

The  
Yellow  
Book



Annual Committee Reports &  
Resolutions of the

M.:W.: Grand Lodge,  
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons  
of the State of Oklahoma

Together with the Reports of the  
Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer,  
& Grand Lecturer

November 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> A.:D.: 2019 - A.:L.: 6019

111<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication  
Guthrie, Oklahoma





**M.:W.: Michael L. Dixon  
Grand Master - 2019**

# Table of Contents

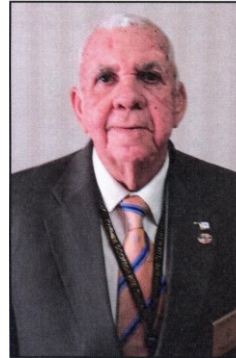
Report of the Grand Secretary . . . . .	5
Report of the Grand Treasurer . . . . .	9
Report of the Grand Lecturer. . . . .	12
Report of the Deputy Grand Lecturers. . . . .	14
Report of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. . . . .	15
Report of the Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations Commission. . .	24
The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo . . . . .	27
Reports of Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge	
Appeals & Grievances Committee . . . . .	30
Charters and Dispensations . . . . .	30
Constitution and Code Committee . . . . .	32
Finance and Appropriations Committee. . . . .	34
Proposed 2020 Budget . . . . .	36
Fraternal Correspondence Committee. . . . .	39
Hospital Service Committee. . . . .	42
Masonic Education Committee. . . . .	42
Publications Committee . . . . .	44
Publicity and Public Relations Committee. . . . .	45
Youth Activities Committee . . . . .	46
Reports of Ad Hoc Committees of the Grand Lodge	
Ch.I.P. Committee . . . . .	49
Statewide Forum Committee. . . . .	50
Strategic Planning Committee. . . . .	52
Unity Committee . . . . .	56
Vizavance Committee . . . . .	57
Resolutions	
Resolution #1 . . . . .	58
Resolution #2 . . . . .	60

## Report of the Grand Secretary

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

It is again my pleasure to submit this report to the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Trustees, and the members of the Craft of Oklahoma.



I want to thank all the Secretaries who have worked so hard in the transitioning to all electronic communication with most of our correspondence and reporting requirements. To date we only have five (5) lodges that have not reported an e-mail address to us. You have made the Secretaries Interface Program work well. We will continue to work with you to make all tasks as paperless as possible. Surely there is at least one member of those five lodges that has a home computer, laptop or smart phone that is willing to step forward and assist the secretary in making his task as secretary so much easier and enabling the lodge to receive important information on the same day it is sent out.

Within the next few weeks we will be changing companies that manages our data base. We will be switching to Grand View Software Systems, which we know will greatly improve your capabilities to manage more of your lodge operations on a much more user-friendly system. We have had several Secretaries running a test for us on this system and I am pleased to report that each one is pleased with this system. Without naming them I want to thank each of them for accomplishing the testing of the new system. I know that we are all resistant to change, myself included, but I assure you that when you try the new one you will ask why we haven't done this sooner. For example, you will have an accounting system included that will allow you and your officers to efficiently manage you lodge finances at all levels, just to mention one advantage.

The Perpetual Path Program continues to show excellent results. To date in 2019, we show 104 Perpetual Path Completions and 85 Traditional Path Completions which makes for a total of 189 new Master Masons. We have more Perpetual Path Degree dates scheduled before Grand Lodge in

November. It continues to be our experience, since the inception of this program, that Brothers who have not always advanced, because of time, vocations and many other reasons, will participate if they are informed of this option. Please remember that this is a lodge program, not one driven by Grand Lodge. Statistics show that over 50% of the Perpetual Path Brothers have become active in the activities of their lodge, including degree work. If you are not getting any petitions because your lodge cannot confer a degree please be advised that we have degree teams in different areas of the state that are ready, willing and able to do the degrees for you.

Suspension for non-payment of dues continues to be a huge problem. In 2018 we lost 641 Brothers to death and 495 to suspension for non-payment of dues. Thus far this year, we have lost 366 to death and 92 for suspension for non-payment of dues. In some instances, it has been found that some secretaries have suspended their members without action by the lodge. Several lodges have voted suspensions without having followed the prescribed procedures. We have been informed that some lodges do not send notices of the amounts their members owe for annual dues except in connection with the annual notice of election of Officers. I know that from calling several of these Brothers that they did not get a reminder. Many of these would never have been suspended if they had had a little encouragement through additional notices and a little personal interest shown by their brethren. Personal contact is still the best tool that you have, please use it.

Your Grand Lodge Staff continues to amaze me in the outstanding manner that each of them goes about fulfilling the needs of the lodge Secretaries and the many demands placed on them from other factions to insure that we accomplish each task head-on with no time wasted. Yvette, Linda, Kyle and Terry go “above and beyond” to attempt to give each of you the best support possible, despite of the limited resources available to us. When you have a chance, please thank them for all that they do for you and for Masonry in Oklahoma.

To my beloved friend and Brother Worshipful John Carter, MOH, Grand Chaplain, Editor of the Oklahoma Mason I can only say that you are one in a million. John serves as the Editor of the Oklahoma Mason without accepting any compensation for his labor or materials using his own equipment and working from his home in Madill. The fall issue of the Magazine is almost ready to post on the web site. Thank you, my Brother, for all that you do for Oklahoma Masonry.

Grand Master, Most Worshipful Michael L. Dixon, I have had the pleasure of working with you during your entire tenure on the Board of Trustees. Thank you, sir, for all that you have done, and will continue to do, for Oklahoma Masonry. You have travelled this state far and wide, mostly at your own expense, meeting with the craft on their level and doing presentations and many other things just because they asked. You have had some hard decisions to make this year and each one of them has been made with the best interest of Masonry in Oklahoma at heart. I appreciate the close coordination that you have had with me on all matters that have come before us. Most of all, I appreciate your friendship, and look forward to serving with you as a member of Oklahoma's Past Grand Masters.

I, again, want to give a personal thanks to our Grand Treasurer, R.: W.: David G. David for the many hours he spends working with our investors to get your Grand Lodge the best investments possible in today's economy. Please thank him whenever you see him for all that he does, mostly behind the scenes.

To the other Trustees I thank each of you for your hard work and your commitment to the craft of Oklahoma. Each of you have taken it upon yourselves of bearing almost all the expenses of doing your duty without receiving any reimbursement for your personal expenses. The Craft of Oklahoma is indebted to you for your service. I have no doubt that each of you will continue the programs that are now in place, so that we do not have to change programs each and every year. I pledge my continued support in all that you do in the future, as long as I remain your Grand Secretary.

To the Past Grand Masters, I thank each of you for your assistance and counsel whenever I called on you. Each of you continue to take your obligation seriously to assist the constituent lodges whenever the need arises.

To the Tribal Members of our Beloved Order of the Sacred White Buffalo I say thank you again for all the support, both monetary and in attendance. You continue to give since we restarted it in 2010, and you have increased the Grand Lodge Endowed Building Fund to \$140,869.00 as of July 31, 2019. I continue to be proud to serve with you in our Beloved Order.

As in the past, I thank each of you, my Brothers, for all that you do for MASONRY. WE CONTINUE TO BE OUR BROTHERS KEEPER and each of us plays a vital role in the greatest Fraternity in the world.

God bless, each of you and yours is my prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobby L. Laws, PGM  
Grand Secretary





# Report of the Grand Treasurer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of  
the State of Oklahoma



Brethren:

As I submit my 6<sup>th</sup> report as your Grand Treasurer, I want to thank you, my brethren, for your support. It is an Honor to serve Masonry in the State of Oklahoma as your Grand Treasurer, and I feel fortunate in having the opportunity to have a small part in building the financial structure of our Grand Lodge. At the same time, I realize that much remains to be done to insure the financial security and future of our fraternity.

Part of the duties of the Grand Treasurer are to receive all securities and funds for investment belonging to the Grand Lodge, make all investment of Grand Lodge with the approval of the Grand Lodge Trustees. These funds are:

- 1- General Fund
- 2- Perpetual Membership Fund
- 3- Pension Plan Trust Fund
- 4- Deferred Compensation Fund
- 5- Building Fund
- 6- Museum & Library Fund
- 7- ChIPs Fund

The General Funds are always a concern. Faced with a declining membership and resultant loss in Per Capita revenue, the Trustees, for years, have stressed the importance of building up endowed funds to provide enough interest to support the financial needs of our General Fund.

The approved General Fund budget for 2014, my first year as Grand Treasurer, was \$484,000.00. The approved budget for 2018 was \$419,777.94, a decline over these five years of \$64,222.06. \$72,055 of this budget was raised by the Deputy Grand Master's fundraiser which represent 20% of 2018 revenue, not per capita or investment income. Only 6% of our members participated in the fundraiser. Over this same five years, the

Grand Lodge expenses continue rising. We, the Craft, keep asking our Trustees to do the same, if not more, year after year with less!

The passage of Resolution #2 during the 2018 Grand Lodge Session, which increased our Per Capita \$5.00 per year for 3 years, will help your Grand Lodge Trustees maintain the services needed by our local Lodges, and the future of Freemasonry in Oklahoma. The last increase to Per Capita was in 1998, when our membership was 38,000 members.

The budget that was approved for the 2019 fiscal year was \$457,292.00. Of this, \$66,200 was raised by the Deputy Grand Master's fundraiser. Also approved was making available \$133,443.00 from investment reserves, if needed. As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, none of the reserve funds have been expended.

Through the first 11 months of the management of your Grand Lodge, your Trustees have met monthly and have continued their fiduciary responsibilities. The budgeted revenues and expenses are amortized over the twelve months of operation, and, to date, is well within the guidelines of the approved 2019 Budget.

We are re-writing our Investment Policy, Guidelines, and Objectives for the Grand Lodge, and approved by a vote of the Trustees. The Trustees approved re-balancing our allocation of assets. The General Fund stands, as of August 31, 2019, at \$1,410,824.67. This represents an increase of \$101,227.21 from the same time in 2018. With the present low interest rates in the bond market we have moved to, as of September 24<sup>th</sup>, we have \$778,838.38 in funds in equity stock investments with higher estimated dividends, or annual income. From the inception date of 03/19/2015, the rate of return has been 7.0%. The return rate in 2019 to date has been 17.4%, leaving \$401,447.19 in government-backed Ginnie Mae and Fannie Mae bonds.

I am pleased to report that the Perpetual Endowed Membership Fund, as of August 31, 2019, stands at \$5,762,248.89. Again, with low interest rates in the bond market, the Trustees voted to re-balance funds. We have invested \$3,182,042.91 in equity stock investments. From the inception date of 02/16/2018, the rate of return has been 4%. As of 09/24/2019, the return rate for this fiscal year has been 21.2%. This leaves \$2,523,988.18 in bond investments, with the balance in checking, NOW checking, and brokerage cash funds. This is an increase of \$295,492.20 over 2018 totals.

We are not experiencing the high interest rate of years gone by, 8%, 10%, or 12%, in the bonds market; however, Perpetual Membership is still good for the member and his Lodge. Some brethren are adding to their perpetual funds to increase their returns to their lodge. Some are paying their Lodge the difference between their perpetual funds earnings and the lodge dues. Looking back over just the past five years, the yield on our bond investments looked very good. 2013 income yield was \$425,021 or 8.03%, 2014 income yield was \$445,797 or 7.33%, 2015 income yield was \$505,356 or 8.37%, 2016 income yield was \$444,468 or 7.31%, and 2017 income yield was only \$218,870 or 4.10%, with a five year average return of 7.03%, not bad. However, the bond interest rates continue to decline.

As of this writing I do not have the percentage of return for our bonds for 2019. However, we all know the rate of return on bonds has not been increasing. This is why the Investment Policy Committee and your Trustees approved the rebalancing of our investments. We will continue looking to obtain the highest interest and dividend rates available on safe investments.

As of August 31, 2019, The Pension Trust has a market value of \$63,115.19. The Building Endowment Fund's market value is \$226,685.14, as well as property and equipment. Two dollars of our current members Per Capita dues is paid each year into our Building Endowment Fund to help keep our beautiful Grand Lodge building for future generations. The Library & Museum market value is \$180,032.38, as well as property and equipment. Deferred Compensation checking account balance \$2,855.72. ChIPS Fund checking account balance is \$18,311.40.

Our Deputy Grand Master's fundraiser has collected \$45,213.11 to be used towards Grand Lodge 2020 budget.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the excellent accounting service rendered to the Grand Lodge, and the excellent work of our staff and Grand Secretary. Their reports and help enable the Trustees to closely monitor the financial conditions of your Grand Lodge.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

David G. David,  
Grand Treasurer

# Report of the Grand Lecturer

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

Brethren:



In submitting to you this, my 10th report as your Grand Lecturer, I want to express my sincere thanks to the Grand Lodge Officers, the Deputy Grand Lecturers, the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Certificate Lecturers, the Office Staff, and the Craft at large for your assistance and support throughout this year.

The Deputy Grand Lecturers have done an outstanding job at holding District Schools of Instruction. For the period beginning September 1, 2018 and ending August 31, 2019 they have held 32 District Schools for a total of 40 days of instruction with a total attendance of 236.

As of August 31, 2019, there are 6 District Schools scheduled before the 2019 Grand School session with several districts that have not held schools. During Grand School 2018, a total of 112 Certificate Lecturers signed in. Total attendance for the 3 days was 190. The Board of Grand Lecturers have held 2 meetings at the time of this report, with 2 more meetings before Grand School.

I want to thank our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Mike Dixon, for an outstanding Board of Grand Lecturers. They have worked diligently to make our schools a success, and for their work with the Basic Blue Program. Remember, you must register through the Grand Secretary's Office to enroll your lodge in the Basic Blue Program.

## **Reception of The Grand Master/ Past Grand Master**

The reception of the Grand Master/ Past Grand Masters was designed to be performed in a Tiled or closed Meeting. The diagrams for performing this are found in the front of the Murrow Monitor, these diagrams are considered esoteric.

It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Grand Lecturers, that over the last several years the reception of the Grand Lodge Officers has

been performed in a Tiled and Open meeting setting, at the discretion of the Grand Master.

It is the consensus of this Board that the precedent has been set for many years now, that this can be done in an open or closed meeting, continuing with the formation of lines for the reception, but remembering the Due Guard and Signs and the Private Grand Honors can only be given in a Tiled Lodge.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the craft for all the support they have given to me over these past ten years. It has been my honor to serve this Grand Jurisdiction as Grand Lecturer, and any progress or accomplishments that have been made I owe to you, the craft, and for the mistakes or failures, I am only too glad to take responsibility for them.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Ronald E. Wray  
Grand Lecturer

# Report of the Deputy Grand Lecturers

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

Brethren,

For the period beginning September 1, 2018 and ending August 31, 2019, the Deputy Grand Lecturers have held 32 Schools of Instruction for a total of 40 days of instruction, with a total attendance of 236.

As of August 31, 2019, we have held 2 meetings of the Board of Grand Lecturers, with 2 more scheduled before Grand School 2019.

Attendance has continued to grow at the IRONMAN School of Instruction held the second Saturday in February, at Yukon Lodge #90.

The TOUGH SCHOOL was held at Oklahoma Lodge #4, Atoka, on the second Saturday of August, and was very well attended this year. This was the 28<sup>th</sup> year that the event was held.

Broken Arrow No. 243 started the Master Builder school of Instruction which was held on April 27, 2019 and was very well attended

Brethren, please put these three Schools of Instruction on your calendars and come be a part of these great schools.

We would like to thank Grand Master Dixon for continuing the Deputy Grand Lecturer Assistants program. We feel it is vital to our ritual. We added five members this year, Charlie Babb, Bob East, Tim Self, David Dill and Buddy Vaughn.

The Board of Grand Lecturers will be helping again with the Basic Blue program next year, and we hope your lodge will enroll in this program.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Board of Grand Lecturers

R.:W.: Ronald Wray, Chairman

M.:W.: Glenn Almy DGL     Artie Staggs DGL     Steve Peters DGL

Glen Chaney DGL     Carl Shelton DGL     Donald Wray DGL

Benson Steddum, Jr. DGL     M.:W.: Ron Coppedge DGL

Delbert Wilson DGL     R. Keith Madden DGL

# Report of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient  
Free and Accepted Masons of the State of  
Oklahoma



Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma is an Oklahoma not for profit corporation formed on July 9, 1930, to encourage charity, benevolence, education, and philanthropy. It was created so that the institutional giving of Oklahoma Freemasonry could be better focused and coordinated. The activities of the Foundation do not replace those of the individual Masons; they merely serve to supplement them.

## **MANAGEMENT**

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of twenty-two members. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma elects fifteen of the Directors, three each year, for a five-year term. There are also three Directors representing the Scottish Rite, one from each Valley, three Directors representing the York Rite, one from each Grand Body, and one Director from the Order of the Eastern Star. Board members receive no monetary compensation of any kind. The Foundation has full-time staff working in the Edmond office, under the direction of John L. Logan, Executive Director. The following officers were elected to serve for 2019:

President	William J. Cloud
1st VP	Neil A. Stitt
2nd VP	C. Kent Callahan
Treasurer	Elwood M. Isaacs
Secretary	Robert G. Davis
Ass't Sec.	John L. Logan

## **FINANCIAL**

The Foundation 12/31/18 consolidated financial report reflects total assets of \$90,990,627.31. Total charitable giving for the 2018 year was

\$7,028,946. The 2019 consolidated budget projects expenditures of \$4,765,253.

### **COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR**

In 2019, the Masonic Charity Foundation was recognized by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitative Services as the Community Leader of the Year. This recognition was in response to an extensive grant project in December 2018 which eliminated a 3-year-long waiting list for the Senior Citizen Hearing Aid Program administered by Oklahoma School for the Deaf. The program provides a free hearing aid to seniors, veterans, and disabled adults with acute hearing loss.

Due to reduced funding over the last several years, the program's waiting list continued to grow, resulting in new clients on the list waiting approximately three years for services. The wait had grown so long that many people on the waiting list were passing away before receiving services.

A Masonic Charity Foundation grant provided funding for approximately 776 people to be fitted with hearing aids, making it possible for the program to serve every person on the waiting list without further delay.

### **LODGE MATCHING FUNDS**

This program was established in 1983 and designed to encourage and support local Lodges in the area of charity by matching local Lodge monetary contributions in the areas of scholarships, local disasters, local charitable causes, and local community services. In 2018, 215 Lodges used the program for \$1,644,873. Since the beginning of the Matching Funds Program, the Foundation has contributed \$30,505,576 in support of local charitable or educational projects, and with the local lodges participation has created a minimum of \$61,011,152 of support for local community needs.

Matching Funds dollars have allowed lodges to double their fundraising ability in support of local community needs. In 2018, Matching Funds provided an additional \$721,626 in support for youth and public education, \$121,966 to local fire, police, and veterans organizations, \$444,803 to individuals in need (or organizations who provide direct services to needy individuals), \$64,399 to senior citizen centers and charities who provide aid to seniors, \$82,436 to Masonic Youth Orders, and \$37,628 to support local museums, parks, and historic preservation projects. Matching Funds dollars and lodge fundraising injected nearly \$3,000,000 into community charitable and educational projects.



## **PROMISES MATTER**

The Foundation stands ready to assist those Lodges and OES Chapters in caring for their needy members through matching funds or direct grants. Each Lodge or Chapter is in the best position to know which of its members need assistance. Lodges may use their entire \$12,500 allotment of matching funds for Promises Matter activities. In 2018, Promises Matter Matching Funds provided an additional \$171,012 to assist female members of OES as well as Master Masons and their widows with immediate financial needs due to illness, injury, or other hardship. Also, 17 different Lodges and 4 OES Chapters received Promises Matter Grants totaling \$99,058. The average grant amount distributed was \$4,717.

**Masonry in Action Award** program began in 2013 to recognize lodges that do an outstanding job in utilizing the Foundation programs. The Foundation allows each winning lodge the opportunity to specify a worthy non-profit in their community to receive a \$5,000.00 grant. In 2019 Washington 406 was the small lodge category winner, and Owasso 545 won the large lodge class. Washington 406 designated their prize funds to provide charitable grants of \$2,500 each to Delta Community Action and McClain County Operation Christmas. Owasso 545 awarded their \$5,000 community grant to an outdoor education program administered by the Owasso Fraternal Order of Police. Congratulations to both lodges!

## **PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS**

The Foundation works with other organizations to achieve worthwhile goals and make Masonic charity more visible across the State of Oklahoma.

**Partners in Prevention** is a partnership with **Vizavance**, formerly known as Prevent Blindness Oklahoma. Lodges statewide sponsor vision and glaucoma screenings, targeting the young and the elderly. The Foundation provided \$200,000 in 2018 and had budgeted \$240,000 for 2019 to support the ongoing costs of the program, including five (5) new SPOT cameras to aid in effectively screening children or adults who are nonverbal or unable to read a traditional eye chart. In February of 2017, the 4-millionth child was screened through this partnership. The Foundation has provided over \$4 million in support of this important work since the program's inception.

**Food Bank** support has been an annual program since 2011. In 2018 the Fight Childhood Hunger Campaign resulted in \$50,000.00 being donated to the Regional Food Bank and \$35,000.00 being donated to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The 2019 Masonic Match to Fight Childhood Hunger campaign will run from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September

30<sup>th</sup>. This statewide effort is a combined effort of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma, and Griffin Communications (Channel 9 in OKC and Channel 6 in Tulsa). Food Bank is one of three projects with statewide visibility that attempts to enhance the image of the Fraternity while supporting a significant charitable or educational purpose.

**FFA Masonic Endowment Campaign** began in 2016 to establish a one-million-dollar endowment for the FFA. The FFA Masonic Endowment is one of three projects with statewide visibility that attempts to enhance the image of the Fraternity while supporting a significant charitable or educational purpose. A summary of the FFA Endowment program is as follows:

- Target = \$1,000,000
- 2016 – December 31, 2018 Lodge Funds + Matching Funds = \$70,934.
- Private donations = \$11,100
- 2018 MCFO Grants = \$917,966
- Remaining = \$0.00

**The Oklahoma State Department of Education**-Our support for public education was demonstrated in nine statewide programs.

1. **The Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year** program honors teachers who make outstanding contributions to the public education of our youth. The State Teacher of the Year is awarded a check for \$5,000, the State Teacher of the Year's school district receives \$5,000, each of the eleven finalists receives a check for \$1,000 and each of the Rising Star award recipients receives \$500. Each local Teacher of the Year receives a framed certificate of appreciation.
2. **The Student of Today Award** is a program that encourages outstanding performance in students of all grade levels by recognizing exemplary students. Each recipient receives a certificate, usually by a local Mason, at their school's awards assembly or some Lodges host banquets for the winners. In 2018, the Foundation prepared 2,584 certificates for presentation.
3. **The Teacher of Today Award** program is used by Freemasonry in Oklahoma to say "thanks" to those hundreds of teachers across our state that make a daily difference in the lives of our children. Each teacher receives a certificate presented by the local Lodge. It is a small token to express our appreciation to these men and women who carry the burden of the future on their shoulders. In 2018, the Foundation prepared 904 certificates for presentation.
4. **The State Superintendent's Awards for Arts Excellence** honor the Fifty top high school seniors in the visual and performing arts in our state. Also, the top school administrators and school board

members are honored during a prestigious formal reception at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple. The students are presented medals by the Grand Master and State Superintendent of Education. The 2019 event will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple.

5. **Higher Education Endowments:** The last of the Higher Education Endowments were presented in 2018 and the program is now complete, making the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma (via the Masonic Charity Foundation) the first organization to place endowments at every publicly funded college and university in Oklahoma. The project utilized \$2,700,000 of Foundation funds and established a Masonic presence at each state-funded institution of higher learning. The goal of this program was to place a Masonic endowment at every publicly funded university and college in Oklahoma. A total of \$2,700,000 in endowed funds have been placed since 2008, as follows:

Oklahoma State University, Masonic Chair	2008	\$500,000
Northwestern Oklahoma State University	2010	\$100,000
East Central University	2010	\$100,000
Southwestern Oklahoma State University	2010	\$100,000
Southeastern Oklahoma State University	2010	\$100,000
University of Central Oklahoma	2010	\$100,000
Northeastern State University	2010	\$100,000
Panhandle State University	2011	\$100,000
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma	2011	\$100,000
Langston University	2011	\$100,000
Cameron University	2011	\$100,000
Rogers State University	2012	\$100,000
University of Oklahoma	2012, 2018	\$500,000
Redlands Community College	2013	\$ 50,000
Murray State College	2013	\$ 50,000
Northern Oklahoma College	2014	\$ 50,000
Tulsa Community College	2014	\$ 50,000
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College	2015	\$ 50,000
Oklahoma City Community College	2015	\$ 50,000
Rose State College	2016	\$ 50,000
Eastern Oklahoma State College	2016	\$ 50,000
Connors State College Dvlpmnt Fndtn	2017	\$ 50,000
Carl Albert State College Dvlpmnt Fndtn	2017	\$ 50,000
Seminole State College Educational Foundation	2018	\$ 50,000
Western Oklahoma State College Foundation	2018	\$ 50,000

6. **The Payne Education Center** is a non-profit organization established in 1984. Since 1996 the Foundation has supported the

Payne Education Center's Reading Readiness program designed to train kindergarten and transitional 1st-grade teachers by providing scholarships for enhanced reading techniques. In 2018, \$42,500 in funding was provided for teacher scholarships, plus an additional \$25,000 grant to support the digitization of training content for increased access to materials in rural areas or after training is complete. For 2019, the Foundation budgeted \$42,500 for this program.

7. **The Youth Scholarship Program** funding is through the Education Endowment. The scholarship program is open to members of the DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow. This year ninety scholarships of \$2,000.00 each were budgeted, and eighty-eight were awarded as follows: DeMolay 18, Job's Daughters 8, and Rainbow 62.
8. **High School Ethics Bowl** is a competitive program sponsored by the SEED Foundation through funding in large part from the Masonic Charity Foundation. The Oklahoma Region High School Ethics Bowl competition for the 2018-2019 school year occurred Saturday, January 19, 2019, at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in Oklahoma City. Even though this will be only the program's third year in operation, Oklahoma is currently the largest region in the nation. The winning team from the Oklahoma Region competition will be invited to compete at the national competition in Chapel Hill, North Carolina this April. The SEED Foundation continues to express gratitude for the financial support of the Masonic Charity Foundation provides the High School Ethics Bowl program. This year's winning teams were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Dove Science Academy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Norman North HS; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics. The Masonic Charity Foundation provided \$50,000 in total funding to support the 2019 and 2020 Oklahoma Region High School Ethics Bowl programs and provide a stipend to the winning school for travel expenses to the national competition in North Carolina.
9. **Senior Essay Contest** – The Senior Essay Contest was launched in 1966 in support of education. Writing has been found to teach critical thinking skills. The essay contest is open to all seniors in Oklahoma public schools. It is sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma as part of its continuing commitments to education and the young people of our state. Cash prizes in both the Men's and Women's division range from \$2,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place to \$200 for 10<sup>th</sup> place. Also, a \$5,000.00 grant will be made to each of the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners high school. For the 2018 – 2019 contests, there were 1,101 seniors who entered the contest. A total of \$13,700 was awarded to the 20 statewide winners of the contest, and \$5,000.00 grants to the schools of each of the statewide first place winners. Certificates for presentation to the local division winners of 124 high

schools sponsored by 98 Lodges will be provided to the local Lodge.

**Senior Assistance Program**-Through an agreement with the Oklahoma Area Agencies on Aging, a division of the Department of Human Services, \$783,261 was given in December 2018 to assist needy Oklahomans aged 55 and over with services not covered by existing government programs during the calendar year 2019. Since the inception of this program in 2007, the Foundation has donated a total of \$9,407,309 in the name of the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma to enhance the lives of seniors in our communities. These eleven agencies can be accessed by calling 1-800-211-2116 or at [www.okdhs.org](http://www.okdhs.org).

### **CHARITABLE GRANTS**

In addition to partnerships with other charitable organizations or agencies, the Masonic Charity Foundation makes several grants each year to support Public Education, Public Wellness, and Public Charities. Some highlights of 2018 grantmaking are:

- Gifts to The Children's Center totaling \$125,000 helped to provide large pieces of medical equipment, including a modern bone-density scanner to replace the facility's 20-year old, outdated machine. This equipment helps The Children's Center provide care for children with the highest level of medical or rehabilitative care requirements. The Children's Center is the only facility in Oklahoma, offering this level of care specifically to youth.
- NewView Oklahoma is the largest employer of low-vision people in Oklahoma and provides services of a broad nature to people with profound vision impairment. Masonic Charity grants of \$200,000 in support of the Home for Hope campaign help provide services to people experiencing vision loss all across Oklahoma.
- A \$100,000 gift to provide dentures and other required dental materials for low-income seniors, veterans, and disabled Oklahomans was provided to D-DENT, a nonprofit network of dentists who donate their time and facilities to provide charitable dental care. Patients utilizing D-DENT services are charged nothing for their dental care and dentures; dentists donate their time and facilities, and D-DENT provides the funding to cover necessary lab work and dentures.
- Gifts totaling \$100,000 were awarded to therapeutic riding centers in 2018. These equine facilities provide a number of animal therapy programs that benefit vulnerable citizens: seniors who have memory care or mobility issues experience the joy of equine companionship and physical activity, reading programs support school-aged children in classroom work, children and adults with disabilities are

able to participate in an active lifestyle, and veterans suffering from PTSD find a unique option for recovery.

- Hearts for Hearing provides audiology and speech pathology services in a unique one-stop setting for children with loss of hearing. Charitable services for young children ensure that children can learn to speak, connect with the world around them, and become self-sufficient members of their families and communities. A \$25,000 grant from the Masonic Charity Foundation in 2018 will provide audiology and therapy services for deaf children in 2019.
- The Cavett Kids Foundation helps children with terminal or chronic illnesses thrive by using camp experiences to provide character building, coping skills, and connection. Camps are provided for kids of every age who may be dealing with heart issues, cancer, or other maladies. The \$20,000 in camp funding by Masonic charity in 2018 will provide two of Cavett's highest level camp experiences throughout the year.
- The YMCA Military Welcome Center at Will Rogers International Airport provides a safe location for military personnel to rest, access mail and telephone services, find refreshment, and prepare for the journey onward. The Masonic Charity Foundation provided \$10,000 to support the operation of this facility in 2018.
- To further support Oklahoma veterans, the Oklahoma City Veterans Center received a Foundation grant which provided a stars-and-stripes themed golf cart to shuttle VA patients at the Lawton clinic from the parking lot into the facility.

#### **SUPPORT OF MASONIC GROUPS**

- Masonic Charity supports Masonic youth orders! In addition to over \$80,000 in Matching Funds provided to local DeMolay, Rainbow, and Jobs Daughters chapters and bethels during 2018, the Foundation also provided over \$122,000 in scholarships to youth order members, as well as \$10,000 to each youth order's state-level trust to support ongoing programming and scholarships.
- The Guthrie Scottish Rite and McAlester Scottish Rite were awarded grants of \$200,000 each to provide necessary repairs and maintenance for historical site preservation. These non-endowed funds are intended to provide high-priority repair and restoration of these Oklahoma Masonic treasures.
- Each year, the Masonic Charity Foundation supports a charitable or educational cause or project of the Grand Master's choice. In 2018, a \$5,000 grant was provided to Grace Child Development Center in Altus to provide educational experiences and charitable care for the young children of families in need.
- Each year, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma contributes to the programming of several national Masonic organizations:

- Gifts totaling \$1 per Oklahoma member are made by Masonic Charity Foundation every year to support the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.
- An annual gift of \$1,500 is made to the Masonic Information Center, an organization operated under the Masonic Service Association of North America which provides information on Freemason publicly and which responds to critics of Freemasonry.
- The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma supports every plea from the Masonic Services Association of North America for disaster support with a \$1,000 donation. In 2018, gifts of \$1,000 each were granted to support disaster recovery efforts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Guatemala, Florida, and California.
- Oklahoma Masonic charity also provides annual contributions of \$4,000 to the Masonic Service Association of North America's Hospital Visitation Program, making Oklahoma's support of this program competitive on a national level.

### **Foundation Activities**

A report of the Foundation activities including its audited financial statements is made annually to the MW Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and is printed in its annual proceedings. Additional information can also be found at the Foundation's website, [www.mcfok.org](http://www.mcfok.org). We also make an effort to share positive stories regarding Masonic activities on Facebook.

It has been a great honor to serve as the Foundation President, and I thank the members for the opportunity to serve in this important work.

Respectfully submitted,  
William James Cloud, President

# Report of the Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations Commission



To the 2019 Officers and  
Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

In 2004, our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Session and the 2005 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Session each adopted a written Compact, agreeing:

to establish and implement a simple form of Masonic recognition; to provide for successful coexistence; to ensure a continuing harmonious relationship; to promote Masonry in general;

to have a mutual regard for the right of each Grand Lodge to retain its absolute and supreme sovereignty;

to memorialize the legitimate right of each to exist and operate within the geographic bounds of the State of Oklahoma;

and, to secure the blessings of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

Additionally, the above Compact established the Joint Masonic Fraternal Relations Commission (JMFRC), composed of three (3) members from each Grand Lodge who are knowledgeable of the history of the Compact. These members are to meet to consider and make recommendations concerning issues, conflicts, disputes or questions arising out of the Compact. As of this writing, the JMFRC has held twenty-eight meetings since its creation. It is our pleasure to inform this Grand Lodge Session there have been absolutely no conflicts or disputes arising from this Compact between our two Grand Lodges.



In 2008 the Compact was amended by both Grand Lodges to permit tiled visitation among the constituent Lodges of both Grand Lodges.

Therefore, the relationship between our two Grand Lodges is as follows:

The two sovereign Grand Lodges have 100% recognition of each other, as described above.

There is 100% tiled visitation of members among the constituent Lodges chartered by the two Grand Lodges.

There is no plural membership of a member of one Grand Lodge with a Lodge of the other Grand Lodge.

With visitations now occurring between constituent lodges of both jurisdictions, it is especially important that all constituent lodges of our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge observe the Protocol for Visitation, namely:

- a) notification of visitation in advance,
- b) adhere to dress code of lodge being visited,
- c) be examined by the lodge you are visiting, and
- d) examine the brother's dues card.

These elements of fraternal protocol will generate good relations between the lodges who are experiencing visitation.

Our Grand Master and other Grand Lodge leaders continue to be received at the annual Prince Hall Grand Lodge Session with a maximum of fraternal courtesy and respect. Our Grand Lodge appreciates these genuine displays of brotherly love and affection.

The JMFRC believes, that after Recognition and tiled Lodge Visitation, our next step in establishing good fraternal relations between Grand Lodges is sponsoring some joint non-tiled events. The Commission believes that when members from each Grand Lodge attend such an event, they will get to know each other and

become friends. Those friendships will well serve both our Grand Lodges.

Our Grand Lodge continues to be invited to the annual PHA golf tournament and District 9 picnic held in September in Midwest City. Additionally, the leaders of the major branches of our AF&AM Masonic family are invited to the Prince Hall Americanism Day in Oklahoma City. Leaders are invited to wear the regalia of their office and bring their spouses. A delicious meal follows.

A very significant act of visitation and understanding occurs when the PHA Grand Historian is invited to Oklahoma A.F. & A.M. Lodges to explain the history of Prince Hall Masonry. Correct information and genuine friendships help cement fraternal relations between our two Most Worshipful Grand Lodges.

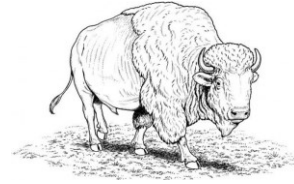
Respectfully submitted,

Ronald S. Coppedge, P.:G.:M.:, Chairman

Ronald J. Chambers, P.:G.:M.:

Joe R. Manning, Jr., P.:G.:M.:

# Report of the Order of The Sacred White Buffalo



The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo held its annual Pow Wow on Saturday 17 August 2019 in the Grand Lodge building at Guthrie, Oklahoma. Registration began at 9:30 A.M. We had a total of 69 members and candidates register for the annual gathering of the Tribe. At noon, as in the past, a delicious catered meal was enjoyed by all. 70 meals were served at a cost of \$915.60

At 1:00 P.M. all candidates and members gathered in the Master Mason Room for the Degree and Business meeting. The Chief of the Tribe, W.: Brother Stanley Pospisil, MOH welcomed all present and led the opening Flag Salute. M.: W.: Ronald J. Chambers, MOH and Past Grand Master and Past Director of the Indian Degree Team presented a very interesting history of the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team since its inception in 1955. A copy of his presentation paper is attached to these minutes. At this point the World Renowned Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team entered in full regalia and took their positions. The team then did a very special song flag salute and an Indian opening prayer accompanied by the Tribal drum. The team then proceeded with the conferral of the degree. There were 8 candidates present for the degree which was presented in an outstanding manner. Two (2) of the Candidates purchased a Perpetual Membership and one member purchased a Perpetual Membership.

At this point the annual business meeting was conducted under the direction of our Chief, Worshipful Stanley Pospisil. The minutes of the previous meeting (August 18, 2018) were summarized and approved. The Keeper of the Wampum reported the Endowed White Buffalo Fund to be \$140,869.00 as of 31 July, 2019. The 2018 minutes were approved as printed and summarized. The Chief then called for the election of officers for the ensuing year and asked for the report of the nomination committee, composed of M. W. C. W. "Corky" Grigsby, Past Grand Master; M.: W.: Ridge Smith, Past Grand Master, and

M.: W.: Rick Allison, Past Grand Master. Brother Grigsby reporting for the committee announced the following nominations:

Chief of the Tribe-----Thomas Galbraith  
Senior Warrior-----A. J. "Jim" Scheffler, Jr.  
Junior Warrior-----Steve McMall  
Keeper of the Wampum-----Yvette Story  
Scribe-----Bobby L. Laws, P.G.M.  
Shaman-----Gloria Fortney  
Keepers of the Talking Smoke-----Guy & Toni Brigman &  
Ron Chambers, MOH  
Tribal Lookout-----John Carter, MOH

Trustees:

W.: Mike Dixon, Past Chief-----1 Year  
R.: Dallas Fortney, Past Chief-----2 Years  
W.: Stanley Pospisil, MOH, Past Chief-----3 Years

There being no further nominations, the above members were elected by acclamation. The Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Bob Peters, MOH, at the request of the Tribal Chief, then installed the officers. He then introduced his Grand Lodge Officers that were present, including the (4) Medal of Honor Brothers that were in attendance. The Deputy Grand Master thanked all present for their attendance and making contributions to the Grand Lodge Endowed building fund through our White Buffalo endeavors. The out-going Chief, Brother Stanley Pospisil, and the Deputy Grand Master then presented Member Certificates and pins to the 8 candidates, one (1) of whom had purchased a Family Perpetual and one (1) an individual Perpetual. The team then did a special tribute to all the United States Armed Forces Veterans present and a special dance with several of the ladies and veterans. W. Brother Butch McIntosh gave an explanation of tribal dress which was enjoyed by all. Sister Gloria Fortney, member of the team and Perpetual Member of the Tribe, gave the Lord's Prayer in Indian Sign language accompanied by verbal music. The Tribal Chief then closed the gathering in due form with peace and harmony prevailing.

The degree team stayed in their regalia for a short time, for pictures to be made with the team for those that desired. Many members took advantage of this opportunity. One group picture of the team with all new members was made.

After the photo session a special auction of several special donations was conducted. Some of the donated items included:

1. A beautiful picture puzzle in a nice frame donated by Mary Beth Davis.
2. White Buffalo framed Glass etching by Troy Collier donated by Bobby & Linda laws.
3. Several special jewelry items donated by the Scheffler family.

Proceeds from the auction netted \$20,396.00 which is the largest amount made at the auction to date.

Dues collected in July & August of 2019-----	\$ 7,460.00
Petitioners, dues, meals, pins, patches-----	\$ 21,240.00
TOTAL INCOME-----	\$ 28,700.00
Lunch Expense-----	\$ 915.60
Net _____	<u>\$ 27,784.40</u>

The next annual Tribal Gathering will be on Saturday, August 15, 2020 at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie.

Bobby L. Laws  
Scribe

Stanley Pospisil, MOH  
Chief 2018-2019

Thomas Galbraith  
Chief 2019-2020

# Reports of the Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma

## Report of the Committee on Appeals & Grievances



To The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Ancient  
Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances is pleased to report that as of the writing, no issues have been referred to us for our review.

Should our services be needed after this report has been submitted, a supplemental report will be given at the next Grand Lodge session.

We thank the Grand Master for giving us the opportunity to be of service to the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bradley S. Rickelman, P.:G.:M.:, Chairman  
Richard E. Massad, P.:G.:M.:

# Report of the Committee on Charters & Dispensations



To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
Of the State of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

We, the Committee on Charters and Dispensations, are honored to have been asked to serve the Fraternity in this capacity and thank you for the opportunity.

As of September 1, 2019, there have not been any requests for Dispensations of new Lodges.

All other Dispensations were reviewed and approved at the quarterly Jurisprudence meetings.

We owe our thanks to the Grand Secretary, who supplied the Charters and Dispensations Committee with records in accordance with Article VI, Section 601 C.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Owen, P.:G.:M.: Chairman

Ronald S. Coppedge, P.:G.:M.:

Gary A. Davis, P.:G.:M.:

# Report of the Committee on the Constitution and Code



To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State  
of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

The Constitution and Code Committee is pleased to report that nine (9) Resolutions were presented to the Grand Lodge Body for consideration. Of those, numbers 3, 4, 5, and 9 did not receive the required number of votes to become law. The following Resolutions were passed and have been properly entered in the Constitution and Code of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

## CHANGE RECORD for 2018

<u>Page</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Comment or Change Effect</u>	<u>Source</u>
18	201		Establishes guidelines for	Resolution
46	302		Electronic Voting at	1A, 1B, 1C
48	304		Grand Lodge session	
39	502A		Raises Per Capita Income by \$5.00 per year, starting in 2020 and ending in 2022 at \$25.00 per non-perpetual membership.	Resolution 2
18	201	2	Makes filing fee for Grand Lodge office non-refundable	Resolution 6
48	706	1	Makes filing fee for MCFO board Non-refundable	Resolution 7
67	U308	E&F	Makes the order of business flow more efficiently	Resolution 8



NOTE: This Committee is pleased to report that both the 2018 Constitution and Code update pages and a current complete 2018 Constitution and Code are now posted on the Grand Lodge website for use by the craft.

We thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the opportunity to be of service to the craft. We wish to again offer a special thanks to Yvette Story and Kyle Smith for providing many hours of coordinating and typing the changes, which were printed and mailed to the lodges prior to December 31, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe R. Manning, Jr., P.:G.:M.:, Chairman  
Bobby L. Laws, P.:G.:M.:  
Ronald Chambers, P.:G.:M.:

# Report of the Committee on Finance and Appropriations, with the 2020 Budget

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Oklahoma 2019

The 2020 Grand Lodge budget is submitted for your consideration and approval. The budget is based on the audited financial reports of our Grand Lodge, as well as, additional information that has a direct bearing on future estimated revenues and expenses. We continue the recently adopted practice of using the Deputy Grand Master's fundraiser to absorb all of the Officer's Expense, which has the effect of removing these expenses from the overall budget. The fundraiser collected approximately \$46,000.00 net of expense for use in 2020.

This budget process dealt with issues that currently are or will be affecting potentially every Masonic Lodge. Specifically, that dues revenue continues to decline as a result of mortal attrition. The other large income stream, investment income, fluctuates according to uncontrollable market influences and is difficult to reliably predict. Additionally, some expenses, including building insurance and upkeep, continue to creep upwards putting pressure on overall finances and reduce the funds available for charitable purposes.

The continuing decline in revenue is not a situation we believe will end anytime soon. While the number of perpetual dues-paying Brothers has slowly crept up from 9,449 in 2015 to 9,904 in 2018, the number of annual dues-paying brothers has dropped nearly 16% or by 2,031 Brothers in those same three years.

The per-capita increase approved in 2018, effective this year, will increase the dues income stream from here forward, but it is also dependent on the declining number of lodge members. Our investment portfolio balances have also declined since 2014 providing a lower interest and dividend income. It is clear that long term solutions need to be initiated at both the Grand Lodge and Blue Lodge levels to stabilize our finances and position Oklahoma Masonry for a solid future.

It is the Committee's goal to present to the Craft a 2020 budget that is balanced and does not include withdrawals from investment principal. This is a significant departure from prior years' and includes reductions in many expense areas in order to keep the budget in balance. These reductions were not easy to make, but necessary to promote fiscal responsibility and ensure a stable future for the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

For the Good,  
The Finance And Appropriations Committee  
Stephen F. Dawson, Chair  
John L. Logan, Member  
Stephen Ridenour, Member

# Proposed 2020 Budget

<b>Revenues</b>	
Per Capita	161,000.00
Perpetual Interest	58,900.00
GL Dues	997.50
Degree Fees	760.00
Dispensations	190.00
Credit Card Program	5,300.00
Interest Income – Banks	342.00
Dividends	36,500.00
Interest Income – Bonds	24,225.00
Interest Income – CD	95.00
Recovered Exp - Sale Small Items	57,000.00
Purchases/Resale - Small Items	(19,380.00)
Annual Communications	1,140.00
Fundraisers	0.00
Rental Income	<u>5,700.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>332,769.50</u></b>

<b>Revenues</b>	
Deputy Grand Master fundraiser (formerly GM)	46,000.00
Other Income	0.00
Masonic Leadership Conference	4,500.00
Secretary School	<u>800.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>51,300.00</u></b>

**Total Grand lodge Revenues** **384,069.50**

<b>Officers Expense</b>	
GM Operations Expense	13,500.00
Officer Travel – Elected	11,000.00
Officer Travel – Appointed	0.00
Grand Lecturer	5,000.00
Jewels – Portraits	5,000.00
Insurance – Liability	<u>5,000.00</u>
<b>Total Officers Expense</b>	<b><u>39,500.00</u></b>

<b>Programs and Promotions</b>	
Aprons	1,000.00
Masonic Promotions	2,169.50
Officer Jewels	0.00
Masonic Youth	0.00
Fund Raiser Expense	0.00
Grand Master Conference	<u>5,000.00</u>
<b>Total Programs and Promotions</b>	<b><u>8,169.50</u></b>

<b>Salaries</b>	
Salary - Grand Secretary	36,500.00
Salaries – Employees	69,550.00
Employee Travel	500.00
FICA Taxes	7,500.00
FUTA & SUTA Taxes	500.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	2,000.00
Def Benefit Plan Contribution	16,000.00
Compensation Planning	3,900.00
Deferred Comp Contribution	8,600.00
Pension Fund Contribution	9,000.00
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b><u>154,050.00</u></b>

<b>Programs &amp; Promotions</b>	
Annual Communications	10,000.00
Masonic Leadership Conference	4,500.00
Lodge Schools	0.00
Secretary School	0.00
<b>Total Programs &amp; Promotions</b>	<b><u>14,500.00</u></b>

<b>Building Expense</b>	
Repair & Maintenance	25,500.00
Contract Maintenance	9,000.00
Insurance	19,500.00
Building Supplies	2,800.00
Utilities – Gas	4,600.00
Utilities – Electric	12,000.00
Utilities – Water	2,400.00
<b>Total Building Expense</b>	<b><u>75,800.00</u></b>

<b>Office Expense</b>	
Office Supplies	5,000.00
Office Equipment	900.00
Internet/Website	1,000.00
Postage	11,000.00
Printing	17,500.00
Maintenance Agreement	12,000.00
Tech support	19,000.00
Audit	6,000.00
Accounting	11,000.00
Utilities – Telephone	5,000.00
Bond Insurance (GSec/GTreas)	150.00
Miscellaneous	1,500.00
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b><u>90,050.00</u></b>

<b>Oklahoma Mason Expense</b>	
Oklahoma Mason	2,000.00
OK Mason Postage	0.00
Editor Contract	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total OK Mason Expense</b>	<b><u>2,000.00</u></b>
<b>One Time Expense</b>	
<b>Total One Time Expense</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>384,069.50</u></b>
<b>Transfer from Reserves</b>	0.00
<b>Excess(Deficit) Total</b>	
<b>Revenue Over Budget Expenses</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Other Revenues (Expenses)</b>	
Bond Discount/Premium	0.00
Accrued Interest Paid – Bonds	0.00
Gain(Loss) on Sale of Bonds	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Other Income (Loss)</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>Excess (Deficit) Total</b>	
<b>Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

# Report of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence and Relations

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Oklahoma 2019

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Grand East, and Brethren:

Thank you, M.:W.: Grand Master, for the opportunity to serve our Grand Lodge. Your Committee on Fraternal Correspondence and Relations is charged to protect the integrity of the Grand Lodge recognition process, which is dedicated to ensuring recognition of only Grand Lodges that meet the standards for regular recognition; thus preventing our recognizing illegitimate Grand Lodges being formed around the world.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma uses the Conference of Grand Masters of North America's **Commission on Information and Recognition** reports as the basis for our recommending recognition of new Grand Lodges seeking our recognition. The Standards being:

- 1 - Legitimacy of Origin;
- 2 -Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty; and
- 3 - Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks of Belief in God, use The Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

This report contains our assessment of Foreign Correspondence received from Grand Lodges in Amity with our Grand Lodge, announcing decisions we felt would be of interest to our craft, communications from new Grand Lodge(s) requesting our recognition, and reports of the Commission on Information for Recognition relevant to our jurisdiction.

## **Recommendation for Recognition**

GRAND ORIENT OF MATO GROSSO DO SUL

A request for recognition was received May 16, 2018, from the Grand Orient of Mato Grosso Do Sul in Brazil. According to the 2019 Commission on Information and Recognition their application was favorably received as a legitimate Grand Orient practicing regular masonry. The committee therefore recommends that their recognition be granted by this Grand Lodge and that the Grand Secretary advise their Grand Master accordingly.

### **Request for Recognition Denied**

#### Regular Grand Lodge of Italy

A petition requesting recognition from the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, dated 20 May 2019, proclaimed it was established in Rome on April 17, 1993 by the National Grand Lodge of France and subsequently recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England on December 8, 1993. In looking for reference to its legitimacy, no record of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy was found in the List of Lodges, Masonic, while the Grand Orient of Italy, which we have recognized since 1961, is listed. Also, no reference of this Grand Lodge was found in the 2004 - 2019 reports of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America's Commission on Information for Recognition. Therefore, the committee will hold their request in abeyance until they have complied with the standard and universally accepted path to regular recognition: passing muster of its credentials to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America's Commission on Information for Recognition.

#### Grand Lodge F. & A. M of Lebanon

On November 23, 2018, a petition requesting recognition from the new Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Lebanon, formed in the city of Beirut by the Grand Lodge of New York, was received with documentation justifying its' regularity. However, the committee does not recommend it be recognized, as it has not presented its credentials to the North American Conference of Grand Masters' Commission on Information for Recognition for their assessment of regularity. Therefore, the committee recommends the Grand Secretary advise the Grand Lodge of Lebanon that the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma is withholding its recognition pending a favorable report of their regularity from the Conference of Grand Masters of North America's Commission on Information for Recognition.

### **Recommendations for Withdrawal of Recognition**

NONE

### **For Craft Information Only**

#### United Grand Lodge of England

During the June 2019 Grand Lodge of England quarterly communication, they recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

#### Grand Lodge of Arkansas

During their 2019 Annual Grand Lodge Session, the craft of Arkansas approved some major changes to their Digest of Law, which are commendable; however, they fell short of assuring *due process* for an accused in their trial process. In particular, no phrase, or even comment, guaranteeing the Constitutional Rights to *due process* safeguards.



2020 List of Lodges, Masonic Edition Statements

Contingent on this committee report being approved during the Grand Lodge's annual communication, the following statement will be submitted for inclusion in the *2020 List of Lodges - Masonic* placed at the end of the Oklahoma Grand Lodge List of Lodges:

RECOGNITION INFORMATION, GRAND LODGE of the STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

In addition to the Grand Lodges listed in the Table of Contents of this book the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma recognizes the following: Andorra, Guinea, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia; and Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, Maryland, and Missouri. The Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma does not maintain sovereign relationship with the following Grand Lodges included in this publication: Arkansas, Azerbaijan, Grande Oriente Do Brasil, Brazil: Alagoas, Amapa; Columbia: Los Andes; Gabon, Haiti, Cote d'Ivoire, San Marino, Togolaise, Ukraine; and Prince Hall Grand Lodges in California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois and Massachusetts.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma welcomes written requests for recognition by Grand Lodges that meet the standards for recognition, as determined by the Commission on Information and Recognition of the Conference of the Grand Masters of Masons of North America, and whose system of justice ensures the *due process of law* as a craftsman's basic right; consistent with, or comparable to, that guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe R. Manning, PGM, Co-Chairman  
Robert T. Shipe, PGM, Co-Chairman  
Bobby L. Laws, PGM, Member

## Report of the Hospital Service Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren all,

On behalf of our hospitalized Brothers, family, and friends, I would like to thank the Masons of Oklahoma for the time they have spent visiting our Brethren and friends who were hospitalized or in nursing facilities. It really means a lot to these fine people.

If you are at or near one of the seven state veteran centers, stop in and say hello to an American hero!

Respectfully submitted,  
T.G. (Tom) Bayless, Chairman

## Report of the Masonic Education Committee

MW Grand Master & Brethren All:

The Education Committee of the Oklahoma Grand Lodge was charged with two important tasks this year as a result of the concern of MW Grand Master Mike Dixon for the future of Masonry in Oklahoma. It has been widely known for some time that the trend in membership of our Grand Lodge has been on a long decline. This Grand Jurisdiction has not had a net gain in membership for the past 60 years in spite of the many Grand Lodge programs and initiatives that have been presented by the Grand Lodge and adopted by the Craft over this span of time. A trend of this length cannot be brushed off as cyclical when so many worthy initiatives have been tried yet proven unsuccessful in halting and reversing the decline. The Grand Master asked the Committee to develop a strategic plan which can be taken to the Craft for consideration and implementation.

Over the past year, the Committee has prepared a statistical report on the condition of the Masonic fraternity in Oklahoma. We looked at long range membership trends across all Masonic jurisdictions in the United States, and then focused on Oklahoma's initiations, passings, raisings, deaths and suspensions. We analyzed our net losses by decade and determined that the rate of losses has actually been increasing over the last three decades. We charted the raisings by lodge over the last ten years, and ranked the

productivity of every lodge in the State. We investigated the major systemic, structural, and cultural issues that have been a challenge to the fraternity's opportunity for growth, and outlined some fifteen elements that a strategic plan will need to address if the fraternity is to reverse its decline. Further, a trend analysis was undertaken which confirms Oklahoma Masonry will not survive for the time span of the lives of the young men entering it today.

The good news is that Oklahoma Masonry can take a path of growth rather than decline. Our fraternity has the potential to exceed its 1959 peak in member numbers of 87,000 men! With the work that was started this year, the Committee has prepared a set of recommendations to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge outlining future actions that will need to be taken to ensure the survival of the fraternity in Oklahoma. These recommendations were announced in a Statewide Masonic Symposium held in Guthrie on September 7, 2019, with 128 Oklahoma Masons in attendance.

The Education Committee is resolved to plan a statewide Masonic Education conference each year. The Oklahoma Lodge of Research has generously agreed to be a full partner in seeing this endeavor to fruition.

The second task given the Committee was in response to surveys that have been conducted by the fraternity in a number of States which indicate there is a broad interest among men who are now joining the fraternity in making Masonic education a regular function of Masonic meetings. To this end, the Committee has created a Masonic Speaker's bureau, enlisted participants, established guidelines and protocols, and offered contact information to Lodges interested in advancing education beyond the ritual at local and district levels. The Masonic Speaker's Bureau has been uploaded to the Grand Lodge website.

The committee expresses deep appreciation for the leadership of our Grand Master Michael L. Dixon in bringing these important mandates to the Oklahoma Masonic experience, and look forward to the progress we can all make together as lodges in the implementation of a strategic plan that will reverse our decline and move our fraternity forward for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert G. Davis, Chairman  
Robert T. Shipe  
Clyde H. Schoolfield  
Jim L. Seeger  
Jason R. Smith

# Report of the Publications Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren:

Printed publications under the sponsorship of the Grand Lodge continues to be an expense which the annual budget of this Grand Jurisdiction cannot sustain. It is recognized that electronic communication is possible at the click of a mouse and appeals to a large number of our members in this age of technology. Still, there are a significant number of our older brothers who prefer printed communications and it is unfortunate that we can no longer accommodate their needs. A digital copy of the *Oklahoma Mason* continues to be made available regularly to every Lodge and every member through the Grand Lodge website. WB John Carter has done an excellent job in putting together an attractive publication, and the Grand Lodge Trustees have remained faithful in contributing to his effort on a month to month basis.

The committee is very pleased to report that the lesser cost of on-demand printing has enabled the Grand Lodge to get caught up in printing the annual Proceedings of your Grand Lodge. Soft and hardbound copies will again be made available “on demand” on a timely basis, within the year immediately following the Grand Lodge annual communication. The Blue Book was again published this year and made available to all members at a nominal fee. It was also posted on the Grand Lodge website in an encrypted area so as not to be available to the profane. Since the Blue Book can now be published in a secure manner, it may be available only in digital format in subsequent years. The “Yellow Book” of committee reports, budgets, and resolutions will once again be available preceding the 2019 Grand Lodge session.

Finally, all the materials used and presented at the regional Grand Master Forums and Leadership Conferences held this year were placed on “flash drives” and handed out to all participants at a considerable cost saving.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert G. Davis, Chairman  
Bobby L. Laws  
E. Keith Liles  
Christopher J. Mochon  
Clyde H. Schoolfield  
Kyle T. Smith

# Report of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

The public image of the Oklahoma Masonic fraternity is very professionally handled under the able direction of WB John Logan, Executive Director of the Masonic Charity Foundation, and his excellent staff. This is a partnership that has paid great dividends to the fraternity. It is not possible to adequately explain what Freemasonry is, or what we do in our private assemblies of men. The outside world knows us by what we do out in the world; and not behind our closed doors.

The many philanthropic programs and partnerships which are undertaken by the Masonic Charity Foundation are all done in the name of the Masonic fraternity in Oklahoma. The Grand Master presents all checks of significant amounts, and is called on to address the annual gatherings of our philanthropic partners and beneficiaries. It should be a source of great pride for all Oklahoma Masons that the work done by our charitable foundation continues annually to receive awards and recognitions in the name of Freemasonry which places Masonic charity in the top tier of the most respected Oklahoma philanthropic organizations.

At a local level, the community good our Lodges do through their partnership with the Masonic Charity Foundation distributes over \$ 3million into local charitable and educational causes of many kinds. In many Oklahoma communities, the Masons are the largest single contributors to the needs of these communities. That is the kind of public relations that gives our fraternity a good name, and essentially neutralizes the voice of those ignorant few who still believe we have sinister aims.

With the implementation of a new lodge database program that will go online at the end of this Grand Lodge year, every lodge in Oklahoma will be able to create their own website at no cost. They will be able to communicate with all their members on a regular basis at no cost. They will also be able to more effectively communicate the good they do to whomever they choose. Going forward, the fraternity in Oklahoma will be able to use technology in many aspects of communication. This should prove to be a great friend to us in the area of publicity and public relations.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert G. Davis, Chairman  
R. Keith Madden  
Allan D. Large  
Matthew T. Cargill  
Dudley Ridge Smith

# Report of the Youth Activities Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

This year's Youth Committee report appears below. It is a bit different than past years consisting of a direct report from each of our Youth Orders. We are blessed by the adult leadership that is furnished by members from all of our Masonic Family. Together with my colleagues, Toni Tomlinson, Supreme Deputy in Oklahoma for Job's Daughters, and Brother Brad Northcutt, Executive Officer of Oklahoma DeMolay, we thank you for the support of our lodges and brethren, and the financial support provided by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma to further the college education of many of our members.

## **Job's Daughters - Toni Tomlinson, Supreme Deputy**

Job's Daughters began this year with Supreme Session in Hersey, PA where Oklahoma had our first winner as Miss International Job's Daughter in 32 years, Miss Hannah Gerow. What a thrill that was, but also set off a series of fundraisers for her travel through the United States, Canada, The Philippines, Australia, and Brazil. Along with a year of planning for Miss International, we also had another year of planning for Oklahoma's first Supreme Guardian. Linda Luttrell will be our first ever Supreme Guardian in 2019-2020 with her Supreme Session during the summer of 2020 in Omaha, NE, where Job's Daughters was founded 100 years ago. What a celebration that will be.

During the year we've planned and attended ESTARL, Grand Master's Installation, DeMolay's Halloween Party, held two Statewide Initiations, prepared for Ritual Competition for Rally, prospect parties, initiations, Amaranth Grand Court, Rainbow Grand Assembly, held our own Rally and finally attended Supreme Session in Layton, UT where our own Miss International turned her crown over to another very deserving young lady.

We had fundraisers for HIKE (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment) which has now been changed to Hearing Improved Kids Endowment. A much more appropriate title since its purpose is to help children with their hearing devices whose parents cannot afford them. And, last but not least, many activities sharing awareness of Job's Daughters and their many accomplishments.

**Oklahoma Order of the Rainbow for Girls - Brian W. Pierson,  
Supreme Inspector**

It has been another great year for Oklahoma Rainbow with our Junior Past Grand Worthy Advisor, Abby Chadd, leading the way. We were honored by the presence of our Grand Master, together with his trustees and other officers at several stops on our journey. It was an honor to welcome 150 newly initiated Rainbow Girls during the year to grow our membership. Abby's fundraising efforts received an awesome response as she raised \$25,000 to contribute to the Procure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City to outfit and furnish a "kid friendly" teen center for youth patients and their siblings. Kingston Assembly has been constituted giving us a presence once again in south central Oklahoma, and we have engaged in discussions with lodges and chapters with interest in opening other assemblies around the state. We closed the year out with the installation of Miss Alaina Hurst, of Alva Assembly, as the Grand Worthy Advisor for 2018-19, and began a summer filled with in and out-of-state travels, including a great trip to southern Virginia for Supreme Assembly 2018. We look forward to another great year and would invite you to join us anywhere that you can along our journey. Our gratitude and thanks to all of the lodges that are sponsors and supporters of assemblies in Oklahoma. We could not do what we do without your support and that of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

**Oklahoma DeMolay - Brad Northcutt, Executive Officer**

Oklahoma DeMolay is in the middle of an outstanding year of membership. Currently, we are # 1 in the United States for new membership in 2018 with 120 new members for the year. This success is created from our ongoing membership programs with our Red Jacket Past Master Councilor Club and our Blue Honor Key/Founder's Membership Retreats. We are also constantly working on new chapter development. Last year we started 4 new chapters in Shawnee, Enid, Henryetta, and Woodward, and we currently have about 5 more lodges interested in getting a DeMolay chapter started. We also just finished our annual Conclave at our new location in Norman, OK.

For the upcoming months, our first big state event will be our Tri-Youth Lock-In at Main Event Entertainment at the end of August. We will be following up with a state induction. We are also preparing for our Centennial Celebration, which will be on Saturday, November 3rd at the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie, OK which starts at 2pm. We will start the event by having an induction for our "Centennial Member Class" that will

be done with our own Oklahoma DeMolay Alumni Association, who will be performing the degrees. We will then have the majority service and the memorial service performed by our Oklahoma Knighthood State Priory. We also will be reopening our DeMolay Museum. Afterwards, we will be having an open banquet (which will be our state Chevalier Observance), where we will honor our new Chevaliers. All are invited to attend, please e-mail [office@okdemolay.com](mailto:office@okdemolay.com) if interested in attending. We will be sending out registration forms for the event. All are welcome to attend and join us in our celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian W. Pierson, Chairman



# Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma

## Report of the Ch.J.P. Committee

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
Of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
Of the State of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

I want to take this opportunity to thank Most Worshipful Mike Dixon for appointing me Chairman of the Ch.I.P. Committee for 2019.

Lodges hosting a Ch.I.P. event during the period 11/01/2018 to 11/01/2019:

Broken Arrow No. 243

Britton No. 434

Cache Valley No. 530

Claremore No. 53

Cordell No. 127

El Reno No. 50

We have a new innovation for 2019. We no longer print, or “burn”, a CD. Instead, we now make use of flash drives, or USB memory sticks, which has greatly increased our ability to process and export information. We get more done in less time!

We would like to thank all of the Lodges that sponsored a Ch.I.P. event, and hope that you will continue to support this program. We continue to need more Lodges to become active with us. If you would like more information, please contact a member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger M. Sanford, Chairman  
John L. Spurgeon, Co-Chairman  
Robert Ellison, Co-Chairman

# Report of the Statewide Forum Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge officers,  
Distinguished Guests and my Brethren all:

The Statewide Forum Committee was charged with organizing five (5) forum-style meetings around the State, to provide the membership at large with input concerning issues they believed to be of concern to the fraternity.

To facilitate the discussion the following questions were presented to the attendees at each meeting.

- Are you satisfied with communication between Grand Lodge and the Craft and Lodges?
  - What would you like to change or be done differently?
- How would you rate the relationship between the Grand Lodge and the Craft and Lodges?
  - How would you improve it?
  - What changes would you like to see?
- In relationship to membership what do you feel is more important.
  - Recruiting concept.
  - Retention concept.
- Are you satisfied with the DDGM? What changes do you feel needs to be made if any?
- Are you satisfied with the GL Officers? What do we need to be doing to better fulfill the Craft's needs?
- Are you willing to help in some capacity to improve Masonry in the area or state?
- What can the GL Officers do to help the Craft and Lodges?

Meetings were conducted in the locations, with attendance and lodges represented as listed below:

February 23, 2019     Delta Lodge, Tulsa     18 Lodge Members, 13  
separate Lodges represented, 6 Grand Lodge Officers

March 2, 2019             Woodward Lodge     19 Lodge Members, 11  
separate Lodges represented, 7 Grand Lodge Officers

March 23, 2019             Lawton 183, Lawton     30 Lodge Members, 15  
separate Lodges represented, 7 Grand Lodge Officers,

May 11, 2019             McAlester     25 Lodge Members, 14 separate  
Lodges represented, 6 Grand Lodge Officers

June 1, 2019                      Albert Pike Lodge, Guthrie    23 Lodge Members,  
11 Grand Lodge Officers, 16 separate Lodges represented

Total

115    Lodge Members  
69    Separate Lodges  
7    Grand Lodge Officers (average per forum)

Major areas of discussion included the following:

- Most Pressing Issues Concerning Your Lodge (not prioritized)
  - Finances
    - Dues
    - Facilities
    - Lodge Expenses
  - Membership
    - Aging Craft
    - Declining membership
    - Non-Payment of Dues
    - Disinterested Past Masters, Disinterested Older Members
    - Lodge Attendance/Participation
    - Community Involvement
  - Declining Ritual Work
    - Members not advancing
    - Retention of EA's and Fellowcrafts
    - Memory work of new members to advance
  - Guarding the West Gate
  - Most Pressing Issues regarding the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma
  - Oklahoma Grand Lodge Issues

A complete summary of forums was provided each attendee who provided email addresses.

The attendees at all five forums agreed that the forums were worth the time and agreed that they should be continued in the coming years.

The primary discussion information was provided the to the Grand Master's Long-Range Planning Committee for their use in preparing a long-rang plan for Oklahoma Masonry and the Masonic Symposium, held on September 7, 2019.

Submitted by;

R.: W.: Robert Scott Vincent, Junior Grand Warden, Chairman

M.: W.: Richard L. Allison, PGM, Member

W.: Larry Adair, Member

W.: Charles K. Babb, Member

W.: Dennis R. Plunkett, Member

W.: Artie R. Staggs, (M.O.H.), Member

## Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma

In response to the long-term decline in membership in Oklahoma Masonry, and the decreasing number of traditional Master Mason Raisings over the past decade, MW Grand Master Mike Dixon requested the Strategic Planning Committee to join with the Education Committee of this Grand Jurisdiction to create a template and outline for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the Oklahoma fraternity. It is a bold and complex undertaking and the Committee is in full agreement with the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Trustees that such an effort is essential if the fraternity is to survive into the second half of this century.

The statistical report on the condition of Oklahoma Masonry prepared by the Education Committee this year framed the groundwork for a long-term plan. The findings in regard to the Masonic fraternity nationally and in our own jurisdiction are very sobering and clearly call for new approaches to be developed if the fraternity is going to survive at a level of relevancy, even over the next 30 years. Several observations are reported here as a means of conveying the actual situation we are faced with at this time.

1) Oklahoma Masonic membership has fallen from a high of 87,241 members in 1959 to 18,400 members in 2019.

2) The number of dues paying members in Oklahoma has fallen 34% in the last decade, and now stands at 10,672 members.

3) In Oklahoma, the rate of member decline per decade has been 26.1%. If this rate of decline is not reversed or mitigated, we will fall below 10,000 members before 2039, with only 5,000 dues paying members.

4) Master Mason raisings have dropped 19.5% over the past four years.

5) Of the 216 Lodges in Oklahoma, 95 of these are raising less than one Master Mason per year. Twenty-three lodges have not raised a Master Mason in four years.

6) Of the 216 lodges in Oklahoma, 190 of these are raising less than is required to replace their annual deaths.

7) In order to create enough new member raisings each year to exceed our annual death and suspensions, the lodges in Oklahoma will have to raise a minimum of 873 Master Masons each year. This represents 515 more Master Mason raisings each year than we are currently raising.

8) To begin the path to growth in Oklahoma Masonry, our degree conferral system will have to achieve 2.4 times the level of its current productivity.

The Committee's study this year revealed there are fundamental reasons why Freemasonry is hovering on the edge of demise. These reasons have been identified, but represent challenges which, without reconciliation, may cause our fraternity to fall below a critical mass necessary for survival. It is recognized some of these problems are systemic and will be difficult to reconcile. Some of these problems are structural and cannot be reconciled without a change in Masonic law. Some are cultural and will not be overcome without new strategies and programs.

All of the problems must be addressed sooner, rather than later.

The Committee recommends that a partnership between the Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges be created within the fraternity to uniformly and collectively address the organizational paradigms currently eroding the integrity of our Oklahoma fraternity. Both Grand Lodge and local Lodge leadership will need to buy into changes that will result in shifting those patterns and practices that are causing us harm.

The Committee recommends the strategic plan focus primarily on the organizational structure of the fraternity itself; and be aimed at shifting

outdated and stubborn paradigms, along with changing certain behavioral practices which are no longer serving our fraternity well.

The Committee recommends that actions taken by the strategic plan be focused on four principle areas of Masonic concern. These include:

- a) creating lodge empowerment tools which will increase participation, interest, and the overall quality of the lodge experience; and establish an attractive and compelling environment in which to attract and keep new members;
- b) influencing needed changes in Masonic law, including evaluating prohibitions which are no longer serving the best interests of the fraternity, as well as creating resolutions for change that are essential to the survival of our constituent lodges;
- c) making certain adaptations to degree conferral methods and ritual changes to enhance the preservation of the ritual structure of the fraternity, while augmenting its effectiveness and utilization across the jurisdiction;
- d) considering the creation of special lodges, along with targeting certain groups for membership as a strategic tool to replace the number of lodges that are expected to go defunct over the next two decades;
- e) establishing the restoration of best practices in the total lodge and fraternal experience in as many lodges as possible; modifying those practices which have led to the decline of Masonry in the last century; and embracing ideas and practices which serve the interests and needs of the younger brothers joining the fraternity today, recognizing that our future depends on them.

In consideration of the present condition of Oklahoma Masonry, and the elements introduced in this narrative summary, it is recommended the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the future of Oklahoma include the following:

- Approaches to improve the financial condition of Lodges
- Strategies for determining future lodge consolidations
- Ideas for improving the individual lodge experience to prepare for new members
- Strategies for identifying and inviting qualified prospects to join
- Naming district and regional degree teams and setting regular schedules of conferrals
- Practices for improving member retention and participation

- Approaches for training vision centered and goals-oriented lodge leaders
  - Making Masonic education programs accessible to every lodge and every member
  - Strategies for organizing and chartering new affinity lodges in every regional population center across the State
  - Creating an emerging leader program to engage our younger membership to have a committed vision of hope and success in the future of Oklahoma Masonry
  - Plans for determining the future of the Grand Lodge building—ownership, use, and affordability
  - Policies for providing regular communication between the Grand Lodge and local lodges during plan implementation
  - Strategies for enhancing the public’s perceptions, understanding, and acceptance of the fraternity’s aims and purposes
  - Strategies for enhancing the partnership between the Oklahoma Masonic Charity Foundation and Grand Lodge to affect a positive growth in Oklahoma Masonry.
  - Establish formal partnerships between lodges and the Grand Lodge for plan implementation

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert G. Davis, Chairman  
Daniel D. Hanttula  
Bobby L. Laws  
Bobby J. Peters  
Lanny R. Sander  
Robert D. Turner

## Report of the Unity Committee

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
Of the State of Oklahoma

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren,

The Unity Committee is one of the Grand Lodge's Ad-Hoc committees.

As the term of the new Grand Master approached, the Unity Committee asked that the organizations listed in the Blue Book provide information regarding their significant events in the upcoming year, that those dates could be shared with the Deputy Grand Master to assist in his calendar planning.

Fraternally,  
John L. Logan, Chairman  
Dennis Brown  
Matthew T. Cargill  
John D. Church  
Gary A. Davis  
Robert G. Davis  
Michael Ebert  
Robert Jameson  
K. Keesee  
Ralph Klumpp  
Brad Northcutt  
Bobby J. Peters  
Brian W. Pierson



# Report of the Vizavance Committee

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Wardens, and Brethren all,

On behalf of the children of Oklahoma, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the participating Lodges and members, and all the families of the students who came to, and assisted with, the Vizavance eye screenings.

During the 2018-2019 school year, we assisted in screening 251,416 elementary school students, and referred 29,978 of those students for further examinations.

We had a total of 1,051 screening sessions, with 759 brethren who volunteered their time to assist with the screenings, representing 186 Oklahoma Masonic Lodges.

As you can see, these are outstanding numbers, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Vizavance Oklahoma!

Respectfully submitted,

T. G. "Tom" Bayless, Chairman

# Resolutions To be Considered During this Annual Communication

## Resolution No. 1

**WHEREAS**, since the "Official Cipher Key Oklahoma Masonic Ritual" (a.k.a. "Red Book") contains the esoteric work and is therefore only available to Master Masons; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts do not have access to the categorical lectures cipher as printed in the Red Book;

**WHEREAS**, the Red Book has improved the proficiency of many members. A booklet of each categorical lecture would be another tool to help EAs and FCs improve their proficiency and,

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the Fraternity to use all means available to advance members to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that Section 401, which currently reads:

ARTICLE IV - WORK OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION SECTION 401  
ESOTERIC WORK: The esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be that adopted by this Grand Lodge and shall be used by all its lodges and their members in giving the work and lectures. It shall be in charge of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

The Grand Lodge shall publish a two or three letter maximum cipher of all esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Such cipher shall be used only for teaching. It shall not be consulted in any lodge while at labor.

Violation of this section shall be deemed a Masonic offense.

Ciphers shall be available to Master Masons through the office of the Grand Secretary

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

ARTICLE IV- WORK OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION SECTION 401  
ESOTERIC WORK: The esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be that adopted by this Grand Lodge and shall be used by all its lodges and their members in giving the work and lectures. It shall be in charge of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

The Grand Lodge shall publish a two or three letter maximum cipher of all esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**The Grand lodge shall also publish two separate cipher booklets, one containing the Categorical lecture for the Degree of Entered Apprentice and one containing the Categorical lecture for the Degree of Fellowcraft.**

Such ciphers shall be used only for teaching. ~~It~~ **They** shall not be consulted in any lodge while at labor.

Violation of this section shall be deemed a Masonic offense.

Ciphers Books shall be available to Master Masons through the office of the Grand Secretary.

**Cipher Booklets for the Entered Apprentice Categorical lecture and the Fellowcraft categorical Lecture shall be available to each of the constituent lodges for sale at the cost of the price of printing plus \$5.00 per booklet. The cost of printing shall be rounded to the next dollar. Said booklets may be provided to the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft members of the lodge at the individual lodge's discretion.**

Respectfully Submitted,

David Brooks, PM, Sayre Lodge No. 195

## Resolution No. 2

**WHEREAS:** in order for the brethren to understand the qualification of the person petitioning for membership, and

**WHEREAS:** the petition is required to be read in open lodge,

**WHEREAS:** the brethren have the right to hear all of the qualifications of the petitioner,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Section U 401 which currently reads;

SECTION U 401. PETITION FOR DEGREES: All petitions for the degrees shall be in writing upon the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge and signed by the candidate's own hand using his full name. It must be recommended by at least two (2) members of the lodge. It shall be read in open lodge, referred to a committee for investigation and must lie over at least until the next stated meeting before any vote may be had on it.

**BE AMENDED TO READ:**

SECTION U 401. PETITION FOR DEGREES: All petitions for the degrees shall be in writing upon the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge and signed by the candidate's own hand using his full name. It must be recommended by at least two (2) members of the lodge. † **All petitioner questions and responses** shall be read in open lodge, referred to a committee for investigation and must lie over at least until the next stated meeting before any vote may be had on it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobby J. Peters, P.M. Composite No. 107