ron Chambers following the death of R.: W.: Brother John Alexander. He is a perpetual member of Britton Lodge #434, India Lodge #551, and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research.]

Worshipful Brother David and his wife, Dale, live in Oklahoma City, where he is the owner of David Brokerage Insurance Agency. Professionally, he won the National Quality Award yearly from 1979 through 1994. He was made an Honorary Deputy Insurance Commissioner in 1979 among numerous other achievement awards in business. He is active in the Britton Christian Church, having served as Deacon for 12 years, Elder for 3 years, property manager for 3 years, and as Board President. A perpetual member of Britton Lodge #434, India Lodge #551, and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, he served as Worshipful Master of Britton Lodge in 1981 and India Lodge in 1999. He has served India Lodge as Chaplain since 2003.

Currently serving as Grand Treasurer, Brother David has served as Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Marshal and Grand Chaplain, as well as serving on numerous Grand Lodge Committees.

He is a perpetual member of both the Guthrie and McAlester Scottish Rite Temples and holds the 33<sup>o</sup>. He is Past President of the Guthrie Supernumeraries Club, Lodge Representative, Past Master of Kadosh, Past President of the Oklahoma County Scottish Rite Society, among other positions.

Brother David is a member of the Norman York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery, and Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

He is a member of India Shrine Temple, where he served as Potentate in 2004. He has served on many committees and in many offices in the Shrine, primarily dedicated to their charitable work.

He is a life member of Fidelis Chapter #426, Order of the Eastern Star, and Carter Maupin Court #10, Order of the Amaranth, which he served as Royal Patron in 1988 and 1993 and in several positions at the Grand Court. He is also a member of National Sojourners, The Royal Order of Scotland, Heroes of '76, Red Cross of Constantine, Knight Masons of the USA. He has also served as Associate Grand Guardian for Job's Daughters and, for 5 years, Chairman of Finance.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother David wrote: "It would be my honor to serve the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma as your Grand Treasurer. I have a sincere wish to be of service to the Grand Lodge and the Craft. I would do whatever I can to promote the preservation and growth of our financial investments with the greatest return with the least risk to our funds."

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: "To promote, encourage, and continue more active participation on Grand Lodge and teamwork at all levels of our great fraternity."

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 David has neither been suspended nor expelled.

## For the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



# 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 Artium.

**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](mailto: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!

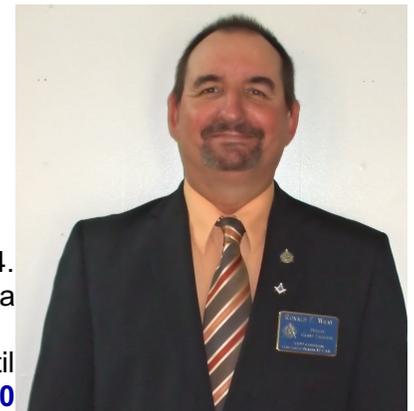
"Grand School of Instruction will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Remember we have expanded our days of Grand School and are looking forward to a great turnout!

"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."

[To reserve a bed in the Inn in the Scottish Rite Temple for Grand School/Grand Lodge, see **If I want to reserve a bed in the Inn in the Scottish Rite Temple, how do I do so?** above.]

Ronald Wray  
Grand Lecturer



# MASONIC LODGE #529 DONATES \$2,050 TO AUTISM SPEAKS



**Walk Now for Autism Speaks** was held Saturday, October 4, 2014, on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. The walk helps fund vital research in the fight against this serious developmental disorder. Bethany Masonic Lodge #529 helped raise funds by accepting donations and selling T-shirts. With sales of the T-shirts and donations, the Lodge raised \$1,025, said Bill Newell, Master of the Bethany Masonic Lodge #529.

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma matched those funds and on Thursday, October 9, at the Bethany Masonic Lodge in Yukon, Newell presented Sylvia Roberts, a representative for Autism Speaks, with a check for \$2,050 along with a check for \$100 from India Lodge #551. "I've seen the frustration in families that have autistic children and our Lodge wanted to help," said Newell.

According to **Autism Speaks**, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed as having autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Behind each of these numbers is a person living with autism.

## FROM THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

### SENIOR ESSAY CONTEST

The 2014 – 2015 Senior Essay Contest flyers were mailed to the Lodges in August for distribution to their local high schools. The Senior Essay Contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma **public schools**. The topic for 2014 – 2015 is: ***The Constitution is the highest law of the United States and all other laws must be in accordance with it; however, the interpretation of this document has led to much controversy over the years. Should the Constitution be modified to fit more present day ideals? Has the role of the President, Senate and Congress changed or stayed the same in accordance with the Constitution?*** Entries must be picked up by the Lodge or mailed directly by the school to the Masonic Charity Foundation (PO Box 2406, Edmond, OK 73083) by **October 31, 2014 (postmark deadline)**. The essays will be sorted in November, graded in December with results being mailed to the participating Lodges in January or February 2015. The grading process is as follows:

- Each school has a potential 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place male & 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place female local division winner. (Those individuals receive a **certificate**.)
- From those local division winners, the top 10 male & top 10 female winners are selected as the **statewide cash winners**. (Those individuals receive a cash award ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 along with a certificate.)

All lodges that have Senior Essay entrants will receive a letter in January or February informing them of the **local division winners**. Those winners will be awarded **certificates** in April 2015. There is no cash involved on the local division level, only certificates. A separate letter will be mailed to the lodges that have **statewide cash winners**. The checks for the statewide winners will be mailed to the Lodges in April 2015 along with the certificates for the local division winners.

Lodges can apply for Matching Funds to award cash awards to the local division winners (those students receiving certificates) as well as, the statewide cash winners.

## MATCHING FUNDS

As you know, the 2014 calendar year is rapidly coming to a close. Therefore, all Matching Funds applications and information must be received by the Masonic Charity Foundation by **DECEMBER 15, 2014** in order to allow time for the Matching Funds Committee to ballot and checks to be issued prior to the close of business on December 31, 2014.

If your Lodge is planning a holiday season project involving Matching Funds, please consider going ahead and taking that Lodge vote and apply in October or November, rather than waiting until the last minute. Also, please submit all necessary Completion Forms to the Foundation, prior to the end of the calendar year.

As of the end of September, 216 Lodges participated in the Matching Funds program:

	<b>1-1-14 thru 9-30-14</b>
Community Matching Funds =	\$1,059,281.64
Promises Matter Matching Funds =	\$ 97,327.21
<b>Total from 1-1-14 thru 9-30-14 =</b>	<b>\$1,156,608.85</b>

During the above period, ten (10) applications were found not to be in compliance with the program rules and denied for various reasons such as:

1. religious
2. below \$50 minimum
3. funds laundered through the lodge
4. not considered charitable or educational
5. violations of U-806
6. contributions to other Masonic organizations (except Youth Orders) are not eligible for Matching Funds.

If you have questions about whether certain projects qualify for Matching Funds, call the Masonic Charity Foundation (405-348-7500 or toll free 1-877-562-7667). We are always happy to talk with you and to offer any support we can.

## 2015 TIMELINE

The 2015 Timeline for the Masonic Charity Foundation programs is listed below. Hopefully, this "timeline" will help your lodge prepare for the upcoming year.

### DECEMBER 2014

- ☉ **OETA** - Letters are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges regarding the upcoming OETA telethon which will be held tentatively on Saturday March 21, 2015. Lodges are asked to contribute \$1.50 per member.

### JANUARY 2015

- ☉ **The Oklahoma Food Bank Program** – Funds for this program will be presented to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma or the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, determined by the location of the Lodge that made the contribution. A letter from the Grand Master will be mailed to all Lodges in the Spring asking that the Lodge contribute \$1.50 per member.

### FEBRUARY 2015

- ☉ **Senior Essay Contest** winners will be announced. Letters are sent to all participating schools announcing the names of the local division (male and female) winners and/or state-wide winners. Copies of the letters are also sent to the participating lodges. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and coordinate presentation date, time and place.**

✪ **Student & Teacher of Today** forms are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. Lodges are encouraged to distribute these forms at their local **public schools**. Schools mail completed forms to the Masonic Charity Foundation.

### MARCH 2015

✪ **Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma Youth Scholarship Program** notifications will be mailed to all Youth Group Leaders in the state. The Leaders are asked to distribute the information to all of their Youths who are attending or will attend college in the current year.

✪ **O.E.T.A. Telethon** (Mason night is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015) - Lodge contributions, plus matching funds are presented by the Grand Master.

✪ **Masonry in Action Award** applications are to be submitted by Tuesday March 31, 2015.

### APRIL 2015

✪ **Awards for Arts Excellence** - This program will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie. The Grand Master and State Superintendent honor outstanding high school students in the arts.

✪ **Senior Essay** certificates and checks for winning students are mailed to all participating Lodges for presentation by the Lodge. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and arrange presentation date, time and place.**

✪ **Student of Today and Teacher of Today** certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges prior to the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time and place.**

### MAY 2015

✪ **Student of Today and Teacher of Today** certificates are mailed to Schools or Lodges prior to the presentation date. **Lodges are urged to contact schools and confirm presentation date, time and place.**

✪ **Youth Scholarship Program** - Completed scholarship applications are due. (Postmark deadline is May 1, 2015) The Education Committee of the Foundation will meet and award scholarships so that the winners will be notified in time for them to receive the scholarships at their Annual Assembly, Conclave or Bethel.

### AUGUST 2015

✪ **Senior Essay** packets are mailed to all Oklahoma Lodges. **This essay contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma Public Schools.** Lodges are encouraged to deliver these packets to their local high schools. The deadline for essays is usually the end of October. Essays are then professionally graded in November & December with results being announced in January.

### SEPTEMBER 2015

✪ **State Teacher of the Year** ceremony at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. The Grand Master presents a framed certificate to every district winner present; a \$500 check to each Rising Star honoree, a \$1,000 check to each of the eleven Teacher of the Year finalists; a \$5,000 check to the Teacher of the Year; and a \$5,000 check to school district of the Teacher of the Year. (This event is usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of September.)

### OCTOBER 2015

✪ **Senior Essay Contest** deadline is Friday, October 31, 2015.

### DECEMBER 2015

✪ **2015 Matching Funds application deadline is Wednesday 12/16/2015.** Applications received after this date will be processed as 2016 business.