



# The klahoma Mason

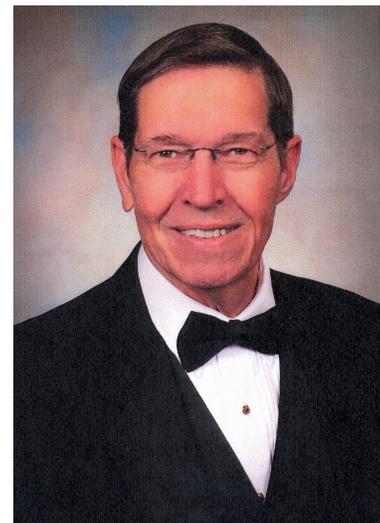
The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

Spring Edition

March

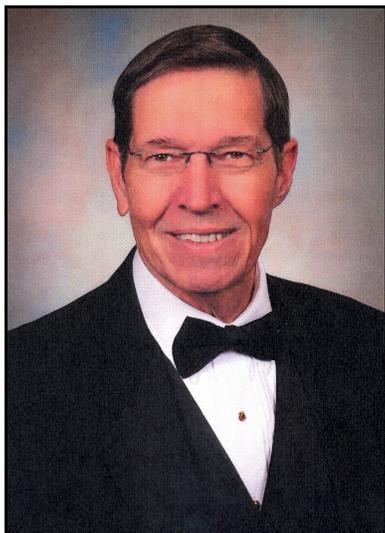
2016

## In this issue . . .



The First Lady's Project of refurbishing the chairs in the Master Mason lodge room is going well. We have 40 chairs left. We are taking donations for any amount and if a lodge, individual, or other organization donates \$200.00, their name will be displayed on a chair. Please, make checks out to Carol Smith and in the lower left hand corner write "First Lady's Project". Thank you to each of you who have donated and who will donate.

*Carol Smith*



## From the Grand Master

Welcome to the Spring, 2016, edition of the *Oklahoma Mason Magazine*.

This Masonic year has gotten off to a great start. As I have traveled around the state, I have been excited to see the new Lodge Officers working hard to make Masonry a vital and vibrant part of their communities.

One new program which has been very successful has been the **Perpetual Path Program** which takes an Entered Apprentice through his Fellowcraft and Masters Degrees in one day. As of this writing, we have raised over 50 Master Masons through this program. I

have been pleased to have participated in several of these conferrals. I feel that the Brothers who have received their degrees through this program have had a very positive introduction to Masonry. While I still believe that the "traditional" method of conferring the degrees and demonstrating proficiency is time-tested and the preferred way to become a Master Mason; the Perpetual Path Program provides a way for Brothers who, because of vocational, educational or other reasons, need to find an alternative way to become a Master Mason.



Regional Explanatory



Another very positive new program has been the Fifth Wednesday Explanatory Lecture Program. Even though it is a constitutional requirement for Brothers to receive the Explanatory Lectures of the Entered Apprentice and Masters Degrees; many have, for one reason or another, not received these presentations. The Fifth Wednesday Explanatory Lecture Program has afforded these Brothers the opportunity to receive these lectures. The presentation which was done on Wednesday, March 30, was very

well attended around the state. The next fifth Wednesday presentations will be **June 29, August 31, and November 30**. Any Brother who has not received these lectures, or those who would like to see them again, is encouraged to attend. These events are scheduled for McAlester #96, Ada #119, Lawton #183, Elk City #182, Woodward #189, Enid #80, Frontier #48, Antlers #39 and Claremore #53. There will also be a presentation of the lectures at Yukon #90 on April 26.

A special event will be held on April 23 at Ardmore #31. Tranquility Lodge #2000 will have their quarterly meeting beginning at 10:00 A.M. Tranquility Lodge was first chartered as a result of Astronaut Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, a Texas Mason, landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. He carried with him a Special Dispensation from Texas Grand Master J. Guy Smith to claim the moon as Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. To commemorate this event, Tranquility Lodge #2000 was formed to promote, encourage and foster the principles of Freemasonry and to assist in promoting the health, welfare, education and patriotism of children worldwide. Tranquility Lodge has members all over the world and it is a special honor that Oklahoma will host the next meeting. The meeting is open to all Master Masons. Lunch will be served. **Anyone planning to attend the lunch should RSVP to me at [okgm2016@msn.com](mailto:okgm2016@msn.com) before April 16 so that we can get a head-count for the lunch.**



### What is Masonry worth to you?

Brethren, I feel that I need to address the issue of Lodge finances. I am distressed to hear that some Lodges have to "pass the hat" to pay their utility bills, or have to have fund-raisers to balance their

budget. And some Lodges are hard pressed to pay their ever-increasing insurance premiums. Fortunately, this does not apply to many Lodges; but, it is a serious problem for some.

Yes, Brethren, we are a fraternity and a voluntary organization but we have to operate as a business in that we have to pay our bills and maintain our facilities. Every Lodge should have an annual budget and, if the income from dues and other sources is insufficient to meet the necessary expenses, then the Lodge needs to either raise their dues or find alternative sources of income so that they can be solvent. Brethren, think of how much you pay in dues on a monthly basis. Are your **annual** dues more than a large cup of Starbucks coffee each **month**? Are your annual dues more than a Big Mac hamburger meal a month? Are your annual dues more than a couple of tanks of gasoline?



**Brethren, we sell ourselves too cheaply.**

Speaking of finances, I want to thank the Brethren who have contributed to my fund-raiser for the Grand Lodge. It has been heart-warming to see how generously the Brethren of this state have responded to my request and I thank you most sincerely. It is unfortunate that the income of the Grand Lodge is insufficient to cover our necessary expenses without having a fund-raiser. Our income has not kept up with the rate of inflation.

In looking at the past Grand Lodge proceedings, I find that the annual per capita income for the Grand Lodge in 1960 was \$132,246. In today's economy, that would be over one million dollars (actually \$1,071,193.) I'm sure many can remember when the *Oklahoma Mason Magazine* was mailed out to every Oklahoma Mason every month. We also had some years when there was a budget surplus of as much as \$100,000. Sadly, those days have passed. Because of necessary austerity, we now only have one "hard copy" of the *Oklahoma Mason* each year, and the rest are published electronically to save costs.

We used to pay *per diem* to Lodge Officers to attend the Annual Communication. That's not possible any more. Our Grand Officer travel is often paid by the Grand Officers out of their pockets rather than from the Grand Lodge budget because the officers know the financial situation. I have written over-long to try to inform you that the Grand Lodge needs to increase the per capita rate. I will be submitting a resolution to raise our per capita at the Grand Lodge session in November. I hope that each of you will consider this resolution and vote for the good of Masonry in Oklahoma.

Fraternally,



Dudley Ridge Smith Grand Master, 2016

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# Perpetual Path Program Gets off to a Great Start



The rules of the Perpetual Path Program are simple. If a Lodge or a group of Lodges in an area have Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts who have not advanced, they can, if they wish, hold a Perpetual Path conferral of the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees on a single Saturday.

- ❖The Lodge wishing to host the event must submit an application to the Grand Lodge providing the necessary information.
- ❖The conferral is for a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 15 Candidates.
- ❖Each Candidate must purchase a Perpetual membership before the conferral.

❖The Candidates must Degree in their home proficient.

❖The Grand Secretary must “cast list” of the Degree approval process.

❖The Lodge may select the Conferral without regard to



New Master Masons at the Perpetual Path Program Conferral at Yukon Lodge #90

receive the Entered Apprentice Lodges, but do not have to be

approve the “Trestleboard” or team as part of the Lodge

date for the Perpetual Path the Grand Lodge Calendar.

❖The Grand Lodge will send a representative to the Conferral with a projector and the materials used for educational programs on the first two Degrees.

### So far . . .

- On January 30<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral was held at India Lodge #551. . . . . 12 candidates
- On February 27<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral was held at Enid Lodge #80/Garfield Lodge #501 . . . . . 9 candidates
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral was held at Composite Lodge #107. . . . . 17 candidates
- On March 12<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral was held at Yukon Lodge #90. . . . . 7 candidates
- March 26<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral was held at Siloam Lodge #276. . . . . 7 candidates

### and as of the date of this writing . . .

- April 16<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral is scheduled at St. Alban Lodge #192. 12 candidates at this time
- April 16<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral is scheduled at Mustang Lodge #407. 11 candidates at this time
- April 30<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral is scheduled at Sulphur Lodge #144. . . 3 candidates at this time
- June 18<sup>th</sup> a Perpetual Path Conferral is scheduled at Bright Star Lodge #113
- also** Altus Lodge #62 and Afton Lodge #76 plan to hold conferrals but no date is scheduled



## Robert G. Davis, 33<sup>o</sup> Grand Cross Retires as the General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies After 30 years of Service

Jim Tresner

I must admit I am finding this difficult to write. Brother Bob and I have worked together for decades and been friends for even longer. Somehow, it never seriously occurred to me that he would retire. It's going to leave a mark.

Most Brethren don't know the full extent of what Bob has already accomplished—it is formidable—and I am certain that the list is not yet complete.

He has been Worshipful Master of Garfield Lodge #501 {1980}, Albert Pike Lodge #162 {1991}, and Guildhall Lodge #553 {2003 & 2004}. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in 1982, 1983, 2001, and 2002.

Brother Bob has served on the committees to create, design, and facilitate each one of the "Chance to Advance" Conferrals, as well as the new Perpetual Path Program.

He has served on the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma for decades, and is one of the original architects of the Matching Funds program.

He was the primary contact person and planner for the Fraternity's involvement in Oklahoma's Centennial Celebration.



Not many people know that Brother Davis is a fine artist with ink and paper, as this drawing of the Temple attests.

*Bob, thank you for your long and distinguished service to the Scottish Rite. You have made Guthrie one of the premier valleys in the Rite. You led the valley to stage all 29 Degrees, and to do them well! Your success in creating a great Reunion experience is proven by the large numbers of Brothers from all over the United States who visit the Spring Reunion each year. In the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and in Blue Lodge, you have left your mark and made an important difference.  
Joe R. Manning, Jr., P.:G.:M.:, Sovereign Grand Inspector General*

It takes an entire page just to list his Grand Lodge Committee appointments.

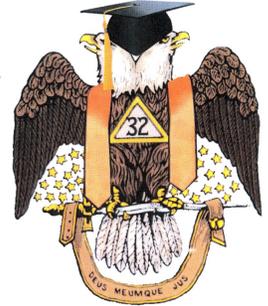


Brother Davis has been active at the national level as well. Some years ago many Masons became concerned about the declining membership in the Fraternity. They concluded that one thing which would help was to focus on making the Lodge experience as rich and rewarding as possible, by returning to some of the earlier Masonic traditions including well-done ritual, shared fellowship, dues which were high enough to afford truly good meals, emphasis on the Candidate and his development and many other things. Such Lodges are known as Traditional Observance or

"T.:O.:" Lodges. They are regular Lodges, chartered by the Grand Lodge of their jurisdiction, and they have proven to be a very popular movement in Freemasonry. Brother Davis was active in the movement

from the beginning. The Masonic Restoration Foundation was formed as a source for the sharing of information and experience nationally among those interested in the traditions of Freemasonry. Brother Bob served as National President of the Masonic Renewal Foundation as well as a member of the Board. He was also involved in the creation and chartering of Oklahoma's first two T.O.: Lodges—Guildhall Lodge #553 and Veritas Lodge #556. (If you want to know more about Traditional Observance Lodges, visit the website of the Masonic Restoration Foundation [www.masonicrestoration.org](http://www.masonicrestoration.org).)

Almost all Oklahoma Masons know that he has been very active in the Scottish Rite, but few know the extent of his activity. For years he has been one of the presenters at the Scottish Rite Leadership Workshops. He is one of the creators of the Scottish Rite Fellows program, which has done much to help develop the next generations of leaders. He was the driving force behind the creation of Guthrie's College of the Consistory educational program which has participants from all over the world. From his earliest days as General Secretary, Brother Bob has focused on providing the best Reunion experience for Scottish Rite Candidates and members during Reunions. He has served on many informal committees and groups for the Supreme Council.

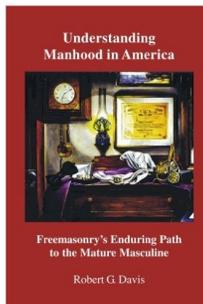


III.: Brother Davis is a highly sought-after speaker, not just in Oklahoma but across the United States, giving

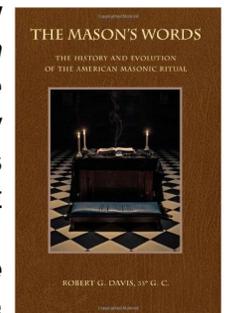
several speeches out of state each year. He has delivered both the Anson Jones Lecture and the Pirez Lecture. But well known as he is as a speaker, he is even better known as a Masonic writer. He is a member of the Society of Blue Friars, a highly selective, invitation-only international society of Masonic authors which selects only one new member a year.

Some years ago, he and I co-wrote-edited-compiled a booklet entitled *A Shared Spirit:*

*It is going to be very difficult for me when I go from my office up the hill to the Guthrie Temple and not seeing my good friend Bob Davis at his desk or down in the cigar room. We have worked very closely for the past thirty years, not only in Scottish Rite Membership but on many special projects for Grand Lodge. His book "A Mason's Words" is being widely read in all Masonic Circles and is the best book ever written about the Masonic Ritual. Bob I can only say that I will miss you but you deserve a break and I wish you and Sharon the best in all your future endeavors. God speed my friend. Bobby L. Laws, P.:G.:M.: Grand Secretary*



*Freemasonry and the Native American Tradition.* A few years ago, his book *Understanding Manhood in America: Freemasonry's Enduring Path to the Mature Masculine* was published and has proven to be very successful. But most importantly, after literally decades of research, he has written one of the most important books of American Masonic scholarship.



*American Masonic Ritual* is the only book of its kind, the only book to trace the development of the ritual from England to America, highlighting the men who changed, created and adapted it until we have the ritual we use today. It is a monumental work in scope and the essential foundation of any Masonic library.

*Brother Robert G. Davis has been a bright and shining star of Oklahoma Masonry. He has been a good friend, a mentor, and an advisor for as long as I can remember. His books have a prominent place in my library and I have thoroughly enjoyed his many writings. He is an expert in Masonry and an excellent researcher of Masonic information at all levels. I have often relied on his counsel and advice. To Brother Davis, I say this: To paraphrase a line from Star Trek – The Undiscovered Country, I know that whoever follows you as the next General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite will succeed you, but never replace you. I wish you well on all of your future endeavors.*

*Dudley Ridge Smith Grand Master*

Brother Davis is also one of the best known Masonic editors. He has served as editor for *Heredom*, the book of the research papers of the Scottish Rite Research Society. He also is the national editor for the

publications of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the *Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis* [Masonic Rosicrucians]. That in addition to the no small task of producing the Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason several times a year.



Speaking of the Allied Masonic Degrees and the *Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis*, he was instrumental in revitalizing those organizations which had almost gone dormant in Oklahoma. Both are small Orders—Allied Masonic Degrees is organized in Councils of no more than 27 members per council and S.:R.:I.:C.:F.: is organized into Colleges with a maximum of 72 members. When he became involved, the only Council in Oklahoma was

*Brother Davis is a truly exceptional Mason and a credit to the reputation of Freemasonry.*

*John L. Logan Executive Director  
Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma*

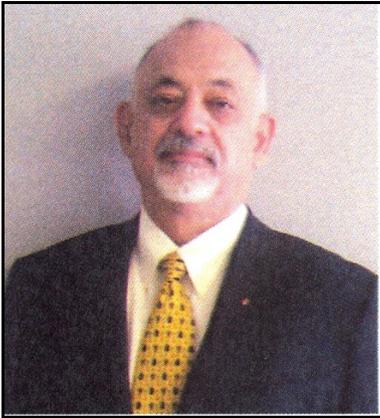
Father Murrow Council #10 and it had only a few members. Brother Bob became the Sovereign Master of the

Council and set about reinvigorating it. Oklahoma now also has McMillion Council in Tulsa, Paul T. Million Council in McAlester, and James C. Taylor Council in Elk City. He served as national Grand Sovereign Master. He also served as Secretary for the Oklahoma College of *Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis* for several years, rewriting and restructuring the format of its “Grades” [Degrees] and revitalizing the Order in Oklahoma. He now serves as Oklahoma’s Chief Adept—the leading officer in the state. He is Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma and Past Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine as well as Past Governor of the Oklahoma York Rite College. He is also Past President of the International Philalethes Society.

He holds the Duane Anderson Medal of Excellence in Masonic Knowledge from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, the Grand Master’s Medal of Honor from the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and the Paul Horn Memorial Medal from the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington. He holds the Columbian Award from the York Rite.

He is also highly regarded as a Masonic “blogger.” His essays are thought-provoking and are followed by a wide audience. Let me suggest you read them at [robertgdavis.blogspot.com](http://robertgdavis.blogspot.com).

That is a lot of accomplishment, even spread over 30 years. The sad news is that he is retiring, but the good news is that this is an acknowledgment of retirement—not an obituary! He assures me he will remain active in Masonic education across Oklahoma. I’ve no doubt that Bob will continue to be a force in Masonry in the future as he has certainly been in the past. J.T.



R.:W.: Richard Allison

## From the R.:W.: Deputy Grand Master

### Noble Contention

One need only turn on the TV, radio or computer these days to see how one person can spread horror and grief upon other citizens. I am terribly saddened by these events. We need places of peace and safety that we can go to that are a haven from the world and those in the world who would seek to disturb our lives and change us forever. I think our Masonic Lodges should be such a place.

We should be able to go to our Lodges in fellowship with our Masonic Brothers and feel peace and safety in our hearts and minds. We have been taught that Lodge is a place where “...no contention should ever exist...”. Of course contention will exist at times but we should be able to work those things out as friends and Brothers and not let them get out of hand and go so far as to cause dissention within our Lodges. That is where the rest of the phrase “...but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work or best agree” comes into play. My Brothers, if you are, or soon will be, a Worshipful Master or an Officer in your Lodge, as a Masonic Leader, you must know “who best can work or best agree” in order to resolve, and more especially avoid contention.

The best way to manage contention is to have well trained Masonic leaders. At this time we are working very hard on the upcoming Leadership Conference. Recently, while at the Grand Lodge of Texas I heard a brother remark “you should always be able to tell when you walk into a Lodge if their Officers have attended a Leadership Conference”. That is our goal, to make our upcoming Leadership Conference such an experience that others will be able to tell they are in the presence of well-trained leaders.

This year our Leadership Conference will take place the second weekend of June. It will feature a speaker from Texas I had the privilege of hearing two years ago at that Grand Lodge when he was serving as their Grand Orator. He is worth your time to make an extra effort to attend the conference.



The Leadership Conference will be at the Wyndham Garden in Oklahoma City. The Wyndham is located at 2101 S. Meridian Avenue. I have set aside a block of sixty rooms for us at a special rate of \$89.00 a night. You may reserve a room by going to [www.wyndham.com](http://www.wyndham.com) or calling the hotel direct at 405-685-4000. King or two double beds are available so make your reservation early to secure your preference.

Registration for the Conference will begin on Friday afternoon about 5PM and we will start our training session at 6PM. We will register late comers starting at 8AM Saturday before the session starts. Breakfast on Saturday morning will be the free regular breakfast served at the motel to all guests. Our noon meal will be a buffet which your ladies are welcome to attend. At the end of the training we will retire to enjoy a meal together there at the Wyndham. Your ladies are welcome to join us. The dress will be business casual or coat and tie.

We will give more details in the next Oklahoma Mason so watch for that issue. Please do not miss this if you now are, or are going to be, an Officer in your Lodge. If you do then you will have missed a highpoint in your Lodge Officer experience. This is just one more step in the goal of making our Lodges a place we can go, relax and enjoy fellowship with Brothers and be in peace at heart.

My Brothers I hope to have the chance to see you in both places.

Rick Allison  
Deputy Grand Master

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## But that's another Story . . .

Brother Terry Story is the guardian spirit of the Grand Lodge building. He single-handedly keeps the building functioning, cool in summer, warm in winter, clean, organized, and a source of justifiable pride for all Oklahoma Masons. The built-in flower box on the front of the



building is an especial joy of Brother Terry. For years, it was untended—the abode of prickly juniper bushes which managed to look dusty and dispirited 12 months a year.

Finally, he could stand it no longer. He cleaned out the shrubbery, planted flowers, and has made the Grand Lodge plants a source of pleasure, especially for the nursing home residents who walk past every day. But a problem developed. The old waterproofing started to wear out. It was going to be a major project to fix.



But that's where another Story appeared—in this case Brother Tanner Story, younger son of Terry and Yvette. (Terry is shown in the excavated planter—above left—and Tanner is in the picture above right.) They installed a french drain in the planter and installed a pipe in the front lawn to lead the water to the street. It took several days of hard work, but it will make a major difference. Thanks to Terry and Tanner—good Brothers both!



New plants going in



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

## From the R.:W.: Senior 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 lifetime. 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 folk, 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 M.:W.: B. Michael Wood presented the 75 year pin to this Brother. Interesting stories from both Brothers told of experiences they had with knowing each other 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.

As a reminder so Lodges can plan early, the Leadership Conference is June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.  
Senior Grand Warden

## From the R.:W.: Junior Grand Warden

In the last issue of the Oklahoma Mason I talked about our declining membership, our lodge buildings that are in need of attention, and the financial health of our lodges. In our ritual we hear about the three principle classes of Masons: the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason. A close friend and Masonic mentor recently told me that there are three other classes of Masons: those who make it happen, those who let it happen, and those that wonder what happened. This statement is most likely an adaptation of a quote from John M. Richardson, Jr., an American academic who writes, lectures, and consults in applied systems analysis, international development, conflict-development linkages, and the sustainability and resilience of political-economic-social institutions.



R.:W.: Michael L. Dixon

A Gallup research article on engagement statistics across corporate America reported the following:

29% are actively engaged (They make things happen.)

54% are neither engaged nor disengaged (They watch things happen.)

17% are disengaged (They wonder, "What happened?")

It is an interesting thing about the future . . . we can create it, especially when it comes to your lodges and fraternity as a whole. Do you want to be one of those who wondered what happened to their lodge and the Masonic fraternity in Oklahoma or would you rather make it happen - create a viable, sustaining future for your lodge and Masonry?

Which one are you??? I hope you are one of those who make it happen. But, do you really make it happen? It is really easy to say but much harder to do, and when things get hard, we tend to not do them. If we are not committed to doing it, we don't. Then we just let life happen.

Are you interested or are you committed? This reminds me of the old adage about ham and eggs: the chicken participates but the hog is committed! If you are just interested, you will do things when they are easy or when you can do them quickly. If you are only interested, when things get hard, you will quit. If you are committed, you will do whatever it takes. No excuses. Period!!

If we truly want to improve membership numbers and the financial health of the fraternity, one of the best methods is to find creative ways to actively engage the "silent majority" of our membership, that 54% of us who watch things happen. By all means, let us not become a part of the 17% who will sit back and just wonder what happened when we lose our lodges or see our fraternity cease to exist!



Fraternally,

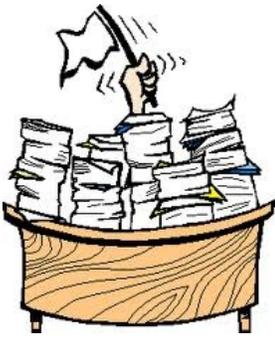
Mike Dixon, Junior Grand Warden



M.:W.: Bobby L. Laws, PGM



To all the Brethren that attended the Secretary/Masonic Charity Foundation Class at Guthrie on March 19, 2016 and Broken Arrow on March 26, 2016, Brother Logan and I thank you very much for your attendance.



We hope that we were able to offer you information and material that will make your job and ours somewhat easier as we move to the newest challenge in revamping the way you report activities as they occur in your lodge.

The Secretaries that attended those sessions and have an e-mail recorded at Grand Lodge now have the needed work package to utilize the Secretaries Interface Program. I urge those of you that have e-mail at either your Lodge or at home to contact the Grand Secretary's office as soon as possible so we can assign you a special private password. We will also send you the needed information in order to eliminate much of the paper reports you send us now either on a Monthly or Quarterly basis.

This system will allow you to make real-time changes to your membership records and make many updates by computer instead of filling out paper reports. **The Secretaries who are already using the system are really pleased with the results.** Please, if at all possible, assist us in making your job and ours much easier.

If you do not have the capability, please ask one of your members who has a computer if they will do the task for you. If this is the case we will, with your permission, assign them a password for your lodge and accept their updates to your lodge data base.

On another note, we are pleased to inform you that most of the forms on the Grand Lodge web site @ [gloklahoma.com](http://gloklahoma.com) are now fillable.

Thank each of you for all you do for Masonry.

Bobby L. Laws P.:G.:M.:  
Grand Secretary

# From the Grand Treasurer



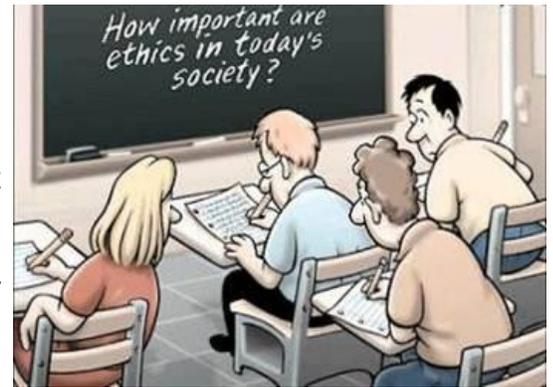
R. W.: David G. David



*The only guide to a man is his conscience; the only shield to his memory is the rectitude and sincerity of his actions.* WINSTON CHURCHILL

Ethics: defined as the study of standards of conduct and moral judgment. The word "ethics" is derived from two Greek words that mean "moral" and "character". Ethical behavior is often unconscious and based on well thought out principles.

Personal ethics is the most difficult concept to outline. People develop their code of personal ethics throughout their lives and the ethical code is often undertaken subconsciously. However, a MASON'S personal code of ethics is the most important part of the ethical foundation that encompasses legal, professional, fraternal and personal ethics. As MASONS we must make decisions consciously so we do not forget any part of our Masonic obligations.



It should be obvious that legal, professional, fraternal and personal ethics are closely moored together to form the foundation that all MASONS should stand on.

Ethical behavior should not be something learned for academic credit, it should be something practiced each and every day. The best way to consistently behave ethically is to make it a lifestyle through inner determination and outer checks and balance. Using sound ethical behavior will enhance and protect our Fraternity. When we as MASONS use poor judgment and are unethical, we hurt our fraternity, our brethren, our Lodges and ourselves.

*"If a person would not like to be treated dishonestly, he will not treat others that way."* CONFUCIUS

David G. David Grand Treasurer





R.:W.: Ronald Wray

# From the Grand Lecturer

Greetings my brethren all:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended the IRONMAN School of instruction at Yukon Lodge # 9. We had a good crowd that day and most of the Deputy Grand Lectures were present to do the instructing.

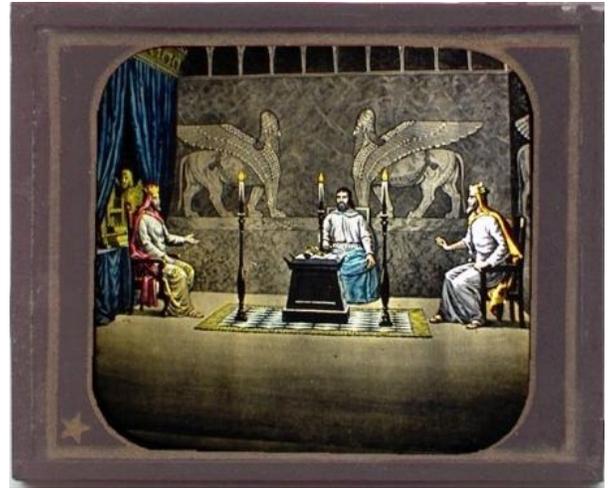
Hopefully many of you were able to attend one of the explanatory lectures that were held in nine different lodges on March 30. This is the first round of these meetings that will take place on the next "5th Wednesdays." I personally was at the Woodward Lodge to give the lecture and had an attendance of 21 with 4 of those being Entered Apprentices.

The **Perpetual Path Program** is doing very well. As of the date of this writing there have been 52 new Master Masons raised as a result of this program.

One thing you may be looking forward to is an exemplification of the work to be held at Composite Lodge #107 at Shawnee on May 7, 2016. This meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and usually we are done by 3:00 p.m.

If I or any of the deputies can be of any help please give us call and we will glad to help.

Fraternally,  
Ronald Wray



## There are many Masonic Bodies, each with its own Emblem See how many you can identify



## The Meeting of the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo 8/13/2016 at Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie

The Grand Lodge building is important. It not only houses the administrative offices of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, it is also the repository of all Symbolic Lodge records and history. The Library houses thousands of significant books on Freemasonry, most no longer in print. The Museum includes a gallery of portraits of Past Grand Masters extending back more than a hundred years. It contains priceless painted and embroidered aprons, some nearly 200 years old. It contains Masonic artifacts from the Civil War, rare magic lantern slides used to illustrate the lectures, and much, much more. The Grand Lodge Building is home to these Masonic treasures.

The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo was created with 3 goals in mind.



**To honor the Native American tradition in Oklahoma, and the contributions of Native Americans to Masonry in our state.**

**To provide a way for Oklahoma Masons and their families as well as members of other Masonic Bodies to share in fellowship.**

**To provide for maintenance & preservation of the Grand Lodge Building, Library and Museum.**

The ritual is based on the story of the white buffalo in the Native American oral tradition. It is performed by members of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team.

The Initiation Fee of \$100 and 1<sup>st</sup> year's dues of \$50 (\$150 total) must accompany the application. Masons' wives are also eligible to join.



For more information, contact the Grand Lodge 405-282-3212 [okmason1@coxinet.net](mailto:okmason1@coxinet.net) Or download an application [www.gloklahoma.com](http://www.gloklahoma.com)





Each year, the Lodges in Oklahoma raise funds for OETA, the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. The funds are matched, and presented on-air on "Mason Night," with members of the Masonic Family answering the phone lines and taking pledges from the public.

This year, Oklahoma Freemasons donated

**\$52,485.50**

Well done, Brethren!!!



## 2015-2016 Statewide Essay Contest For High School Seniors Women's Division

<i>Norman Lodge #38 - Norman North High School.</i>	Amber Chan	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$2,000
<i>Roff Lodge #169 - Vanoss High School.</i>	Sarah Barnett	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$1,500
<i>Tuskahoma Lodge #491 - Clayton High School.</i>	Jordan Scarberry	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$1,000
<i>Owasso Lodge #545 - Owasso High School.</i>	Kieren Alvord	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$750
<i>Duncan Lodge #60 Duncan High School.</i>	Candace Paige Carnahan	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$500
<i>Valliant Lodge #301 - Valliant High School.</i>	Courtney Rose Martin	6 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$400
<i>Red Fork - Brookside Lodge #505 - Berryhill High School.</i>	Lindsey Lancaster	7 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$300
<i>Westville Lodge #549 - Westville High School.</i>	Emily Yell	8 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$200
<i>Guymon Lodge #335 - Guymon High School.</i>	Lexy Scott	9 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$100
<i>Lone Grove Lodge #25 - Marietta High School.</i>	Bailey Hallum	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$100

### Men's Division

<i>Flint Lodge #11 - Stilwell High School.</i>	Justin Parker Junker	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$2,000
<i>Newkirk Lodge #88 - Newkirk High School.</i>	Bryen Edward Bloomfield	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$1,500
<i>Duncan Lodge #60 - Duncan High School.</i>	Thomas Wayne Percy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$1,000
<i>Valliant Lodge #301 - Valliant High School.</i>	Traeton Dansby	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$750
<i>Moore Lodge #539 - Moore High School.</i>	Logan Ian Abshire	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$500
<i>Nicoma Park Lodge #541 - Choctaw High School.</i>	Jacob Ellington	6 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$400
<i>Jenks Lodge #497 - Glenpool High School.</i>	Austin Lacroix	7 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$300
<i>Pawnee Lodge #82 - Pawnee High School.</i>	Damon Blake Womack	8 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$200
<i>Newkirk Lodge #88 - Newkirk High School.</i>	John William Hobbs III	9 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$100
<i>Westville Lodge #549 - Westville High School.</i>	Kade Kenneth Hooper	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$100