

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

*The Grand Lodge
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Oklahoma*

Vol. LXXXIV No. 3

November 2019

The Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.:

of the

State of Oklahoma

111th Annual Communications

November 8 - 9, 2019

Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple

Guthrie, Oklahoma



Grand Lodge School of Instruction - Grand Lodge Building
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, November 6, 7, 8, 2019

[See page 3 for more information](#)

Grand Lodge Annual Communication - Scottish Rite Temple

[Friday, November 8, 2019](#)

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Registration, Atrium

2:30 p.m. - Opening of Grand Lodge, Auditorium, **Tyled**

3:30 p.m. - Open Meeting, Auditorium

**Greetings, Vizavance, Teacher of the Year, Recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients,
Announcement of 2019 Medal of Honor Recipients, Presentation of Awards**

6:30 p.m. - Grand Master's Banquet, Ballroom

[See page 2 for more information](#)

[Saturday, November 9, 2019](#)

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Registration, Atrium

8:30 a.m. - Grand Lodge Opens, Auditorium

****Tyled, Aprons required. Paper aprons on sale in Atrium for \$1****

****Voting on Resolutions, Officers****

6:00 p.m. - Installation of Grand Lodge Officers

*From the Grand Master
M.:W.: Michael Dixon*

If you are a Mason reading this, I ask that you think for a moment how many people you have come to know because you are a Mason. Now write down that number, it doesn't have to be an exact count. With this number in mind, now think for another moment that if you were not a Mason, how less rich your life would be without that number of people in your life.

If you are not a Mason reading this, I invite you look into this, the world's oldest fraternity, as an experience that can enrich your life in immeasurable ways.

As the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma A.:F.: & A.:M.:, I want to encourage you, my fellow Masons, to revisit your Masonic obligations, to again study and reflect on their meanings, and to contemplate on the brotherhood of this Fraternity that we hold so dear. Take stock of how well you are doing in your Masonic Journey.

Remember Masonry's glorious past and with these warm reminiscent thoughts, think and plan ahead to assure that our beloved Fraternity not only survives but again begins to flourish. Spend time in your Lodge meetings to discuss and reflect on this wonderful experience with your fellow Brethren.



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

*Mike Dixon
Grand Master 2019*



Grand Master's Banquet Honoring M.:W.: Michael L. Dixon



Benefiting The Grand Lodge Library & Museum

Friday, November 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple Ballroom

Tickets are \$35 each

Purchase By Credit Card on the Grand Lodge Website:

<https://www.gloklahoma.com/grand-masters-banquet/>

Or by email: lindad1@coxinet.net



Grand School of Instruction **November 6, 7, 8, 2019**

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

Also, don't forget you may spend the night at the Scottish Rite Inn. Brothers, please take advantage of this, we rent the inn for your use. Rooms cost \$15 per night.

You can reserve a room by sending an e-mail to the Innkeepers at innkeep@att.net or write to them at The Innkeepers, P.O. Box 534, Wheatland, OK 73097. The Inn will be available on Wednesday night through Friday. Grand School will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and until noon on Friday.

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

Participate in one, two or three great art making events offered for your visit to Guthrie, OK on Nov. 9, 2019



Blow Your Own Ornament

Also available Thurs, Nov. 7 & Fri. Nov. 8

Yes, you can blow glass and make your own beautiful ornament!
It's lots of fun and no experience is necessary.
Ornaments must anneal so will be ready the next day.
Cost: \$35 (We can ship to you for additional \$8)

G Gallery & Glass Studio

110 East Oklahoma Avenue, Guthrie OK



Make a Hand-Dyed Silk Scarf

Accessorize your wardrobe with a beautiful wearable piece of art.
Play with color in this creative workshop and watch color come alive!
Cost: \$35 (Includes everything needed to complete one scarf)
Plastic gloves and aprons will be provided to protect clothing.
We are located in an upstairs loft and there is no elevator, only stairs

Art Loft Oklahoma

108 1/2 East Oklahoma Avenue, Guthrie OK



Create Alcohol Ink Painted Pottery

You can choose to create a beautiful succulent planter or a Christmas Tree using the amazing alcohol ink painting process!
Bright and colorful pieces you will treasure.
Cost: \$25 (includes succulent if choosing planter)

Guthrie Art Center

108 East Oklahoma Avenue, Guthrie OK

To sign up or for more info contact Karen Dixon at 405-613-5101 or kdixon3@cox.net

***You can also check for updates at gloklahoma.com
All of the events require payment in advance.***

Grand Lodge 111th Annual Communications Ladies Program



First Lady *Karen Dixon* invites all Masonic ladies to attend the ladies' program at Grand Lodge this year.

To sign up and pay, go to the Grand Lodge website:

<https://www.gloklahoma.com/ladies-registration-2/ladies-activities/>

**From the Deputy Grand Master
R.:W.: Bob Peters**



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

A Note of Thanks

In passing the resolution to increase per-capita at the last Grand Lodge session, you the craft of Oklahoma, showed your support for Masonry in our great jurisdiction, and demonstrated that you wanted Masonry to continue for many more years to come. As you know, the first increase in per-capita will not go into effect immediately, therefore we still need your help. We have done our best to cut expenses in areas within our control and have tried to be good stewards of your money.

Over the years the Grand Lodge has sent out requests for donations, such as selling various items like pocket knives, watches, coffee cups, jackets, key chains and many other items. You, as faithful brothers, purchased many of these items. After a while it became apparent that most of you had enough “stuff,” so we came up with a new plan.

In the past few years the Grand Lodge has sent out a simple letter asking you to help us to make the operational budget. Again you answered the call. The donations that you sent will go a long way in helping the Trustees to pay for the operations of your Grand Lodge office and programs.

I would like to be able to thank each one of you individually who responded with a donation to my letter this year. The list of donations from each of you is too lengthy for me to do that, so let me say to each donor, “*Thank you Brother for your contribution to your Grand Lodge, and for your dedication to your Fraternity.*” A list of donors’ names will be published

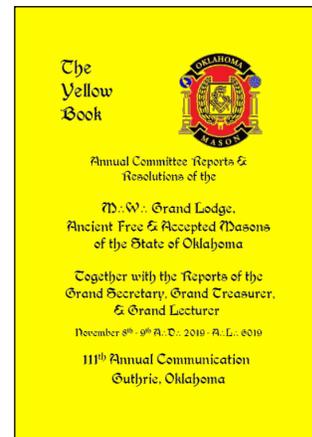
in the 2019 Grand Lodge proceedings.

To each lodge that donated this year, I know that you have your own budgets to meet, so I thank you for also sharing your financial support with your Grand Lodge. Your continued support of Masonry is much appreciated by all of the Grand Lodge officers.

In closing, I want to encourage you as a leader or supporting member of your Lodge to come to Grand School and Grand Lodge. There will also be a special program for your Ladies on Saturday of Grand Lodge. I look forward to seeing you on November 6, 7, 8, 9.

May Peace and Harmony Prevail,

**R.:W.: Bob Peters
Deputy Grand Master**



**The Yellow Book
is available online at
<https://www.gloklahoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Yellow-Book.pdf>**

**Annual Committee Reports
Grand Officer Reports
Grand Lodge Budget
Resolutions to be considered at
the
111th Annual Communication.**

*From the Senior Grand Warden
R.W. Robert G. Davis*



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

From the Senior Grand Warden:

One of the great benefits of the Internet in our time is that all communication is now ubiquitous; that is, any topic you can imagine to know something about is now available at your fingertips, regardless of where you live. This has opened Masonic communication to a global audience. With the click of a mouse, we can know what is taking place in our fraternal order from Australia to Denmark; Alaska to Japan; and every point in between.

For the first time in the history of Freemasonry, acquaintances with brothers are being made every day on a global scale. Friendships are being forged, the brotherly hand of fraternal love is being extended, and we are learning a great deal about how Masonry is being practiced all over the world. We can examine membership trends, discover who the Masonic heroes have been in foreign jurisdictions, and inquire into why men join and what their expectations are in the fraternal culture in which they live.

We are learning that Freemasonry is actually growing in a surprising number of countries outside North America; and has been growing for a couple of decades. It begs us to inquire what is different about the Masonic experience in these other places? Since the ceremonies of the degrees are not unlike our own, Masonic halls are arranged in very much the same way. Men convene under very much the same rules and obligations, and a Volume of Sacred Law is always open when brothers meet, assuring us that what Masons do everywhere is centered around the Grand Architect. What, then, is the difference that enables Freemasonry to grow in some places and decline in others? It is a question that indeed begs our attention since Masonry in our own American

Grand Lodges, with one or two exceptions, has not enjoyed a single year of growth in the last 60 years.

Granted, it is a problem we haven't had to worry much about until recently because there were an adequate number of members in most lodges to keep the bills paid and the fraternal experience afloat. We were losing members each year but we still had plenty of regular lodge attendees to carry on the work. Fortunately, we still have a faithful core of brothers in a number of our lodges who are there at every meeting, sharing in fellowship, and content that Masonry is still available to them.

We tend to lose sight of the fact that we have lost over 60% of the lodges that ever existed in Oklahoma. We have lost 80% of the members we had in 1959. Nationally, in that year, Freemasons represented 4.8% of the US male population. Today, we represent less than 1%

(.006%) of the US male population.

It is estimated that, in ten years, Freemasonry will be where the Odd Fellows are today. How many Odd Fellows do you know? How many Odd Fellows halls are you aware of across our State? There was a time when the Odd Fellows were the largest fraternal society in America.

Maybe it's time that we all take a look at what is causing Freemasonry to grow in other parts of the world? What are our European and South American brothers doing that we can emulate to get us back on the path to renewal and growth? Maybe there are some things we can learn from our foreign brothers that we can emulate in our own fraternal experience. Maybe we need to rethink how we have got to where we are since 1959 and make the adjustments we need to make to stop this stubborn 60- year downward trend. Our future is literally in our hands.

You probably know by now that the Grand Lodge is undertaking a Strategic Plan under the able direction of Grand Master Dixon. We have already made a number of discoveries which can help us get on a path of eventual renewal and growth. We have a real opportunity to turn this thing around! There is much more work to be done, of course, but we believe with all our hearts that our members can turn Oklahoma Masonry around over the next 20 years. It is time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and go to work on our own success. We believe that most of you want Freemasonry to be around for generations to come. Let's work together to make this happen!

***R.W. Bob Davis
Senior Grand Warden***



*From the Junior Grand Warden
R.:W.: Scott Vincent*



Photo by W.: Bill Howell

BRETHREN:

The State Wide Forums have concluded and valuable information has been gleaned from these meetings. A report is being constructed and will soon be available to the Craft. We have had some great input and ideas that have been brought forth at these forum meetings.

While sitting here and thinking over all these, I had a thought come to mind. The thought was — we have all this information and have discussed and cussed it, but the one thing we lack is ACTION. That seems to be the norm in our Fraternity. We talk and hash on the subjects that we feel are important to the Fraternity or even our Lodge, but it seems the common denominator to these are the lack of or the slow pace of action.

Brothers, if we want OUR Fraternity to survive and thrive, **COMMUNICATION AND ACTION** are the keys to survival. A good place to start Communication and Action, is at the Lodge level. Contact ALL the Brothers when there is a function going on from Stated Meetings, Practices, Family Nights, Friends Nights and even planning meetings. This includes the Brothers that are attending every meeting to the ones who haven't attended in five years. Begin at this fundamental point and you can build from there. Always remember that what you do —**Communication and Action**— are the keys to going forward.

The line of communication has been set up and put into action through the State Wide Forums and Leadership Workshops. These two assets are like voting. If you did not attend them then your voice is not heard. The first step towards communicating has been taken. Now let's keep this an ongoing process and participate. Remember, if you are not part of the solution, you are the problem.

Grand Lodge and Grand School is another tool towards achieving **Communication** and **Action**.

In our Fathers' and Grandfathers' days, attending Grand Lodge was a duty. That is the how we should be viewing Grand Lodge today. At Grand Lodge, ideas and concerns for our Fraternity can be addressed between Brothers and brought to your Grand Lodge Trustees' attention. Remember, Brothers, the Trustees were elected by the Craft to take care of and operate the Fraternity for the **Good of Masonry**. However, the operation of a body is only as good as the information that is available. Your attendance at Grand Lodge is a starting point for the communication of the Fraternity. Remember, if that idea or concern stays in your head and is not communicated, **it goes nowhere**, so come to Grand Lodge.

If you are a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, or Past Master, you have a vote. It is your duty to the Fraternity and your Brothers to exercise this vote on behalf of the Fraternity. Do you realize there are a mere 150 Brothers carrying the deciding votes to elect or reject an idea presented. It is time that changes. If your Fraternity is to survive and progress in the direction you feel it should be going, let's start now in November 2019 by you coming to Grand Lodge and communicating and taking action with the Brothers.

Another great opportunity to come to Grand Lodge is Grand School. I have heard that the ones who come to Grand School, or any School for that matter, don't need it, and the ones that do need it, don't come. That, Brothers, is the biggest misconception I have ever heard. Everybody needs School. All Brothers need refreshment in knowledge, no matter who they are. The fellowship with other Brothers from around the state is priceless. You not only gain a new friend but you can also get ideas and thoughts you can take home to help your Lodge. School is not just sitting in a room listening to ritual. There are other things that can be learned while attending. Remember, if you want dividends in the future, you have to invest today.

Come to Grand Lodge and Grand School and invest in the future. We have to start somewhere to go forward. Grand Lodge is a good place to begin. It has been said that we could have 1000 Brothers at Grand Lodge. That should not be that big of a challenge for the Masons of Oklahoma.

TOGETHER WE GROW=UNITED WE STAND

Fraternally,

**R.:W.: Scott Vincent
Junior Grand Warden**



Available for Election - Junior Grand Warden

The information here is taken from materials filed with the Grand Lodge and listed in order of filing date.



Glen A. Chaney

Glen Chaney and his wife, Patti, live in Lawton, Oklahoma. He is retired from the United States Army and is currently employed by the Department of Defense.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Chaney wrote: *"I seek this office to serve the Masonic Family in our Jurisdiction. By supporting and promoting our worthy programs throughout the State, we emphasize the importance of the teachings of our Art. To provide continued effective leadership and assist in developing the Masonic talents throughout the State of Oklahoma which will energize and grow our membership into the leading Masons of our future. I feel that Freemasonry has a place in every good Man's life and we can gain and keep their attention if we continue to exhibit our fraternal values at every level of Oklahoma Masonry."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Chaney wrote: *"To enhance our educational and charitable programs and continue improving the Fraternal relationships between all Masonic Bodies, and Youth Groups. To extend Masonic awareness beyond our lodgerooms to better reach potential Brothers. To advocate for the preservation of our time honored Ritual, our unique heritage and our history while giving Oklahoma Masonry the best and most favorable exposure going forward."*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Chaney was suspended NPD from Triangle Lodge 548 in 2013 and was reinstated in 2015.



Ron Minshall

Ron Minshall and his wife, Paulette, live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is a retired Sr. Account Manager with Chickasaw Telecom, Inc.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Minshall wrote: *"As a 4th generation Mason, I have been associated with the Masonic Fraternity since joining DeMolay at 14. I have come to recognize that our Fraternity is essential to help build men into better citizens and to provide stability to our society. I feel that my business career has afforded me the expertise to manage the business side of Grand Lodge where as my Masonic heritage and love of the craft gives the tools in which to promote the fraternal side of Oklahoma Masonry."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Minshall wrote: *"I would like to establish additional strategies to assist our Lodges in gaining and maintaining a younger membership. I am confident that we can utilize our current programs to provide better exposure in the local communities and create more interest for men to seek membership."*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Minshall has been neither suspended or expelled.



Andrew Thomas Bridgewater

Andrew T. Bridgewater and his wife, Elaine, live in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. He is employed by the City of Sallisaw as an Inmate Coordinator.

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

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Bridgewater wrote: *"Help Masonry."*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Bridgewater has neither been suspended or expelled.



Available for Election - Grand Secretary

The information here is taken from materials filed with the Grand Lodge and listed in order of filing date.



John R. Christopher

John Christopher and his wife, Pat, live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He is retired from the United States Air Force and retired from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education as Assistant Director, Support, Training, and Maintenance.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Christopher wrote: *"I have extensive experience as leader and manager; first in the US Air Force/Air National Guard where I supervised over 20 personnel specialists; then as an Engineer and Manager in several different roles including process improvement after leaving the Military. I believe I can now put those skills to work to benefit the craft in the demanding position of Grand Secretary."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Christopher wrote: *"I would conduct a complete review of the Grand Lodge Office technology and functions with the intent of increasing efficiency, reducing cost. Study the feasibility of hiring a Office Manager with concurrent reduction in the Grand Secretary's compensation, turning the role of the Grand Secretary to a more 'ceremonial' role. Improve the Grand Lodge presence on the web and social media. Improve utilization of the membership database by all lodge Secretaries."*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Christopher has been neither suspended or expelled.



Bobby Lee Laws

Bobby L. Laws and his wife, Linda, live in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He is a retired from the United States Air Force and is currently employed by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma as Grand Secretary.

In answer to the question "Why do you seek this office?" Brother Laws wrote: *"It is my sincere desire to continue to serve the craft of all Oklahoma Masons to the best of my ability. Having served as your Grand Secretary for the past (5) years, I believe that I am qualified to serve you again in this key position. Your problems are my problems and we can continue to work together for the good of Masonry."*

In answer to the question "What goals would you like to attain as a Grand Lodge Officer?" Brother Laws wrote: *"I would like to continue the programs that your Trustees currently have in place and support them in their endeavors to work with every lodge in assisting them in any way possible. I realize that when you call the Grand Secretary's office you deserve and expect the best service possible with your question or request. Rest assured that I will be there to help you to the best of my ability."*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brother disclose if he has ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. Brother Laws has been neither suspended or expelled.

Available for Election - Masonic Charity Foundation Board of Directors

The information here is taken from materials filed with the Grand Lodge and listed in order of filing date.



Michael D. Maxey
Yates J. Canipe
John D. Church
D. Ridge Smith
Daniel S. Brown
Richard Allison
Gene McKelvey



Four positions on the Foundation Board will be elected.

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



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

Michael D. Maxey, and his wife, Nancy, live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is employed as Senior Petroleum Landman with Kaiser-Francis Oil Company. He has served on the Multiple Sclerosis Board for ten years, including three years as chairman. He has also served as a member of the Parent Child Center at Tulsa Board for three years. Brother Maxey was initiated, passed, and raised in Broken Arrow Lodge #243, where he is a perpetual member. He has served in several Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (2018). He has served as District Deputy Grand Master and on the Grand Lodge Finance & Appropriations Committee.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" W.: Brother Maxey wrote: *Participated on Boards in the past; Reliable; Organized; Committed; Can lead or follow.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By providing a framework to support each Lodge's request for their charities, while preserving the Foundation's "Trust Funds" for future use.*

Yates J. Canipe, and his wife Martha, live in Durant, Oklahoma. He is an adjunct professor in the Massey School of Business at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is also retired from the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Major. He has served as President of the Board of the Bokchito Senior Citizen Association. Brother Canipe was initiated, passed, and raised in Caddo Lodge #3 where he is a perpetual member. He is also a perpetual member of Bokchito Lodge #253. Brother Canipe has served in several Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (2013, 2014, 2015).

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" W.: Brother Canipe wrote: *Broad business experience with CEO experience.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By providing charitable contributions which directly reflect individual Lodges and lead forward to increased membership. For example, MCF could fund high school training by Masonic brethren on the foundation of USA and Masonic Principles.*

John D. Church lives in Perkins, Oklahoma. He is General Secretary of the Scottish Rite Valley of Guthrie. He has served on the board of the Southwest Technology Center Foundation. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Altus Lodge #62, where he is a perpetual member. He is also a perpetual member of Cordell Lodge #127 and a member of Frederick #249, India #551, Guildhall #553 and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served in several Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (2014). He has served the Grand Lodge as Grand Sword Bearer, Junior Grand Steward, Senior Grand Steward, and Grand Musician. He has also served on the Unity, Prevention of Blindness, and Transportation Committees.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" W.: Brother Church wrote: *My experience with the SWTC Foundation and their focus on education and student scholarships I believe will be a great asset to the Masonic Charity Foundation.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *To continue to support our local lodges and members and also to continue to support the education of our youth.*

D. Ridge Smith, and his wife, Carol, live in Yukon, Oklahoma. He is retired from the FAA. He has served on the Board of West Point Christian Church; created the administration program for Compassionate Hands of Yukon; and served on the credit committee of Fort Sill Federal Credit Union. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Yukon Lodge #90, where he is a perpetual member. He is also a perpetual member of Valley #6, Wynnewood #40, Tyre #42, El Reno #50, Kingfisher #52, Altus #62, Watonga #176, Siloam #276, Mustang 407, India #551, and the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served in several Lodge offices and is Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. He has also served on several Grand Lodge committees.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" M.:W.: Brother Smith wrote: *Through my experience in the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Charity Foundation, as well as my experience as a Lodge Officer I have been actively engaged in charitable activities both at local and state level.*

(Continued next page)

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



(Continued from previous page)

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" M.:W.: Brother Smith wrote: *The Foundation has both the ability to fulfill our duties to care for our Brethren and to demonstrate to the citizens of Oklahoma the charitable keystone of our great fraternity through contributions to worthy Masonic and non-Masonic philanthropies.*

[Daniel S. Brown](#), and his wife, Barbara, live in Geronimo, Oklahoma. He is employed with Sutherland Lumber Company. He is also retired from the United States Army, attaining the rank of Command Sergeant Major. He has been a volunteer fireman with the Geronimo Volunteer Fire Department. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Triangle Lodge #548, where he is a perpetual member. He is also a member of Apache #223, Lawton #183, and a perpetual member of Cache Valley #530 and Mount Scott #540. He has served in a number of Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (2004, 2006, 2008, 2014, 2015, 2016). He has also served as District Deputy Grand Master.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" W.: Brother Brown wrote: *A vast knowledge and understanding of the needs of rural Oklahoma.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *I believe the Foundation should refocus on primary education to prepare kids for college, and make more money available to Lodges through matching funds.*

[Richard \(Rick\) Allison](#), and his wife, Sherry, live in Enid, Oklahoma. He is retired from being self-employed. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Garfield Lodge #501, where he is a perpetual member. He is also a perpetual member of Coronado #56, Pond Creek #125, and India #551. He has served in several Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (1984, 2005). He is also Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" M.:W.: Brother Allison wrote: *Having had the honor of serving the craft as an officer in your Grand Lodge, I am now anxious to serve in another area of Oklahoma Masonry. In 2017, while serving as Grand Master, I was able to attend several presentations and functions of the Masonic Charity Foundation. The honor of taking part in these raised my interest in being an active part of the foundation. My working career included working at a bank in Enid, Oklahoma, and working in the life insurance business. I worked at the same corporation for forty-one years which included being a fifty percent owner and President of that corporation for the last twenty-eight years of my working career. My duties in that job included keeping daily track of the stock market on several products for the purpose of buying and selling those products. Also, in my work in business and the Grand Lodge, I have dealt with financial statements and other financial matters on a regular basis. I have been extremely privileged to have served Oklahoma Masonry for the last forty-one years in several capacities and look forward to continuing service. Thank you for allowing me the honor.*

[Gene McKelvey](#), with his wife, Bonnie, lives in Warr Acres, Oklahoma. He is employed by India Shrine Temple as Recorder/Business Administrator. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Amity Lodge #473 where he is a perpetual member. He is also a perpetual member of Siloam #276, India #551, and a member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research. He has served in several Lodge offices including Worshipful Master (1991, 2006). He has served on the Public Schools, Membership, Masonic Unity, and Publicity & Public Relations Grand Lodge Committees and as District Deputy Grand Master.

In answer to the question "What strengths or experience do you feel you can bring to the Masonic Charity Foundation?" W.: Brother McKelvey wrote: *I have experience in the fields of Endowments, Wills, & Gifts. Having been a Lodge Secretary for 27 years, I also understand the Charity Foundation Programs.*

In answer to the question "How do you feel the Masonic Charity Foundation can best serve the Masonic Fraternity in Oklahoma?" he wrote: *By relieving the distressed among us. Assisting our members, their wives, widows and orphans like we said we would. To search for other areas in which we can be of service to our communities, thereby instilling a favorable opinion of the Fraternity in the eyes of the communities that we serve.*

Legislation passed on November 12, 2007, requires that the Brothers disclose if they have ever been suspended or expelled from a Lodge or from Freemasonry. W.: Brothers Maxey, Canipe, Church, Brown, McKelvey or M.:W.: Brothers Smith or Allison have neither been suspended nor expelled.

**Resolutions To Be Considered
at the Annual Communications**

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. # **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

**Resolutions To Be Considered
at the Annual Communications**

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:

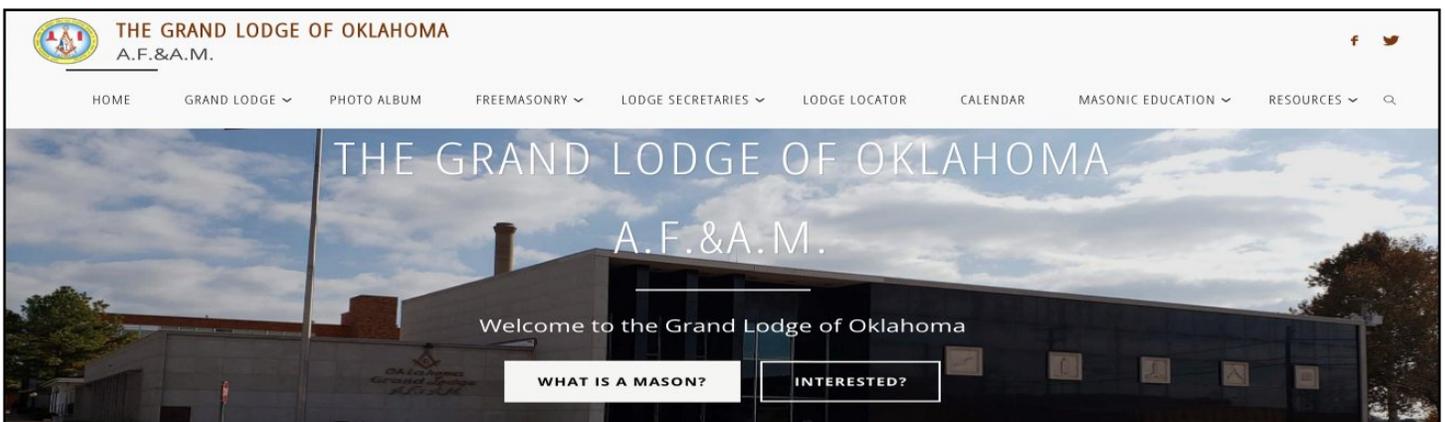
SECTION U 401. PETITION FOR DEGREES: All petitions for the degrees shall be in writing upon the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge and signed by the candidate's own hand using his full name. It must be recommended by at least two (2) members of the lodge. It shall be read in open lodge, referred to a 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. It **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



***The Grand Lodge website has been updated:
<https://www.gloklahoma.com/>***

Words From The Craft

The Opening Charge

How many of you have ever heard the Opening Charge? It is in our Murrow Monitor, and may be given after the prayer when opening a stated communication.

Many years ago, when Worshipful Brian Gnad was in the East in Will Rogers Lodge No. 53, my home lodge, where I now serve as Chaplain, he read the Opening Charge at every stated communication. However, since Worshipful Gnad's last meeting as Master, that Opening Charge has not been heard. I would suppose that few lodges make use of that Charge, though I hope I am wrong about that.

This year, I affiliated as a dual member with Collinsville Lodge No. 165. The Worshipful Master, James Roderick, also DDGM for district 11, has his Chaplain give the Opening Charge at every meeting. The Chaplain, Worshipful David Jacobs, does a wonderful job delivering the Charge from memory. During a recent stated communication, David was suffering from laryngitis, and the Master asked me to give the Charge. As I had never taken the time to memorize it, I had to read it. That experience provided me with the impetus to memorize it, should I be called upon in the future to give it.

Let me tell you, nothing helps one focus on the words one is repeating as does memorization. While committing the Charge to memory, I began to realize how important it is for brethren to hear AND contemplate those words.

At the first stated communication of Will Rogers Lodge after I had committed the Charge to memory, I asked the Master if he would permit me to give it, and afterwards, to give a short quiz. With Worshipful John Rossell's permission, I gave the Charge. Since it is not esoteric, I have included it here:

"The ways of virtue are beautiful. Knowledge is attained by degrees. Wisdom dwells with contemplation; there we must seek it. Let us then, brethren, apply ourselves with becoming zeal to the practice of the excellent principles inculcated by our Fraternity. Let us ever remember that the great objects of our Fraternity are the restraint of our desires and passions, the cultivation of an active benevolence, and the promotion of a correct knowledge of the duties we owe to God, our neighbors and ourselves. Let us be united and practice with assiduity the sacred tenets of the Craft. Let all private animosities, if any unhappily exist give place to affection and brotherly love. It is a useless parade to talk of the subjection of our passions the walls of the Lodge, if we permit them to triumph out of the lodge in in our intercourse with each other. Uniting in this great design, let us be happy ourselves and endeavor to promote the happiness of others. Let us cultivate the great moral virtues which are laid down on our Masonic Trestle Board, and improve in everything that is good, amiable and useful. Let the benign genius of the Mystic Art preside over the council and under her sway, let us act with a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable Institution."

Following delivery of the Charge, I repeated one line: "Let

us be united and practice with assiduity the sacred tenets of the Craft." I then asked the brethren present, "Who can tell me what the tenets of the Craft are?" Sad to say, I got no answers.

According to the 3rd section lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the tenets of our profession are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Do you remember the details of those tenets?

Brotherly Love — By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family; the high and low, the rich and poor; who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect each other. On this principle, Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

Relief—To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the grand aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

Truth — A divine attribute, which is the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true, is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us, and the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.

Wow! All that from one simple sentence in the Charge. This exercise helped me realize that our ritual offers so much great moral instruction that we can easily be overwhelmed by it. We hear the words we say in Lodge, but do we really think about their meaning? As the Charge says, "Wisdom dwells with contemplation, there we must seek it."

Brethren, if we are to derive the greatest benefits of our Masonic membership: increased self-esteem and confidence – if we really want to "learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry," then we must not only hear the content of our ritual, but spend time contemplating it's meaning. Only if we do that can we expect to receive the benefits of the wisdom our venerable institution has to offer.

Tom Keenze, Past Master Will Rogers Lodge No. 53



New Membership Management System Coming In November

We're pleased to announce that we have successfully converted the current Grand Lodge Database to a new system by Grand View Systems, headquartered in Bossier City, Louisiana. We're excited about the new capabilities it will bring our craft. Grand View is a comprehensive web platform that provides an encrypted portal where Grand Lodge, Constituent Lodges, and individual members can communicate and interact online. Grand View is currently in use by over 32 Masonic jurisdictions and 5200 lodges.

We will roll-out the new database to the membership in November, 2019, pending Grand Lodge Trustees' approval. The system is being launched with most features enabled, and new features will be released in the coming weeks. As the system becomes fully implemented we will be communicating through email and posting correspondence through the system itself.

Some of the features of this system include:

- *The ability for members to edit their own personal information*
- *A robust lodge locator*
- *Access to information that is appropriate to the fraternity only, such as lodge minutes*
- *A lodge accounting module for Secretaries and Treasurers*
- *Educational materials can be posted on the encrypted member portal and made available to members as they log into the system.*
- *Members will be able to pay their dues online if their lodge has implemented the process.*
- *The system can be used to notify the lodge's membership, either through text, phone, email, or "snail" mail.*
- *Many of the features of the membership portal are also available with an app provided for android and iPhone users. "There's an app for that!"*

The implementation of such a system is a complicated series of events and training. As with any major changes in the processes and procedures of an organization there will be issues along the way. We ask that you be patient with the implementation. The Grand Lodge will be communicating with lodge secretaries on a regular basis. We will also be posting information on the Grand Lodge Website at <https://www.gloklahoma.com>.

Grand Lodge IT Committee

The Oklahoma Mason

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