



# The Oklahoma Mason The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma

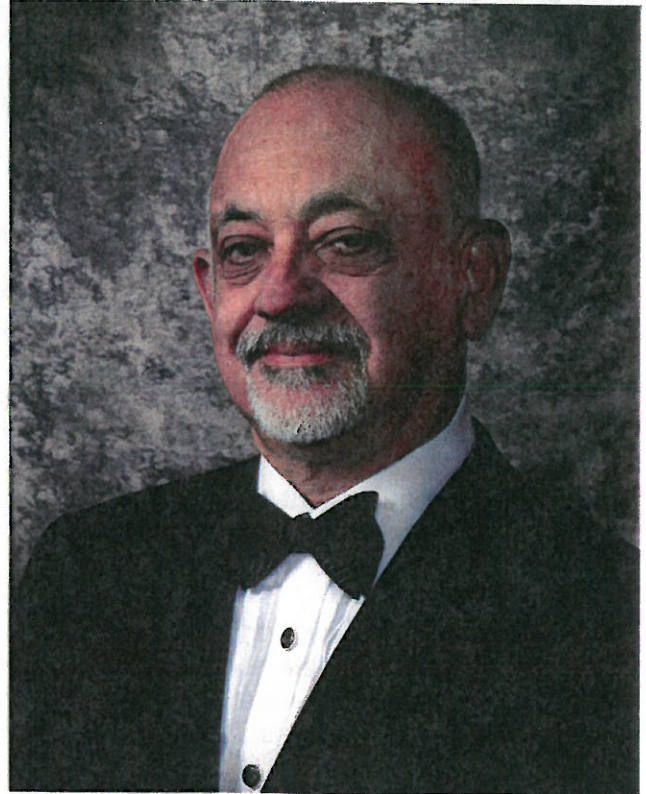
## 2017 Grand Lodge Issue

### November 10<sup>th</sup> - Open Meeting

3:30 P.M. Main auditorium, Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple - Greetings, Youth Orders, Reception of Medal of Honor recipients. Announcement of 2017 Medal of Honor Recipients, Presentation of Awards. Grand Masters Banquet will follow.

### Banquet in honor of M.:W.: Richard Allison

Temple Ballroom. 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each if purchased before October 30<sup>th</sup>, \$45 thereafter. Purchase from the Grand Lodge, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044. 405-282-3212. Checks or Credit Cards accepted.



M.:W.: Richard L. Allison

### November 11<sup>th</sup> - Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Registration at Scottish Rite Temple opens Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. - closes at 5 P.M. Opens Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 A.M., closes at 10 A.M. Voting for Grand Lodge office in Ballroom opens at 7 A.M., closes at 10 A.M. Grand Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M. Aprons required. Paper aprons will be on sale in Atrium for \$1.

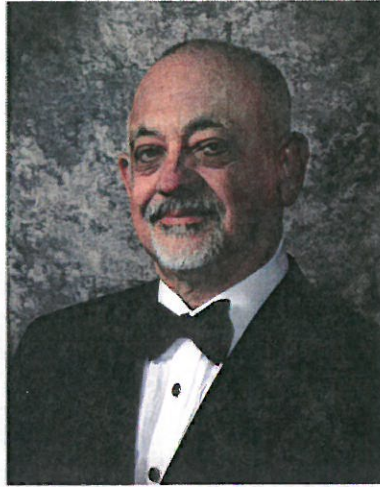
### November 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grand School

Held at Grand Lodge Building Registration opens at 8 P.M. See story inside for information about renting a bed in the Scottish Rite Temple



## From the Grand Master

Brethren as always in this article, I are working in other lodges as far helpful to the attendance and health I have been told are working very are things that are tried and tested.



will try to bring you some ideas that as fund raisers or ideas that are of the lodge. These are all things that well in lodges, so we know that these

First of all are fund raising ideas. out of our neighbor to the south and of size. The home lodge of the fund raiser some years ago placing a American flag in front of that flags are normally flown. They per flag. They will drill a hole and the flag. This tube stays in place tube when it is not in use to keep They purchase the flags and a galvanized steel pipe. They use metal screws to place in the grommets in the end of the flag along with washers and screw it directly to the pipe.

One of the best I have heard comes can be done in any town regardless Grand Master of Texas initiated a whereby they sell the service of your home or business on holidays charge (I believe) Thirty dollars a year place a PVC tube in the hole to hold year around. They put a cap on the dirt and debris from filling the tube.

On the required holidays members of the lodge gather the flags from their storage area and go out and place them in their holders and then after the holiday pick them up and return them to the storage area. I have been told that the first year fee is used to buy the flag and materials after that it is pretty much profit. One important requirement of this is that the members of your lodge must get involved in the project. One or two members cannot do this by themselves. It takes a lodge to come together, get involved, and make it work.

The lodge that I know is doing this is doing very well with the project. They have businesses such as car dealers that have a sizable number of flags in front of their business. I am also aware that some other groups in towns and cities are doing the same thing. I do not, however, see all that many flags flying in front of many business or residences out there so I know there are opportunities in my town and I am sure in yours.



Of course we know that many lodges are doing breakfast or dinners monthly or more. Also some lodges are having annual auctions or raffles. Be sure and check your local lodges on these. There are many ideas that lodges are using to raise money.

It is up to the lodge to have the support and help of their members. As with the flags, these do not and cannot work without members getting out and working to help. Many lodges in our state simply do not charge the dues necessary to pay their bills much less give money back into the community.

Getting involved in your community is important. Getting out into the community lets them know who the lodges are and also provides the important function of supporting and helping your individual communities. This is one of the things that we as Mason's should be doing.

For entirely too long many of our members have thought that they cannot talk about their Masonic affiliation in public. My brothers, if we are to survive then we must talk about it to the public. I know there are certain things that are for members only but those things are really very few and do not define who we are. Make



sure your lodge gets active in your towns and cities.

In our lodges there are actions we must take, too. In generations past such as my father's generation and to a certain extent some of my generation, men were content to come to lodge do their business, go into the other room, smoke, drink coffee, and visit. There was not such a thing as social media where everybody kept track of everything everybody else did. Men went to work, came home, ate supper at home mostly and watched a little TV. In years before that, maybe they listened to the radio if they had one. Going to the lodge to see friends and talk was their social time.

My brothers we have to give the young men of today more than that in our fraternity. They want more and that has to be addressed and accepted by those of us my age and beyond. Many lodges have a speaker once a month to bring something related to Masonic history or education. They have family dinners where the wives, girlfriends or just friends come and enjoy time together and yes the kids come too in many cases.

Speaking of children, I know one lodge that has childcare during lodge. Some of the mothers arrange to watch the kids. You might also think about asking some Rainbow girls or Job's Daughters. I am sure they would do it for a small donation to their chapters. Think of how nice it would be for children to grow up with their memories of childhood of going to lodge with their dads, remembering their father's friends from lodge and the friends they made there. My brothers these are just a very few ideas and thoughts. I am sure you have many of your own. Put them to action in your lodge and help your lodge grow and prosper.

Hope to see you at Grand Lodge this year. Remember every Master Mason has the right to attend or at the very least be represented at the Grand Lodge. Do not let this year go by without exercising this right.

Fraternally ,

  
Grand Master

## Grand School

**Come and check out on your certificate and visit with old friends, step into one of the degree rooms and brush up on your floor work.**

Also don't forget you may spend the night at the Scottish Rite Inn. Brothers please take advantage of this, we rent the inn for you to use. Rooms cost \$10 a night.

You can reserve a room by sending an e-mail to the Innkeepers at [innkeep@att.net](mailto:innkeep@att.net) or write to them at The Innkeepers, P.O. Box 534, Wheatland, OK 7.097. The inn will be available on Wednesday night thru Friday. Grand School will start at 9:00 a.m. and run till 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and till noon on Friday.

The Certificate Lecturers meeting and memorial will be Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the master's room.

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[www.okmason1@coxinet.net](mailto:www.okmason1@coxinet.net)  
Editor, Jim Tresner 405-282-3212



## From the Deputy Grand Master



"Am I my Brother's Keeper?" This could be one of the oldest questions in the world. So let's ponder on that thought for a bit. In the Book of Genesis this question is brought to our attention with the story of Cain and Abel. As you remember the story, these two men were the sons of Adam and Eve and they got into a quarrel after God had apparently accepted the sacrifice of one of the two brothers but not the other. As we know the quarrel resulted in the murder or death of Abel by Cain, and when God asked Cain what had happened to his brother, Cain then replied with a snide comment, "Am I my Brother's Keeper?"

Cain's retort to God has thus been handed down to us from antiquity, and yet it has never been completely answered. So ask yourself, How far am I supposed to go in taking care of my Brother? What are the limits, if any, to my responsibilities to him, and if so, what would they be? I personally feel this is an important question in Freemasonry today. We know our Masonic tradition, as well as our Masonic Law make it very clear that each Mason has an obligation to care for his Brother Mason. This is an obligation that also extends to a Mason's family. But just what does our obligation really entail?

I was reading some articles in the Old Tiler Talks a while back and came across one written by Carl H. Claudy, written in 1925, which inspired me to this very article I am now writing. Let me give you a brief dialogue from that article between a young Mason and the old tiler of the Lodge:

*"I am inclined to think that Masons do too much for each other," said the new Brother.*

*"Who has been doing too much for you?" asked the Old Tiler*

*"Why, no one, which I know of."*

*"Well, then who have you been doing too much for?"*

*"Well,,, er,, I wouldn't say I had been doing too much. But we all do too much. It gets to be a burden sometimes".*

*"What do you mean a burden?" countered the Old Tiler.*

*"A burden is something heavy which you carry, isn't it?" asked the new Brother.*

*"So what you think we do for our brethren is a burden?"*

*"Sometimes it seems that way. Too many calls on our time. Too many calls on our sympathy. Too many calls on our charity. Yes, I think it's a burden."*

*"Last week I walked to work," answered the Old Tiler." I don't usually because my rheumatism says walking is too hard a job. My legs," his eyes twinkled, "are a burden to me! But that day it was so bright that the old legs forgot to growl, so I walked. I saw a little lad of about ten looking after a small child of about two, who toppled on his nose and yelled. The ten year old picked up the squalling baby and soothed him, then put him across his shoulder and staggered up the sidewalk with him. I asked him, Sonny, isn't that child too heavy for you?" Heavy?" he answered me, "Heavy? Why, no Sir, he's my Brother."*

As we know a burden is, after all, what we think of it. You would seriously have second thoughts about performing the task of carrying a 200-pound sack of rocks on your back. But, now if it were a 200-pound sack of gold, and it was to be yours after a mile, you wouldn't find it "too heavy" would you? We know Masonry is a state of mind. You can't put it on the scales or measure it with a scoop, because, I think, it has no material existence, it cannot carry a child of two, or a sack of flour. Its burdens are burdens of the heart. So now I ask myself a question, "Is being my Brother's Keeper really a burden? Do I make it a hardship upon myself, or do I envision it more than it is?" Here's some food for thought: we keep track of our friends outside of Masonry maybe because we see them more often. We, as Masons took an obligation basically to be our Brother's Keeper, more especially. So if you



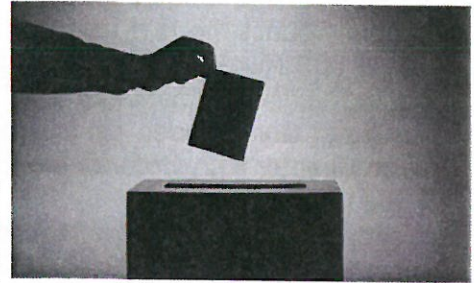
haven't seen a Brother, who hasn't attended Lodge in a while, I urge you to go visit and ask the question, " My Brother what can I do for you"? It isn't really a burden, is it?

If you didn't attend the Leadership Workshop you should have, I heard it was outstanding. We covered a few new areas and the Ladies had a great time playing bingo and going shopping and sitting in on the last half of the conference. Plan on attending next year's session and expanding your knowledge in Masonry. Just a last reminder, Grand School, November 8<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>, and Grand Lodge, November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> are coming up so set your calendars to be there. Remember My Brethren, it is your Grand Lodge and you do have a say in all matters of our Fraternity. May the Heavenly Father Bless you all for your service to our Fraternity. Hope to see you around our great state

Fraternally and Respectively,

  
C. W. "Corky" Grigsby Jr.  
Deputy Grand Master

## Resolutions to be Voted upon at Grand Lodge



It is traditional that, in the issue of the magazine devoted to Grand Lodge, we print a "simple English" description of the Resolutions. Since the purpose of the Resolutions is to amend the laws of Oklahoma Freemasonry, they are written in a formal style. These descriptions are not intended to argue for or against any Resolution, but in a hope to provide clarity.

**Resolution #1** Amends § [section] 502, ¶ [paragraph] A — This resolution would increase per capita to \$15 in 2019, \$20 in 2020, and \$25 in 2021.

**Resolution #2** Amends § 103B, ¶ 3 — This resolution clarifies the budgeting process by eliminating anticipated fund raisers as a source of funds for budgeting purposes.

**Resolution #3** Amends § 212G, ¶ 1 — Currently, the budget cannot exceed 95% of the previous three year's average of actual income. This resolution will change that to 95% of anticipated income.

**Resolution #4** Amends § U-606 — Currently, our law provides that is a Master Mason has been suspended or expelled in another Grand Jurisdiction he must be reinstated in that Jurisdiction before he can petition an Oklahoma Lodge for membership. The resolution adds the requirement that he must have been lawfully suspended or expelled under the U.S. Constitutional provisions of due process.

**Resolution #5** Amends § U 806 — The resolution makes it possible, under certain circumstances, to have beer and wine in a Lodge building (not Lodge room) and sets limitations and parameters for it.

**Resolution #6** Amends § 401 — The resolution provides for a cipher version of the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degree Categorical Lectures to be printed so that it can be used for study by Brethren of those Degrees.



**Resolution #7** Adds a new section [903] which limits the ability of members to amend the Masonic laws of Oklahoma by not allowing a resolution on a topic to be reintroduced if defeated until two years have passed.

**Resolution #8** Is the same as Resolution #7 except that it amends § U-903.

## Available for Election to the Office of Junior Grand Warden



The information here is taken from the materials filed with the Grand Lodge. Brethren are listed in the order in which their filings were received.

**Robert G. Davis** and his wife, Sharon, live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He is retired after serving 30 years as the General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies. He holds a Masters Degree in economics from OSU. He is a member and Past Master of Garfield Lodge #501, Albert Pike Lodge #162, and Guildhall Lodge #553.

A member of the Guthrie Scottish Rite, he holds the 33<sup>o</sup> and the Grand Cross. A consultant to the Supreme Council, he is a frequent presenter at the Scottish Rite workshops. In the York Rite, he is a member of Stillwater Chapter #14, Stillwater Council #50. And St. John's Commandery #8. He is Past Presiding Officer of the Chapter, Council, and Commandery, as well as Past Grand High Priest and Past Grand Commander. He is a member and Ambassador of India Shrine. He is also a member of Guthrie Chapter #12, Order of the Eastern Star.

In Masonic education Brother Davis is a member of the Steering Committee of the national Masonic Information Center, the Education Officer for the Scottish Rite in Oklahoma, an "A" Certificate Lecturer and Vice President of the Association, and the author of books on Freemasonry. He has served for many years on the Board of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, and has been the national leader of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Davis wrote: *I believe the Fraternity is on the cusp of a Renaissance. Young men are joining for the first time in 3 generations. It is very important to me that we maintain the traditions that define us, while facilitating the needs and interests of our new members. I am interested in how the future is guided.*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *I would like to improve communication between the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges and their members. We have the best programs of any Grand Jurisdiction. My goal is to add significantly to Masonic education and opportunity for the Brothers to learn more about Masonry.*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007 requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Davis has neither been suspended nor expelled.

**Andrew Thomas Bridgewater** and his wife Edna Elaine live in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. He is an officer with the City of Sallisaw Police Department. He has been awarded the designations of Police Officer of the Year and City Employee of the Year.



He is a Perpetual Member of Sallisaw Masonic Lodge #120, and has served the Lodge as Worshipful Master four times. He has served as President of District 25, and is a member of Electa Chapter 11, Order of the Eastern Star, which he was served both as Associate Patron and as Worthy Patron.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Bridgewater wrote: *For the good of Masonry.*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" he wrote: *Participation in Masonry.*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007 requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Bridgewater has neither been suspended nor expelled.

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



The information here is taken from the materials filed with the Grand Lodge. Brethren are listed in the order in which their filings were received.

**Lanny R. Sander** and his wife, Betty, live in Seiling, Oklahoma, where he is a farmer and rancher. He has served as a member of the Board for 5 years. He is a member of Seiling Lodge #495 where he has held all the offices in the Lodge. He served as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2000.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" M.:W.: Brother Sander wrote: *Many years in the Fraternity and serving on any committees, and years of operating farming and cattle operations.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *The Masonic Charity Foundation is in position to assist all in the Fraternity and other worthwhile projects.*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007 requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. M.:W.: Brother Sander has neither been suspended nor expelled.

**Robert G. Davis** and his wife, Sharon, live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He is retired after serving for 30 years as the General Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies. He has served on the Board since 1983. He is Past Master of Garfield Lodge #591, Albert Pike Lodge #162, and Guildhall Lodge #553. Outside the Fraternity his non-profit experience includes Lion's Club, Arts and Humanities Council, while inside the Fraternity his experience includes being a member of the Steering Committee of the Masonic Information Center in Washington, D.C., the Masonic Restoration Foundation, the Scottish Rite Research Society, and the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" Brother Davis wrote: *I have served on the Board of the Foundation for 34 years. I have participated in all aspects of the Foundation and created a number of its current programs. Institutional knowledge is often important in sustaining progress and traditions.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: The Masonic Charity Foundation is the most important financial resource of the Fraternity in Oklahoma. It is the charitable arm of Oklahoma Freemasonry and it adds greatly to the public's view of Freemasonry. It is the partner of Lodges, a supporter of many worthy causes, and a source of protection for our members and widows when in need.

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007 requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Davis has neither been suspended nor expelled.

**Ronald J. Chambers** lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He is retired from American Airlines. He is a member of Delta Lodge #425, Altus Lodge #62, Broken Arrow Lodge #243, Tulsa Lodge #71, Will Rogers Lodge #53, and Pilgrim-Rock Lodge #522. He holds the Oklahoma Masonic Medal of Honor, and served as Most Worshipful Grand Master in 2014.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" M.:W.: Brother Chambers wrote: *Leadership and business experience; the desire to see that we can be of service not only to our Lodges and members but also to our communities as well.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By giving our Lodges an opportunity to become a more visible part of our communities.*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007 requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. M.:W.: Brother Chambers has neither been suspended nor expelled.