



The Oklahoma Mason

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

2015 Grand Lodge Edition

From the Grand Master

Brethren,

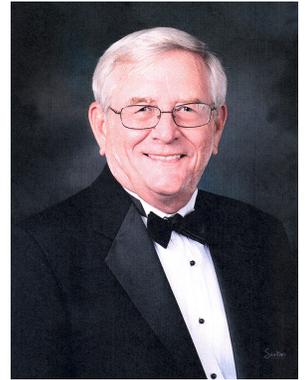
The Annual Communication of Oklahoma Grand Lodge will be held on November 13 and 14 this year at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. I encourage all Master Masons to attend. Attendance is required for sitting Worshipful Masters and Wardens of each Lodge in Oklahoma (Section U-209F, U-210B and U-211B, Constitution of the Grand Lodge) Please come and participate in the important decisions of your Grand Lodge. If one of you cannot attend, please insure that some Brother carries your proxy so that your Lodge will have its voice in your Grand Lodge.

Grand School will be held November 11, 12, and 13 at the Grand Lodge Building. Come and enjoy the fellowship and improve your ritual.

Brethren, I hope that all Lodges will avoid having local Lodge functions, such as breakfasts and other fund-raisers, on the days of Grand Lodge. Anything that prevents eligible Masons from attending the Annual Communication is discouraged.

Fraternally,


M.:W. Gary Beisly
Grand Master



Rooms available in Scottish Rite Temple for Grand School / Grand Lodge

Rooms are available for the nights of Wednesday, November 11, Thursday, November 12, and Friday November 13. \$10 per person per night. E-mail reservation to innkeep@att.net or mail to P.O. Box 534, Wheatland, OK 73097

Provide your name, address, phone number, Lodge name & Number, and the exact nights you want to stay.

2015 Grand Lodge Schedule

Friday November 13

10:00 AM Registration opens

1:00 PM Grand Lodge Opening - Tyled

3:30 PM Open Program

6:30 PM Grand Master's Banquet

Saturday November 14

7:00 - 10:00 AM Registration & Voting

8:30 AM Grand Lodge opens - Tyled

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Grand Lodge resumes labor

6:00 PM Installation of 2016

Grand Lodge Officers

Banquet Honoring Grand Master Gary L. Beisly

Friday, November 13 – 6:30 PM - Grand Ballroom of the Scottish Rite Temple
Tickets are \$30 each if purchased by October 30, 2015. After that date the cost will be \$35. Order your tickets from the Grand Lodge, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044. You may pick up your tickets in the Scottish Rite Atrium

Grand School - November 11, 12, 13

Held at the Grand Lodge Building, Doors open 9:00 AM on the 11th Coffee, donuts, water & soft drinks available. Grand School ends at noon on November 13.

From the Grand Master

What is Masonry - What is a Mason?

What is Masonry? What is a Mason? I imagine everyone involved with Masonry has been asked that question, or they have asked it themselves. 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 fundraisers 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 a quarter-million dollars into Oklahoma communities each year.

These responses to the questions "What the community and Masons see the organization. In fact, a phrase in our ritual of Masons". In another place we are incumbent on all men, but particularly on manner of thinking and being; Masonry is themselves better. Is being a financial better?

There are many places in our ritual that great financial charity. Among these are: man recommend him to be made a "the heart and tongue join in rejoicing in us beyond considering Masonry as only a

In the Entered Apprentice lecture, we are which he saw ascending from Earth to greatest of these is Charity. A few Love; God's love to humanity, Jesus' love Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13. As the Pastor gave this reading, it sounded like he was almost reading right out of our Ritual Monitor. I looked it up again after getting home and this is what I found: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity". Well, this sounded just like the description of Jacob's Ladder in the ritual, but it did not seem quite what I heard in church. Then I remembered that the Bible I was reading at home is a Masonic Bible my Lodge gave me when I was installed Master of the Lodge and the pew Bible at church is the Revised Standard Version which uses more modern language. There are several places throughout the Bible where words used in the past had a different meaning to that of today's usage. Going back to the church pew Bible, I found the Scripture to read as: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love". One small difference; "love" is used instead of "charity".

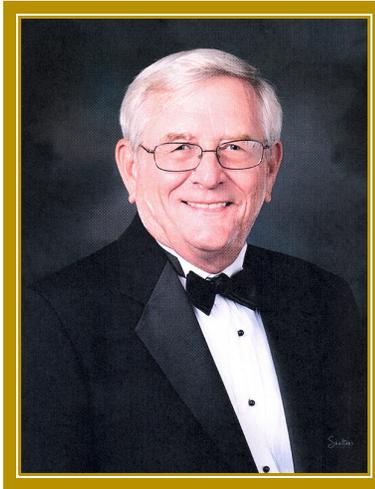
Today, when we use the word "charity", we tend to think in terms of financial charity. But "charity" means much more. The word "charity" derives from the Latin "*carus*" which means "to care", to be "dear". "Charity" in its true meaning is the inward and outward acts of love.

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 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.



is Masonry?" and "What is a Mason?" indicate that Masonic Fraternity as a major charitable states that "Charity is the distinguishing characteristic reminded that "to relieve the distressed is a duty Masons". But, we also know that Masonry is a an organization dedicated to helping men make charity giving away money what makes a Mason

suggests there is more to Masonry than being a "the internal and not the external qualifications of a Mason"; "plain-dealing and sincerity distinguish us"; each other's prosperity". These ideas definitely lead "financial charity".

told that the three principal rounds of Jacob's Ladder Heaven are Faith, Hope, and Charity and that the Sunday's ago, the sermon at church was based on to humanity. The Scripture reading included 1st

Gary L. Beisly, Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

The annual communication of our Grand Lodge is going to be held on November 13 and 14, 2015. I encourage all Master Masons to attend this important meeting. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with Masons from around the state and to participate in the government of the Craft. I particularly encourage those of you who are eligible to vote to attend. You have a voice in the operation of your Grand Lodge and I hope you will take this responsibility to heart. Several years ago, we changed the date of our annual communication so that those of you who work during the week would be able to vote in your Grand Lodge. The voting on candidates and resolutions will occur on Saturday, November 14, and should not conflict with the usual work-week. Please consider this as an important obligation. Come and participate in your Grand Lodge.



R.W. D. Ridge Smith
Deputy Grand Master

I don't consider myself a "history buff." I didn't become interested in history until the Army sent me to Europe and I saw structures which predated Columbus, which were built by the Masons of that day and have stood for over 800 years. For those of you who enjoy delving into the history of Masonry in Oklahoma, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial has a searchable digital collection of the Oklahoma Grand Lodge Proceedings going back to 1874. (<http://gwmemorial.org/archives/gloklahoma.php>) These can be searched on-line or downloaded and saved or printed if you so desire. I have enjoyed searching through these proceedings which give a perspective of life in the Indian Territory.

The first official visit of Masons to Oklahoma, then a part of the Louisiana Purchase, were Zebulon Pike and Dr. John Robinson in 1806. Pike's report caused an influx of settlers into the Arkansas and Red River Valleys who brought with them the beginnings of Masonry in Oklahoma. The Grand Lodge of Arkansas chartered several Lodges in the new territory before the Civil War, as did the Grand Lodges of Texas and Kansas. During the Civil War, these Lodges were mostly inactive. One interesting happening during this period: At the beginning of the Civil War, Muskogee Lodge was officially disbanded by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas; however, the Brothers of the Lodge were not informed of their "untimely death" and continued to meet throughout the war.

After the cessation of hostilities, Masonry began to re-establish itself in the territory. Most of the Lodges formed or re-chartered at this period were from the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, and for ten years, Masonry grew in Oklahoma under that Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory was formed in 1874, in Caddo, by three of the six Lodges existing in the territory at that time – Caddo #311, Doaksville #279, and Muskogee #90; all of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. Two of these Lodges are operating today, Caddo #3, and Muskogee (renamed Eufaula) #1. The heritage of Doaksville #2 is carried on by Hugo Lodge #217.

The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory grew and prospered in the new territory. By 1877 there were ten lodges, and by 1884, ten years after its organization, there were twenty-one Lodges and 653 Masons.

I find it particularly interesting that the fourth annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory was held in Vinita, a distance of almost 200 miles from Caddo. In these days of super highways and air-conditioned autos, I marvel at the dedication of those early Masons who traveled so far to attend the annual communication. Some may have traveled by train or stagecoach, but I'm sure most traveled by horseback or buggy. I hope that Oklahoma Masons of today can follow their example and make the effort to come to Guthrie this November.

(The above historical information was derived from the book: *History of Free Masonry in Oklahoma*, Volume III, published by the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, 1935; and from the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Indian Territory*, 1874 - 1908, downloaded from the George Washington Masonic Memorial.)

Please come to Grand Lodge and enjoy the fellowship.

Ridge Smith
Deputy Grand Master



From the Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

At the annual Conference of Grand Masters, the organizers of the event make every effort to bring topics that are relevant to Masonry and its challenges today. In addition to the subjects brought by speakers to the main conference, they have breakout sessions on a variety of subjects of interest. This year I chose to attend a session titled *Generational Impacts*. In the session, the speaker passed out a sheet describing a profile of four generations that are found in lodges today. Those generations and their profiles are as follows.



R.W.: Richard Allison

Traditionalist Characteristics Conform to rules and respect authority. Places duty before leisure and very loyal. Dedicated hard worker. Tends to see one solution to a problem. Sacrifices self for common good. Less embracing of diversity. They are the group that was born before 1945. Events that have shaped their lives have been The Great Depression, World War II, Korea, FDR's New Deal, Lindbergh and the Hindenburg. Socially they tend toward extended families, faith based social groups, fraternal organizations and their communities.

Baby Boomers Born between 1945 and 1964. They expect consultation but leader makes decision. Defined by position or job. Team-oriented-need to be involved & recognized. Will work long hours to complete a task. Personal growth is important. Conflicted by diversity. Their life shaping events have been Post World War II prosperity, the Cold War, Vietnam, Civil Rights, Women's Lib, U.S and Russia's space race, Assassination of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Socially they tend toward birth control, nuclear families, high value on wealth, and saw a higher use of recreational drugs, even though they are team players they will challenge authority.

Generation X Born between 1965 and 1980. They need to balance family life with other commitments. Like to have fun in what they do. Like informal interactions and attire. Self-reliant and see all problems as solvable. Appreciate leaders who do not micro-manage. Technologically adept and creative in its use. Appreciate diversity and think globally. Events are Disabilities Act, Gulf War, Berlin Wall, MTV, 3 Mile Island and LA riots. Socially their divorce rate is higher, latchkey kids, gender and race equality. Technically they have seen the advent of the personal computer, internet and mobile phones.

Millenials Born between 1981 and 2000. They tend to be very confident and optimistic about future. Expect leaders to earn their respect. Question why it's always been done that way. Value philosophy & higher meaning to life. Assume that technology will be used. They are technology driven, highly educated, globally aware. Embrace diversity and globalism. Have tattoos and body piercings. Their events are the Second Gulf War, 9/11, Oklahoma bombing and Waco.

Generational Impacts They have seen a rise in violence in schools. Also they have grown up with computers, microwaves, email, VCR's iPods and iPads. Knowledge of worldwide events has been at their fingertips. Socially they use technology as a social medium.

Just by looking at the profiles of the different generations that are found in a normal lodge meeting, one can see how it might be a problem for all these generations to agree on how a lodge should be run and the direction it should take for success. Four very different generations with very different profiles.

We were then separated at different tables in groups of six to eight persons. A large sheet of paper was on each table and felt tip pen to write with. We were then asked three questions and asked to write our thoughts on each question on the paper. The first question was "In what ways do you see generational differences as a barrier to a successful lodge?"

After the tables had discussed this question and had written responses on the paper a spokesman for each table gave the answers and offered a short report of the discussion around the table which led to the answers given. The table that I was seated at gave ten answers or thoughts on the first question.

The question was then asked "What strengths do you think each generation brings to a lodge?" The third question asked was "How can awareness of generational differences help make a stronger lodge?"

A survey conducted in British Columbia shows that the younger generations want more out of Freemasonry than what is many times offered by our lodges. The survey shows that our younger brethren want a return to the more ritualistic, esoteric traditions of the Craft. It also shows that we have to adapt to the work, culture and family demands that their generation faces.

So the question is, with such a wide range of ages in our lodges, how do we give all our brethren what they are looking for in our lodges? Do we sacrifice what one generation is looking for in our lodge experience just to benefit another generation? How do we structure our lodge meetings so it is attractive to all of our members?

The answers to each question at the different tables were fairly diverse. Some of the answers were common to each table and some were very different. In listening to the different answers, one can see that it can be difficult for a lodge with four generations in attendance can be a challenge to operate successfully. However with communication between the generations success can be achieved.

My challenge is this. Take each of these generational differences and discuss in your lodges how they may or do affect your lodge. Look at each characteristic and discuss how it may conflict with the characteristic of the other generations. This exercise is something that I hope you will try in your lodge. I think it will be beneficial to your lodge and help your members see that there are differences that need to be addressed. It can be done but it will take work, cooperation and understanding between the generations to make it work.

Good luck and I hope you enjoy this little exercise!!!!

Richard L. Allison
Senior Grand Warden

Resolutions to be Voted Upon at Grand Lodge

Oklahoma Masonic Law is changed by Resolutions introduced during the Annual Communication and passed by a 2/3 vote of the Craft. The Resolutions in their full form have been printed in the Yellow Book and sent to the Lodges. A copy is also distributed at Grand Lodge. Below is a "simple English" version of the Resolutions, provided for ease in understanding: **Please note that the material below is unofficial. The official language is printed in the Yellow Book.**



RESOLUTION #1 - Would allow a Lodge to meet and do business in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason Degree. Amends ¶ U 308

RESOLUTION #2 - Shortens the time a petition must lay over, allowing a vote on the stated meeting next after it has been read in Lodge. Amends ¶ U 401

RESOLUTION #3 - Requires that the bylaws of a Lodge include an approved minimum dress code. Amends ¶ U 301

RESOLUTION #4 - Currently, members in nursing homes are exempt from dues. The resolution adds the requirement that they be Medicaid eligible before dues are waived. Amends ¶ U 424

RESOLUTION #5 - Requires that Lodge Secretaries make reports quarterly (rather than monthly) UNLESS there has been activity to report. In such a case the report is made monthly. Amends ¶ 608 B

RESOLUTIONS #6A & #6B - Requires 2 black balls to reject a Petition. Amends ¶ U 411 and ¶ U 412

The Oklahoma Mason magazine is a publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma. The offices are at 102 S. Broad Street, Guthrie, OK 73044. © 2015
Telephone 405-282-3212
e-mail okmason1@coxinet.net
Editor: Jim Tresner

The Banquet in Honor of the Grand Master

Remember when a banquet meant sitting down and being served a good meal on real china with real metal flatware on a real tablecloth? That's what you will find at the Banquet in Honor of the Grand Master at Grand Lodge. The meal is being catered by Sodexo, one of the largest catering organizations in the United States. The meal will feature half a rotisserie chicken, vegetables, mashed potatoes, salad with two types of dressing, a dinner roll, a dessert, and a choice of water, coffee, iced tea or hot tea.



The dinner will be served by the young ladies of Rainbow, with no need for you to stand in line or try to walk holding a plate of food and trying to balance a drink. The Board of the Museum and Library, which hosts the banquet, has made every effort to make sure you will enjoy the feasting. Tickets cost \$30 until October 30th - \$35 thereafter. Order tickets from the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, 73044. Tickets may be picked up in the Temple Atrium.

From the Junior Grand Warden

Fraternal Bonding, Masonic Family Fellowships, Brothers visiting and aiding Brothers, these are some of the true aspects of Masonry. We, as Masons form Fraternal Bonds with others to help and aid all Mankind. But we also form bonds with each other that last a life time. No telling how many of us have spent many hours sitting around Lodge "running language" drinking coffee, discussing our masonic experiences, children, grandchildren, and life experiences.

During our Family Nights at Altus Lodge, (if your Lodge doesn't have one, you should try it sometime), one family prepares the meat dish and everyone else brings a covered dish to provide the meal. Everyone pitches in to make it happen. This is truly a gathering of the Masonic Family, wives, girlfriends, kids, grandchildren, friends and guests. We have a meal, visit, make new acquaintances and meet possible future members. After the meal and visitation, the Masons proceed to the Lodge for the meeting.

Yes, our wives, children and other guests are still in the dining room visiting. We have our Family Night on the second meeting night of the month and our typical attendance numbers around fifty-five to seventy folks, an enjoyable night for all. No place can you see Masonic bonding any better than at a Family Night or a District Meeting of Masons.

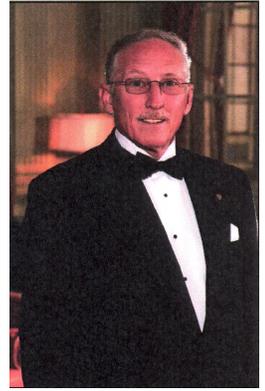
I say this as I was very privileged to witness a Fraternal relationship which I assumed came from a meeting like these several years ago, before my time as a Mason. On the 29th of April, I travelled to Britton Lodge #434 for the District 21 meeting. At this meeting, we presented a Masonic Brother his 75 year pin. Think about it, this Brother had to be a minimum of 21 years old to join at that time, plus his 75 years as a Mason, would make him 96 years old, and he was still going strong! His stories of his times as a Mason were very interesting.

Now, here's where the Fraternal Bonding comes in. In 1991, this Brother was presented his 50 year pin by the Grand Master at that time, M.: W.: B. Michael Wood, and on this night, PGM Wood presented the 75 year pin to this Brother. Interesting stories from both Brothers told of experiences they had with knowing each other, and District 21 filled the house. That my Brother is Fraternal Bonding and Fellowship.

We belong to the world's oldest, largest and best Fraternity. There is no doubt what we do as Masons, we do well. We must continue to strive to care for each other and to ensure our great Fraternity survives. We see in the Oklahoma Mason mail that Lodges are doing degrees all over this great state and we continue to present service pins, 50's, 60's, 70's and even an 80 year pin. Masons are doing great things everywhere.

I urge you to Be Your Brother's Keeper. If you haven't seen him for a while, go knock upon the door. Bless you, for all you do for the Fraternity.

R.:W.: C.W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.
Junior Grand Warden



R.:W.: C. W. "Corky"
Grigsby, Jr.

Grand School - November 11, 12, 13



Grand School is an exciting time of year. Those who are working on earning their "C" or "A" Certificates can "check out" for their cards, or if not quite ready for that, and get help with any language of which they are uncertain. You can watch the Degrees, share in fellowship, brush up on your memory work, and participate in discussions. Refreshments are available, and you can make new friends and renew old friendships.

There is no charge for attending Grand School. The Grand Lecturer and his Deputies and Assistants have worked to make it the best experience possible.

Grand School is held in the Grand Lodge building—102 South Broad Street—in Guthrie. Doors will open at 9:00 AM on November 11th and Grand School will close at noon on Friday, November 13th. See the information on the cover of this magazine if you wish to reserve sleeping rooms in the Scottish Rite Temple. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Available for Election as Junior Grand Warden

Michael L. Dixon - W.: Brother Dixon and his wife of 25 years, Karen, live in Edmond, Oklahoma. They have one son Edward, a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma and current student in the University of Oklahoma School of Pharmacy. Brother Dixon has three grown children son Michael, Jr., daughter Cathy, and son Robert, all living in northeastern Oklahoma with their families.

Brother Dixon holds an Associate in Science Degree, Connors State College, a Bachelor of Science Degree, Northeastern State University and a Master of Science Degree, Oklahoma State University. He also holds Advanced Law Enforcement Certification by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education Training.

Brother Dixon is a career law enforcement professional retired after 25 years from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics. He is currently employed as the Director of Law Enforcement with the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission, where he is in charge of all licensing, law enforcement, regulatory enforcement and veterinarian operations related to racing and gaming at all horse racing venues regulated by the State of Oklahoma. Brother Dixon is a life member of the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and served as President of the Association. He also served as an elected member of Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System Board of Trustees in 1995-2001 and Secretary from 1997-2001.



Brother Dixon is a graduate of the U.S. Army Military Police School and has completed the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent's Course. He served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer and in the U.S. Army Reserve as an Assistant Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Division.

Brother Dixon is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Edmond and served as a member of the Finance Committee. He is also a member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 79 in Edmond, having served as an Assistant Scout Master for five years and was Eagle District's Assistant Scout Master of the Year and has the Wood Badge for Adult Leadership.

Brother Dixon received his degrees in Adair Lodge #99 and was raised a Master Mason in 1968. He served Adair Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1972. He also served as Worshipful Master at Edmond Lodge #37 in 2012. Brother Dixon is a "C" Certificate Lecturer and has completed Grand Lodge Masonic Correspondence Courses I, II & III.

Brother Dixon holds perpetual memberships in Adair Lodge #99, Edmond Lodge #37, India Lodge #551, Altus Lodge #62 and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, and is a member of Guildhall Lodge # 553.

Brother Dixon served as Grand Marshal in 2013, 2014, and 2015. He served as Co-Chairman and member of the Grand Lodge Child Identification (CHIPS) Committee from 2009 until 2012. He also served on the Grand Tyler's Committee in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Additionally, he served as a member of the Law Enforcement Relief Committee in 2012 through 2015.

In the Scottish Rite, Brother Dixon was awarded the Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) and is the Degree Director for the 12th Degree at the McAlester Scottish Rite, a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Supernumerary Club, a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrews, and a member of the McAlester Scottish Rite Membership Committee. He is also a member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Credentials Committee and a cast member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite 12th Degree. He is also a Charter Member, Scottish Rite WSB Club (Wisdom, Strength & Beauty), a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society, and a member of the Scottish Rite Society of Central Oklahoma.

He is a member of India Shrine, the Edmond - Guthrie Shrine Club, India Shrine Masonic Degree Team, the India Shrine Past Masters Club and the India Shrine Oriental Band where he has served as Vice-President, President and Sultan. He is also current President of the Association of Shrine Oriental Bands (CSSA).

Brother Dixon's York Rite memberships include Guthrie York Rite Chapter #6, Council #48, and Commandry #1. He is also a member of Tinker Chapter of the National Sojourners, Nathaniel Green Camp of the Heroes of 76, and Edmond Chapter #247 of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is a member of the Philalethes Society. Brother Dixon is currently the Junior Warrior, in the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo.

He served as Chapter Dad for the Edmond DeMolay Chapter in 2010 and 2011 and was awarded the DeMolay, Honorary Legion of Honor.

In response to the question "Why do you seek this Office?" Brother Dixon wrote: *"Although, I am active in a number of Masonic related organizations, I am a Blue Lodge Mason at heart. My roots are deeply embedded in the "local" lodge. I feel strongly that coming from the Craft, a Grand Lodge officer has an obligation to serve the Craft, keeping the best interests of the Craft at the forefront and I will work diligently to meet the needs of constituent lodges. I feel that my education, professional training and my life experiences have prepared me to be effective in providing sound leadership and management in the affairs of the Fraternity."*

In response to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Dixon wrote: *"My goals as a Grand Lodge Officer would be continued support of current Grand Lodge programs, to promote Masonic education in constituent lodges, to enhance leadership development in constituent lodges, to promote the basic principles and tenets of the Masonic Fraternity, to increase public awareness of the Fraternity and to continue programs for the development of ritual proficiency in constituent lodges."*

In response to the question: "If you have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry, provide the following information." Brother Dixon provided the following information: *"In 1981, I experienced severe financial difficulties and my dues became delinquent. I rectified the situation as soon as was possible. Once reinstated, I purchased a perpetual membership in my home lodge and have since affiliated with a number of other lodges, proudly serving 33 active years in the Masonic fraternity."*

Available for Election to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

There are 3 positions to be filled
Biographies are presented in the order in which they were received in the Grand Lodge Office

William J. (Jim) Cloud lives in Blanchard and is a member of Blanchard Lodge #395 and Guildhall Lodge #553. He is retired from S&K Global Solutions where he served as Budget Analyst. Professionally, he has served as the #2 man and Production Shop Foreman of a local company managing over 50 employees. He is a retired US Air Force Senior Master Sergeant (E8) Budget Analyst, and has served as Funds Manager for the US Air Force C-21 aircraft program, the US Air Force B-2 aircraft program, Research Manager for Foreign Military Sales of aircraft engines, and CAR Administrator for the B-52 and KC-135 weapon systems.

He was elected by the Grand Lodge to serve on the Charity Foundation Board in November, 2000, 2005 and 2010, and has served on the Finance, Fraternal Relations, Matching Funds, and Executive Committees. He is currently 2nd Vice President of the Board.

Regarding other charitable/non-profit organization experience outside the Fraternity, he has held various Church leadership and committee positions and served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" Brother Cloud wrote: *Actively working in Masonry for 33 years, I bring working experience and knowledge that comes from the small community and small Masonic Lodge. I'm very proud of my lodge. Blanchard Lodge #395 is a very active and strong small lodge that has taken advantage and been successful in most of the MCFO and Grand Lodge programs. Being a member of this board is more than just attending a few meeting every year. Board members should be out visiting other lodges and promoting MCFO programs. They should be available to help lodges be successful in their participation. I have been very fortunate to be able to travel the Masonic Road and challenge many lodges to participate in these programs. I love what I do and hope to continue in these efforts.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *The MCFO should continue to increase the funds corpus of the foundation so the efforts can be increased by funding new programs and expanding current programs when possible. Also, the MCFO should continue to work at raising the visibility of the Fraternity. Efforts such as the \$1 million grant to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation for Alzheimer's research and the partnership with the Association of Area Agencies on Aging (04A) are excellent ways to keep the Masonic Fraternity in the public eye. Another program that has been developed in the last few years is the Regional Alzheimer's Centers that have been opened thanks to the MCFO support. We have also been active in supporting various Veterans programs over Oklahoma. The Masonry in Action award given to 2 lodges each year was created to promote local lodge activity by way of Charity Foundation programs. I am one of the co-founders of that program. But most of all, we should live our Masonic Obligation and remember our "Masonic Family". We have a responsibility to continue to look after and support these folks. Programs such as Promises Matter Grants and Matching Funds should be increased in usage. The only way that can happen is to promote promote and promote.*

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 Cloud has never been suspended or expelled.

Bedford Forrest Rowland, Jr. and his wife, Marcia, live in Altus, Oklahoma. He is a member of Altus Lodge #62, which he served as Worshipful Master in 1983. He is retired from the Southwest Technology Center where he served as Campus Director for 14 years. He holds a Masters of Education Degree from Central State University.

Professionally, he helped develop the Alternative Fuels Curriculum working with the Oklahoma Department of Vocational/Technical Education. The Curriculum was selected as one of the top in the country. While working at Southwest Technical Center he helped develop the Aviation and Aerospace Program called "Grow Your Own Mechanic" for the Air Force which received the Hammer Award from the Vice-President. He also received the Masonic Teacher of Today award in 2010, and the "You Made a Difference Award" from Southwest Technical Center in 2011.

Outside the Fraternity, he has served as Chairman of the Altus Kiwanis Club Scholarship Committee, as a Member of the Southwest Technology Center Foundation Board, and as a Member of the Altus Southwest Area Economic Development Corp. Board.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" Brother Rowland wrote: *Co-owned a successful auto service/supply business for 14 years; 29 years in public education with 18 of those years in administration; served on Altus City Council and numerous Boards.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *It has been my experience that the Masonic Charity Foundation is very responsive and accessible to the Fraternity. I believe the Masonic Charity Foundation should continue to maintain that reputation. Continue the great programs such as Promises Matter, Prevent Blindness, and Matching Funds. We should always remember the needs of our own members.*

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 Rowland has never been suspended or expelled.

David W. Allen lives in Sand Springs, Oklahoma. He is a member of Sand Springs Lodge #475 and served as Worshipful Master in 2000. He has served on various Grand Lodge Committees and as Grand Secretary from 2010 - 2012. He is retired from the Sand Springs Home where he served as Executive Director of the Children's Home for 14 years. He managed the day-to-day operation of the Home, employing and supervising the staff, and managing the budget and maintenance.

Professionally he spent 36 years managing residential childcare facilities, is a Founding Member of the Oklahoma Commission of Children and Youth Services, served as President, Secretary and Treasurer of Oklahoma Care, President, Secretary and Treasurer of Rotary Club, President of the Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Sand Springs Economic Development Trust Authority, and received numerous awards while working with children residential services. He is completing his first 5-year term on the Board of the Foundation.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" Brother Allen wrote: *I have experience in Fund Raising for Residential Child Care facilities, including raising money for endowments, working with Trustees in creating and managing budgets, and overseeing maintenance of facilities.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By guarding the assets of the Foundation to insure the continuation of its charitable purposes through the Lodges and other charitable and educational programs. By increasing the assets of the Foundation through fund raising and management.*

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 Allen has never been suspended or expelled.

Randall L. "Randy" Rogers lives in Oklahoma City. He has served in the Oklahoma Highway Patrol for 25 years and is currently a Captain and Legislative Liaison. He is a member of South McAlester Lodge #96, and served as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2012. He has served as the Program Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" Brother Rogers wrote: *With my experience as a present Board Member and a Past Grand Master, I feel my knowledge of the Fraternity will assist the Foundation in its future endeavors.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By continuing to work together to promote and support this wonderful fraternity of which we have the honor of being members.*

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 Rogers has never been suspended or expelled.

THANK YOU MASONS!



Your blood drives have helped save *countless* lives over the years!

The best is yet to come in
2016!



Pre-med OSU senior, Tyler Zander lost his leg and suffered numerous internal injuries in a grain elevator accident. It took 97 blood donors to help save his life. Without partners like YOU, we wouldn't have the blood we need so that patients like Tyler can survive!





Cook Book



Dear Masonic Family,

Our plan is to put together a Mason Family Cookbook and sell it. Proceeds will go toward a project to purchase a needed item for Grand Lodge.

We will feature "Masonic Green Beans". The book will be dedicated to Dr. Jim Tresner. The cook-book will include the following sections: main dishes, desserts, punch, fruits and vegetables, pasta and will center on recipes for green beans.

Will you please send us a favorite recipe or two, especially one that includes green beans? The format we will use is as follows: Ingredients and amounts first and then directions. Put your name and masonic affiliation last. Please, email, mail, or text your recipes to me by November 15th (Ridge's Grand Master's Apron Presentation).

You may email, preferably, to me, Carol Smith at caroljbs1966@msn.com, or mail to P. O. Box 851123, Yukon, Ok 73099. For questions call 405-990-3390.

Sincerely,

Carol Smith, wife of
Ridge Smith, Deputy Grand Master

CHIP Program 2015-2016 schedule as of Sep. 15, 2015

Sep 11 2015	Bray-Doyle School, Marlow, OK	133 children completed
Sep 12 2015	Cops and Kids Day, Lawton, OK	178 children completed
Sep 21 & 22 2015	Inola Public Schools, Inola, OK	
Sep 25 2015	Grand Lodge, Guthrie, OK	
Sep 26 2015	Touch a Truck, Norman, OK	
Oct 1 & 2 2015	Aspen Creek Pre K, Broken Arrow, OK	
Oct 5 & 6 2015	Arrow Springs Pre K, Broken Arrow, OK	
Oct 7 & 8 2015	Park Lane Pre K, Broken Arrow, OK	
Oct 10 2015	Broken Arrow Masonic Lodge. Broken Arrow, OK	
Oct 12 & 13 2015	Creekwood Pre K, Broken Arrow, OK	
Oct 26 2015	School, El Reno, OK	
Nov 4 & 5 2015	School, Vinita, OK	
Nov 14 & 15	Grand Lodge, Guthrie, OK	
Nov 16 2015	Elementary School, Geronimo, OK	



Gallery



ANGIE

She came to work at the Grand Lodge office just out of high school. Earlier this year Angie Smedley retired after more than 3 decades of service to the Craft. (The photos of cats at a desk are not disrespectful; anyone who knows Angie knows that she *dislikes* photographs of herself almost as much as she *likes* photographs of kittens.)

When Angie started in the office, all the records were maintained by hand. Hundreds of thousands of 3" X 5" index cards, each typed and then updated by hand. Preparing mailings to the Lodges was a nightmare. Typing,

reading the galley proofs, and then making final preparation of such things as the Proceedings, the Blue Book, the Yellow Book and the other materials required the efforts of several people.

Even when computers arrived in the Grand Lodge office, it took a lot of work to "go electronic." Angie learned and helped design systems and programs to make the work easier and more accurate. We miss her, a lot, and hope she is happy in her retirement.

And we are all appreciative of Linda Derscheid, who is giving so many hours of her time to help us fill the gap. She is making all the difference. And thanks, especially to Yvette Story, who took on many added responsibilities to make the Grand Lodge office work for us all.

