

THE

OKLAHOMA



MASON

**THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE
OF OKLAHOMA**

October 2022



Scott Vincent
Grand Master

To the Craft of Oklahoma,

I extend an invitation to attend the Grand Lodge and School this year beginning on Wednesday, November 9, and ending with the closed session on November 12. If you, the Craft, are of the mind to take responsibility for the Masonic Fraternity in this State, then you have already made plans to attend.

Brothers, it is not your privilege to cast a vote but a vital part of your masonic oath and duty to be present and exercise that duty. If you are not present to conduct the business of Grand Lodge and exercise that

duty, then you have no basis in which you can complain of what transpires. This session is the one time of the year when the Craft determines who the elected officers shall be that run their organization and what rules we put into the Code and Constitution by which we live. The Craft and only the Craft can do this. Several resolutions are being presented this year, and your opinions need to be heard through voting.

The one topic I have always referred to in my talks and articles has been the attitude you choose. I believe that the perspective of the Craft, in many cases, has become of a singular nature. What I mean is that many are losing the vision of what is good for the Fraternity as a whole and only seeing themselves or their particular lodge. That vision of “my lodge” and “my accomplishments.”



The Grand Lodge
OKLAHOMA

As Masons, we need to change that if we are to see masonry survive in our State. Let me make clear who I am talking about when I say the Craft. I mean, from the Grand Master to the last Entered apprentice, that is everyone. Brothers, we all need to take inventory of ourselves and, with all honesty, grade our opinions, actions, and thought process toward our Fraternity as a whole. We must act as the Brotherhood that we are. We must act as a unified group and do what is necessary to see that we survive.

In my travels across the State this year, I have heard many stories of what is being done for the Fraternity that sounds exceptionally good. Many great things are happening, but while they are great activities, they are primarily lone activities. I have a question and honestly would like you to consider an answer. Great things are being done in some individual lodges, and much activity is being performed. Yet, our Fraternity continues to decline in attendance, new membership, retention of the existing membership, finances, and overall health of the organization. Why? Why is that happening? What can we do as a whole to work together to change that? Something must change, or we will wither and die. Please give my question considerable thought. Our Fraternity not only needs an answer but must carry out the required actions. Words and ideas are great, but actions bring results. I think we are not working with our fellow brothers in other lodges to strengthen our foundation. We are only looking at our lodge's singular survival. As my Grand Master motto, I have said, Together We Grow- United We Stand. I still believe this to be part of the answer.

Brothers, you elected me to protect, grow and perpetuate this centuries-old Fraternity. You didn't select me because I have flowery words or a lot of patience when a job needs to be done. I believe what this fraternity needs is results, quick results. The same results I required in my businesses where action and results, not political correctness, is needed. Where there is a job to be done, please do it. Don't talk it to death, don't constantly change it. Make a decision, set the plan, and get it done.

I have been told that I do not have civility and leadership skills. That is probably true. I am not a person who minces his words; it is just how I was raised and who I am. However, my words come straight from my heart, with all the frustration and intensity that goes along with that. The success and stability of our Fraternity mean the world to me. I ask that you listen to my intentions to get things done, not my passion for the delivery.

Success does not depend on your level of education, what your title is, or the propaganda that one is selling. Desire and action to obtain success are how one accomplishes the goal. It's not always pretty. Brothers, the time is now for us to decide if we will work together as the brothers we are and grow as a unified fraternity or perish alone in our singular vision of

“my lodge” and “my accomplishments.”

I choose to stand by the principles that the masons in my family instilled in me throughout my life. Those principles of we are Brothers, we are Masons, and there is no “me” involved, and we are one.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Grand Master this year. If there is anything that I can do for you, remember, I am only a phone call away.

Together We Grow- United We Stand



**Enid Lodge #80
Centennial
Cornerstone**

9/24/2022



2022 OKLAHOMA MASONIC FUNDRAISER

\$20

Up to 35% of all
Donations go
back to the local
lodge



11 NOVEMBER 2022



**2 - \$25,000.00 GRAND PRIZE
DRAWINGS**

MUST BE 18
years or
older to Win

10- \$1000.00 Drawings

5- \$500.00 Drawings

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Grand Lodge
Trustees NOT
Eligible to win

17 CHANCES TO WIN!

LODGE PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES

Lodges will receive up to \$7 per ticket sold

SEE OFFICIAL FUNDRAISER RULES FOR DETAILS

LODGES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE (3) CATEGORIES –

DIVISION I 1-75 Members

DIVISION II 76 – 200 Members

DIVISION III 201 – above Members

TOP SELLING LODGE

\$5000.00 PRIZE

2nd TOP SELLING LODGE

\$1250.00 Prize

3rd TOP SELLING LODGE

\$1000.00 PRIZE

Lodge WM, SW or JW MUST be present at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication (12 Nov 2022) to be eligible to receive the TOP SELLING incentive awards.

Diversity, but Oneness

While recently attending the state fair, I was struck by the massive variety of people I passed in the crowded aisles and midway areas. It reminded me of our Fraternity and how we are comprised of various personalities, habits, and beliefs. Yet, as Masons, we unite in a firm agreement of Masonic tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth. As Masons, no matter how we dress, speak, or eat fair food, we are of one mind on essential issues.

We all agree on the essential points of brotherly love: respect for others, courtesy, affability, civility, or simply living out the golden rule. One way this is observed is at our Grand Lodge sessions in November in how we respectfully discuss and debate the resolutions and proposed changes to the Constitution and Code. I call the reader's attention to the resolutions submitted by members of the craft to be considered at this year's Grand Lodge sessions. The resolutions are contained in later pages of this publication and *The Yellow Book*.

The Masonic tenant of relief is the one most often seen by the outside world as we strive to meet the needs of distressed brothers and others in our communities. Masonic efforts of relief are also known throughout the world by our Shriner's hospitals and medical research efforts such as the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Royal Arch Research Assistance, and Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. The Masonic Service Association of North America was formed near the end of World War I to aid veterans. MSA continues that vital function today and has become a recognized and credible Masonic group in North America, trusted by all Grand Lodges to forward aid worldwide when disaster strikes. In Oklahoma, we need only review this year's *The Yellow Book* to see the evidence. The report of our Masonic Charity Foundation tells the tale. The impact that the millions of dollars the MCF have expended on behalf of the Fraternity, along with many other charitable efforts, have directly contributed to the quality of life in our state. One of the most important votes cast at Grand Lodge sessions will be the selection of brethren to the board of this foundation.



John Carter
Senior Grand Warden

Truth is such an essential tenet of Masonry, especially in a world that is in critical need of authenticity, integrity, and fidelity. Now more than ever, Masonry must be a beacon of truth beyond the lodge's walls. Today, the world needs what we, as Masons, can give. We can provide a moral compass and anchor in a world awash in a sea of relativity, a lesson in civil discourse in a world full of polarizing rhetoric, and a male mentor to a generation of young men that might have grown up without one. Attending Grand Lodge, we must be aware of the world watching our department outside the lodge. We must be the excellent personification of Masonry "that the honor, glory, and reputation of the institution may be firmly established, and the world at large convinced of its good effects."

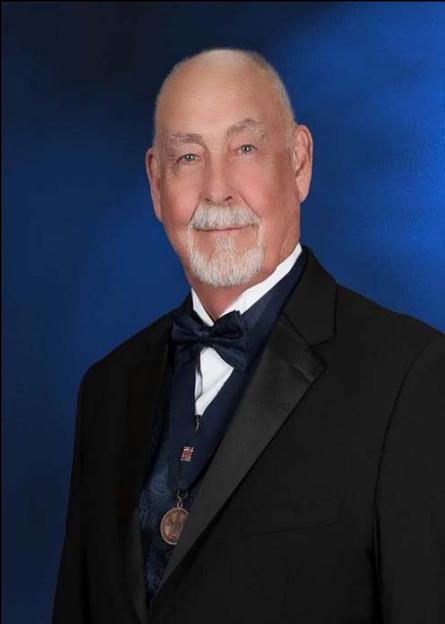
I look forward to Grand Lodge every year, seeing the diversity of brothers that come together to do the business of the craft. We get to hear different perspectives and opinions expressed, yet we agree on the outcome of votes. We move forward in our thinking and planning for the next year and leave having renewed friendships and increased interest in the next year of Masonry.

I look forward to seeing you at Grand Lodge this November.



Seiling Lodge #495 Cornerstone Ceremony

Greetings from your Grand Lecturer



Bob Peters
Grand Lecturer

As you know, one of the most important things we do in Oklahoma Masonry is our esoteric work. I believe this is the high point in every Mason's journey to memorize and perform our degree work with accuracy and precision. To do so, he should be proficient in every aspect of the parts he will perform. The best way to accomplish this task is to attend our District, Reginal, and Lodge schools. Each Brother will receive accurate and precise instruction, not only in language but also in floor work.

In past years, "only Master Masons were allowed to attend Grand School". This year at our Grand School of instruction, we offer the opportunity for any Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason to attend and work on any of the work in his degree.

Grand School will begin on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 9:00 am and continue until noon Friday, November 11, 2022.

Here's how it will work. To register, if you are an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, you should have a card from your lodge stating that you are an E.A. or F.C. If you do not have that, you will need your lodge name, number, and photo I.D. If you are a Master Mason, you will need your membership card. At registration, you will be issued a name tag with your name, lodge number, and your degree. This nametag will allow you to enter the rooms of your degree.

The degree rooms will be Tiled to permit only persons of that degree in the room. The Opening meeting on Wednesday morning and the Lecturers' meeting on Friday morning are open to all attendees.

I hope to increase attendance and reach more Brothers interested in perpetuating our ritual.

2022 Annual Communication Schedule of Events

The following is the current schedule of Events for the 2022 Annual Communication to be held November 9th through the 12th, 2022 at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Please note, this schedule is subject to change:

Wednesday and Thursday November 9-10:

Grand School (Grand Lodge Building, 102 S. Broad Street) All Day.

Friday, November 11:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Grand School

1:00 pm Registration Opens (Temple)

2:00 pm Grand Lodge Officers (Including DDGMs) practice

3:30 pm Public Session

5:00 pm Registration Closes

6:00 pm Grand Master's Banquet

Saturday, November 12:

8:30 am – Grand Lodge Convenes (Tyled)

10:00 am – Ladies Program

12:00 pm – Lunch break

1:00 pm – Grand Lodge Re-Convenes (Tyled)

4:00 pm – Break for Installation of Officers

6:00 pm – Installation of Grand Lodge Officers

7:30 pm – Close Grand Lodge

Resolutions

Resolution 1

Expounds on the ability of the Worshipful Master in handling motions made within a meeting. Under this resolution, it shall read:

When a motion is made and seconded, the Worshipful Master may decline to accept the motion, or he may table the motion until a later date, or he may assign a committee to study the motion and make a report when requested to do so.

Submitted by Dennis Jay Wilson, P.M. Solomon Lodge # 32

Resolution 2

Clarifies when a Worshipful Master has become a Past Master. Under this resolution, it shall read:

A Worshipful Master is considered a Past Master upon the installation of his successor.

Submitted by Dennis Jay Wilson, P.M. Solomon Lodge # 32

Resolution 3

This Resolution has to do with the use of beer and wine within the Lodge building. Under this resolution, it shall read:

The introduction of beer or wine into a lodge building is limited to common areas only. It shall be a Masonic offense to introduce beer or wine into any lodge room. It shall be a Masonic offense to introduce beer or wine before a tiled lodge meeting or at any youth organization event. It shall be a Masonic offense to allow excess or moderate to heavy intoxication from the consumption of beer or wine. It shall be a Masonic offense to store beer or wine overnight in the lodge building or structures on lodge property. It shall be a Masonic

offense to sell or purchase beer or wine in the lodge building or property. A Lodge may apply more restrictions or disallow beer or wine. The disallowance of beer or wine lies with the discretion of the lodge. No publication the subscription list of which is predicated upon Masonry or the name or the title of which includes a Masonic designation shall be permitted to carry advertisements concerning beer or wine.

It shall be the duty of the Master of the lodge in which such offense occurred to order charges preferred against the offender and a trial to proceed thereon as in other cases. If any Master shall refuse to perform his duty under this section or if any lodge shall fail to do its duty upon proper charges preferred, the Grand Master shall suspend the Master or arrest the charter of the lodge (as his judgment may deem best) and report his action to the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

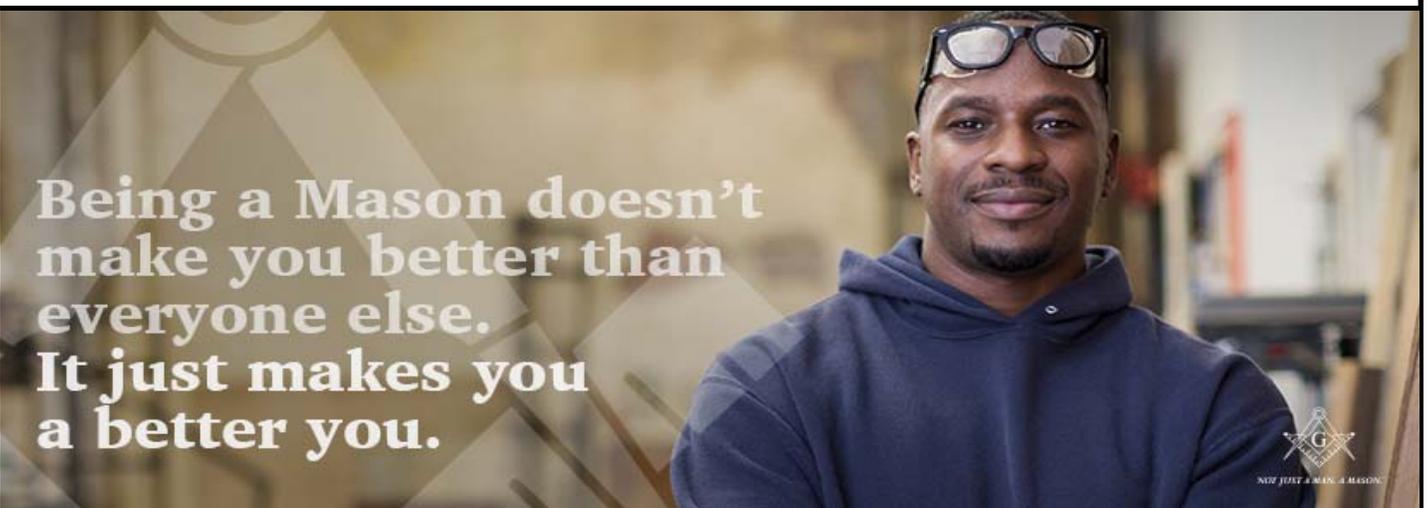
Submitted by M. Logan Bryant Past Master Jenks Lodge #497

Resolution 4

This Resolution has to do with the addition of Class B Certificate Lecturer. Under this resolution, it shall read:

CLASS "B" – To the Brethren who can pass the examination required and are qualified to correctly teach all the adopted esoteric work for opening and closing the lodge on all three (3) degrees of this Grand Jurisdiction and all the adopted esoteric work for the conferral of the first section of all three (3) degrees of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Submitted by Glen A. Chaney, PM Triangle #548



Resolutions 5 & 6

Resolution 5 removes Section 218 which deals with Nepotism.

It is the contention of the author and numerous joint submitters that as Section 210 charges the Grand Lodge Trustees with overseeing, examining, approving, and authorizing the expenditure of Grand Lodge funds that this provision is not needed. The author states that:

Clearly placing all employment decisions under a majority vote of the Grand Lodge Trustees, will let them judge each potential employee and circumstance individually, and eliminate the need for a broad, blanket prohibition on being related by birth or marriage.

Resolution 6 – adds the following verbiage to Section 210, which deals with the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Lodge Trustees:

6. Have complete responsibility and authority in all aspects of Grand Lodge employment.

Submitted by Scott Vincent PM #192, Joe R. Manning JR, PM # 111, Lanny R. Sander PM # 495, Richard Allison PM #501, John Carter PM # 74, James Roderick PM #165, David G. David PM # 551, John Christopher PM # 35, Garry D. Odom PM #145

Resolution 7

This resolution deals with electronic record keeping and providing access to all lodges to a central record keeping database maintained by the Grand Lodge. Essentially, the goal is to reduce labor intensive activities by utilizing electronic means. However, any Lodge unable to make use of the preferred electronic method may continue to avail itself of the approved Grand Lodge forms until such time that the Lodge can migrate to the use of the online system.

Additionally, the resolution attempts to emphasize certain portions of the existing code, namely the submittal of annual audit certificates and the result of failure to report. This emphasizing is accomplished by pulling these portions out of the body of existing paragraphs and makes them each a bulleted point within the code.

Submitted by John R. Christopher, PM, Guthrie #35, Michael L. Dixon, PM, Edmond #37

Resolution 8

This resolution also deals with Nepotism. Section 218 currently forbids any employee, whether by birth or marriage, to be related to a Grand Lodge Officer. This resolution provides a stopgap method of dealing with the situation by adding the following verbiage to the section:

unless otherwise approved by a majority vote of the Trustees, under a critical need situation, to be reviewed every 6 months.

Submitted by James R. Roderick PM 165, Mike Dixon, PM 99, Bobby J. Peters PM 107, John Christopher PM # 35



**Myrtle Lodge #145 and Capital Hill Rainbow
Indian Taco Luncheon**

Resolution 9

This resolution provides a means by which, a Brother who went suspended for non-payment of dues, may, with the Lodge's consent buy back those years of lost membership. It reads as such:

A member may buy back suspended years for non-payment of dues by following these procedures: The member must first be reinstated, after which, the lodge may, upon majority vote, allow the brother to pay dues for all the years of his suspension at the current annual dues rate of the lodge, and pay to the Grand Lodge all per capita for said years at Grand Lodge's current annual per capita rate. The reinstated member will then be given credit for said years of suspensions. The lodge cannot vote to remit suspended years. This provision does not apply to a brother suspended for any reason other than non-payment of dues.

Submitted by Michael A. Fritts, PM., #475, John D. Richardson, P.M #475, Richard L. Allison, PM, #501, Bobby Laws, PM #62, B. Michael Wood, PM, #537, E. Keith Liles, PM, #512, Mike Dixon, PM, #99, Joe R. Manning, Jr., PM #111, D. Ridge Smith, PM, #90, Richard Massad, PM, #36, Robert G. Davis, PM, #501

Resolution 10 a & b

This resolution essentially mandates that each delegate to the Communication will only have 1 vote. A delegate may carry only one (1) proxy. If that delegate is also a Past Master, he must choose between voting his own Past Master's vote or that of the Brother for whom he is carrying the proxy. Both a & b basically read:

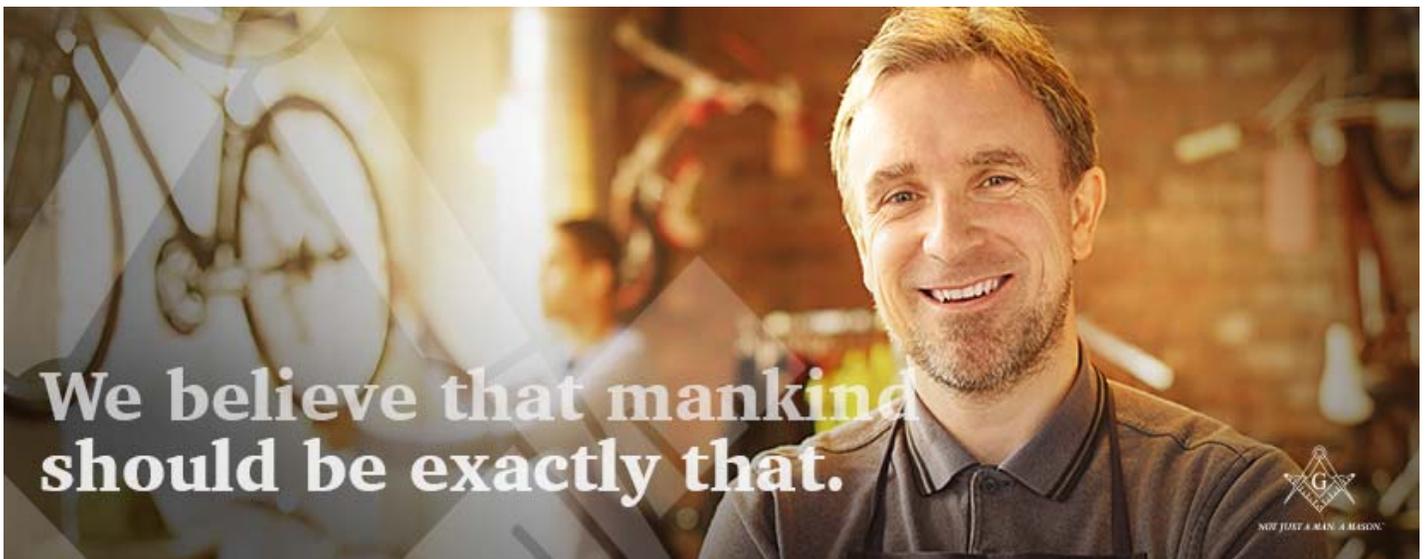
Only one (1) proxy may be given to each person selected. If the selected member is a Past Master, he may use either his Past Master's vote or the lodge credential vote.

Submitted by Bobby J. Peters, PM #107, Michael L. Dixon, PM, #37, Garry D. Odom, PM, #145, John R. Christopher, PM #35





The Grand Lodge *of* OKLAHOMA



The Oklahoma Mason is a publication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma.

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